



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're 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 bank a shot) make *NCAA Basketball 10* a balling 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, Give & GoQuest 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.

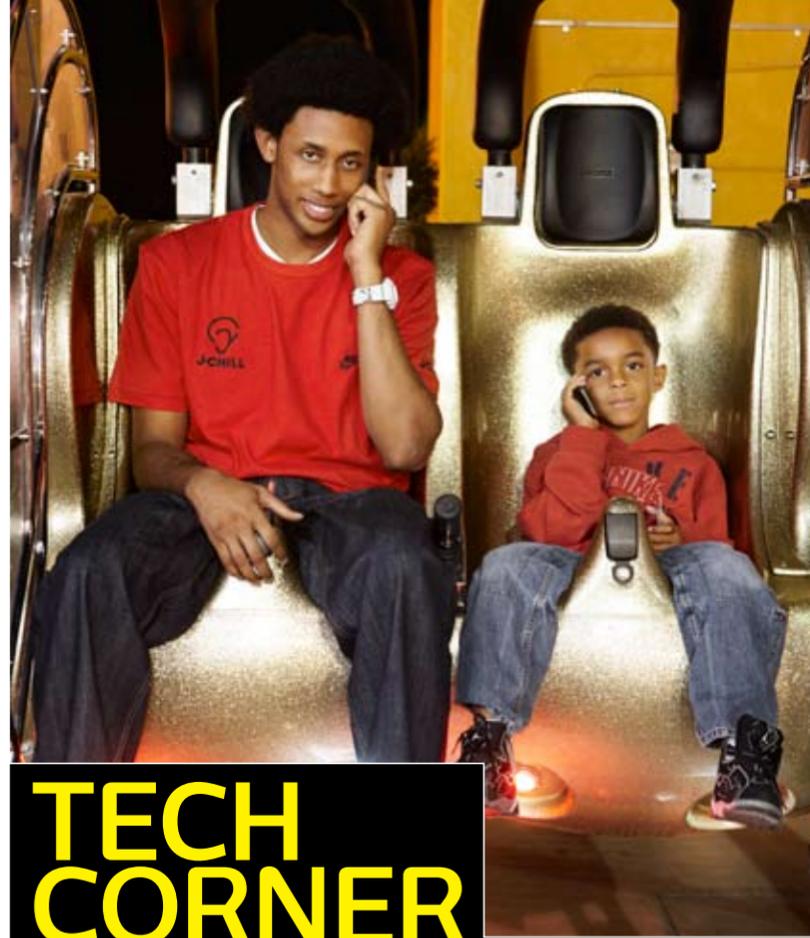
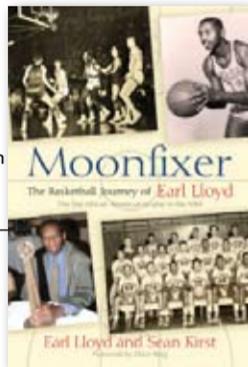
—**FRANKLYN CALLE**

BOOKS

With each standing 6-5, Earl Lloyd and Andy Johnson weren't large players. Their stats weren't gaudy, and neither were their games flashy. 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 joined him there. As chronicled in Lloyd's and Sid Kirst's *Moonfixer: The Basketball Journey of Earl Lloyd* and Mark Johnson's *Basketball Slaves*, both Lloyd and Andy Johnson had a knack for telling stories—about people, events and playing professionally in a segregated country. Like the stories they told so well, their own lives make for excellent books.

Moonfixer, Earl Lloyd's first-person account of his life, reads like a good talk with your grandfather: It teaches you a lot of historical lessons; it makes you want to hear more; and it repeats itself for emphasis. In this case, Lloyd and Kirst stress that this book isn't about Earl's career, it's not about all that he overcame to become the first black player to win an NBA title and it's not about him later becoming the first black assistant coach. It's about the doors that he opened for later players. At



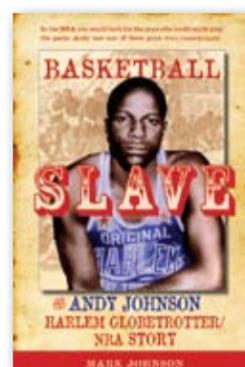
TECH CORNER

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, as 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 free time this year just hanging out in my apartment and laying 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 clubs at night, people talk and the media is all over it. It's really unbelievable the amount of pressure there is to win, way more than anywhere else I've been, and that includes the NBA. There are huge expectations that come with playing for Olympiakos and playing in Greece, from everyone, from the fans to 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, a Chow. I got it from a pet store here in Athens. The dog is actually Slovenian; I got a Euro dog! This is my first time raising a puppy, and he's a handful so far. 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—isn't that bad, he's quiet and chill. Spoke too soon—he just peed on the floor. Gotta go!



the same time, Lloyd says that luck had a lot to do with him making it, when a lot of men with just as much talent didn't.

Andy Johnson was another lucky one—if you can call him that. Written by his son, Mark, *Basketball Slave* tells the tale of the elder Johnson, beginning with his adolescent years, going through his playing days and ending with his death in '02. In this quick read, Johnson, with the help of old newspaper clippings and memorabilia, reveals how hard being a black athlete was in the '50s and '60s. Comparing college recruiting and free agency to slavery, Johnson tells of how being a good, black player robbed his father of a proper education—as well as money.

Long after leaving the game with little to show for it, and after much effort, Andy Johnson received a portion of the NBA pension Mark felt he deserved.

Meanwhile, 43 years after playing in his last game, Earl Lloyd was finally recognized as a Hall of Famer. By that point, both overdue honors were almost beside the point: Ever since they'd broken barriers, every time a black man took the court in the NBA was recognition in and of itself for these two pioneers.

—**TZVI TWERSKY**