

NEW ENGLAND GULLS

History of

The story of the New England Gulls women's professional basketball team of the Women's Basketball League (WBL) really began in the city of Tampa, Florida. After eight months of publicity, drafting, try-outs and no physical office the Tampa Bay Sun was sold to a group of Boston investors around October 24th, 1980.

The WBL 1980-81 schedule had already been released showing nine teams, of which Tampa Bay was one of them. The Tampa home dates may not have coincided with any dates a Boston team might have to offer. Another schedule was created to accommodate the new team and new travel schedules for the existing teams.

The story of the Tampa Bay Sun came to a close on November 4, 1980.

The introduction of Women's Professional Basketball to the New England area was with a very small November 5 clipping about a game between the New Jersey Gems & the New Orleans Pride at Salem College on Nov. 29th.

The story of the area having its own team came the very next day in another small clipping that the New England had been added to the WBL. Commissioner Sherwin Fischer announced the owner as Joseph Reither, (spelled Reigter in the clipping) a retail liquor executive from Lynn, MA. The team, named the Gulls, would play their games at Merrimack College in North Andover, MA.

The WBL 3rd season opener was just 25 days away when Nebraska went to Minnesota on November 30th. As of November 6, the Gulls had no players, no coach, no General Manager, but they had a place to play.

Somebody with the Gulls placed an announcement on Friday the 7th that try-outs would be held Sunday the 9th at Merrimack College, their home arena. The tryouts would be conducted by their new coach, former Boston Celtic "Jungle" Jim Loscutoff. Coach Loscutoff agreed to coach but had yet to sign a contract. (He would keep his job working with Boston State College. Wikipedia says he was a head coached until 1976) Yet as a familiar local legend, with a Celtic heritage, he added immediate credibility for the new team.

Even though the team had no players, owner Reither stated, "There's plenty of talent available in the league. And with several teams not playing this year, a lot of that talent is free."

(Editor Note – notice he didn't say "available," he said "free." So, we had to believe the problems that developed in the future were probably being established here. In Reither's mind, everyone he signed from another team was going to play for "free.")

Reither continued, "We're talking to two women around whom to build the team: Cindy Brogdon, former University of Tennessee star now a free agent with Tampa Bay and Molly "Machine Gun" Bolin, top scorer in the league last year with 32.5 points a game."

To give you an idea of fast things were moving owner Reither said the Gulls would play an exhibition game on December 14 against New Jersey. The only problem was the Gems were scheduled to play in Nebraska and the Gulls would have played four regular season games by that point.

The Gulls needed a person with WBL experience to come in and run the team. Ernie Spinelli had been a part of the Gems' organization in 1979-80. During the summer Ernie was enticed to move to Dallas to help create a marketing plan and foundation with the Dallas Diamonds. His friend, Diamonds' President Dave Almstead, was the inviter. Ernie's presence in Dallas began showing immediate results as he secured Subway to advertise on the back of the Dallas game tickets.

When Reither offered Spinelli the opportunity to come back to the northeast to work with New England as the General Manager Ernie said "yes." Ernie's first meeting with his new owner, Joseph Reither, resulted in the following activity:

After Joe picked Ernie up at the airport the two drove back to the team's office and on the way the car ran out of gas. Ernie asked if this was what he could expect for the rest of the year.



The Gulls held their try-out camp and began their training camp. Several names associated with training camp were:

Sue Richardson, an Old Dominion graduate and a 6th round pick of the Tampa Bay Sun who was looking forward to being in a Florida camp but travelled to New England with no guarantees of being on the team.

Cris Critelli, another Old Dominion graduate who was the 1st round pick of the now defunct New York Stars.

Martha Hastings, who played with the N.J. Gems and St. Louis Streak in 1979-80.

Sunday Jones, a 32-year-old former professional female football cornerback.

Donna Simms, a 4.7 ppg player who appeared in 25 games with the N.J. Gems in 79-80.

Liz Silcott, who had been traded by the Pioneers to the Tampa Bay Sun for a 1981 3rd (or 5th) round pick was also there.

(Editor Note: Knowing the strange erratic behavior of Liz Silcott and the reputation of Jim Loscutoff and why he was called "Jungle Jim" would lead me to believe this tryout had some fireworks. I don't believe Liz was invited to the Gulls training camp which proved the end of her 24 game 30.21 ppg WBL career.)



On the 13th the Gulls completed a trade for 6'1" forward Jody Rajcula for a 1981 4th Rd pick. Jody played in all 34 Hustle games in 79-80 and averaged 6.68 ppg.

On the 15th the Gulls added Lynn Arturi & Sue Summons from the New Jersey Gems for cash considerations. Arturi had played in the league for two seasons and Summons was a 1980 4th round draft pick out of Lamar University.

With the demise of four teams of the WBL and the implosion of the Tampa Bay Sun free agents and draft picks should have been a part of the hurried-up training camp. An exhibition game was set up for Sunday November 27 to be played against the New Jersey Gems at Merrimack College. Yet there was no newspaper evidence that this game ever took place. Per the WBL book, Mad Seasons (pg. 246), the New Orleans Pride were also scheduled to fly up to play an exhibition against the Gulls, but the Gulls refused to pay their travel expenses. So, several players from the New Jersey Gems agreed to impersonate the Pride players and play against the Gulls. It didn't matter if a white player impersonated a black player, no one knew who anyone was yet.

The newest WBL team, the New England Gulls received a fair piece of publicity from the Boston Globe the morning of their first game against the New Orleans Pride. The article featured several players and their college majors and future desires.

The projected line-up was given as: Althea Gwyn (C-6'2"), Tina Slinker (F-5'10"), Jody Rajcula (F-6'1"), Cris Critelli (G-6'0") and Sue Summons (G-5'8"). To highlight the article 8-year Celtic Superstar Dave Cowens had already purchased season tickets and agreed to toss up the ceremonial first ball. To prove that some things never change Coach Jim Loscuttoff promised to watch his language. Coach Loscuttoff was assisted by a former Celtic 3rd round pick, Dana Skinner, who had played at Merrimack College. The team's full schedule was presented at the end of the article.



The first game roster included the following:

Lynn Arturi - a 5'8" guard, Northeastern University, and a 2 year veteran playing on her 4th team in 3 years and averaged 3.1 ppg.

Gerry Booker - a 5'11" forward, Benedict College, 1979 Milwaukee Does All-Star, playing on her 4th team in 3 years and averaging 9.3 ppg, 9.9 rpg.

Accronetta Cooper - a 6'1" center, Claflin College, averaging 2.3 ppg in 27 games

Cris Critelli - a 6'0" forward/guard, Old Dominion 1980 AIAW Champs, 1st Round pick of the World Champion New York Stars.

Althea Gwyn - a 6'2" center, Queens College, 2 time All-Star, All-Pro, 1979-80 WBL Champion with New York Stars, avg. 17.3 ppg and 13.5 rpg in 58 games.

Melinda Hale - a 5'9" guard, Slippery Rock College, signed as Free Agent

Martha Hastings - a 5'6" guard, Univ. of Maryland, 1 year WBL experience with St. Louis, averaged 11.4 ppg in 9 games.

Jody Rajcula - a 6'1" forward, So. Connecticut State, played 34 games with Chicago and averaged 6.7 ppg and 4.2 rpg.

Lisa Schlesinger - a 5'3" guard, Univ. of Maryland, played 8 games with Washington Metros and averaged 2.5 ppg and 1.9 assists.

Donna Simms – a 6'1" forward, Queens College, played 27 Games with the New Jersey Gems averaging 4.7 ppg and 3.4 rpg.

Tina Slinker – a 5'10" forward, Wayland Baptist, who was not drafted and signed on as a Free Agent.

Sue Summons – a 5'7" guard, Lamar Univ., who grew up in the Roxbury area of Boston and was selected as a 4th Round pick of the New Jersey Gems. She was later traded to New England for cash.

In a matter of 27 days the Gulls put together a team and played their first regular season game. Surprisingly 1,341 fans attended which constituted 62% of seating capacity in the 2,200 seat arena. After the game Coach Loscutt said it was pretty good entertainment for \$3.75.

The New Orleans Pride, a playoff team in 79-80, jumped to a 33-28 1st quarter lead with Cindy Brogdon scoring 14. Sue Summons' playground style of ball broke the New Orleans press and allowed the Gulls to stay close. New Orleans scored six in a row to create a 39-28 lead, but Althea Gwyn responded with some of her 18 first half points to cut the lead to 53-46 by the half.

The inexperience and lack of practice caught up to the Gulls as they fell behind 74-56 as Gwyn scored 1, but Critelli scored 9 in the third quarter. The final score of 99-86 was a result of the following known stats:

Gulls – Gwyn 29 pts, Summons 18 pts, Critelli 17 pts, Slinker & Schlesinger 8 pts each, and Arturi 6 pts.

The Pride had 5 players with double digits: Brogdon 26, Sybil Blalock & Augusta Forest 14, Heidi Wayment 12, and Sharon Farrah 10. Vicky Chapman added 9, Bev Crusoe 6, Bertha Hardy 6, and Sue Peters 2.



New England Gulls																		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				
Arturi, Lynn	17	16	3	6			0	0		1	1	1	4				6	0.563				
Booker, Gerry		Name not in Box Score									0						0					
Cooper, Accronetta	44	16	0	2			0	0			4	4	0				5			0	0.250	
Critelli, Cris	6	33	6	13			5	6			1	1	5				6				17	0.848
Gwyn, Althea	33	48	8	11			13	22			10	10	4				5				29	0.979
Hale, Melinda	22	Name not in Box Score										0									0	
Hastings, Martha	9	Name not in Box Score										0									0	
Rajcula, Jody	24	17	0	0			0	0			1	1	0				3				0	0.059
Schlesinger, Lisa	11	26	4	6			0	0			1	1	6				2				8	0.808
Simms, Donna	32	11	0	1			0	0			1	1	1				0				0	0.273
Slinker, Tina	7	33	3	4			2	4		0	0	2	3				8	0.364				
Summons, Sue	13	40	6	14			6	7		4	4	3	5				18	0.700				
Adjustment																29						
Totals		240	30	57	0	0	26	39	0	23	23	22	33	0	29	0	86	0.517				
			FG%	52.6%			FT%	66.7%	Team Rebs													

New Orleans Pride																		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
Andrykowski, Kathy	32	Name not in Paper									0						0	
Blalock, Sybil	10	42	7	11			0	3		2	2	5	4				14	0.619
Booker, Betty	20	Name not in Paper									0						0	
Brogdon, Cindy	44	44	10	19			6	7		2	2	3	2				26	0.773
Chapman, Vicky	30	23	2	7			5	10		3	3	0	5				9	0.522
Crusoe, Beverly	25	24	2	5			2	2		2	2	3	5				6	0.583
Farrah, Sharon	11	24	2	8			6	7		4	4	2	1				10	0.750
Feeney, Eileen	55	Name not in Paper									0						0	
Forest, Augusta	31	25	5	6			4	4		7	7	6	6				14	1.320
Hardy, Bertha	33	29	3	7			0	0		0	0	3	1				6	0.414
Peters, Sue	23	6	0	0			2	2		1	1	0	0				2	0.500
Wayment, Heidi	22	23	2	2			8	9		11	11	1	4				12	1.087
Adjustment															24			
Totals		240	33	65	0	0	33	44	0	32	32	23	28	0	24	0	99	0.638
			FG%	50.8%				FT%	75.0%	Team Rebs								

For the 1980-81 season the league added some former Olympians, but the two headliners were Nancy Lieberman of the Dallas Diamonds and Carol Blazejowski of the New Jersey Gems. The Gulls had 5 days to work on their problems before the (1-1) Dallas Diamonds came to town. The new Diamonds brought with them a 19-game road losing streak. They lost to New Jersey 110-93 the day before and with their 1979-80 0-18 road record they were still consistently losing away from home.

The Gulls placed a decent sized ad in the Boston Globe referring to Nancy Lieberman as Lady Magic and the sport's most exciting player. A fun part of the ad played off the TV show Dallas because Free JR Beer would be on tap for adults.

You have to give credit to the Gulls for their public relations effort because an almost full house of 2,014 filled the Merrimack gym. The Diamonds jumped out to a commanding 21-10 first quarter lead. But the Gulls played evenly the rest of the game as they outscored the Diamonds 82-81. Yet this only allowed the Gulls to lose their second game, 102-92.

LADY MAGIC

Comes to New England

THE NEW ENGLAND GULLS

Lead by

CHRIS CRITELLI

VS.

NANCY LIEBERMAN

The Sport's Most Exciting Player

On Tuesday, December 9, at 7:30 p.m.
at Merrimack College
In honor of Dallas, free J.R. Beer
will be on tap for adults.

Thursday night the Gulls take on the New Jersey Gems at 7:30 p.m. at Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill. For ticket information call 689-2672.

The Gulls were lead by Critelli's 23, Simm's 21, and Gwyn's 20 pts and 16 rbs. The Diamonds had four players with double figures: All-Star Alfreda Abernathy 19, Lieberman's 17 on only 8-24 shooting,

New England Gulls																		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
Arturi, Lynn	17	3	0	1			1	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1.000
Booker, Gerry		3	0	1			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000
Cooper, Accronetta	44	6	0	2			1	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.333
Critelli, Cris	6	40	9	17			5	5	1	0	1	1	3	4	8	1	23	0.550
Gwyn, Althea	33	42	6	10			8	12	3	13	16	4	2	0	5	1	20	0.929
Hale, Melinda	22	11	2	3			0	0	0	1	1	3	2	1	5	0	4	0.636
Hastings, Martha	9	10	0	1			0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.200
Rajcula, Jody	24	10	0	3			0	0	1	1	2	2	3	0	1	0	0	0.500
Schlesinger, Lisa	11	32	1	3			0	0	1	0	1	3	4	0	6	0	2	0.094
Simms, Donna	32	28	6	8			9	10	4	2	6	3	5	0	3	1	21	1.071
Slinker, Tina	7	18	3	3			0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	6	0.333
Summons, Sue	13	37	6	15			2	2	0	9	9	3	3	2	5	1	14	0.703
Totals		240	33	67	0	0	26	34	11	29	40	20	24	7	34	5	92	0.604
			FG%	49.3%			FT%	76.5%	Team Rebs		0							

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	30	8	20			3	4	4	3	7	0	4	0	2	0	19	0.800
Barnes, Vanessa	11	24	2	4			1	2	0	0	0	3	2	1	5	0	5	0.292
Browning, Hattie	22	22	2	5			2	2	2	0	2	3	2	3	5	0	6	0.545
Bruton, Cindy	20	18	3	4			1	3	0	3	3	2	5	0	2	0	7	0.667
Fancher, Sherri	14	6	2	3			3	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	7	1.000
Gillom, Pegg	42	10	1	3			1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.400
Jennings, Rosalind	15	32	5	10			4	6	1	1	2	2	3	2	2	1	14	0.625
Lieberman, Nancy	10	38	8	24			1	3	5	5	10	7	1	3	6	0	17	1.000
Sacoco, Katrina	33	6	0	1			0	0	1	1	2	1	2	0	1	0	0	0.500
Shoemaker, Cathy	24	18	2	6			0	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	4	0.389
Swindell, Retha	35	16	2	3			0	0	1	2	3	0	1	0	1	0	4	0.375
Walker, Gwen	40	20	5	5			6	7	3	2	5	2	6	0	2	0	16	1.150
Totals		240	40	88	0	0	22	33	19	18	37	20	28	11	28	1	102	0.675
			FG%	45.5%			FT%	66.7%	Team Rebs		0							

The Gulls made their first road trip as they ventured to the New Orleans SuperDome. The second year Pride were only able to put 2,000 fans (a newspaper estimation) in the 74,000 SuperDome – a 3% capacity.

The Gulls played an almost even first quarter as they were behind 27-25. The Pride, a 79-80 playoff team, built on their lead and led at half-time 51-46. The Gulls were flat in the 3rd as they were outscored, 30-19. The expansion Gulls were now 0-3 with their 111-87 loss. The Gulls were led by Critelli's 23, Gwyn's 15, and Susie Summons 13. Six other Gulls scored and as of this game the roster had made no known changes. The, Pride had six players in double figures, led by Bertha Hardy's 23 and Cindy Brogdon's 21.

New England Gulls																	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
Arturi, Lynn	17	3	0	1			0	0		0	0	1	1				0	0.667
Booker, Gerry		6	0	1			0	0		3	3	0	2				0	0.500
Cooper, Accronetta	44	6	0	1			1	1		0	0	0	2				1	0.167
Critelli, Cris	6	48	10	25			3	4		1	1	3	4				23	0.625
Gwyn, Althea	33	26	4	7			7	9		7	7	3	5				15	1.077
Hale, Melinda	22	20	1	2			2	2		1	1	0	3				4	0.250
Hastings, Martha	9	Name Not in Newspaper										0					0	
Rajcula, Jody	24	20	3	5			2	2		2	2	2	6				8	0.700
Schlesinger, Lisa	11	34	3	4			0	0		2	2	4	3				6	0.471
Simms, Donna	32	19	3	5			2	4		4	4	0	3				8	0.632
Slinker, Tina	7	19	4	6			1	5		3	3	1	4				9	0.737
Summons, Sue	13	39	5	11			3	4		6	6	1	3				13	0.538
Adjustment															27			
Totals		240	33	68	0	0	21	31	0	29	29	15	36	0	27	0	87	0.496
			FG%		48.5%		FT%		67.7%		Team Rebs							

New Orleans Pride																	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
Andrykowski, Kathy	32	4	0	1			0	0		0	0	1	1				0	0.500
Blalock, Sybil	10	37	5	8			0	0		4	4	1	3				10	0.432
Booker, Betty	20	5	0	1			0	0		0	0	0	0				0	0.000
Brogdon, Cindy	44	38	7	13			7	8		7	7	3	3				21	0.895
Chapman, Vicky	30	22	1	8			6	8		6	6	6	2				8	1.182
Crusoe, Beverly	25	27	6	10			0	0		1	1	2	2				12	0.630
Farrah, Sharon	11	18	2	4			2	2		2	2	2	1				6	0.667
Feeney, Eileen	55	Name Not in Newspapers										0					0	
Forest, Augusta	31	23	6	8			4	8		4	4	6	3				16	1.391
Hardy, Bertha	33	36	6	9			11	17		11	11	1	4	3 <at least			23	
Peters, Sue	23	9	1	2			0	0		1	1	0	0				2	0.333
Wayment, Heidi	22	21	4	5			5	10		11	11	1	4				13	1.238
Adjustment															23			
Totals		240	38	69	0	0	35	53	0	47	47	23	23	3	23	0	111	0.767
			FG%		55.1%		FT%		66.0%		Team Rebs							

As an example of speed that the league schedule had to be created and re-created the Gulls had to fly home for a Thursday game against the 1-2 New Jersey Gems. The Gulls began the season with three games in three days: in New England, in New Orleans, and back in New England.

Whether it was a lack of interest in a Thursday game or the initial excitement of having their own WBL team waned, only 300 people attended this game. (Editor Note: When it comes to WBL attendance figures see how nice and round they are.)

The Gulls jumped out to a 23-19 1st quarter lead and went into halftime trailing only, 43-41. But the 3rd quarter proved a disaster as the Gems put a 36-20 whupping on the Gulls. The 103-86 final score left the Gulls 0-4. The Gulls had four in double figures: Gwyn 26, Critelli 19, Summons 17, and Cooper 10. The Gems were led by Blazejowski's 27, Gail Marquis 21, Janice Thomas 15, and Tara Heiss 14.

New England Gulls																	Team Ge
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts
Arturi, Lynn	17	Name not in Newspaper															
Booker, Gerry			1				1				0						3
Cooper, Accronetta	44		4				2				0						10
Critelli, Cris	6		6				7				0						19
Gwyn, Althea	33		9				8				0						26
Hale, Melinda	22		0				0				0						0
Hastings, Martha	9	Name not in Newspaper															
Rajcula, Jody	24		3				1				0						7
Schlesinger, Lisa	11		2				0				0						4
Simms, Donna	32		0				0				0						0
Slinker, Tina	7		0				0				0						0
Summons, Sue	13		6				5				0						17
Adjustment		240															
Totals		240	31	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	86
			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
Blazejowski, Carol	12		10				7				0						27
Comerie, Debbie	34		1				0				0						2
Heiss, Tara	44		7				0				0						14
Jeffrey, Jill	14		0				2				0						2
Marquis, Gail	24		6				9				0						21
Szeremeta, Wanda	23		2				3				0						7
Tatterson, Gail	33		1				0				0						2
Thomas, Janice	10		7				1				0						15
Van Ness, Joan	32		1				0				0						2
Young, Faye	22		2				0				0						4
Young, Kaye	20		3				1				0						7
Adjustment		240															
Totals		240	40	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	103
			FG%	####			FT%	#DIV/0!	Team Rebs								

The Gulls finally had some time to plan and regroup. Their next game wouldn't be for another week as they travelled to Chicago. If the Gulls were looking for better players, none arrived, because for game five their roster stayed the same.

The 0-4 Gulls flew to Chicago for a Thursday December 18th game against the 3-0 Hustle. This game was played before a rather small crowd for the Hustle, 912. This was one of only four games (out of 53 home games) that the Hustle brought in less than 1,000 people.

Before the game against the Hustle the Gulls' Althea Gwyn was 2nd in league scoring (22.5 ppg) and 4th in league rebounding (11.3 rpg). Cris Critelli was 3rd in scoring (20.5 ppg).

The Gulls preparation had them behind only 28-27 after one quarter. While Chicago's 53-45 half-time score may not seem like a commanding lead, it was the Chicago reserves that were controlling the game as they outscored the Gulls bench, 27-2.

Yet this was far from a "normal" game because by game's end Coach Loscutoff had been ejected with 2 technicals, assistant coach Dana Skinner was ejected with 2 technicals, and Hustle coach Bill Gleason was also ejected with 2 technicals.

Coach Loscutoff thought it was a very poorly officiated game, and he was all set to pull his team off the floor when he received his 2nd T. After the game the Gulls were able to report several improper actions on the part of the officials, Tom Frangella and Bud Felechio, to the league office. And the league agreed by suspending the two referees for one game each and fining them \$100 each.

This would make for a good WBL payday if everyone pays: Techs = \$450 Refs = \$200 Total \$650 – about the cost of a new franchise.

Of course, these actions took place after the game and the Hustle took advantage of favorable refereeing to increase their 8 point lead to 21 with a 27-14 third quarter. The 80-59 lead probably took the life out of the Gulls, plus having no coaches, and forcing Cris Critelli to accept coaching responsibilities. The Hustle finished with a 37-18 4th quarter for a 117-77 victory, to make them 4-0. This tied for the Hustle's largest margin of victory and the largest loss for the Gulls.

New England Gulls																	Team Ge
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts
Arturi, Lynn	17		0				0	0			0						0
Booker, Gerry			1				0	0			0						2
Cooper, Accronetta	44		0				0	0			0						0
Critelli, Cris	6		6				2	5			0						14
Gwyn, Althea	33		6				11	15			0						23
Hale, Melinda	22		0				0	0			0						0
Hastings, Martha	9		1				0	0			0						2
Rajcula, Jody	24		1				4	4			0						6
Schlesinger, Lisa	11		2				1	4			0						5
Simms, Donna	32		0				0	0			0						0
Slinker, Tina	7		1				1	2			0						3
Summons, Sue	13		10				2	3			0						22
Adjustment		240											27				
Totals		240	28	0	0	0	21	33	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	77
			FG%	#####			FT%	63.6%	Team Rebs								

Chicago Hustle																	Team Ge
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts
Candler, Belinda	24		2				5	7			0						9
Digitale, Sue	21		2				1	1			0						5
Easterling, Rita	15		5				6	10			0						16
Fincher, Janie	10		6				0	3			0						12
Geils, Donna	14		4				4	4			0						12
Hansen, Kim	55		0				1	2			0						1
Hodgson, Pat	11		5				0	0			0						10
Matthews, Linda	12		1				0	0			0						2
Mayo, Paula	25		7				5	6			0						19
McWhorter, Charlene	41		3				3	4			0						9
Nissen, Inge	42		5				0	0			0						10
White, Ethel	20		2				8	10			0						12
Adjustment		240											20				
Totals		240	42	0	0	0	33	47	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	117
			FG%	#####			FT%	70.2%	Team Rebs								

The Gulls were led by Gwyn's 23, Summons 22, and Critelli's 14. The team hit 21 of 33 free throws and were charged with 27 personal fouls.

The Hustle had seven players with double figures: Paula Mayo 19, Rita Easterling 16, Janie Fincher, Donna Geils and Ethel "Poco" White with 12 each, and Inge Nissen and Pat Hodgson with 10 each. The Hustle were 33 of 47 from the line and were charged with 20 personals.

New England travelled to New Jersey for a December 21 game against the 4-3 Gems at South Mountain Arena. The Gulls lost 108-82 before 1,035 Gem fans to end the year with an 0-6 record. Gwyn had 27 points and 19 rebounds. The Gems' Blazejowski scored 28 (her league leading average), while Tara Heiss had 17, and Janice Thomas added 15. The Gems improved to 5-3.

New England Gulls																	Team Ge
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts
Arturi, Lynn	17		7				0				0						14
Booker, Gerry			2				0				0						4
Cooper, Accronetta	44		0				0				0						0
Critelli, Cris	6		8				3				0						19
Gwyn, Althea	33		12				3			19	19						27
Hastings, Martha	9		0				0				0						0
Rajcula, Jody	24		1				0				0						2
Schlesinger, Lisa	11		3				0				0						6
Simms, Donna	32		1				0				0						2
Slinker, Tina	7		3				2				0						8
Summons, Sue	13		0				0				0						0
Adjustment		240															
Totals		240	37	0	0	0	8	0	0	19	19	0	0	0	0	0	82
			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
Blazejowski, Carol	12		10				8				0						28
Comerie, Debbie	34		4				0				0						8
Heiss, Tara	44		8				1				0						17
Jeffrey, Jill	14		2				1				0						5
Marquis, Gail	24		5				2				0						12
Szeremeta, Wanda	23		0				3				0						3
Tatterson, Gail	33		3				2				0						8
Thomas, Janice	10		5				5				0						15
Van Ness, Joan	32		3				0				0						6
Young, Faye	22		2				0				0						4
Young, Kaye	20		1				0				0						2
Adjustment		240															
Totals		240	43	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	108
			FG%	####			FT%	#DIV/0!	Team Rebs								

The Gulls had no reason to be too disheartened with their 0-6 record because at this time the St Louis Streak were 0-5 and on their way to an 0-9 start. Also at the same time, the San Francisco Pioneers, who were a playoff team the previous season, were 0-5 and on their way to a new coach in early January. As of December 31st the league looked like this:

Coastal Division

New Orleans	7	0	1.000	---
Dallas	5	2	.714	2.0
New Jersey	5	3	.625	2.5
San Francisco	1	5	.167	5.5
New England	0	6	.000	6.5

Midwest Division

Nebraska	5	1	.833	---
Chicago	4	1	.000	0.5
Minnesota	2	4	.333	3.0
St. Louis	0	6	.000	5.0

The Gulls began 1981 by changing coaches. A debate took place as to whether Jim Loscutoff was fired or did he resign. Either way, assistant coach Dana Skinner took over at the age of 24. He would be the youngest head coach currently in professional basketball, but not the youngest historically. That award went to Dayton Rockettes coach Tom Griffey who was given the head coaching job at the age of 23.

On January 3rd the team released Martha Hastings and Gerry Booker. They were replaced with 6'5' University of Maryland star Krystal Kimrey and former Iowa Cornets guard 5'4' Anita "Sister" Green.

The Gulls were still attracting attention in the Tampa Bay area as the newspaper kept up with New England's results and stories. There was a hope in Tampa that the team would return to Tampa next season.

With the releasing and signing of several players there wasn't much time to practice, because the Gulls had a game scheduled in San Francisco on Sunday January 4, 1981. The team they would meet was also another team in transition. The 0-6 "new" Gulls travelled to San Francisco to face the 1-5 "new" Pioneers who had fired Coach Frank LaPorte on January 3rd. Coach LaPorte was replaced with former NBA star, 1979-80 WBL Coach of the Year and WBL Champion, Dean Meminger.

In the battle of first-time coaches a crowd of 1,102 saw the Gulls take a 29-15 first quarter lead as Coach Skinner wanted to emphasize defense. The Pioneers came back to close out the half behind, 47-41. But Coach Meminger quickly realized how out of shape the Pioneer players were as they used up what little energy they had to tightened the score. The rest of the game stayed as a see-saw battle with each team outscoring the other by two each quarter to conclude a 94-88 Gulls victory.

New England Gulls																		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
Arturi, Lynn	17	Name not in Newspaper																
Cooper, Accronetta	44	Name not in Newspaper																
Critelli, Cris	6	41	10	21			5	6		6	6	3	4				25	0.902
Green, Anita	8	18	2	3			4	5		1	1	5	1				8	1.056
Gwyn, Althea	33	41	3	11			4	11		15	15	3	5				10	0.756
Kimrey, Krystal	25	16	3	6			0	0		4	4	0	4				6	0.625
Rajcula, Jody	24	20	2	4			4	4		13	13	0	5				8	1.050
Schlesinger, Lisa	11	27	4	8			2	2		1	1	3	1				10	0.630
Simms, Donna	32	31	1	5			6	9		11	11	0	5				8	0.613
Slinker, Tina	7	25	1	4			0	0		3	3	0	0				2	0.200
Summons, Sue	13	21	8	10			1	2		4	4	0	5				17	1.000
Adjustment														9	37			
Totals		240	34	72	0	0	26	39	0	58	58	14	30	9	37	0	94	0.633
			FG%	47.2%			FT%	66.7%	Team Rebs									

San Francisco Pioneers																		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
Drawing , Doris	50	Name not in Newspaper																
Dunkle, Nancy	40	25	2	7			2	4		6	6	3	5				6	0.720
English, Margaret	32	5	1	2			0	0		2	2	0	1				2	0.800
Haugejorde, Cindy	43	42	5	10			4	6		10	10	2	5				14	0.667
Hicks, Cardie	10	29	4	13			4	6		4	4	4	5				12	0.828
McKinney, Musiette	33	17	3	9			2	3		5	5	1	0				8	0.882
Nestor, Heidi	51	31	5	9			4	4		9	9	1	2				14	0.806
Ortega, Anita	11	41	8	18			8	13		2	2	4	2				24	0.829
Ricketts, Debbie	8	6	0	1			0	0		0	0	0	2				0	0.000
Washington, Suzanne	22	8	0	3			0	0		0	0	1	2				0	0.250
Williams, Roberta	1	30	4	16			0	0		3	3	1	4				8	0.433
Adjustment		6												11	26			
Totals		240	32	88	0	0	24	36	0	41	41	17	28	11	26	0	88	0.617
			FG%	36.4%			FT%	66.7%	Team Rebs									

The Gulls top scorers were: Critelli 25, Summons 17 on 8-10 shooting, and Lisa Schlesinger 10. Althea Gwyn was held to 10, by her former coach as she shot only 3-11 from the floor and 4-11 from the line. Gwyn's 10 was almost 13 less than her average. Yet Althea did pull down 15 rebounds, joining Jody Rajcula 13 boards and Donna Simms 11. The Gulls outrebounded S.F. 58-41. The Gulls shot 36-49 from the line, committed 30 fouls, and had 37 turnovers to go along with 9 steals.

The Pioneers were led by Anita Ortega's 24 pts, while 3 others had double figures. The Pioneers shot 24-36 from the line while committing 28 fouls. They had 28 turnovers and 11 steals.

The Gulls remained in San Francisco, because the league schedule tried to save money by combining long distance games. The next game was in two days on the 6th. On the 5th the Pioneers signed WBL co-MVP Molly Bolin, who had gone from Iowa to California to play in the now defunct Ladies Basketball Association. She was available as a free agent and chose to learn from Coach Dean Meminger.

The Gulls worked out and devised a plan to overcome Coach Meminger's defense against star Althea Gwyn.

The two 1-6 teams met again at the Civic Auditorium in front of 780 fans. The Pioneers took a 23-21 first quarter lead, but the Gulls went ahead 53-47 at the half. Whatever defense was used against Gwyn previously didn't work this day, because by games' end Althea had 37 points on 12 of 21 from the floor and 13-18 from the line. She also pulled down 13 offensive and 13 defensive rebounds for a 26-rebound game. (This gave her a 1.703 game Efficiency Rating – one of the highest in league history) Only two other Gulls reached double figures (Summons 11 & Rajcula 10) and the team shot 13 of 67 19%, outside of Gwyn's numbers.



The Pioneers took control in the 3rd quarter with a 24-14 run and a 71-67 lead. The Pioneers got Coach Meminger his first San Francisco victory to bring their record to 2-6. The Gulls fell to 1-7.

New England Gulls																		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	
Arturi, Lynn	17	Name not in Newspaper																	
Cooper, Accronetta	44	Name not in Newspaper																	
Critelli, Cris	6	23	1	9			3	3		1	1	2	6				5	0.435	
Green, Anita	8	18	3	10			2	2		2	2	1	3				8	0.667	
Gwyn, Althea	33	37	12	21			13	18		13	26	0	5				37	1.703	
Kimrey, Krystal	25	19	2	7			1	1		7	7	0	3				5	0.632	
Rajcula, Jody	24	35	3	9			4	4		7	7	1	6				10	0.543	
Schlesinger, Lisa	11	33	0	9			5	7		4	4	2	2				5	0.394	
Simms, Donna	32	20	2	6			2	4		4	4	0	2				6	0.500	
Slinker, Tina	7	16	0	6			0	0		2	2	1	2				0	0.250	
Summons, Sue	13	39	2	11			7	9		10	10	0	6				11	0.538	
Adjustment														7	34				
Totals		240	25	88	0	0	37	48	13	50	63	7	35	7	34	0	87	0.571	
			FG%	28.4%			FT%	77.1%	Team Rebs										

San Francisco Pioneers																		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			
Bolin, Molly	32	30	4	15			6	7		0	0	3	2				14	0.667			
Crusoe, Beverly		3	0	0			0	0		1	1	0	2				0	0.333			
Draving , Doris	50	24	0	2			3	4		9	9	1	5				3	0.583			
Dunkle, Nancy	40	31	7	9			2	6		15	15	1	5				16	1.065			
English, Margaret	32	Name not in Newspaper																			
Haugejorde, Cindy	43	29	4	14			1	2		8	8	1	6				9	0.655			
Hicks, Cardie	10	18	3	8			5	9		6	6	2	4				11	1.167			
McKinney, Musiette	33	13	2	4			1	2		4	4	2	1				5	1.000			
Nestor, Heidi	51	11	0	1			0	2		3	3	0	5				0	0.273			
Ortega, Anita	11	36	7	12			9	13		5	5	4	1				23	1.000			
Washington, Suzanne	22	22	0	3			5	7	2	2	2	2	5	0.500							
Williams, Roberta	1	23	2	9			2	2	2	2	4	2	6	0.696							
Adjustment														6	28						
Totals		240	29	77	0	0	34	54	0	55	55	20	35	6	28	0	92	0.688			
			FG%	37.7%			FT%	63.0%	Team Rebs												

The Pioneers were led by Anita Ortega's 23, Nancy Dunkle 16, along with 15 rebounds. Molly Bolin's debut ended with 14 in 30 mins and 4-15 from floor, along with Cardie Hicks' 11.

New England returned home to the East Coast to take on the (3-6) Minnesota Fillies. After the West Coast victory the Gulls fans returned as 1,087 attend.

The Fillies took a 21-17 lead and stretched it to 46-38 by the half. The Gulls cut it to 61-54 after 3 and according to the newspapers it was Scooter DeLorme free throws at the end that sealed an 83-80 Fillies win.

New England Gulls																	Team Ge
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts
Arturi, Lynn	17	Name Not in Newspaper															0
Cooper, Accronetta	44		1				2	2			0						4
Critelli, Cris	6		10				5	5			0						25
Crusoe, Beverly	22		3				3	4			0						9
Green, Anita	8		1				0	0			0						2
Gwyn, Althea	33		7				1	1			0						15
Kimbrey, Krystal	25										0						0
Rajcula, Jody	24		7				5	6			0		6				19
Schlesinger, Lisa	11										0						0
Simms, Donna	32										0						0
Slinker, Tina	7										0						0
Summons, Sue	13		3				0	0			0						6
Adjustment		240											16				
Totals		240	32	0	0	0	16	18	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	80
			FG%	####			FT%	88.9%	Team Rebs								

Minnesota Fillies																	Team Ge
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts
Cotman, Angela	21	Name Not in Newspapers															
Daniels, Coco	24		5				2	4			0						12
DeLorme, Scooter	32		3				3	4			0						9
Harris, Nessie	15		4				7	10			0						15
Kocurek, Marie	42		7				2	2			0		6				16
Montgomery, Pat	53		3				4	5			0						10
Owens, Katrina	33		1				0	0			0						2
Stachon, Toni	25		1				1	2			0						3
Timperman, Janet	12	Name Not in Newspapers															
Wilson, Donna	11		7				2	2			0						16
Adjustment		240											17				
Totals		240	31	0	0	0	21	29	0	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	83
			FG%	####			FT%	72.4%	Team Rebs								

The Gulls Critelli had 25, while Rajcula added 19 before she fouled out and Gwyn had 15. The team hit 16-18 from the line and had 22 personal fouls.

The Fillies had 5 players in double figure points: Donna Wilson & Marie Kocurek with 16, Nessie Harris 15, Coco Daniels 12, and Pat Montgomery 10. The Fillies shot 21-29 from the line and

had 23 personals. The Fillies left Merrimack College with a 4-6 record, while the Gulls got ready to travel to Nebraska with a 1-8 record.

The next day, Friday January 9th, the (1-8) Gulls flew to Omaha, Nebraska for a game, that night, against the (7-1) Wranglers in an obvious mismatch. The Wranglers took a 21-18 first quarter lead, which they stretched to 47-39 by the half.

The Gulls cut it to a respectable 73-67 as two of the best centers in the league did battle. Gwyn would finish the game with 21 points and 20 rebounds on 6-18 from the floor and 9-13 from the line. The Wranglers' Rosie Walker showed her skills as she would finish with 28 points and 13 rebounds on 10-12 from the floor and 8-8 from the line.

The crowd of 940 in the Omaha Civic Auditorium were waiting for the Wranglers to put away the Gulls and win their 7th straight. Instead, the Gulls put in an all-out effort. In the 4th quarter they outscored the defensive minded Wranglers 29-17 and ended up winning, 96-90.

New England Gulls																		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
Critelli, Cris	6	39	8	19			4	5	4	1	5	2	4	0	1	3	20	0.718
Cooper, Accronetta	44	Name Not in Newspapers																
Crusoe, Beverly	22	29	3	13			1	2	3	2	5	0	2	1	3	1	7	0.345
Green, Anita	8	29	2	9			2	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	6	0.276
Gwyn, Althea	33	48	6	18			9	13	6	14	20	0	3	4	2	0	21	0.896
Kimrey, Krystal	25	4	0	1			0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0.250
Rajcula, Jody	24	46	8	15			4	5	4	6	10	1	5	1	2	0	20	0.674
Schlesinger, Lisa	11	10	1	2			0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	0.500
Simms, Donna	32	Name Not in Newspapers																
Slinker, Tina	7	3	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	-0.333
Summons, Sue	13	32	8	13			4	4	4	4	8	1	3	2	2	0	20	0.938
Totals		240	36	90	0	0	24	31	22	29	51	5	18	10	12	5	96	0.646
			FG%	40.0%			FT%	77.4%	Team Rebs		7							

Nebraska Wranglers																		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
Beasley, Genia	34	33	1	11			0	0	1	3	4	5	4	1	3	0	2	0.424
Chason, Carol	10	42	9	13	0	1	1	2	2	3	5	4	1	5	1	0	19	0.857
Flora, Janet	32	13	2	5			0	0	1	2	3	1	1	0	1	0	4	0.615
Greene, Vivian	14	14	4	11	0	1	2	4	0	1	1	0	3	2	2	0	10	0.786
Jordan, Kim	30	10	2	5			3	5	1	1	2	0	0	2	3	0	7	0.800
Kunzmann, Connie	44	11	0	0			2	2	0	3	3	0	2	0	0	0	2	0.455
Lewis, Charlotte	50	20	4	6			1	1	2	4	6	0	5	1	0	2	9	0.800
Pope, Peggy	20	Name Not in Newspaper																
Taylor, Susan	24	13	1	4			2	6	0	2	2	1	3	0	0	0	4	0.615
Walker, Rosie	40	38	10	12			8	8	6	7	13	1	3	0	4	0	28	1.026
Warlick, Holly	22	37	2	9			1	2	1	1	2	3	1	3	5	0	5	0.297
Wright, Josephine	42	9	0	2			0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0.444
Totals		240	35	78	0	2	20	30	14	28	42	16	23	15	19	2	90	0.667
			FG%	44.9%			FT%	66.7%	Team Rebs		8							

This was the second year in a row that a obviously superior Coach Kirk led team lost to a 1-8 team. Last year his 6-0 Iowa Cornets lost to a 1-8 Dallas Diamonds team, 107-99.

The Gulls had 4 players score over 20 pts each (Gwyn 21, Critelli 20, Rajcula 20, and Summons 20) The Wranglers were lead by Rosie Walker's 28 and Carol Chason's 19.

After the monumental victory on the 9th for the 2-8 Gulls instead of a big article on how the team stuck together and worked hard, the Boston Globe ran a story called "Gulls' Record – Two Wins, No Pay."

It seemed before the Minnesota game on Jan. 8, the players staged a "brief walkout" to let the everyone know there was a problem. Owner Joseph Reither had not provided the January 1st paychecks for the team. There was also the awkward monetary compensation that didn't take place to the San Francisco Pioneers for the Beverly Crusoe trade.

Here was the one-week saga of Beverly Crusoe. On January 1 Crusoe, a member of the New Orleans Pride was traded to the San Francisco Pioneers for a 1981 5th round pick. On the 6th she played three minutes, as a Pioneer, in the 2nd game of the Gulls-Pioneers series. On the 7th she was traded to the Gulls for an unknown pick and cash consideration. League protocol demanded a submission to the league office of trades and verification by the league. The league received no notice of the Crusoe trade.

Why wasn't the transaction completed? It seemed as if the check the Gulls owed the Pioneers was "left" in the van that the Gulls used for airport transportation. Crusoe, who scored 9 points for the Gulls on January 8th, should not have played against Minnesota. Which also meant her 29 minutes and 7 points against the Wranglers were also suspect.

But what about the rest of the team? What had they been going through? Outside of the referee's checks being un-cashable, and hotels not being paid, and General Manager Ernie Spinelli being fired (or quit – just like Coach Loscutoff), the team was also behind in player paychecks.

The January 1st checks were probably for December work, since most professional teams don't pay until the season had started. The players, who were already sharing food and housing, were promised that something would be worked out within a week. Some of the players were being threatened with eviction and when you think about young adults being on their own for the first time this would be quite stressful.

Despite all these issues the Gulls performed well against the Wranglers, but they needed to consider whether another walk-out might be necessary in the future to make people aware and to receive what they were owed.

Just like the previous week with a coastal team playing another coastal team the San Francisco Pioneers came East to play 2 more games against the Gulls. The games were scheduled for the 11th and the 15th.

The two teams, who split the West Coast games, came in with records of 2-8 for the Gulls and 2-7 for the Pioneers. Which may be why the public didn't respond because only 650 attended the game at Merrimack College. Yet when it came to the game equal teams ended up with equal results. The score at the end of regulation was 97-97. The Pioneers ended up winning 104-102, despite the fact that four starters fouled out and they had 43 fouls called against them as opposed to the Gulls 32. The fouls led to the Gulls free throw advantage being 40-56 vs 31-41 for the Pioneers.

The Gulls Cris Critelli scored 38 with 15 field goals and 8-9 from the line. Anita Greene had 1 field goal, but was 10-15 from the line, while Jody Rajcula had 4 field goals and was 12-14 from the line.

For the Pioneers Cindy Haugejorde had 26 before she fouled out, Molly Bolin had 18 before she fouled out, and Anita Ortega scored 17 and survived through the end of the game.

New England Gulls																	Team Ge
Name	No.	Min	FGM	FGA	3-M	3-A	FTM	FTA	OFR	DFR	Tot Rb	Ast	PF	St	TO	BS	Pts
Arturi, Lynn	17		1				0	0			0						2
Critelli, Cris	6		15				8	9			0		6				38
Crusoe, Beverly	22		4				0	0			0						8
Green, Anita	8		1				10	15			0						12
Gwyn, Althea	33		5				9	16			0		6				19
Rajcula, Jody	24		4				12	14			0						20
Simms, Donna	32	Name Not in Newspapers															
Slinker, Tina	7		1		0	1	1	2			0						3
Summons, Sue	13	Name Not in Newspapers															
Adjustment		265											20				
Totals		265	31	0	0	1	40	56	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	102
			FG%	#####			FT%	71.4%	Team Rebs								

San Francisco Pioneers																	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	32		6				6	6			0		6				18
Draving , Doris	50		2				2	6			0		6				6
Dunkle, Nancy	40		2				4	4			0						8
Haugejorde, Cindy	43		10				6	10			0		6				26
Hicks, Cardie	10		4				0	0			0		6				8
McKinney, Musiette	33		4		1		0	0			0						9
Nestor, Heidi	51		3				0	2			0						6
Ortega, Anita	11		3				11	11			0						17
Washington, Suzanne	22	Name Not in Newspapers															
Williams, Roberta	1		2				2	2			0						6
Adjustment		265											19				
Totals		265	36	0	1	0	31	41	0	0	0	0	43	0	0	0	104
			FG%	#####			FT%	75.6%	Team Rebs								

The Gulls record dropped to 2-9 and the Pioneers improved to 3-7, with 2 victories against the Gulls. Yet the Gulls were not the worst team in the league at 2-9. That honor belonged to the St. Louis Streak who were 1-9 on this date.

The Gulls next game, against the Pioneers, was scheduled for Thursday January 15 up in Portland, Maine. There was great excitement and anticipation over how successful this opportunity could be.

On the 14th the newspapers, basically the Boston Globe, ran an expose about the Gulls' team and their handling of Celtic legend Jim Loscutoff. After all was coach Loscutoff fired or did he quit?

Loscutoff claims Gulls' owner Joseph Reither was a "damn liar" and would be suing him. Coach Loscutoff was still employed as coach of Boston State where he had been for 17 seasons. He believed he could not continue with New England, because of other commitments, but also the "bush league" way the team was being run. An example Loscutoff gave was when the team went to Chicago they had to sit in the lobby of the motel for 3 hours, because the hotel bill wasn't prepaid as arranged.



Owner Reither claimed he wired money from one Holiday Inn to the Chicago Holiday Inn when he heard of the problem. It seemed his assistant, general manager Ernie Spinelli, was no longer with the team, so arrangements were never made. Loscutoff had no problems with the players and their work attitudes and willingness to learn.

The big day for the game at the 7,000 seat Cumberland County Civic Center in Portland arrived. The Gulls' owner, Joseph Reither, promised the players they could split the gate receipts for this game. Supposedly there was extensive advertising for this game and the projected receipts could be in the \$15,000 range.

By game time only 100-150 people had come in and the players saw this. The anticipated gross receipts were about \$500, while the arena expense was \$400. This left little money to pay the referees. Also, according to guard Lisa Schlesinger in the Barre, VT Times Argus, "That's when he (Reither) told us we had to pay the officials out of our own pockets." This made for an easy decision by the players and they voted to strike. They jumped back on the team bus and headed back to Andover, Ma. The Portland fans received a full refund.

	New England Gulls		
Team	Name	No.	Min
N.E.	Arturi, Lynn	17	Forfeit
N.E.	Critelli, Cris	6	Forfeit
N.E.	Cooper, Accronetta	44	Forfeit
N.E.	Crusoe, Beverly	22	Forfeit
N.E.	Green, Anita	8	Forfeit
N.E.	Gwyn, Althea	33	Forfeit
N.E.	Kimrey, Krystal	25	Forfeit
N.E.	Rajcula, Jody	24	Forfeit
N.E.	Schlesinger, Lisa	11	Forfeit
N.E.	Simms, Donna	32	Forfeit
N.E.	Slinker, Tina	7	Forfeit
N.E.	Summons, Sue	13	Forfeit
N.E.	Totals	0	

	San Francisco Pioneers		
Name	No.	Min	
Bolin, Molly	32	Forfeit	
Drawing , Doris	50	Forfeit	
Dunkle, Nancy	40	Forfeit	
Haugejorde, Cindy	43	Forfeit	
Hicks, Cardie	10	Forfeit	
McKinney, Musiette	33	Forfeit	
Nestor, Heidi	51	Forfeit	
Ortega, Anita	11	Forfeit	
Washington, Suzanne	22	Forfeit	
Williams, Roberta	1	Forfeit	
Totals	0		

Have you ever wondered what was going on with the other team – the San Francisco Pioneers during this time? Here is a memory from Molly Bolin:

From my memory we were staying at a hotel that seemed to be out in the middle of nowhere and I think there was a bus that took us to the game, but it was freezing cold and snowy.

When we got to the game and went out on the floor for a pre warm up we started to hear that there was an issue going on with the Gulls not getting paid and were making a stance about playing the game that night.

I remember how disappointing it was to keep waiting and then finding out there wasn't gonna be a game when we were already in our uniforms & on the court.

There was a prior game of high school girls playing and one of the teams was sharing a locker room with us. That may have been why we got out of the locker room so soon so the other team could use it to change and get their stuff when their game was over.

There were almost no spectators and not very many people in the gym as I remember. When the word finally reached us that there was not going to be a game, Coach Dean Meminger decided to hold an inner squad practice/scrimmage for about an hour and a 1/2.

When we went back to the locker room afterwards, it was totally ransacked and all of our money, jewelry & anything valuable was gone! We were told that the locker room was supposed to be locked by security but there was no accountability when the other team left.

We had just started a road trip I think so we all had quite a bit of cash and of course nobody had anything going forward. I think we went to Minnesota next, and Dean got a credit card to pay for our team meals for the rest of the trip.

I remember being so upset and frustrated that it seemed like such a minimized theft from the Gulls facility and supposed security. Nothing was ever done about it or any kind of compensation for the loss, just nothing. We made a list of what each of us lost and it had to be very substantial!! But after a day or two, it wasn't mentioned again. It had to be a major score for the thief!! Certainly, beyond the felony minimum!!

While I do sympathize with the situation and get that nobody can work for free for very long and survive. It's just a shame that there wasn't a more effective method of making their stance then to walk out of games like it happened then and again in Chicago with Minnesota.

I also think it reflected poorly on WBL leadership when teams started struggling and it got down to complete desperation where players walked off at a game.

New General Manager Eileen Smart issued statements on January 17th the team hadn't officially folded yet, because that was up to the discretion of the league. According to the Hartford Courant of January 17, 1981: "Smart says she became general manager, because I was the only one left in the office. Our first general manager quit because he couldn't stand to see what the owner was doing to the players." "I haven't been paid, either. And the coach hasn't been paid," Smart said.

Newspaper articles confirmed that the players hadn't been paid at all since the season began in December and the only check Coach Dana Skinner received, bounced.

Joseph Reither claims he has the money, but it was all tied up in his liquor business and not available as cash. WBL Commissioner Sherwin Fischer gave the Gulls 48 hours to rectify the problems. The next scheduled game was a home game, in Andover, against the Minnesota Fillies. Fischer demanded that Reither and his attorney, David Keefe, attend the League Board of Governors meeting on January 27. This would be the "official" folding day, if things weren't resolved. Of course, by this point the Gulls would have only had two games cancelled, so this was a reasonable date.

Down in Tampa the Tribune ran an article on January 17th called:
Sad Sun Saga Continues ... New England Style.

This article was the same as all the others, but in an eye-opening paragraph we learn Reither only needed to invest \$25,000 to purchase the franchise. This article was followed up with another on the 20th from the Tampa Tribune called: More Trouble Change in Location Does Little to Help WBL's Gulls.

The newspaper articles began about the 20th as Reither's attorney, David Keefe, claimed some players had received money and were only behind two weeks. Another attorney, Gerald Cohen, who was representing 19 Gull employees (including players) said the players were owed money as of November 15th. The total was in the \$30,000 range, per the San Francisco Examiner of Jan 20, 1981.

Several newspapers on January 22 claimed the New England franchise had been revoked, because they did not play their games on the 17th and 22nd. With the end of the Gulls, the WBL would not need to realign their divisions, as the Midwest had 4 and the Coastal's 5 became 4.

For more info about the Portland "walk-off" game see Karra Porter's Mad Seasons (pgs. 213, 214, & 215).

The team's final statistics look like the following:

Player	No.	GP	Min	M.p.G	FGM	FGA	FG %	3FGM	3FGA	FTM	FTA	FT %	Of Rb	Df Rb	Tot Reb	Reb Avg	Ast	Ast Avg	PF	PF Avg	Stl	TO	TO Avg	BS	PTS	Avg	Eff. Rat.
Arturi, Lynn	17	6	75	12.50	11	21	0.524			1	5	0.200	3	7	10	1.67	8	1.33	10	1.7	2	3	0.50		23	3.83	0.640
Booker, Gerry		5	27	5.40	4	12	0.333			1	4	0.250	5	4	9	1.80	2	0.40	3	0.6	0	0	0.00	1	9	1.80	0.815
Cooper, Accronetta	44	8	100	12.50	5	15	0.333			6	11	0.545	5	6	11	1.38	1	0.13	22	2.8	3	5	0.63	2	16	2.00	0.270
Critelli, Cris	6	11	442	40.18	89	208	0.428	0	1	50	59	0.847	20	18	38	3.45	33	3.00	51	4.6	17	41	3.73	10	228	20.73	0.697
Crusoe, Beverly	22	3	97	32.33	10	34	0.294			4	6	0.667	5	11	16	5.33	4	1.33	11	3.7	6	9	3.00	5	24	8.00	0.464
Green, Anita	8	5	129	25.80	9	29	0.310			18	24	0.750	2	5	7	1.40	15	3.00	9	1.8	4	25	5.00		36	7.20	0.403
Gwyn, Althea	33	11	451	41.00	78	169	0.462			86	134	0.642	60	97	157	14.27	20	1.82	45	4.1	22	38	3.45	6	242	22.00	0.938
Hale, Melinda	22	4	43	10.75	3	7	0.429			2	2	1.000	1	2	3	0.75	4	1.00	5	1.3	1	9	2.25		8	2.00	0.256
Hastings, Martha	9	3	27	9.00	1	6	0.167					0.000	1	2	3	1.00	2	0.67	1	0.3	3	4	1.33		2	0.67	0.296
Kimrey, Krystal	25	5	50	10.00	5	17	0.294			1	1	1.000	6	6	12	2.40	1	0.20	7	1.4	1	3	0.60	4	11	2.20	0.460
Rajcula, Jody	24	11	290	26.36	32	81	0.395			36	41	0.878	27	36	63	5.73	10	0.91	49	4.5	5	23	2.09	1	100	9.09	0.569
Schlesinger, Lisa	11	11	301	27.36	20	50	0.400			8	13	0.615	8	10	18	1.64	32	2.91	26	2.4	8	50	4.55		48	4.36	0.292
Simms, Donna	32	9	127	14.11	13	29	0.448			19	27	0.704	15	14	29	3.22	4	0.44	21	2.3	1	20	2.22	1	45	5.00	0.496
Slinker, Tina	7	11	188	17.09	16	41	0.390	0	1	7	18	0.389	9	13	22	2.00	9	0.82	14	1.3	5	13	1.18		39	3.55	0.378
Summons, Sue	13	10	318	31.80	54	127	0.425			30	37	0.811	21	35	56	5.60	14	1.40	35	3.5	19	29	2.90	5	138	13.80	0.667
	11	2,665	242.27	350	846	0.414	-	2	269	382	0.704	188	266	454	41.27	159	14.45	309	28.1	97	272	24.73	35	969	88.09	0.588	

So Concludes the Story of the NEW ENGLAND GULLS