

WASHINGTON METROS

History of

As the Women's Professional Basketball League (WBL) began its second season it expanded from eight teams to 14. One of those teams was the second attempt in the Washington D.C. area. In the inaugural season (1978-79) a team was awarded to Lloyd Featheroff and was to be named the Wiz. The original Washington team drafted the following players at the historic July 18, 1978 draft:

GRADUATING SENIORS

1. June Brewer	6'2"	C	Ohio State
2. Tina Price	5'9"	G	Georgia
3. Donna Forester	5'9"	F	Clemson
4. Vivian Greene	5'5"	G	Norfolk State
5. Felicia Payne	5'8"	G	Dubuque

FREE AGENTS

1. Sheila Patterson	6'4"	C	Univ. of D.C.
2. Denise Craig	6'0"	F	Shaw Univ.
3. Linda Stoick	5'9"	G	Michigan State
4. Angela Scott	6'0"	F	Maryland
5. Sue Rama	5'11"	G	Longwood, Va.

Yet by October of 1978 playing sites for the team were never secured and the team was quickly transferred to Dayton, Ohio. (The Dayton Rockettes – History of). The first year of women's pro basketball had the Dayton Rockettes as the last team accepted in the eight-team league.

WBL President and Commissioner Bill Byrne was determined to have a women's team in the Washington area. So WBL's expansion would include another Washington team.

This Washington club was the 6th of 7 "new" teams to join the league. The Dayton franchise folded, and the following activities took place: One the Dayton franchise was sold to a Washington D.C. group for the 1978 price. But the franchise did not come with any players, because their contracts were purchased by the California team. It seems that the new owners of Washington D.C. owned the rights to a team and the Dayton Green and Silver uniforms.

From the beginning there was an aura of mystery over this new team, because they did not want to be identified with a city. They wanted to only be known as "The Metros", because the plan was to split their games between Baltimore and Washington D.C. Neither city could claim the team as their own if they were just "The Metros."



Another part of the mystery was, who owned this team? Instead of the general public having a focal point they could identify with, the Metros had “financial backers.” Nat Frazier, who had been an assistant coach with the New York Knicks of the NBA and the coach of the Morgan State Bears, was not only going to be the Head Coach, but he was also one of those financial backers. When Coach Frazier was asked about the other people involved, he told the papers about the “silent partners.” It was impossible to tell if these partners existed.

Yet on June 12, 1979, in the Oval Room of the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City the team classified as the Washington Metros participated in the 2nd WBL Draft. They were given the 6th pick of the draft, because they were the 6th team to pony up the money for a WBL franchise.

The Metros had a very solid draft, because six of their 10 selections played in the league.

Their choices were as follows:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-----|----------------------------|
| 1. Willodean Harris | 6'4" | C | Alabama State |
| 2. Bertha Hardy | 6'1" | F/C | Jackson State Univ. |
| 3. Lisa Brewer | 5'7" | G | Louisiana State Univ. |
| 4. Pat McKenzie | 5'11" | F | Illinois State |
| 5. Charlene McWhorter | 6'1" | F/C | Albany State |
| 6. Joan Van Ness | 5'7" | G | Southern Connecticut State |
| 7. Alicia Smith | 5'10" | F | Morgan State |
| 8. Cindy Bower | 5'7" | G | Univ. of Wyoming |
| 9. Evelyn Bender | 6'0" | F | Jackson State Univ. |
| 10. Barbara Schmach | 5'8" | G | Lafayette College |



The Metros leaders were Nat Frazier and Jerry Lewis, who was listed as the General Manager and a principal stockholder. Mr. Lewis, a native of Baltimore, said that the Baltimore Civic Center (12,500 seats) would host 9 regular season and 3 exhibition games. His hope was to draw about 3,000 per game, with tickets priced between \$2.50 & \$6.50 in order to break even.

Part of Mr. Lewis' enthusiasm was that on June 20th with the 2nd season 5 months away the new expansion San Francisco team had sold \$40,000 of season tickets (between 400-500 tickets), the expansion California team was selling tickets “like wildfire,” and the expansion New Orleans team had sold \$20,000 (about 4,000 tickets) for their home opener.



2nd year owners, like Frazier & Lewis, believed the presentation by WBL President Bill Byrne when he said that if the league could hold on through the 1980 Olympics, people would see women's basketball at its peak and would then want to attend the WBL games.

It seemed that partial owners, like Frazier & Lewis, understood the season's expenses. They were told that the Chicago Hustle did the best and only lost \$150,000 last year, while the Milwaukee Does lost the most at \$325,000. Yet finding other investors to get involved was proving to be a challenge.

After the draft the Metros began to reach out to other local talent. Amongst those were three former University of Maryland players: 6'2" Debbie Stewart, 5'3" Lisa Schlesinger, and Debbie Jones. Also joining them was Cynthia Smith, the twin sister of the 7th round draft pick Alicia Smith. The Metros also recruited the current Univ. of Maryland coach, Chris Weller, to be an unpaid advisor.

Between the draft (06/12/79) and the first tryout camp, Sunday August 5th, there were no known team activities that warranted newspaper publicity. The securing of a solid financial backer was the largest missing element.

Announcements about tryouts for the Metros took place in early July. If a player called for information and they called the Baltimore office, the phone was answered with, "Metros." If someone called the Washington office, which was just an answering service, the phone was answered with, "5222."

On Sunday August 5, 1979, 60 women came to the Baltimore Civic Center for a tryout, including one from Portland, OR. Professional coaches, like Nat Frazier and former Los Angeles Laker Coach Butch vanBreda Kolff summed up how they felt about working with the women. The women were 'saner,' because their egos weren't as big, and the expectations were smaller. The women also listened and did what the coach wanted of them.

This tryout was followed by another one on August 11 at Virginia State Univ. Surprisingly, the newspaper announcement said anyone over 17 was allowed to tryout.



By the middle of August, the Metros felt confident enough to schedule six exhibition games. Two would be against the New York Stars and one against the expansion Philadelphia Fox. The other three had no known opponents.

On August 26, the Metros signed 6th round pick Joan Van Ness to a contract.

There was very little movement in the area of ownership and on September 17, Jerry Lewis resigned, along with Public Relations Director Mary Ann Young. Mr. Lewis's disagreement was with other parts of management and ownership. It can only be assumed that many of the draft picks had been signed to contracts, because Jerry Lewis hated resigning knowing how talented this team was. He also thought they were going to be a playoff team.

In late September training camp began in Ft. Belvoir, Va. – with no known list of players participating. Unfortunately, during camp, Debbie Stewart (a 3rd draft pick of the N.Y.Stars) broke her ankle and would be out for several weeks.

A scheduled exhibition for Saturday October 6, to be held at the Baltimore Civic Center, was cancelled. The Civic Center was waiting for a certified "good faith" check to show up, so they would hold the Metros home dates. But none had arrived.

The Civic Center's cost was about \$1,500 a game, plus other expenses totaling \$1,000. Yet the Metros believed when they first negotiated there was a "Sweetheart Deal" of 60-40 on game receipts & no rental fee. Yet when no "good faith" money arrived, that deal was cancelled.

Nat Frazier said he was not aware of any expected payments. He also said the Metros cancelled the game, because training camp had started late. At the same time, the exhibition game for October 23 was also cancelled.

With the cancellations we learn that one of the "silent partners" was McDonald Construction Company in Manhattan, New York City. When pressed for financial details about the company, Nat Frazier said that information wasn't available.

As of November 1st, two weeks before the season, the Metros were scheduled to play the following set of games:

- Seven games at the Starplex Armory (10,000 seats) in Washington D.C, near Kennedy Stadium,

- Nine games at the Civic Center in Baltimore, and

- Two games at the Capital Centre in Landover, Maryland.

The Civic Center informed the Metros that all of their scheduled games in Baltimore were no longer available, because of lack of payment. The WBL schedule had already been made and now the location of nine Metro games was up in the air.

With the lack of funds came delays in many different areas including the procurement of uniforms. For the first Metros game they played in uniforms of various styles and hues because their regular ones hadn't arrived. The Washington players looked as if they had got together at the last minute and decided to form a team.

Thursday November 15, 1979, the expansion Washington Metros hosted the expansion San Francisco Pioneers at the Starplex Armory in Washington, D.C. The Metros thought they were ready, because they had played three exhibition games, with two against the playoff experienced New York Stars. The players came out nervous and tentative, which allowed the Pioneers to take a quick 21-9 in the 1st quarter. The two teams added six points each, so the Metros trailed 27-15.

The Metros settled down over the next two quarters to play evenly, 47-44, but they were still falling behind. As they entered the last quarter, they trailed 74-59. The Pioneers finished them off, 94-73.

Despite scoring over 100 in two of their exhibitions, they could only muster 73. Epitomizing the frustration for the Metros was Vivian Greene, who had averaged 23.3 (70 pts) in 3 exhibition games and scored 0 in the home opener.

Washington Metros																Team Ga
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts	
Bender, Evelyn	4		5		2				0							12
Brewer, Lisa	5		0		0				0							0
Caudle, Diane	13		0		1			6	6							1
Cooper, Accronetta	14		0		3			6	6							3
Fletcher, Carmen	22		2		0				0							4
Gault, Jody	2		2	3	0	0	1	1	2	1	3	0	3	0		4
Greene, Vivian	1		0		0				0							0
Hardy, Bertha	15		6		0			6	6							12
Harris, Willodean	21		3		4			9	9							10
McWhorter, Charlene	20		1		1				0							3
Schlesinger, Lisa	11		0		0				0							0
Shoemaker, Cathy	12		11		4				0							26
Adjustment		240	-1	80		29			18				22		-2	
Totals		240	29	83	15	29	1	28	47	1	3	0	25	0	73	
			FG%	34.9%	FT%	51.7%	Team Rebs									

San Francisco Pioneers																Team Games
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts	
Foley, Bonnie	14		0		0				0						0	
Franklin, Connie	21		0		0				0						0	
Hansen, Barbara	42	Name not in Newspaper														
Hansen, Kim	32		1		4				0	3					6	
Hicks, Cardie	10		12		4				0						28	
Martin, Brenda	45	Name not in Newspaper														
Martin, Pam	12		0		2				0						2	
Mayo, Pat	13		7		0			9	9						14	
McKinney, Musiette	33		1		2				0	3					4	
Ortega, Anita	11		8		8			6	6			3			24	
Ricketts, Debbie	8		1		0				0			4			2	
Ternyik, Jan	22		5		4			8	8						14	
Adjustment		240		69		41			16				11			
Totals		240	35	69	24	41	0	23	39	6	0	7	11	0	94	
			FG%	50.7%	FT%	58.5%	Team Rebs									
Special Notes:																
Newspaper stats listed Martin - I chose PAM, because she played a role in the next game against New York																
Newspaper stats listed Hansen - I chose KIM, because she played a role in the next game against New York																

As predicted by many people, the number of fans attending this historic first game came to only 350. The country's hot topic of male sportswriters in a women's locker room (which was a major league baseball issue of women in the men's locker room) was handled by the writer's themselves as they waited politely outside for the women to come to them.

With the loss of dates in Baltimore, the Metros wanted to do the next best thing which was bring their nine Baltimore games to Towson State University in Maryland. But Nat Frazier felt this location was not becoming a professional league and nixed that idea.

A glimmer of financial hope when Mort Schwartz, the Metros Vice President, said Alcoran Food Products of No. Rutherford, N.J. provided some needed funding.

The next game for the Metros was at the Dunn Sports Center, in New Jersey. This was also the debut of Ann Meyers, who the WBL hoped would do for them what Joe Namath did for the AFL. Ann was bringing great publicity to the WBL as she was invited to Indiana for a tryout with the NBA's Pacers. After being cut, she was signed as broadcaster, but she still wanted to play ball. Yet her rights belonged to the Houston Angels who made her 1st pick of the 1978 draft. How she became property of the Gems is still a mystery. Supposedly Gems owner Bob Milo paid the Angels' owner, Hugh Sweeney \$50,000 for her. But as of this date her contract negotiations

were with the Gems. When she signed, she only had 2 ½ hours of practice with her new teammates.

The New Jersey coach, Howie Landa, wasn't aware that Ann was in playing shape, so he limited her minutes in the first half. This allowed the Metros to take a 20-16 1st quarter lead. But the Gems fought back to the delight of the 2,754 fans who came to see Ann Meyers. The Gems led at the half 48-47 and Meyers had four points.

In the 2nd half the Metros were able to build a nine-point advantage. Yet the Gems' All-American helped bring the Gems back to a 90-90 tie with 1:19 remaining. Then Cathy Shoemaker hit a jumper to give the Metros the lead. The Metros scored the next six points to gain their first victory, 98-90.

Bertha Hardy led the Metros with 31 points and 14 rebounds. The Gems were led by Donna Geils who had 25, including 14 in the first half. Donna, from 2005-2010, would become the Commissioner of the WNBA. Ann Meyers' WBL debut had her scoring 16 points (6-18) with 10 rebounds. Ann said she was unfamiliar with the smaller and lighter women's ball, but she would adapt. Debra Comerie contributed 13 points and 12 rebounds. (Ed: As you can see below stats from this game were limited)

Washington Metros																	Team Ge
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts
Bender, Evelyn	4										0						0
Brewer, Lisa	5										0						0
Caudle, Diane	13										0						0
Cooper, Accronetta	14										0						0
Fletcher, Carmen	22										0						0
Gault, Jodi	2										0						0
Greene, Vivian	1										0						2
Hardy, Bertha	15	39	12	18			7	8	4	10	14						31
Harris, Willodean	21										0						0
McWhorter, Charlene	20										0						0
Schlesinger, Lisa	11										0						0
Shoemaker, Cathy	12		1	1	<<at least 1 FGA						0						2
Adjustment		201															63
Totals		240	13	19	0	0	7	8	4	10	14	0	0	0	0	0	98

New Jersey Gems																	Team Ge
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts
Browning, Pam	22										0						0
Burdick, Denise	35										0						0
Collins, Sheila	6										0						0
Comerie, Debra	34	44								12	12						13
Dalrymple, Dale	3										0						0
Geils, Donna	4										0						25
Hastings, Martha	24										0						0
Meyers, Ann	14	24	6	18	0	2	4	8	2	8	10	2		2	2		16
Rangler, Candy	5										0						0
Savio, Jennifer	12										0						0
Szeremeta, Wanda	23										0						0
Van Ness, Joan	21										0						0
Adjustment		172															36
Totals		240	6	18	0	2	4	8	2	20	22	2	0	2	2	0	90
			FG%	#####			FT%	50.0%		Team Rebs							

After a week of practices on November 24th the (1-1) Metros travelled to New York City to play the (1-1) Stars in the World's Most Famous Arena, Madison Square Garden. Coach Nat Frazier would be returning to the site of some of his life highlights where he served as a New York Knick assistant coach. 1,500 fans sat in the 19,500 arena to watch the Metros lose to the Stars 114-98.

Unfortunately, there were no quarter scores, nor game information. The Stars had an eight-point lead in the 1st quarter and never were threatened. The Metros were led by Bertha Hardy's 24 points as their record dipped to 1-2. The Stars were led by Sharon Farrah's 24 points and six steals. The Stars record improved to 2-1.



Washington Metros																Team Gc
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts	
Bender, Evelyn	4								0						0	
Brewer, Lisa	5								0						0	
Caudle, Diane	13								0						0	
Cooper, Accronetta	14								0						0	
Fletcher, Carmen	22								0						0	
Gault, Jodi	2								0						0	
Greene, Vivian	1								0						0	
Hardy, Bertha	15								0						24	
Harris, Willodean	21								0						0	
McWhorter, Charlene	20								0						0	
Schlesinger, Lisa	11								0						0	
Shoemaker, Cathy	12								0						0	
Adjustment		240													74	
Totals		240	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	98	
			FG%	#####	FT%	#DIV/0!		Team Rebs								

New York Stars																Team Games
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts	
Craig, Denise	13			12	20				0				6		16	
Farrah, Sharon	11								0						24	
Gwyn, Althea	31								11						14	
Marquis, Gail	6								0						0	
Mason, Debbie									0						0	
Moore, Pearl	12								0						0	
Sanborn, Kathy	32								0						0	
Smith, Karen	24								0						0	
Tatterson, Gail	33								0						0	
Thomas, Janice	10								0						0	
Young, Faye	22	0	0													
Young, Kaye	20	0	0													
Adjustment		236													60	
Totals		240	12	20	0	0	0	11	11	0	0	6	3	0	114	
			FG%	#####	FT%	#DIV/0!	Team Rebs									

On November 28th a trade between the Metros and the Chicago Hustle rocked the city of Chicago. The Metros traded their 1980 & 1981 3rd Rd draft picks and a significant amount of cash to the Hustle for their All-Star guard and box office attraction, Janie Fincher.

The previous season, with Chicago, Janie averaged 16.7 and took part in the first All-Star game. Yet it wasn't just her effort on the floor that attracted a large Chicago following. Her Farrah Fawcett like features, and her basketball skills, made her a big fan favorite. In a league looking for an identity, Chicago found something that people would like, accept, and embrace.

Yet for an strange and unspoken reason, the Hustle sent Janie to Washington. The feeling of having a secure position on your team was shaken throughout the league. Janie admitted she was scared about the change, but she said she's always had a bit of gypsy in her. While the trade took place on the 28th, Ms. Fincher did not play with the Metros until December 8th.

Later that day, on the 28th, had another home game against the (1-1) Minnesota Fillies. A crowd of only 500 found their way to the Starplex Armory. The Metros fell behind 23-19, which then got worse to 43-32 at the half. They never could crawl back into the game as they lost 95-79.

For the Metros Bertha Hardy again led the way with 24 points and 16 rebounds. Charlene McWhorter also had a good game with 13 points and eight rebounds in only 23 minutes. What the team didn't need was another game like Vivian Greene's 0 points in the home opener. Yet Cathy Shoemaker, who had 26 points in the first game, had 0 points against the Fillies. The Metros fell to 1-3.

The Fillies, who improved to 2-1, were led by Pat Montgomery's 23. Marie Kocurek contributed 20 points before she fouled out after 36 minutes. Yet Marguerite's Keeley's 19 points and 11 rebounds in only 23 minutes played a huge role in the Fillies' win.

Washington Metros																		Team Game #
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts	Eff Rat
Bender, Evelyn	4	41	7	14	0	1	0	0	3	5	8	3	2	3	2	0	14	0.707
Brewer, Lisa	5	6	0	1			0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.167
Caudle, Diane	13	10	0	0			1	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0.100
Cooper, Accronetta	14	8	1	3			1	2	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	3	0.625
Gault, Jody	2	Name Not in Newspapers																
Greene, Vivian	1	34	4	13			0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	7	0	8	0.059
Hardy, Bertha	15	42	8	12			8	10	9	7	16	1	3	2	3	0	24	0.976
Harris, Willodean	21	32	5	16			4	8	3	6	9	1	4	0	1	1	14	0.750
McKenzie, Pat		8	0	1			0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.125
McWhorter, Charlene	20	23	6	13			1	2	4	4	8	0	6	2	1	1	13	0.957
Schlesinger, Lisa	11	15	0	4			2	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	0	2	0.133
Shoemaker, Cathy	12	21	0	4			0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	4	0	0	-0.143
Totals		240	31	81	0	1	17	29	20	29	49	6	24	7	22	2	79	0.521
			FG%	38.3%			FT%	58.6%	Team Rebs									

Minnesota Fillies																	Team Game #	
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts	Eff Rat
DeBoer, Kathy	21	Did Not Play																
DeLorme, Scooter	32	26	4	6			3	6	2	4	6	2	2	4	0	0	11	0.962
Hawkins, Kathy	13	22	1	3			0	0	0	4	4	0	1	2	0	0	2	0.364
Jamison, Karen	15	15	1	3			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.133
Keeley, Marguerite	45	23	9	23			1	2	5	6	11	2	2	0	2	1	19	1.391
Kocurek, Marie	42	36	6	15			8	9	3	4	7	2	6	2	3	0	20	0.833
Montgomery, Pat	53	34	9	16			5	9	2	3	5	0	5	0	1	0	23	0.794
Owens, Katrina	33	21	1	5			2	2	2	6	8	1	0	0	2	0	4	0.571
Timperman, Janet	12	13	2	7	0	1	0	0	4	2	6	0	2	3	3	0	4	0.769
Wahl-Bye, Sue	24	7	0	3			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.143
Wilson, Donna	11	43	2	9			6	6	4	3	7	0	2	1	1	0	10	0.395
Totals		240	35	90	0	1	25	34	22	32	54	7	20	13	12	1	95	0.683
			FG%	38.9%			FT%	73.5%	Team Rebs									

Two days later the Metros travelled to Dallas to take on their third team in a row with a 1-1 record. This time it was the Diamonds. 1,242 came out to the Dallas Convention Center on a Friday to see their Diamonds fall behind 32-23. But the teams switched scores in the 2nd quarter as the Metros held on to a 56-55 half time lead. The two teams battled, but the Metros increased their lead by two, to 80-77. In the end the Metros' 105-100 victory, raised their record to 2-3, while the Diamonds fell to 1-2.

The Metros had six players in double figures. Cathy Shoemaker recovered from her previous game leading the team with 18, before she fouled out. The Metros most efficient players (a measure of positive contributions while on the floor) were Lisa Brewer and Charlene McWhorter.

For Dallas Alfreda Abernathy had 26 points and 13 rebounds, while four others also had double figures.

Washington Metros																			Team Game #	
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts	Eff Rat		
Bender, Evelyn	4	25	3	10			0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	6	0.440		
Brewer, Lisa	5	21	7	11			0	0	0	0	0	4	2	2	0	0	14	1.143		
Caudle, Diane	13	11	1	4			0	0	1	1	2	1	2	0	1	0	2	0.455		
Cooper, Accronetta	14	23	3	6			1	2	3	1	4	3	3	1	1	0	7	0.739		
Fincher, Janie	10	Name not in Newspaper																		
Gault, Jody	2	Name not in Newspaper																		
Greene, Vivian	1	24	7	15			0	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	4	0	14	0.750		
Hardy, Bertha	15	35	6	8			4	4	1	2	3	3	6	4	1	0	16	0.800		
Harris, Willodean	21	33	5	12			2	2	2	3	5	0	0	1	2	1	12	0.485		
McWhorter, Charlene	20	18	4	11			2	5	2	4	6	2	5	1	1	0	10	1.111		
Schlesinger, Lisa	11	23	3	7			0	0	2	3	5	4	2	4	1	0	6	0.957		
Shoemaker, Cathy	12	27	9	14			0	0	4	1	5	0	6	1	0	0	18	0.889		
Totals		240	48	98	0	0	9	13	15	16	31	23	30	14	11	1	105	0.771		
			FG%	49.0%			FT%	69.2%	Team Rebs											

Dallas Diamonds																			Team Game #	
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts	Eff Rat		
Abernathy, Alfreda	34	46	8	15			10	14	2	11	13	1	0	2	3	0	26	0.870		
Baker, Janice	12	29	3	5			2	2	0	3	3	3	5	0	2	0	8	0.517		
Bruton, Cindy	20	39	7	13			3	5	1	5	6	1	2	1	1	0	17	0.641		
Bush-Roddy, Carolyn	40	44	5	10			6	10	4	7	11	1	1	1	0	2	16	0.682		
Cooper, Sheena	11	1	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	-1.000		
Earnhardt, Christy	42	33	6	9			2	3	0	4	4	4	5	1	7	0	14	0.606		
Goodwin, Valerie	22	46	8	16			3	4	4	4	8	1	4	1	5	0	19	0.543		
John, Jeriann	44	2	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	-0.500		
McClanahan, Sharon	21	DNP-Coach Decision																		
Rutter, Nancy	14	DNP-Coach Decision																		
Totals		240	37	68	0	0	26	38	11	34	45	11	17	6	20	2	100	0.638		
			FG%	54.4%			FT%	68.4%	Team Rebs											

While the Metros were travelling from Dallas to Iowa on December 1st, the league decided it needed to take over the Metros franchise. The Philadelphia franchise was also seized by the league on this date. President Bill Byrne felt no owner and the lack of playing dates in Baltimore were harming the league.

The Metros were classified as "financially troubled." The league took control away from Nat Frazier and McDonald Construction (whose original check bounced). The WBL claimed they needed about \$200,000 to keep the team functioning. Byrnes spoke with Howard Fine (in Baltimore) and Joe Wheeler (in Washington) about financing the team.

Byrne had never liked the Starplex Armory as a playing site. The big problems began when McDonald Construction pulled out and never followed through with financing. So, Nat Frazier and Eric Sewell ran the team on their own money and had already spent about \$40,000.

Was it right for the league to come in when Nat Frazier, the only person of authority, was out of the area? We don't know if previous warnings had been given.

On this Sunday in Cedar Rapids, the (2-3) Metros faced the (3-0) Cornets in front of 2,191 fans. The Metros fell behind 22-21 but rebounded to take a 43-42 half time lead behind the scoring of Vivian Greene (10) and Charlene McWhorter (8).

In the 3rd quarter the Metros began to get some separation and had a lead of 16 at one point. By the quarter's end Washington had a 74-60 lead. Part of Iowa's problem was the cold shooting of the league's leading scorer, Molly Bolin (35.7). Molly was 1 of 7 in the 3rd quarter and 5 for 17 for the game.

Yet as the 4th quarter began Bolin found her stroke and with 5:51 left Iowa took the lead 77-76. The Cornets also benefitted from some cold shooting and poor officiating, according to Coach Nat Frazier. In the last quarter the Metros could only hit five of 20 shots leading to their 88 points. Iowa's 37 4th quarter points, including 18 by Bolin, gave them 97 for the game. The 97-88 victory made the Cornets 4-0 and set them up for their revenge game against the undefeated Houston Angels in six days.

The Metros were led by Vivian Green's 19 and Charlene McWhorter's 17. Yet Charlene fouled out with 7:20 remaining in the game, so who knows how things would have flown.

After the game Coach Frazier said:

"I thought the calls were terrible and outrageous. I think we were by far the better ball team out there also."

"I've been in this business long enough to know you can't cry over a loss. But when the officials get caught up in the crowd and the momentum of the game, it's ridiculous," said Frazier, a former New York Knicks aide.



For the Cornets, Molly Bolin led the team with 31 points. Yet Iowa coach Steve Kirk had these comments:

"If I had to give anyone credit for our comeback it would be Robin Tucker and Denise Sharps. Tucker hit some key baskets and Sharps really went after the loose balls and rebounds."

Also contributing were Connie Kunzmann who had 12 rebounds, while Doris Draving grabbed 11.

After the game the Cornets tried to acquire Willodean Harris from the Metros. Yet this didn't sound like a front office deal, but a walk away from your contract suggestion to Willodean. Some people knew of the lack of paychecks being received by the Washington players.

Washington Metros																	Team Ge
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts
Bender, Evelyn	4		5				0	0			0						10
Brewer, Lisa	5	Name not in Newspaper															
Caudle, Diane	13		0				0	0			0						0
Cooper, Accronetta	14		1				0	0			0						2
Fincher, Janie	10	Name not in Newspaper															
Gault, Jody	2	Name not in Newspaper															
Greene, Vivian	1		8				3	4			0						19
Hardy, Bertha	15		6				3	3			0						15
Harris, Willodean	21	10	5				0	2			0						10
McWhorter, Carlene	20		6				5	7			0		6				17
Schlesinger, Lisa	11		0				0	0			0						0
Shoemaker, Cathy	12		5				3	6			0						13
Adjustment		230	1	97						56	56		14				
Totals		240	37	97	0	0	14	22	0	56	56	0	20	0	0	0	86
			FG%	38.1%			FT%	63.6%	Team Rebs								

Iowa Cornets																	Team Ge
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts
Bolin, Molly	30		14	30			3	5			0						31
Draving, Doris	50		1				4	8		11	11						6
Green, Anita	12		3				1	2			0						7
Hodgson, Pat	34		3				0	0			0						6
Kunzmann, Connie	44		0				3	4		12	12						3
Lewis, Charlotte	52	8	6	At Least 8 Mins			2	2		9	9						14
Penquite, Rhonda	32		2				0	0			0						4
Sharps, Denise	20	8	3	At Least 8 Mins			0	0			0						6
Thomas, Debra K.	40		2				0	0			0						4
Tucker, Robin	10	8	7	8	At Least 8 Mins			2	2		0						16
Wellen, Nancy	14		0				0	0			0						0
Adjustment		216		50						22	22		21				
Totals		240	41	88	0	0	15	23	0	54	54	0	21	0	0	0	97
			FG%	46.6%			FT%	65.2%	Team Rebs								

When the team returned to get ready to play their next game against the New Jersey Gems, at the Capital Centre, the home of the NBA's Washington Bullets, they became aware of the league's takeover.

In order to avoid negative publicity, the Metros office - in Alexandria, VA – said they'd spent out \$40,000 to field a team. Frazier wanted to emphasize that the players were happy and flying to games, just like the NBA, and eating well. Once the league took over the nine games scheduled for the Armory games were moved to the Civic Center.

On December 5th 1,500 came out to Landover and the Capital Centre to watch the (2-4) Metros and the (2-3) Gems go at it. For anyone hoping to see Ann Meyers, they were disappointed. Ann had an agreement to participate in the ABC Women's Superstars Challenge, in the Bahamas. This was the 2nd game she missed for New Jersey. As for Ann, she finished in 4th place and earned \$8,400. A significant difference from her 3-year \$130,000 salary.

For the Metros, a missing Ann would be an advantage. Yet who knows if the players were affected by outside circumstances because they could only score 11 points in the 1st quarter. The Gems had 20, for a 20-11 lead.

Washington finally found the basket in the 2nd quarter as they outscored the Gems 31-13, to take a 42-33 lead at the half. New Jersey could only cut the lead by two as they trailed going into the 4th quarter, 61-54.

The Metros couldn't hold the lead as the Gems chipped away until it was 79-79 with 2:53 left. The Gems went up 81-79 on a Denise Burdick put back. In the next 30 seconds the teams traded several fouls and missed foul shots. Joan Van Ness missed four free throws, which was a part of why the Gems were 19-34 (56%) for the game.

Bertha Hardy's jumper made it 82-81, but a Comerie lay-up gave the Gems their final lead at 83-82. The Gems closed out the game 87-84 and evened their record at 3-3. The Metros fell to 2-5.

The Metros were led by Cathy Shoemaker's 21, while Vivian Greene added 16 and Willodean Harris had 15.

The Gems leading scorer's were Donna Geils with 20, while Wanda Szeremeta and Debra Conerie had 16 each.

Washington Metros																	Team Ge
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts
Bender, Evelyn	4		3				1				0						7
Brewer, Lisa	5		4				0				0						8
Caudle, Diane	13	Name not in Newspaper															
Cooper, Accronetta	14		0				0				0						0
Fincher, Janie	10	Name not in Newspaper															
Greene, Vivian	1		8				0				0						16
Hardy, Bertha	15		4				2				0						10
Harris, Willodean	21		7				1				0						15
McWhorter, Charlene	20		2				1				0						5
Schlesinger, Lisa	11		1				0				0						2
Shoemaker, Cathy	12		9				3				0						21
Adjustment		240															
Totals		240	38	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	84
			FG%	#####			FT%	#DIV/0!	Team Rebs								

New Jersey Gems																	Team Ge
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts
Browning, Pam	22		1				1				0						3
Burdick, Denise	35		5				2				0						12
Collins, Sheila	6		1				0				0						2
Comerie, Debra	34		7				2				0						16
Geils, Donna	4		8				4				0						20
Hastings, Martha	24		1				0				0						2
Meyers, Ann	14	Did Not Play - at Women's Superstars in Bahamas															
Rangler, Candy	5		1				0				0						2
Simms, Donna	17	Name not in Newspaper															
Szeremeta, Wnda	23		5				6				0						16
Van Ness, Joan	21		5				4	8 << At Least			0						14
Adjustment		240						26									
Totals		240	34	0	0	0	19	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	87
			FG%	####			FT%	55.9%	Team Rebs								

The Metros made their 2nd trade on December 7th when they sent a 5'3" guard from Slippery Rock named Jodi Gault to the California Dreams for a 1981 5th Round draft pick. There was no indication that Jodi reported to California.

Around this time Janie Fincher showed up with a carload of clothes and food supplies. She found the Metro players were in dire straits financially and she began sharing whatever she had with her new, but unfamiliar, teammates. Ms. Fincher had gone from a team that had never missed a paycheck to the team that hadn't distributed one paycheck.

The next day, December 8, the (2-5) Metros broke Baltimore's six-year drought (1973) of no pro basketball. The quickness of the game's venue change didn't allow the Metros to place any ads or to get articles into the Baltimore papers. But the people found out about the game, and they came, and the enthusiastic teenagers cheered loudly. The game at the Civic Center against the (2-4) Milwaukee Does drew either 1,300 or 1,000 people. Financially for the Metros it was nice to know this game was also rent free.

After an even 22-22 1st quarter, the Metros took a 51-47 half time lead. The Metros broke the game open in the 3rd quarter with a 26-17 run. Charlene McWhorter, who was shut out in the first half, came through with all 23 of her points in the 2nd half.

With a 77-64 lead the Metros watched the Does get closer at 80-74, when McWhorter scored 13 of her points in a 4-minute sequence to boost the score to 93-79. The final score of 104-92 raised the Metros record to 3-5, and dropped the Does to 2-5.

Along with McWhorter's 23, Bertha Hardy had 19. Newcomer Janie Fincher made her Metros debut and played 28 minutes and had nine points. To Coach Frazier he felt the crowd's energy helped the team, because the Washington D.C. Starplex was like playing in a tomb. Coach Frazier's original plan was always to make Baltimore their home.

For the Does Diane Morales led the team with 21 points, followed by Joanie Smith and Brenda Chapman's 16 points each. Ethel White scored 11, all on free throws.

Washington Metros																	Team Ge
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts
Bender, Evelyn	4		1				0	0			0						2
Brewer, Lisa	5		6				0	0			0						12
Caudle, Diane	13		3				0	0			0						6
Cooper, Accronetta	14		1				0	0			0						2
Fincher, Janie	10	28	4				1	2			0						9
Greene, Vivian	1		5				4	5			0						14
Hardy, Bertha	15		9				1	3			0						19
Harris, Willodean	21		3				2	5			0						8
McWhorter, Charlene	20		10				3	3			0		6				23
Rock, Cindy			0				0	0			0						0
Schlesinger, Lisa	11		0				2	2			0						2
Shoemaker, Cathy	12		3				1	2			0						7
Adjustment		212											27				
Totals		240	45	0	0	0	14	22	0	0	0	0	33	0	0	0	104
			FG%	####			FT%	63.6%	Team Rebs								

Milwaukee Does																	Team Ge
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts
Chapman, Brenda	15		4				8	12			0						16
Dennis, Brenda	10		0				0	0			0						0
Ellis, Cindy	25		0				0	0			0						0
Gamble, Carolyn	8		3				0	0			0		6				6
Griffith, Denise	6		3				6	9			0						12
Morales, Diane	22		8				5	9			0						21
Nestor, Heidi	28		2				1	2			0						5
Prevost, Deb	32		2				1	2			0						5
Smith, Joanie	1		5				6	9			0						16
White, Ethel	30		0				11	16			0						11
Adjustment		240											18				
Totals		240	27	0	0	0	38	59	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	92
			FG%	####			FT%	64.4%	Team Rebs								

The truth about the Metros came to light to the general public as an article in the Baltimore Sun explained how the unpaid players were charging their meals at fast food places with promises to pay in the future. But the players felt their love for the game helped them to overcome these hardships. During this time WBL President Bill Byrne tried to lift the morale of the team by giving each player \$100 to take care of food, rent, and gas.

A 39-year old Washington attorney and former sportswriter named Jim Goldberg had expressed an interest in purchasing the club. His connections were with Texas oil men, and he wanted to put together a package to approach them.

Jim Goldberg said some investors from Houston were interested in purchasing the team. Unfortunately, they needed time to make their decision. Reluctantly, the \$300,000 needed to complete the season was a bit high for people to jump in on. Jim felt the odds were 70-30 that they'd get involved. Byrne said he had other investors in New York who would purchase the team if the Goldberg deal fell through.

The Metros next game was scheduled for that evening (Dec. 13th) against the N.J. Gems, but with arena issues in the D.C. area the game was re-scheduled for March 5th.

The team had two road games coming up (Houston 12/15 & Milwaukee 12/18) and no one knew who would pay the travel expenses.

The team's fate was to be decided that weekend (by the 16th). Goldberg was creating a \$350,000 proposal so the Metros could complete the season.

While WBL owners were aware of the league's takeover of both the Metros and the Philadelphia Fox it became quite personal for Chicago Hustle owner, John Geraty after the Fincher trade. He said he had been "paid in full" for the Fincher trade, but he didn't know the Metros players hadn't been paid. He made a request to the league office that the trade be rescinded.

Two things stand out from the above statements:

- 1 Who from Washington paid Geraty between November 28th and December 8th and with what money?
- 2 Was the request for the trade reversal based on Geraty's altruism or the monumental backlash the city of Chicago heaped on the Hustle after the Fincher trade?
- 3 Coach Doug Bruno had to change his home number, because of the irate fans.

Somehow the Metros were able to travel to both Houston and Milwaukee.

On Saturday December 15th the (3-5) Metros took on the (6-1) Houston Angels in Hofheinz Pavilion in front of 895 fans. The Metros began well as they trailed only 25-22 after the first period. But they no longer had a head coach as Nat Frazier was ejected with two technicals with 11 seconds remaining in the 1st quarter. The team had no known assistant coach, so anyone of the seasoned could have taken control.

Either way the team hung tough as they went into the half with an eight-point deficit, 50-42.

The Angels had no problems in the 2nd half as they built the lead to 81-65 after three quarters. The 101-89 victory gave the Metros a 3-6 record, while the Angels improved to 7-1.

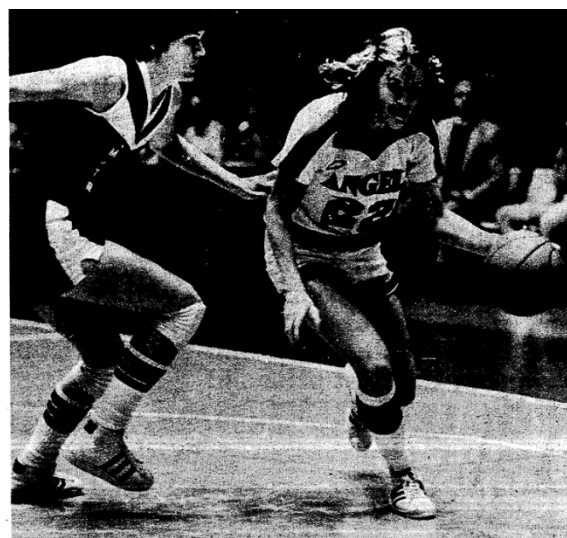


Photo by Steve Camarillo, Chronicle Staff

Angel on the run

Houston Angels' Vicky Chapman (22) dribbles past the Washington Metros Cathy Shoemaker in

the first quarter of their game Saturday night in Hofheinz Pavilion.

The Metros were led by Bertha Hardy's 21 points and 11 rebounds, Willodean Harris' 16 points and 13 rebounds. Evelyn Bender had 15 and Cathy Shoemaker had 14.

For the 1978-79 Champion Angels Belinda Candler led the team with 23, while Paula Mayo had 20 points and 11 rebounds in just 29 minutes. Three other players also had double figures.

Washington Metros																		Team Game #
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts	Eff Rat
Bender, Evelyn	4	27	7	12			1	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	0	15	0.481
Brewer, Lisa	5	14	1	3			1	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	3	0.286
Caudle, Diane	13	3	1	1			0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1.333
Cooper, Accronetta	14	6	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	-0.167
Fincher, Janie	10	25	2	9			0	0	1	0	1	0	4	1	4	0	4	0.080
Greene, Vivian	1	35	2	12			8	10	1	0	1	4	3	1	8	1	12	0.400
Hardy, Bertha	15	48	7	15			7	12	3	8	11	1	4	5	3	0	21	0.750
Harris, Willodean	21	30	7	18			2	5	4	9	13	0	4	0	1	3	16	0.933
McWhorter, Charlene	20	12	1	4			0	2	3	5	8	1	6	0	2	0	2	0.833
Rock, Cindy		Name Not in Newspapers																
Schlesinger, Lisa	11	Name Not in Newspapers																
Shoemaker, Cathy	12	40	6	14			2	3	2	7	9	6	4	3	2	0	14	0.900
Totals		240	34	88	0	0	21	36	14	30	44	13	30	13	26	4	89	0.608
			FG%	38.6%			FT%	58.3%	Team Rebs		2							

Houston Angels																		Team Game #
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts	Eff Rat
Auhlenbacher, Karen	11	35	4	5			4	5	0	0	0	2	2	1	3	0	12	0.400
Candler, Belinda	24	34	8	12			7	9	1	7	8	4	3	2	2	0	23	1.147
Chapman, Vicky	22	26	5	9			6	7	5	1	6	2	4	2	2	0	16	1.000
Durham, Gwen	3	9	1	3			1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	3	0.111
Johnson, Pat	45	26	2	6			7	11	3	4	7	1	1	2	1	0	11	0.808
Jones, Belinda	23	25	3	9			2	2	2	6	8	1	2	2	8	0	8	0.480
Kenlaw, Jessie	40	21	2	8			1	3	4	2	6	2	6	1	0	0	5	0.762
Kuhl, Nancy	13	30	1	1			1	1	2	0	2	9	1	1	3	0	3	0.700
Mayo, Paula	10	29	7	16			6	9	1	10	11	3	5	3	5	0	20	1.207
Prince, Sandra	25	5	0	0			0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0.400
Washington, Cynthia	15	DNP - Coach Decision																
Totals		240	33	69	0	0	35	49	19	30	49	24	26	16	27	0	101	0.779
			FG%	47.8%			FT%	71.4%	Team Rebs		3							

The Metros road trip continued as the team went to Milwaukee. The Milwaukee Arena and 571 fans were there to watch the (3-6) Metros play the (2-10) Does.

The Does who had suffered through a losing 1978-1979 season (11-23) had hired an ex-NBA coach of the year in local legend Larry Costello. Larry, along with Lew Alcindor, Oscar Robertson, won the 1971 NBA Championship. Yet 12 games into the WBL season the Does were again at the bottom with a 2-10 record.

It is very likely that Costello and Frazier coached against each other in the NBA, but 571 fans made them realize this wasn't the NBA. Charlene McWhorter scored the first eight Metros points in the first six minutes. She also picked up four fouls in less than six minutes. Washington still took a 24-20 lead. The 2nd quarter belonged to the Does as they went ahead 50-43.

Yet to Nat Frazier he realized he wasn't a fan of Midwest officiating. Just like his problems in Iowa, the first half saw the Metros shoot 75% from the free throw line . . . 3 of 4. The Does were a pathetic 57% . . . 12 of 21.

In the next two quarters the Metros outscored the Does, 22-21 and 24-23. Yet this wasn't enough as the Does won their 3rd game, 94-89. In the 2nd half the Metros were perfect from the free throw line . . . 4 of 4. The Does improved to 64% . . . 14 of 22. Also, for the Metros

Charlene McWhorter was able to play for five more minutes, before she fouled out. Her line for the day was 10 points and six fouls in 11 minutes.

The free throw discrepancy of 26 of 43 versus 7 of 8 was seen from two different perspectives.

Guess who made this statement:

"I've never seen anything like that, said ????. That was a joke. Are you going to tell me that my team is that much worse than theirs when it comes to fouls?"

"I think that type of thing is bad for our league. People don't want to come and see that. It makes us look like jokers. People want to see quality."

Guess who made this statement:

"I wish it was like that all the time," he said. "In a game like tonight, a lot depends on the position of people. Everything is judgement."

"I don't think the officiating has been that bad this year. It was a lot worse last year."

Cathy Shoemaker, who played all 48 minutes, scored 22 and had six rebounds and five steals. Evelyn Bender had 16 points, while Lisa Brewer added 14 points. Bertha Hardy grabbed 12 rebounds in 48 minutes but only scored eight points.

For the winning Does Brenda Chapman, the WBL's leading scorer last year, had 22 while Heidi Nestor had 20 points and 18 rebounds.

Washington Metros																		Team Game #	
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts	Eff Rat	
Bender, Evelyn	4	36	8	17			0	0	0	0	1	1	5	4	3	3	0	16	0.750
Brewer, Lisa	5	36	7	13			0	0	3	3	6	4	5	3	6	0	14	0.694	
Caudle, Dianne	13	2	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0.000	
Cooper, Accronetta	14	Name Not in Newspapers																	
Fincher, Janie	10	36	4	14			3	3	0	2	2	7	5	3	2	0	11	0.778	
Greene, Vivian	1	15	4	12	0	1	0	0	1	3	4	2	1	2	2	0	8	1.067	
Hardy, Bertha	15	48	4	12			0	1	2	10	12	3	3	2	2	0	8	0.542	
Harris, Willodean	21	8	0	3			0	0	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.500	
McWhorter, Charlene	20	11	5	8			0	0	2	1	3	1	6	1	3	0	10	1.182	
Rock, Cindy		Name Not in Newspapers																	
Schlesinger, Lisa	11	Name Not in Newspapers																	
Shoemaker, Cathy	12	48	9	17			4	4	1	5	6	2	3	5	3	0	22	0.708	
Adjustment																			
Totals		240	41	96	0	1	7	8	11	27	38	24	30	19	21	0	89	0.721	
			FG%	42.7%			FT%	87.5%	Team Rebs		11								

Milwaukee Does																		Team Game #	
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts	Eff Rat	
Carney, Mary	31	Injured - Sprained Left Shoulder																	
Chapman, Brenda	15	37	8	18			6	10	2	0	2	2	3	4	4	0	22	0.757	
Dennis, Brenda	10	6	0	0			1	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	3	0	1	0.500	
Ellis, Cindy	25	DNP - Coach Decision																	
Gamble, Carolyn	8	13	1	5			0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	0.692	
Griffith, Denise	6	26	7	9			2	6	2	4	6	3	6	1	6	0	16	0.885	
Morales, Diane	22	27	2	7			4	5	1	6	7	4	5	1	5	0	8	0.704	
Nestor, Heidi	28	45	10	21			0	1	5	13	18	1	2	1	2	0	20	0.867	
Prevost, Deb	32	27	1	4			4	8	1	3	4	3	1	2	4	0	6	0.519	
Smith, Joanie	1	33	2	7			2	2	1	6	7	6	2	2	4	0	6	0.697	
White, Ethel	30	26	3	8			7	9	6	2	8	0	0	2	5	0	13	0.692	
Adjustment																			
Totals		240	34	79	0	0	26	43	18	35	53	23	19	16	33	0	94	0.733	
			FG%	43.0%			FT%	60.5%	Team Rebs		16								

The next scheduled home game was to be at the Staplex Armory on the 20th, but no one (the league, the “silent partners,” Jim Goldberg, nor Nat Frazier) could come up with the \$2,500 needed to play the game. Therefore, the game was cancelled.

The Metros couldn’t hold out for Jim Goldberg’s connections, so they officially became defunct on December 20th. But they didn’t have to feel bad. The Philadelphia Fox didn’t make it either.

On December 22 the league set up a conference call for a dispersal draft where the 12 remaining teams could select players from the two defunct teams. The draft would be in the order of the teams records as of December 20.

The first team drafting was the Milwaukee Does. Having just played the Metros, they saw everything the Metros had to offer. Therefore, even though Charlene McWhorter couldn’t stay on the court (11 minutes, 10 points, 6 fouls) they made her the first pick of the draft.

The following Metros were involved:

Charlene McWhorter	#1 pick to	Milwaukee
Cathy Shoemaker	#3 pick to	Dallas
Willodean Harris	#4 pick to	Iowa
Janie Fincher	#5 pick to	St. Louis
Bertha Hardy	#6 pick to	New Orleans
Lisa Brewer	#9 pick to	San Francisco
Evelyn Bender	#10 pick to	New York
Accronetta Cooper	#11 pick to	Minnesota
Vivian Greene	#12 pick to	Milwaukee

Along with the dispersal of players the league needed to realign the divisions. Since both Washington and Philadelphia were in the East, St. Louis and New Orleans would take their place. To understand the ramifications of realignment let’s look at the changes:

Before the Dissolution on December 22

<u>EAST</u>				<u>MIDWEST</u>				<u>WEST</u>			
New York	10	2	---	Minnesota	10	2	---	San Francisco	10	4	---
New Jersey	6	7	4.5	Iowa	7	2	1.5	Houston	7	2	0.5
Washington	3	7	6.0	Chicago	6	6	4.0	New Orleans	6	6	3.0
Philadelphia	2	8	7.0	St.Louis	5	5	4.0	Dallas	3	10	6.5
				Milwaukee	3	10	7.5	California	2	9	6.5

After Re-Alignment

<u>EAST</u>				<u>MIDWEST</u>				<u>WEST</u>			
New York	10	2	---	Minnesota	10	2	---	San Francisco	10	4	---
New Orleans	6	6	4.0	Iowa	7	2	1.5	Houston	7	2	0.5
St.Louis	5	5	4.0	Chicago	6	6	4.0	Dallas	3	10	6.5
New Jersey	6	7	4.5	Milwaukee	3	10	7.5	California	2	9	6.5

Only New Orleans suffered as they fell behind by another game.

Neither the Baltimore nor Washington papers did any research by speaking with Coach Nat Frazier nor any of the players who were still in the area. After the 22nd all the information was given through the wire service and highlighted all over the country.

As usual bad news was king as the demise of the two teams was seen in: Allentown, Pa., Anniston, Al., El Paso, Tx., Hattiesburg, Ms., Lexington, Ky., Wausau, Wi., or Muncie, In.

While the quotes are from the Philadelphia Fox players and coach, we can assume the sentiment was the same for the Washington players.

"Basically, this club never had an owner," said Wohl, referring to the fact that the league had been operating the Fox, as well as the Metros, since December 1. "There's no way Byrne should have approved player contracts without an owner. He misrepresented himself to me and to the players. That's fraud."

"Byrne told me when I started here that the league would never let a franchise fold. It's kind of amazing that people with sound business sense would let a guy like him run this league. He's a promoter, not an administrator. He made some bad decisions that will unfortunately foul up 12 players' lives."

The players' bitterness against him was clear.

"I hate being lied to," Lawrence said. "I knew when I signed that I'd get a lot of bull, but nothing like this."

"I'm really disappointed," guard Linda Matthews said. I can't say I didn't see it coming. Byrne wasn't up-front with us. He didn't tell us the truth."

Player	No.	GP	Min	M.p.G	FGM	FGA	FG %	3FGM	3FGA	FTM	FTA	FT %	Off Reb	Def Reb	Tot Reb	Reb Avg	Ast	Ast Avg	PF	PF Avg	Stl	TO	TO Avg	BS	PTS	Avg	Eff. Rat.
Bender, Evelyn	4	9	270	30.00	50	127	0.394			7	12	0.583	9	16	25	2.78	18	2.00	19	2.1	25	32	3.56	0	107	11.89	0.596
Brewer, Lisa	5	7	145	20.71	25	46	0.543			1	2	0.500	4	10	14	2.00	15	2.14	13	1.9	12	11	1.57	0	51	7.29	0.662
Caudle, Diane	13	9	77	8.56	6	17	0.353			2	11	0.182	6	9	15	1.67	5	0.56	10	1.1	0	7	0.78	0	14	1.56	0.416
Cooper, Accronetta	14	9	115	12.78	7	20	0.350			5	12	0.417	9	7	16	1.78	3	0.33	15	1.7	4	8	0.89	1	19	2.11	0.322
Fincher, Janie	10	3	90	30.00	10	33	0.303			4	5	0.800	1	5	6	2.00	13	4.33	11	3.7	7	10	3.33	0	24	8.00	0.589
Fletcher, Carmen	22	2	10	5.00	1	2	0.500			0	0	#DIV/0!	1	0	1	0.50	0	0.00	1	0.5	0	2	1.00	0	2	1.00	0.100
Gault, Jodi	2	1		0.00	2		#DIV/0!			0															4	4.00	
Greene, Vivian	1	10	290	29.00	49	140	0.350	0	3	19	28	0.679	16	20	36	3.60	36	3.60	30	3.0	14	42	4.20	1	117	11.70	0.679
Hardy, Bertha	15	10	425	42.50	68	114	0.596			44	59	0.746	40	63	103	10.30	18	1.80	38	3.8	23	31	3.10	0	180	18.00	0.732
Harris, Wilodean	21	10	230	23.00	45	106	0.425			19	38	0.500	30	49	79	7.90	5	0.50	23	2.3	9	19	1.90	18	109	10.90	0.817
McKenzie, Pat		1	8	8.00	0	1	0.000			0	2	0.000	0	1	1	1.00	0	0.00	0	0.0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.125
McWhorter, Charlene	20	10	315	31.50	44	115	0.383			20	31	0.645	24	34	58	5.80	8	0.80	54	5.4	8	17	1.70	3	108	10.80	0.549
Rock, Cindy		1			0					0	0	#DIV/0!													0	0.00	
Schlesinger, Lisa	11	8	160	20.00	7	25	0.280			6	7	0.857	4	11	15	1.88	15	1.88	12	1.5	9	18	2.25	1	20	2.50	0.350
Shoemaker, Cathy	12	10	265	26.50	63	130	0.485			20	29	0.690	21	33	54	5.40	20	2.00	34	3.4	16	36	3.60	0	146	14.60	0.830
Adjustment					3																			6			
	10	2,400			380	876	0.434	-	3	147	236	0.623	165	258	423	42.30	156	15.60	260	26.0	127	233	23.30	24	907	90.70	0.640

So Concludes the Story of the WASHINGTON METROS