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NBA Conspiracies: A League That Values Money Over Honesty

Rebecca Littrel (Mentor: Rob Wilson, Ph.D.)

Introduction:

- The NBA has long been an epicenter for conspiracy theories.
- Money and image are very important to the NBA.
- Money is valued over honesty in the NBA.
- Extending a series and fixing the draft are two examples of what the NBA has done for money and ratings.
- Certain referees are chosen to do games that the NBA needs a fixed outcome for.
- The league officials will suspend players, rig games and make sure certain teams are in a position to win if it means more money
- Players and fans alike realize that certain games there will be a clear winner, based on officials and when the game takes place in the season.



Referees are on record saying that they called game six of the 2002 finals in favor of the Lakers to extend the series to seven games.



Draymond Green's suspension from game six in 2016 NBA finals possibly gave the Cleveland Cavaliers an advantage in the series

Findings:

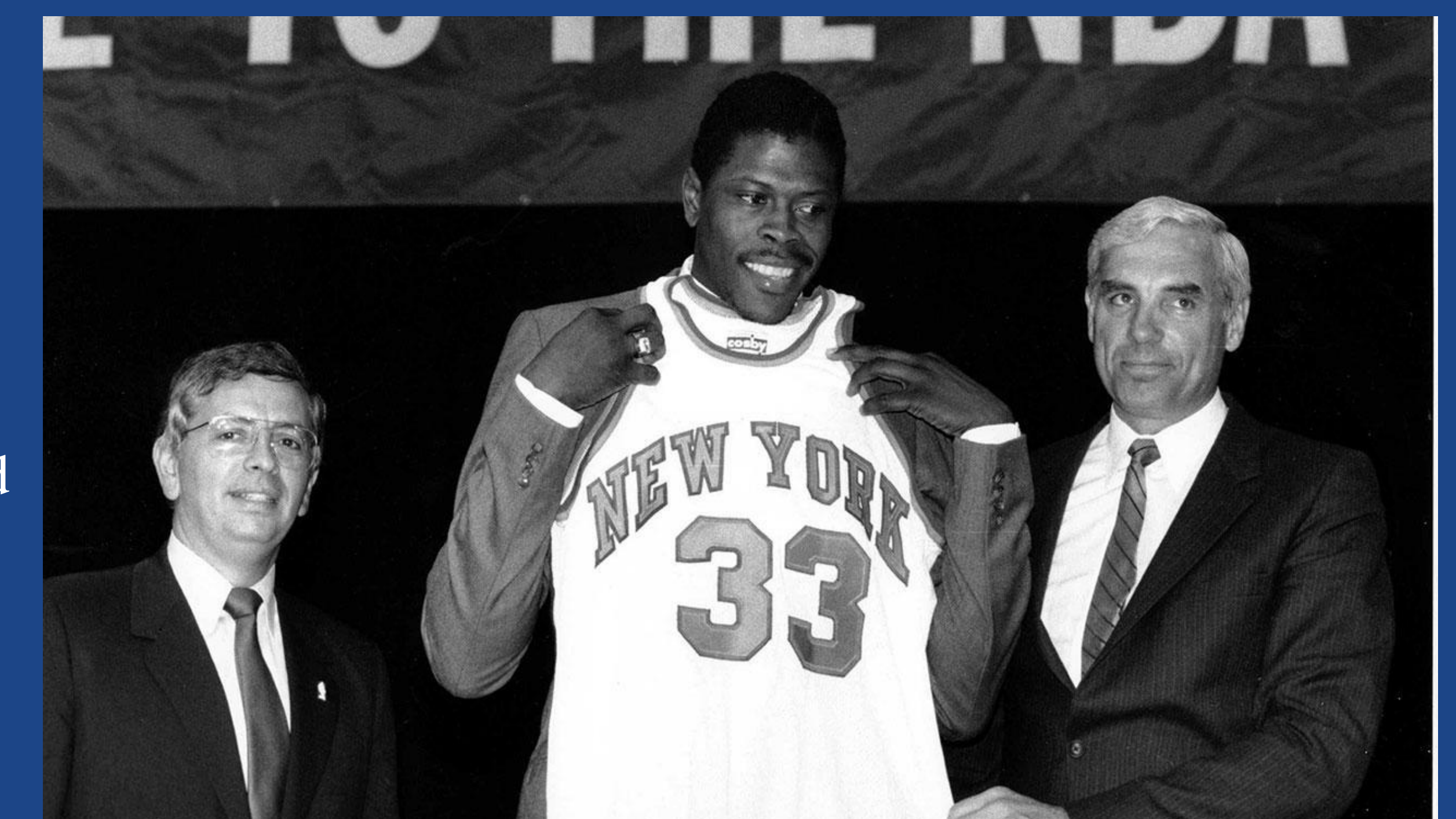
- Fans believe Golden State big man Draymond Green was suspended from game six to give the Cavaliers a better chance at extending the series.
- The Cavaliers ended up winning the series after Golden state blew a 3-1 lead.
- The Lakers shot a record-setting 27 free throws in the fourth quarter of game six of the Western Conference Finals.
- The Kings centers accumulated 20 fouls in the game while the center for the lakers, Shaquille O'Niel only accumulated four.
- "The frozen envelope" theory is said to be proof that the 1985 NBA draft was rigged in favor of the New York Knicks.
- Referees were on record saying that they had called games in favor of who the NBA wanted to win the game before.
- The NBA wants money and ratings to be the highest it possibly can be for all games and series played.
- If the league will benefit from a team winning a certain game, it will most likely be the outcome.

Sources:

- Michael Wilbon, "talk about a foul! Game 6 was a real stinker."
- Chris Sheridan, "2002 Lakers-Kings Game 6 at Heart of Donaghy Allegations."
- Ryan Burgara, "The Frozen Envelope That Rigged the NBA Draft"

Conclusion

- The NBA is a company first and money is the most important thing to the league.
- Referees are used to do the leagues bidding in many situations.
- The league will always do what is best for the league, even if it means fixing games or the draft.
- Draymond Green's suspension for game six helped the Cleveland Cavaliers extend the series.
- Draymonds suspension also brought the Golden State Warriors down, possibly causing the loss in game seven.
- David Stern was known as "Slippery Stern" for various suspicious doings in his time as NBA commissioner.
- The Lakers vs Kings Western Conference finals game 6 was a record setting game in terms of fouls and free throws shot.
- Patrick Ewing went on to improve the leagues image and bring millions of eyes to the TV for pro basketball.



Patrick Ewing was the number one pick of the 1985 NBA draft. Some speculate the draft was rigged in the New York Knicks' favor