

**QUOTE: 'CHRIS IS A GOOD, SOLID GUY.'**

— Islanders defenseman Bryan Berard, on suspended teammate Chris Simon

# Knicks show some fire

## Deal blow to Isiah haters, win 108-90

By Brian Mahoney  
The Associated Press

What could have been a tough day for Isiah Thomas turned into the Knicks' easiest night of the season.

David Lee scored 17 of his 22 points in the first half, Jamal Crawford added 21, and the Knicks beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 108-90 last night for their most lopsided victory of the season.

"It's been a while," Lee said of the standing ovation his team got after the win. "Glad to have everybody positive here."

Two nights after their coach questioned their



David Lee had 21 points and 11 boards off the bench against Cleveland. (Getty Images)

heart and toughness, the Knicks (8-17) had all the answers. The team shot a season-best 56.2 percent from the field and led by as many as 24 points in their most complete effort dur-

ing a disappointing first 25 games of the season.

Hours after a rally for fans who wanted Thomas fired, the Knicks won for only the second time in eight games.

LeBron James had 32 points, eight rebounds and six assists for Cleveland, which has lost nine of 11.

"We really want to please the fans," Thomas said after the game.

## NHL hits Simon with 30-game suspension

To his coach and teammates, Chris Simon isn't the stick-swinging, skate-stomping fiend outsiders view him to be. To the NHL, he is an out of control enforcer who keeps pushing the league to never before seen heights of discipline.

The Islanders forward was hit with a 30-game suspension yesterday, breaking the mark of 25 he set in March with a ban that stretched into this season.

Simon, on leave from the team following the Saturday night dustup with Pittsburgh's Jarkko Ruutu, will miss more than a third of the season, starting last night, and can't return until Feb. 21 against Tampa Bay. (AP)



Simon

## Briefs

### Report: Parcels to join Miami front office

Former Jets and Giants coach Bill Parcels' day began with reports he would rebuild the Atlanta Falcons. It ended with him on the cusp of taking the



Parcels

same job with the Miami Dolphins. Parcels and Dolphins owner Wayne Huizenga agreed yesterday to a

four-year contract to be Miami's vice president of football operations, according to ESPN, which employs the two-time Super Bowl-winning coach as an analyst. The Dolphins declined comment, only saying no contract has been signed, and no one at Huizenga's business office was authorized to comment when reached yesterday evening.

### 4 Taylor suspects enter not guilty pleas

Four suspects accused in the killing of Redskins Pro Bowl safety Sean Taylor have filed written not guilty pleas to first-degree felony murder and armed burglary charges. The filing of a written plea usually means defendants do not appear in person at an arraignment, said Ed Griffith, spokesman for State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle. The arraignment hearing in the case is set for tomorrow.

### COLLEGE FOOTBALL

### Osborne to remain Nebraska AD until '10

The interim tag is off — Tom Osborne is Nebraska's athletic director. Chancellor Harvey Perlman announced yesterday that the 70-year-old Osborne, Ten years removed from his vaunted coaching career, would stay as athletic director until June 30, 2010.

### NFL

### Bush coy on return after Saints practice

Reggie Bush returned to practice yesterday, ahead of schedule after learning only two weeks ago he had a torn left knee ligament. Whether the New Orleans Saints truly expect the second-year star to play on Sunday against Philadelphia is another matter. "I guess you guys have to wait and see," a grinning Bush said coyly. "I can't give that away yet." (AP)

# Artest could go to Knicks, writer says

**Q&A** with Sam Amick

By Max J. Dickstein  
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Sacramento may be a lonely outpost on the NBA map, but Sacramento Bee reporter Sam Amick, 30, in the area Tuesday for the Kings' defeat of the Nets, has a lot to say about what's new around the league. We asked him about a few New York-centric topics.

### How likely is it that Brooklyn-born Kings forward Ron Artest will be traded to the Knicks?

[Knicks power forward] David Lee, before, was supposedly hands-off. One new element is that, with their front-court being deeper than it was last year, I don't see that as a reality anymore. That's a young, athletic player that I could see the Kings being interested in. There's a possibility there. I know that Ron always talks about,



We spoke with reporter Sam Amick, who covers the Kings for The Sacramento Bee, at the Izod Center on Tuesday night. (Juan Iglesias-Lopez)

"That's what New Yorkers want." Every time he comes back here, people tell him they want him in that Knicks uniform.

### Last week, coach Isiah Thomas allegedly implied that Knicks fans were partially at fault for the Knicks' poor play. Is that fair?

I think that's avoiding the mirror. I just don't know how he doesn't own up to everything. The fans' first thoughts would be, "You've got to be kidding me. The money you're making and the lifestyles you live, and you're going to blame it on a periphery aspect like that? That's absurd."

### The Kings' billionaire owners, the Maloof family, are sort of a Cablevision California. What's new?

The off-the-court stuff for the Kings has not been nearly as opera-esque as the Knicks. Part of that is the market. [General manager Geoff] Petrie and the Maloofs are the only juicy part of the Kings plot — the ownership versus GM, and who's pulling the strings and who's making decisions. The fans are largely disenfranchised because of the arena issue. It's not as sexy as what's going on in New York.

## STANDINGS

### NBA

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	20	3	.870	—
Toronto	15	11	.577	7½
Philadelphia	10	15	.400	11
Philadelphia	10	15	.400	11
Knicks	8	17	.320	13

#### CENTRAL

W	L	PCT	GB	
Detroit	18	7	.720	—
Indiana	14	12	.538	4½
Cleveland	11	15	.423	7½
Milwaukee	10	14	.417	7½
Chicago	9	14	.391	8

#### SOUTHEAST

W	L	PCT	GB	
Orlando	17	9	.654	—
Washington	13	11	.565	3
Atlanta	12	12	.500	4
Charlotte	9	14	.391	6½
Miami	7	17	.292	9

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Denver	14	10	.583	—
Portland	13	12	.520	1½
Utah	14	13	.519	1½
Seattle	7	18	.280	7½
Minnesota	3	20	.130	10½

#### PACIFIC

W	L	PCT	GB	
Phoenix	18	7	.720	—
L.A. Lakers	15	9	.625	2½
Golden State	14	11	.560	4
L.A. Clippers	10	14	.417	7½
Sacramento	9	15	.375	8½

#### SOUTHWEST

W	L	PCT	GB	
San Antonio	18	6	.750	—
Dallas	17	9	.654	2
New Orleans	15	10	.600	3½
Houston	12	12	.500	6
Memphis	7	17	.292	11

Late games not included

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