

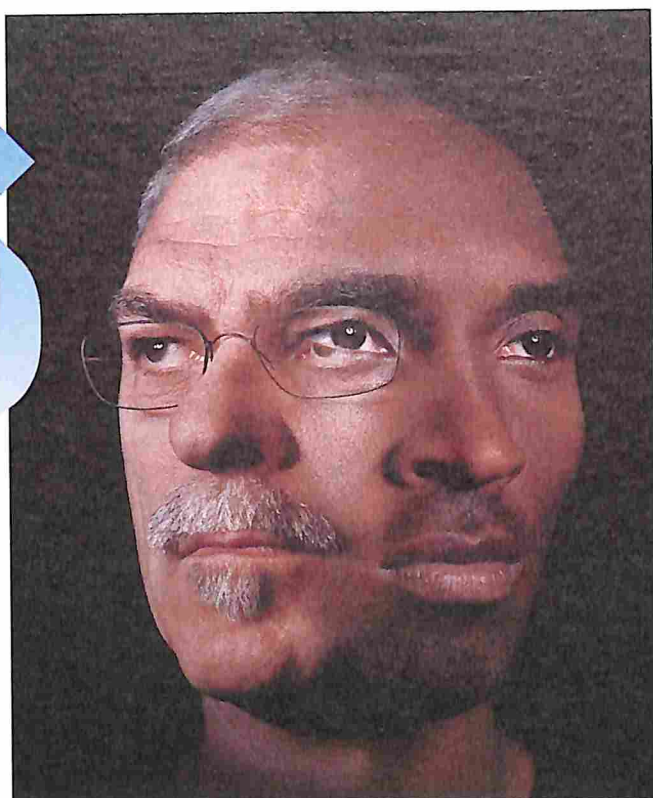
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TAKE TWO

Phil Jackson and Kobe Bryant are together again in Tinseltown. But will this incarnation of the Lakers melodrama end up as Showtime or an episode of *E! True Hollywood Story*?

BY RIC BUCHER



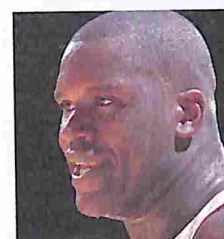
NBA 2006



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Some people in the NBA say that Steve Francis and Cuttino Mobley are a little too close. Let 'em talk. These BFFs couldn't care less.

BY RACHEL NICHOLS



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It takes more than one to win. In the NBA, two is the minimum. And relationships are key. We check out how the stars align for all 30 NBA teams.



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What's it take to be a true leader? KG dishes on how he plans to get in some grills and find out.

BY JERRY BEMBRY

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Sure, big bats and golden arms are nice, but to be the best in the world, you have to be the best in the field. Because the ball will find the weakest link.

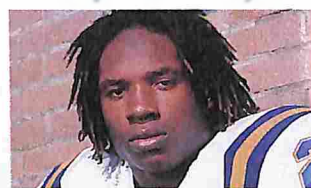
BY TIM KEOWN



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The Colts' Gary Brinkent won't tell you his sob story. It might take too long. So he's letting his game talk—and leading the NFL's most dominant D.

BY DAVID FLEMING



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It's not easy being the *other* football team in SoCal these days. Maurice Jones-Drew is doing what he can to change UCLA's second-banana status.

BY BRUCE FELDMAN



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When a brigade of top college coaches dropped in on U.S. troops in Kuwait, the result was pure magic—hard-core hoops and a little taste of home.

BY CHRIS BROUSSARD



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Reindeer may be the nastiest bull on the pro circuit, but until this high-maintenance piece of meat performs when it counts, he's just another diva athlete.

BY ANDREW & BRIAN KAMENETZKY



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Sheryl Swoopes is coming out of the closet. The WNBA icon doesn't want to be a hero. She just wants to live her life.

BY SHERYL SWOOPES
WITH LZ GRANDERSON



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Adam Bruckner was just a soccer journeyman searching for a home in Philly. Along the way, he ended up solving a murder.

BY MATTHEW A. COLE

SHERYL SWOOPES IS OUT AND PROUD

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