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# Bad boys of basketball bounce past L.A. Clippers in exhibition contest

By John Adkisson  
Staff Reporter

The Detroit Pistons don't play nice basketball. Instead, the "Bad Boys" of the NBA do what it takes to win, and that formula has made them successful.

The Pistons have claimed two consecutive NBA titles, and they kicked off their title defense Friday with a 110-95 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers in an exhibition game at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Detroit center Bill Laimbeer said the Pistons will keep their reputation as the villains of the league as long as the fans and media want it.

"As long as the media keeps writing about it, we'll keep that image," Laimbeer said.

Winning a third consecutive NBA title will be a matter of being physically prepared and in shape, he said.

"After we won the first one, the mental block was gone," Laimbeer said. "Now the challenge is to be physically prepared and take every game seriously."

He added that he doesn't refer to himself or the Pistons as "Bad Boys". "We just call ourselves world champions," Laimbeer said.

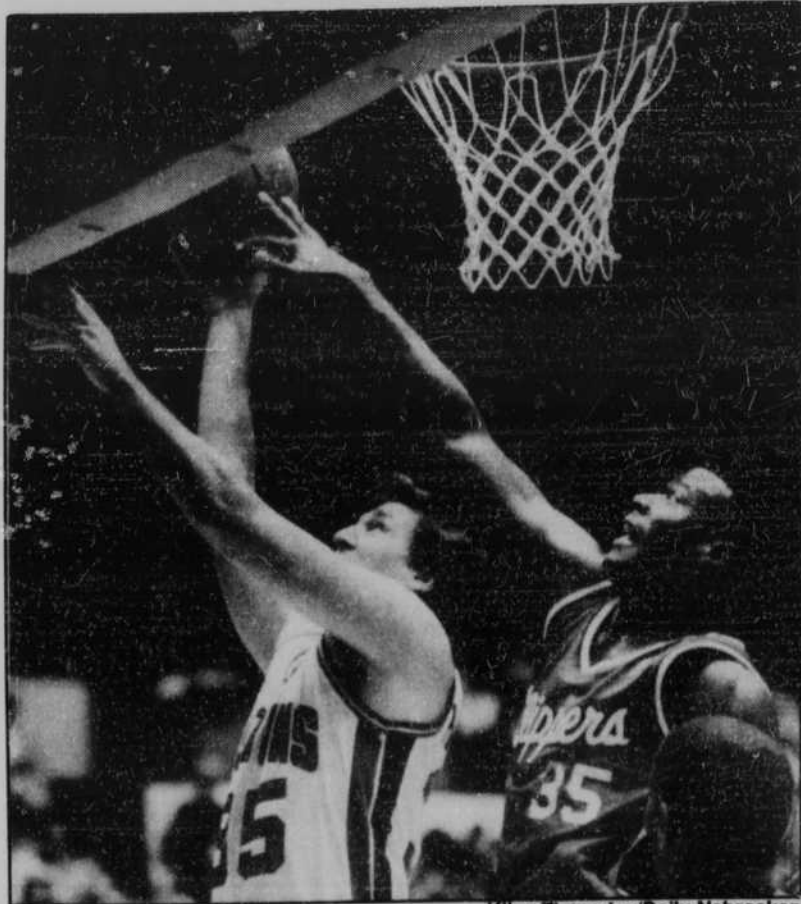
Laimbeer was sporadically booed when he entered the game or argued a call. But Laimbeer said the booing is something he is used to.

"I'm in the entertainment business," he said. "If somebody's got to wear the black hat, it may as well be me."

In Friday's game, played in front of about 10,306 fans at the Devaney Sports Center, the Pistons dominated from the start. Using tight defense and good play from guards Isiah Thomas and Joe Dumars, the Pistons went on to rout the Clippers 110-95.

Thomas, who scored 18 points and dished out nine assists, said the team looked sluggish in its 1990 debut.

"We need a few more weeks of



Kiley Timperley/Daily Nebraskan

L.A. Clipper Loy Vaught attempts to block the shot of Detroit Piston Scott Hastings during the first half of the NBA exhibition game Friday at Bob Devaney Sports Center.

training camp to get into the shape we need to be," Thomas said.

A bright spot for Detroit was the play of 7-foot center William Bedford. Bedford, who was in town a month ago to promote the game, scored 18 points and collected 12 rebounds.

Detroit coach Chuck Daly said he was impressed with the play of Bedford, who lost 25 pounds in the off-season.

"I thought he played very well tonight," Daly said. "Any time you lose that much weight, it only stands

to reason you're going to be in better shape."

Former Missouri player John McIntyre also played in the game, scoring five points in 12 minutes of play.

McIntyre said that making the transition from a college team to the NBA World Champions has been tough.

"It's a huge step to take," McIntyre said. "I know I could be playing a lot better."

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