

February 25-March 3

TIME OUT

Pacers meet Celtics, Pistons face Lakers

By Steve Paschal

Basketball is back at center court on ABC Sunday, Feb. 24, with an NBA doubleheader that features four of the league's premier teams.

First, the Indiana Pacers will take on the Boston Celtics. Then, ABC switches to the showdown between the two-time defending champion Detroit Pistons and the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Pacers, NBA doormats for many years, made it to the playoffs last year but lost to the Pistons in the first round. This year, thanks to astute drafting and two big trades by general manager Donnie Walsh, the Pacers could muscle their way past respectability and into the ranks of the NBA's perennial powerhouses. Veterans like Detlef Schrempf and LaSalle Thompson provide leadership for younger players like Rick Smith.

The Celtics are trying to rebound from last year's disappointing playoff showing, where they lost to the New York Knicks in the first round after winning the first two games. The Celtics are a good bet to make the playoffs for the 12th straight year.

The Pistons are taking "three-year" after back-to-back championships, but

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they'll have to weather the storm created when team leader Isiah Thomas broke a hand just before the All-Star break. The Lakers, who won five NBA titles during the 1980s, could find themselves on top again if MVP guard Ervin Johnson can perform his "Magic" one more time.

CABLE NEWS

John Belushi saluted on USA network

By Amy Schmidt

USA salutes the late John Belushi Wednesday, Feb. 27, and Thursday, Feb. 28. First, on Wednesday, it's the terrific off-beat comedy starring Belushi and Dan Aykroyd as *The Blues Brothers*. Great music makes this cult classic fun to watch, and cameo appearances by Steven Spielberg, Twigg, Steve Lawrence and Pee-wee Herman will keep you on your toes. Although not on the same level as *The Blues Brothers*, *Wired*, making its TV premiere Thursday, is a biographical sketch of Belushi's turbulent life, as investigated by reporter Bob Woodward.

Brother Jim Belushi and comedian Whoopi Goldberg co-star in *Homer and Eddie*. This good-hearted story pairs an escaped mental patient with a naive hitchhiker on a cross-country journey.

Homer and Eddie debuts Sunday, Feb. 24, on Cinemax.

Championship college basketball gets underway when ESPN cablecasts the Big South, Southland, Northeast, Mid East Athletic and Patriot League conference tournaments Saturday, March 2.

Lauren Bacall hosts a TBS *World of Audubon Special* titled "Hope of the Tropics," Feb. 24. Slash and burn agriculture had nearly reduced the country of Costa Rica to ashes before visionary conservation practices saved its tropical forests. The country is now an international laboratory for conservation study.

STAIR NOTES

Shanna Reed's dancing prepared her for acting

By Candace Havens

In CBS' *Major Dad*, Shanna Reed portrays Polly Cooper, a liberal journalist and mother of three daughters who is married to a conservative Marine (Gerald McRaney).

But Reed didn't begin her career as an actress. She was born in Kansas City, Kan., and grew up in Phoenix. At age 17, she packed her bags and moved to Las Vegas to pursue a career as a dancer. She got her first break performing in "Folies Bergere" at the Tropicana Hotel.

A few years later she moved to New York and began modeling, but she continued to audition for dancing roles. On a whim she went to an audition for the first national touring company of the musical *A Chorus Line*. She got the job, and a year later she landed a role in the Broadway production of Bob Fosse's *Dancin'*.

"Dance gave me incredible discipline plus the ability to focus all my energy in a business full of distractions," commented Reed. "Success as a dancer also required aggressiveness, individuality and style — all important qualities for an acting career as well."

Her TV debut was in the daytime series *Texas*. She later moved to California and did several guest stints before landing the role of Polly.

Reed lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Terrance O'Hara.



Clint Eastwood replaces his role as Dirty Harry in *The Dead Pool*, Monday on ABC.



Emmy Award-winner Alex Trebek is the new host of NBC's *To Tell the Truth*, airing weekdays.

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