All-Star Bryant booed by home town

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Too bad Kobe Bryant can't adopt Los Angeles as his hometown. Given the way he was treated by the fans in Philadelphia, he has every reason to renounce all ties to the city where he grew up.

In a venomous display that was harsh even by local standards, Bryant was booed mercilessly Sunday at the NBA All-Star game as he scored 31 points and was named MVP of the game in leading the West to a 135-120 victory over the East.

"I'll use it as motivation, definitely," Bryant said. "I'm the type of person that if something occurs in my life that's hurtful, I'm not going to let it hurt me for long. I'm going to turn it around and use it as some kind of motivation."

Bryant used the words "hurtful" and "upset" to describe his feelings. The booing began when he was introduced, continued after he made a series of game-turning plays, reaching a crescendo when he got the MVP trophy.

Bryant was booed relentlessly during the NBA Finals last year when the Lakers were finishing off the 76ers, and he recalled being booed during his rookie season when he was fresh out of high school and returning home for the first time.

"I guess that's how Philly is," West teammate Steve Francis said. "That's unfortunate, but he lit them up again."

Bryant's 31 points were the most in an All-Star game since Michael Jordan had 40 in 1988.

Bryant also became the first player to reach 30 points since Jordan did it in 1993, and he relegated Jordan, hometown hero Allen Iverson and every other All-Star into an afterthought by thoroughly dominating the game nearly every moment he was on the floor.

He also had five rebounds and five assists, shooting 12-for-25 from the field.

"What an incredible performance he put on. He was a step ahead of the best in the league, and that's hard to do because there's some great players out there," West coach Don Nelson said.

As Bryant walked away from the interview podium and Nelson sat down, the grizzled old coach tried to offer him a few reassuring words.

"Don't take it personal. They wish they had you," Nelson said.

A lot of teams wish they had Bryant, and he showed everyone why he has moved to the forefront of NBA superstardom.

Bryant got off to the best start of anybody, scoring eight points in the first six minutes and getting an assist by going around Jason Kidd with a deft crossover move and then feeding Tim Duncan for a dunk. Bryant also showcased some impressive ballhandling, dribbling through his legs as he came upcourt practically squatting.

Tracy McGrady scored 11 points in the second quarter to keep the East in it, but Bryant had a three-point play immediately after checking back in, then made four more baskets in the final 1:47 of the quarter — including a layup just before the halftime buzzer — as the West closed the half with a 24-7 run for a 72-55 lead.

The East chipped away during the third quarter, but Bryant wouldn't let them get too close. He scored one basket on a putback after the ball bounced over the top of the backboard, then had another bucket off an offensive rebound with 4:20 left to restore a 20-point lead, 88-68.

The boos for Bryant were fairly loud after both of those buckets. As the quarter progressed, Bryant was booed every time he touched the ball as it became clear that the West was headed for a lopsided victory.

"I felt bad for him, real bad," Iverson said. "To hear the booing took a lot out of it.

Bryant, who grew up in Lower Merion, Pa., and whose father, Joe, played for the 76ers, heard the boos long and loud one last time as commissioner David Stern was presenting him with the MVP trophy.

He admitted that the crowd affected his performance — he was scoreless in the fourth quarter and misfired badly on his last jump shot — and said he didn't really understand why the locals seem to dislike him so much.

"My first game here in the NBA, my rookie year when I came out of high school, they booed me a little bit, too. That really, really hurt, because it was like my homecoming," Bryant said.

ccr results

City-County Recreation Volleyball
Jan. 23

Golden Chiropractic over Sager Farms/ Alex Radiator 15-3, 15-4
Briney Farms over S&T Communications 15-6, 9-15, 11-8
Pirate Electric/ Frontier Equity over Nobody's Business 7-15, 15-4, 11-7
Briney Farms over The Who? 15-11, 15-9
Rookies over The Who? 15-11, 15-9
Nobody's Business over S&T Communications 15-6, 15-6
Pirate Electric/ Frontier Equity over Golden Chiropractic 15-17, 15-7, 11-3
Marty's Electric over Sager Farms/ Alex Radiator 15-1, 15-3
Marty's Electric over Kennedy & Coe, forfeit
Rookies over Kennedy & Coe, forfeit

Jan. 30

The Who? over Sager Farms/ Alex Radiator 6-15, 15-12, 11-10
Nobody's Business over The Who? 15-8, 15-0
Pirate Electric/ Frontier Equity over Rookies 15-9, 15-10
Rookies over Sager Farms/ Alex Radiator 15-9, 15-4
Briney Farms over Nobody's Business 15-2, 15-8
Golden Chiropractic over Marty's Electric 15-10, 15-5

Feb. 6

Rookie's over Marty's Electric 15-9, 15-8
Nobody's Business over Sager Farms/Alex Radiator and Repair 15-6, 15-3
Pirate Electric/Frontier Equity over The Who? 15-7, 15-5
Golden Chiropractic over Rookies 15-13, 15-8
S&T Communications over The Who? 15-13, 15-6
Kennedy & Coe over Nobody's Business 1-15, 15-2, 11-2
Marty's Electric over Briney's Farms 16-14, 15-6
Golden Chiropractic over S&T Communications 15-12, 16-14
Kennedy & Coe over Pirate Electric/Frontier Equity 15-6, 9-15, 11-8
Briney Farms over Sager Farms/Alex Radiator & Repair 15-6, 15-2

dart results

Goodland Dart League
Feb. 6

Can't Get Started over 3MATA3 10-6
Just Us over Bad A's 11-5
No Luck over Silver Bullets 9-7

4th round outs: Duane Hanke (2), Mark Wear, Chris Buchanan
High ton: Mark Wear
Hattricks: Duane Hanke (2), Paul Simons
8 dart out: Kevin Delano
Most Tons: Mark Wear (9), Ricky Pummer (6), Paul Simons (6), Tina Wilson (5), Kim Gonzales (5), Mel Bracelin (4), Patricia Smith (4)
Most Wins: Paul Simons (7), Eric Smith (4)
Standings: Just Us 201, 87; Can't Get Started 175, 113; Bad A's 134, 154; Silver Bullets 130, 158; No Luck 128, 160; 3MATA3 96, 192.

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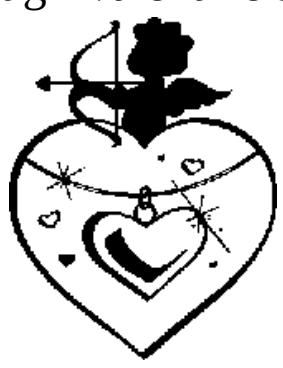

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The second annual "Don't Gamble with Love" Valentines promotion begins Monday, Feb. 11, and continues through 5 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 14.

When you visit any of the participating businesses, collect one randomly drawn playing card. To encourage visits to the participating businesses, the backs and/or the faces of the cards differ significantly. To win, the cards must be from at least four of the seven participating businesses. Players may collect up to two randomly drawn playing cards from *The Goodland Daily News*. Once you collect at least five cards, present your best poker hand to *The Goodland Daily News* business office by Friday noon, Feb. 15.

In observance of Valentine's Day week, hearts will be the high suit for this game of five-card poker.

The High poker hand will receive a FREE dinner for two, on Saturday, Feb. 16th, at Second Chance Bar & Grill. Must be 18 or older to win. No purchase necessary.

Happy Valentine's Day!

From The Goodland Daily News