Lessons; it makes you want to hear more; and it repeats itself for a good talk with your grandfather: It teaches you a lot of historical emphasis. In this case, Lloyd and Kirst stress that this book isn’t about Earl’s career, it’s not about all the doors that he opened for later players. At that he overcame to become the first black player to win an NBA title and it’s not about him later. It’s about the journeys of players that are celebrated for their flashiness. But as average as their appearances and as quiet as their games were, their impacts on basketball were anything but small. In 1950, three years after Jackie Robinson first strode across the baseball diamond, Earl Lloyd became the first black man to play in the NBA. Eight years and not many black players later, Andy Johnson received a portion of the NBA pension due honors were almost beside the point: Ever since they’d broken barriers, every time a black player took the court in the NBA was recognition in and of itself for these two pioneers.

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VIDEO GAMES
Nothing says college basketball like an arena full of undergrads cheering their faces off, and thanks to EA’s latest college hoops offering, NCAA Basketball 10, you can experience that feeling, virtually. Anytime you’ve at one of the campuses ranked in the top 20 “Toughest Places to Play,” crowd intensity is amplified and the camera shakes during runs by the home team—meaning you’ll have to do your best Coach K impersonation to manage the game with timeouts and strategic play calls if you head to Chapel Hill.

This unique feature is representative of an overall approach aimed at capturing the essence of the college game in this year’s installment. Arguably the most exciting new aspect to help achieve that goal is the inclusion of a CBS Sports broadcast package fully equipped with the visuals you’ve grown accustomed to in their nearly three decades of March Madness coverage, with Gus Johnson and Bill Raftery taking the vocal reins. Couple that with Brad Nessler, Dickie V and the ESPN package returning from years past, and suddenly you’ve got two networks synonymous with college basketball to choose from to announce games.

Old favorites like Dynasty Mode are back, too. Plus, an increased focus on motion offense sets that mark the college game, improved AI, better player animations (the way guys absorb contact on drives is uncanny) and a focus on details (you can choose to hack a shot make NCAA Basketball 10 aailing experience that’s as fun and real as ever—ADAM FLEISCHER

Sony’s NBA 2010: The Inside for PSP continues to climb the ranks, creeping closer to the two-basketball video game powers, EA Sports and 2K Sports. This year’s game features new technological advances. Thanks to polished gameplay mechanics and Artificial Intelligence, players can expect a more realistic experience.

Games go beyond just a full-court 5-on-5 battle. New modes such as DodgeQuest, Cove & Go, Quest and MiniQuest offer players an opportunity to take over the entire country through a variety of challenges.

NBA 2010: The Inside also comes with a bunch of mini games, so you never get bored while on the go.

Basketball-wise, the game features slick graphics along with play-by-play calls from Ian Eagle and color commentary by Kenny Smith. All in all, this is one game you don’t want to miss out on.

—FRANKLYN CALLE

TECH CORNER
Always by Olympiakos swingman Josh Childress
What’s up everyone? Before the season started here in Greece, we came to the US and my team, Olympiakos, played exhibition games against the Cavs and Spurs. I enjoyed myself, and it was good to see my family—they came to Cleveland and San Antonio to see us play. A bunch of guys on our team hadn’t been to the US before so it maybe would have been cool to see a bigger city, but it was still fun. At least they got to see Cleveland and San Antonio.

You know, all I’m starting my second season here in Greece, living in Athens gets easier and easier. After a while, you know what to expect. I still haven’t picked up much Greek. I’m learning a little as we go along, but I’m still not conversational. I’m spending even more of my time this year just hanging out in my apartment and staying low, watching American TV on the internet, playing video games. Playing here, more than anywhere else I’ve been, all eyes are on you. If you lose a game and then you’re going out to the bars or at some people talk and the media is all over it. It’s really unbelievable. The amount of pressure there is so much more than anywhere else I’ve been and it’s not like the NBA. There are huge expectations that come with playing for Olympiakos and playing in Greece, from everyone, from the fans, from the team. It’s definitely not easy but it’s a challenge I enjoy.

Another reason I’ve been spending a lot of time around the house is because I just got a puppy. They got it from a pet store here in Athens. The dog is actually Slovenian; I got a Pomeranian. This is my first time raising a puppy, and he’s a handful. I can’t walk him for a few more weeks, but soon I’ll be taking him out on walks and all of that. He’s relatively well-behaved, because some of my teammates have dogs and they bark too much and give them headaches. My dog—I named him Beast, by the way, because he looks like a lion. He’s a Chow. I got it from a pet store here in Athens. The dog is actually Slovenian; I got a Pomeranian. Thanks to polished gameplay mechanics and Artificial Intelligence, players can expect a more realistic experience. Games go beyond just a full-court 5-on-5 battle. New modes such as DodgeQuest, Cove & Go, Quest and MiniQuest offer players an opportunity to take over the entire country through a variety of challenges.

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