

JAY'S JOURNAL



Jay Williams of the Chicago Bulls gives you a firsthand look at what it's like to be an NBA rookie

This is point guard Jay Williams's third journal entry for S.I. FOR KIDS. In this issue, he talks about his first NBA triple-double, what it's like to appear in a TV commercial, and how he's dealing with losing. (The Bulls were 6-16 as of December 13.)

NOVEMBER 9

First career triple-double

Jay had 26 points, 14 rebounds, and 13 assists in a 100-93 win over the New Jersey Nets.

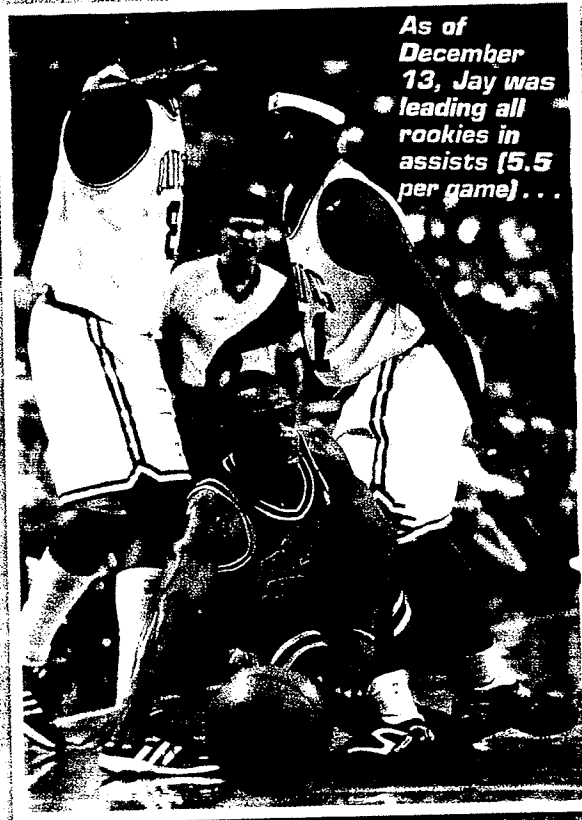
When I was walking by, [Bulls] coach Bill Cartwright asked me to come into his office. He told me I was going to play a lot that night. [Backup point guard Jamal Crawford was visiting his grandmother who was ill.] He wanted to make sure I was confident and told me to play loose. It was the only time Coach Cartwright had ever called me into his office. It was kinda weird, but it worked. It allowed me to be comfortable and just play basketball. My shot felt good, and things just clicked.

NOVEMBER 11

adidas TV commercial

Jay shot the sneaker commercial in Los Angeles, California. The commercial will air in February 2003.

It was my first commercial ever. They gave me a trailer, and I played video games in there. Then it was time to go out and film the commercial. They had me play one-on-one with an actor. I was supposed to talk a lot while I was



As of December 13, Jay was leading all rookies in assists (5.5 per game)...

playing, say stuff you say in pickup games, like "Check ball!" and "Stop holding!" Just talking trash. There were a lot of takes and do-overs and "Pose like this" and "Pose like that" type instructions. It took about three hours. It was actually a lot of hard work, but I'm glad I did it.

NOVEMBER 19 - DECEMBER 7

On the Road

The Bulls played eight of 10 games on the road during

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this stretch. They lost nine of them, including all eight road games.

Every loss hurts. If you don't like to lose, it's difficult to deal with. But our guys are playing harder and harder each time out. It's just going to take time. We're running the triangle offense, and it's a difficult offense to get down. It's not a regular motion offense. For every pass there's a cut, so you have to memorize every cut. (*The Sports Freak explains the triangle offense on page 23.*) As a point guard, I have to learn what everybody else is doing and at the same time take care of myself.

Travel has been crazy. It gets kinda funny because you travel so much and then you go to sleep and you wake up the next day and wonder, *Alright, where am I?* You have to sit back and think, *I was just in Toronto, just got on a plane in Toronto. . . .* After a shootaround, you come back to the hotel, get in the elevator, and forget which floor your room is on. Then you end up phoning the front desk and asking, "Do you know what room Jay Williams is in?" They can't give you that information on the phone [because of hotel policy], so you have to go all the way down to the lobby and get your room number.

On non-game days, we practice from 9:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. On game days, we have a one-hour shootaround. The rookies have to bring donuts to every practice. After games, the rookies unload all the bags off the bus, which is tough when it's cold. You have to pay your dues.

NOVEMBER 20

Old Friends

Jay caught up with former Duke teammate Mike Dunleavy before their game. Mike is now a rookie forward for the Golden State Warriors.

Mike and I talked a little bit about how different things are in the NBA than they were in college. In the NBA, there's much more of a business aspect. In college, you're playing the game just for the love of it. There's also more camaraderie in college. You're with the guys all the time — going to classes or going out. In the NBA, after the day's

over, everyone goes home and does his own thing. [Duke] Coach Krzyzewski and I have stayed close. He came to our game against the Detroit Pistons on December 12. I get my Duke jersey retired, number 22, on February 5, so I'm going to go down to school. Duke plays North Carolina that day. The last time we played North Carolina at home, I had 37 points, so I'm looking for somebody on Duke to score big that night.

Jay will talk about his trip back to Duke, and more, in his next journal entry, which will appear in the May 2003 issue.

Me and Mike



Jay's Journal (Nov)

1. Jay plays for which NBA team?
2. Who is Jay's Coach?
3. On what day did Jay have his first triple double?
4. The day of his first triple double the team lost their game to New Jersey. T or F
5. Jay made a commercial about video games in Los Angeles. T or F
6. What kind of offense do the Bulls run?
7. Which day is Duke retiring Jay's number 22?
8. How long are practices on game days?
9. Which team does Mike Dunleavy play for?
10. As of Dec. 13 what was the Bulls record?