

7 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE JAZZ



BY DEREK FISHER
(AS TOLD TO MOLLY KNIGHT)
PHOTOGRAPH BY
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1. JERRY SLOAN IS TOUGH ... "Coach believes in keeping things professional. We don't get to wear headbands or anything extra, and there's no playing cards on the plane. He considers it a working trip and doesn't want vacationlike activities."

2. ... ESPECIALLY AT PRACTICE. "Coach's favorite drill is called skeleton: a five-man fast-break run with no D for 10 to 15 minutes. Sometimes we'll be coming off three games in four days, and Coach tells us we're running skeleton. It's not pretty."

3. ON THE SEVENTH DAY, WE REST. "Our owner, Larry Miller, is strong in the Mormon faith, so we don't play home games on Sundays. This can make things tough, because it means more back-to-back games. We have the roughest schedule in the league because of it. On the other hand, the Jazz have been wonderful in terms of allowing me to take care of my daughter, Tatum, even in the middle of the playoffs. They let me know that family comes before anything."

4. WE NEED A NEW DEEJAY. "We might be the only NBA team without a light show before the game. They give us one Jay-Z song for when we run out, then go soft rock or country. We have young guys who depend on music to get going in warmups. Even two or three songs would help."

5. ANDREI KIRILENKO BRAKES FOR LIBRARIANS. "He's always reading. Not magazines or whatever, but serious Russian literature. Heavy stuff. He doesn't even warm up before games; he reads."

6. ASK JARRON COLLINS. "We call him Jeeves because he's our main source of information. He's always on his BlackBerry looking at gossip columns, updating us on who's dating whom. Also, NBA news and world events. We give him a hard time, but we wouldn't know what's going on without him."

7. DEE BROWN CAN'T SHUT UP. "He's our No. 1 talker. The funniest thing to happen this season was when we were doing this exercise where you balance on one foot in push-up position. Dee was bragging that it was too easy, that he could do it with no feet on the ground. So he raised both feet and fell right on his face."

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