

**WE
ARE
YOUR
FANS...**



ANGELA BECK
BOBBI MORSE

CHARLOTTE SMITH

SHERI SAM **LASERS**

ANNA TAMARA POOLE SHARON

DEFORGE THOMPSON

KATRYNA GAITHER

JENNIFER AZZI

CLARISSA DAVIS-WRIGHTSIL

...**FOREVER**

CLARISSE MACHANGUANA

KEDRA HOLLAND-CORN
NOSDRA HUDSON

LATOYA DOAGE

Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 17:01:04 -0600
From: Leisa Fearing <leisa@elf.net>
Subject: Re: Last call

Three years ago, we were ecstatic to learn that the ABL would have a San Jose team. Elf Systems set up a website for the team and an email list for the fans. The team exceeded our expectations, delighting us with their accessibility, athleticism, determination and character. Similarly, the fans rose to a level beyond anything seen on an email list before.



The messages here represent the community that you created. Just as the Lasers stand for more than basketball, your fans have been moved and inspired to go beyond simply sharing statistics. They have organized scholarships and community events.

Your efforts will live on through these works and the memories that you have created. Our heartfelt thanks,

-Leisa Fearing and all the staff at Elf Systems

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Dec. 22, 1998

PALO ALTO, Calif. -- The American Basketball League (ABL) announced today that it has suspended operations and will file for protection under chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy code.

Late Monday, the ABL's Board of Directors reached the decision to suspend the remainder of the league's 1998-99 schedule and file a voluntary chapter 11 bankruptcy petition to resolve creditors' claims and ensure an orderly liquidation of the league.

"This is a sad day for our fans, employees, players, and coaches, and for women's basketball in general," said Gary Cavalli, ABL co-founder and CEO, in making the announcement. "We are proud of what we accomplished as a pioneer in women's professional athletics. We put a great product on the floor. We gave America's best women athletes an opportunity to play professionally in this country during basketball season. We gave it our best shot; we fought the good fight, and we had a good run. But we were unable to obtain the television exposure and sponsorship support needed to make the league viable long-term."

The ABL, which was founded in 1995 and began play in '96, was one-third of the way through its third season. The league included nine teams located in Chicago, Colorado (Denver), Columbus, Nashville, New England (Hartford, CT), Philadelphia, Portland, San Jose, and Seattle.

The league said that plans for addressing the concerns of season ticket holders and employees are currently being formulated and will be announced in the near future.

"At this point, the league is out of money," Cavalli said. "While this was an extremely painful decision, we had no choice but to shut down. Ultimately, we exhausted every option and pursued every lead, but could not generate the revenues or financing necessary to sustain operations. And our lack of television had a lot to do with that.

"TV exposure is critical to sponsors, licensees, and investors. This year we offered millions of dollars to the TV networks for air time, but couldn't obtain adequate coverage. During the NBA lockout, the ABL still has been unable to buy TV time. It became clear that, although we had the best product, we could not find enough people willing to confront the NBA and give us the major sponsorships and TV contracts we needed."

Generally acknowledged as having the best talent in the world, the ABL featured the majority of recent women's basketball Olympians, College Players of the Year, All-Americans and Final Four MVPs. Often described as "a players' league," the ABL offered its players stock options, a retirement plan, year-round health benefits, and a seat on the Board of Directors.

"We tried to do things the right way," Cavalli said. "We paid our players well, gave them a piece of their own league, and a voice in setting league policy."

Founded by Steve Hams, Anne Cribbs and Cavalli in 1995, the ABL began its first season in October, 1996. During the inaugural year, eight teams played a 40-game schedule. The Columbus Quest won the championship in a five-game series over the Richmond Rage. Games were televised on SportsChannel Regional Networks and BET. Attendance averaged 3,536 leaguewide.

In its second season, the ABL expanded to nine teams, adding a franchise in Long Beach and relocating the Richmond Rage to Philadelphia. The Columbus Quest again won the league championship, defeating the Long Beach StingRays in five games. Attendance increased 23% to a leaguewide average of 4,333. The league's television package included 36 games on Fox Sports Net and BET.

The ABL began its third season in November with nine teams. The Atlanta Glory and StingRays were dissolved, with new teams added in Nashville and Chicago. The league's TV package was to include two championship series games on CBS and 16 on Fox Sports Net.

"I want to thank the people who believed in the ABL -- our fans, players, coaches, sponsors and investors," Cavalli said. "I especially want to thank the employees of the league, who have sacrificed so much and given so much of their lives to this endeavor. Their dedication, perseverance and commitment have been an inspiration."

From: Andi300@aol.com
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 16:01:58 EST
Subject: ABL shuts down



I did not want to be the first person to post this message to this list.

It has just been declared that the ABL is shutting down. I just got the message from Dave Teppes from the Mercury News and then I verified the information on the ESPN website (www.espn.com). The announcement was made today that the ABL has suspended operations and will file bankruptcy.

I am in shock and am shaking to the point that it's hard to even type this message. I'm not sure what all this means yet. It appears the league plans to address the concerns of season ticket holders and employees in the near future.

Andi Burnett

From: Bonnie Hampton <BonnieHa@DiamondMM.com>
Subject: SHUT DOWN
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 13:25:30 -0800

I can't believe this. What is going to happen to the all star game? I am so sad, I feel sorry for the players. They have just lost their jobs and doing the thing that they love. This is not a shock per say, but still in the middle of the season it is going to be real hard on them. What are all of the players going to do now, I am so glad they all have degrees behind them and will be able to get other employment.

I am sick to my stomach, there are 2 players that I have become very close to and I hope they stick around, I hate losing friends.

X-Sender: rjensen@mercury (Unverified)
I am just sitting here at my desk at work, devastated. I can't explain to people here why something like the closing of a sports league would send me reeling and bring tears to my eyes.

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 13:36:58 -0800 (PST)
From: jamese@SSA.CO.Santa-Clara.CA.US (Etheridge james)
Subject: if it's true

This really hurts and it angers me. But I think that I have an idea that will make it easier for me and maybe for you as well. Let's have a party for the Lasers someplace sometime in the near future so that they will know beyond a shadow of a doubt how much we loved them and the ABL. I will be calling the Lasers office as soon as I finish here and try to find out about getting the team in one place for a fondest farewell. I don't know much about when or where or how but I know that with the resources that I have seen here on this net that we can do this. Please reply
Etheridge

From: LSMant@aol.com
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 16:42:28 EST
Subject: shut down

This is devastating news. I can't believe I am sitting here with tears rolling down my face. My heart is broken. But I am really glad I drove over 4 hours on Sunday in order to see the game. Don't you feel terribly helpless? I just can't believe it. Please say it isn't so.

Laura



Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 13:55:05 -0800 (PST)
From: jamese@SSA.CO.Santa-Clara.CA.US (Etheridge james)
Subject: Lasers

I just tried to call the Lasers office and no one answered. They gave a phone number for the ABL office but if I call them I might get arrested. I can't believe they didn't see this coming or that they didn't have the foresight to try some new marketing to try to save the league. I will stop by the Lasers office after work and let them know about the party idea. Hopefully they will still have contact with the players, coaches etc.
Etheridge

X-Sender: mjm30@pop.amdahl.com
Subject: Hard to believe

Shocked, stunned and very sad! That's all I can say. I have talked to some of my friends who are season ticket holders. We feel like we need to do something to mourn the loss of the ABL and the Lasers. I know we will have some sort of private thing for ourselves. But at the same time I really like the suggestion of a fond farewell party. Besides mourning I know I still would like to celebrate what the ABL and Lasers stood for and what they tried to accomplish--and not to give up the hope that someone will be able to accomplish this in the future. We had something special in the Lasers. I want them to know that! We are not the run of the mill type fans either. I want them to know that too!

Marilyn Martinyak



From: Melanie Anstett <manstett@sagenttech.com>
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 13:57:58 -0800

It hurts.

I can't believe we won't be watching them play again. Why before Christmas .. I feel so bad for the founders and players. I'm talking to Lorrie on the phone and she has a big pit in her stomach right now. Just too shocked for words.

Melanie

From: Dana Stewart <DStewart@pinnaclesys.com>
Subject: RE: Lasers
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 13:58:00 -0800

I don't think we need to waste our time being mad at the ABL--they have always been pretty up front about what was going on. I think they tried their very best to get this to succeed--and had the NBA minded their own business and kept out of women's Bball, which they could care less about, the ABL would have succeeded.

From: Rebekah <lasersfan@riddlemaster.com>
Subject: Re: Lasers

This is about as abrupt as the closing of the Stingrays and Glory franchises. No warning, just whomp.

From: Joshua Zucker <zucker@csl.Stanford.EDU>
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 14:21:10 -0800 (PST)
Subject: Lasers

Here's the official press release from the ABL site for those who haven't seen it yet ...

Why didn't they talk to us ahead of time? How many season ticket holders would have been willing to chip in a few more \$ to keep the league afloat for the rest of the year? How many \$ would it have taken?

--Joshua Zucker

From: Bonnie Hampton <BonnieHa@DiamondMM.com>
Subject: RE: Lasers
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 14:22:17 -0800



I agree with you Dana. If the television hadn't been controlled by the NBA we would have at least had a chance.

From: Dana Stewart [mailto:DStewart@pinnaclesys.com] Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 1998 1:58 PM To: jamesese@SSA.CO.Santa-Clara.CA.US; lasersfans@elf.net Subject: RE: Lasers

I don't think we need to waste our time being mad at the ABL--they have always been pretty up front about what was going on. I think they tried their very best to get this to succeed--and had the NBA minded their own business and kept out of women's Bball, which they could care less about, the ABL would have succeeded.

From: BROCHE545@aol.com
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 17:29:44 EST
Subject: a get-together for Sunday

Let's get together for a rally, a time of sadness, a chat, and generally try to get over the shock of the ABL shut-down... ..Sunday at the ARENA parking lot, back entrance, 6:00 pm. We were all going to be there anyway.

Let's talk! OK?

From: LSMant@aol.com
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 17:34:02 EST
Subject: shut down

Most of the ABL site is shut down. Where are folks talking about the shut down online?

Laura

From: LSMant@aol.com
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 17:36:01 EST
Subject: shut down

This is devastating news. I can't believe I am sitting here with tears rolling down my face. My heart is broken. But I am really glad I drove over 4 hours on Sunday in order to see the game. Don't you feel terribly helpless? I just can't believe it. Please say it isn't so.

Laura

From: Lompican44@aol.com
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 17:40:57 EST
Subject: Re: Lasers

To me this is the day that pro basketball died. After 11 years as an NBA season ticket holder who watched money and ego blow up the men's game, the Lasers were my last ember of hope for watching the best basketball players in the world without feeling like I'd been just fleeced by a con man.

As for a party.....the arena is booked for the 27th. Maybe as a farewell gesture, the city and arena can sponsor a party.

As for why.....somehow I can't help but think that all the money that was wasted trying to "play marketing against wNBA/NBC etc.", could have kept this gem of a product operating and eventually making a profit.

As for the players.....I remember the sunken feeling that comes when you hear "the game's been canceled." These are great women that will continue to succeed far beyond this setback. Good luck to you all.

As for me.....I just signed up for this list about a month ago and have only been reading so far. As a former San Jose Jammers season ticket holder (CBA Team that folded the year after I bought my tickets), I truly hope it wasn't me that made this happen.

John

PS RAYBRUN....I loved your story about hiding under a blanket outside trying to pick up the game on radio.....took me back to when I was a kid with a funky transistor trying to follow my favorite team....back when things seem to have more meaning....like the league we are saying good-bye to, today.

From: Bonnie Hampton <BonnieHa@DiamondMM.com>
Subject: web site
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 14:42:58 -0800



I wonder how much longer we will be able to keep this site. I love the connections made here. If we have to, can someone start another for bay area women sports lovers. I don't want to lose the kinship started here.

I hope we can still get the basketball camps for our kids if nothing else. I don't want my daughter to lose it all.

Bonnie
Home e-mail "alhamp@earthlink.net"
work "bonnieha@diamonddmm.com"



From: Cathi Clark <cclark@hardingmarcom.com>
Subject: devastating news!

I am sitting here - debating whether to leave work or not. I am that shocked. I cannot even think. This is the worst news. I feel so bad for the team, the players worked so hard. Coach Beck and all were so committed. Like most of you all, I have grown so attached to this fan list. I am speechless, tearful and mad all at once. I keep thinking that this is all a nightmare and someone will say, "just kidding. See ya at the game on Sunday"... Please...someone say that. Say it is all untrue and that ABL lives!!

Cathi Clark
Harding Marketing Communications, Inc.
260-4542 Fax: 345-4551

From: Bonnie Hampton <BonnieHa@DiamondMM.com>
Subject: STUFF
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 14:51:34 -0800

What are they going to do with all the clothing and stuff . I want some more now, I don't want to ever forget the lasers, I love this game.

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 14:54:36 -0800 (PST)
From: jamese@SSA.CO.Santa-Clara.CA.US (Etheridge james)
Subject: Sunday 12/27

Let's all, each and every one of us contact the Mercury, tv stations, radio stations, Mayor Hammer, Mayor elect Gonzales and anyone else that we can think of to go to the Arena this Sunday and show our support.
I have thought of a rallying cry
"We may be down, but we're not out."
If anyone has any other ideas please post them.
Etheridge

From: Rebekah <lasersfan@riddlemaster.com>
Subject: Re: a get-together for Sunday



The one and only game I was planning on missing all season!!

At 05:29 PM 12/22/98 EST, BROCHE545@aol.com wrote:
>Let's get together for a rally, a time of sadness, a chat, and generally try
>to get over the shock of the ABL shut-down... ..Sunday at the ARENA parking
>lot, back entrance, 6:00 pm. We were all going to be there anyway.
>
>Let's talk! OK?

From: Sweedie1@aol.com
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 17:55:03 EST
Subject: Lasers

This is heartbreaking.....
I will miss them terribly.....
pkn

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 15:01:29 -0800 (PST)
From: jamese@SSA.CO.Santa-Clara.CA.US (Etheridge james)
Subject: Arena Sunday 6:00pm

Yes let's get together at the arena this Sunday at 6. We were planning to be there anyway. Bring all of the Laser/ABL/any other ABL team gear that you have. Make noise. OGLady you must be there. You ARE our cheerleader. Bring pompoms, clappers, bells whatever.
Etheridge

From: Nrg2live@aol.com
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 18:03:36 EST
Subject: Re: wonder

In a message dated 98-12-22 17:24:03 EST, you write:
Isn't denial a great thing, it is helping me cope.

I'm wishing it isn't true. I'm going to miss watching the best B-Ball I've ever seen.... and now I'm wishing I also had bought a Jersey and items so that I could always remember. You know like my Granpa does when he reminisces about the old....days he puts on an old jersey (tries) (smile) and tells me what it was like.

Big huge Bummer
Linda

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 15:06:41 -0800 (PST)
From: jamese@SSA.CO.Santa-Clara.CA.US (Etheridge james)
Subject: beamteam

To anyone on the beamteam. I hope that you can get together with some of the local college teams and send kids to their camps. Maybe you can use the money that you've already collected. If you want or need any further contributions count me in. I would surely love to see your group continue because of all of the great things you have done for kids.
Etheridge

From: Dabeeg@aol.com
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 18:11:14 EST
Subject: Re: shut down

We were so bummed about missing the 2 games during the holidays and now it's all gone? We had both Lasers and Power season tickets and had bought All Star game tickets as Christmas presents for friends. Guess we'll still give them as collectors items.

If any of you see any of the Lasers players and/or coaches please let them know our thoughts are with them.

- bj & julie
section 18

From: "Lisa Reiss" <lreiss@ix.netcom.com> To: "Laser Fans" <lasersfans@elf.net>
Subject: Bad news very bad news
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 15:17:47 -0800



I am still in shock like everyone else on this list. I agree with all of you who have posted so far in all the suspicions, and wondering about the last two games.

The players had to know things were not well.
This knowledge had to have affected their playing and hence the losses in the last 2 games.
Anne Cribbs had to know that something awful was going to be announced. Why no one said anything is probably that just like when companies go down the tubes and us folks in accounting know all about it way before it happens, we are professionals, we do not leak what is not for public knowledge.
I feel so bad for the players and the coaches. This is THEIR life and THEIR dreams that have collapsed.
I will not go to wnba games, even if there is a team in our own backyard (and sorry, Oakland is not even close)
I will keep wearing all my Laser gear proudly, even my new black Allstar game polo shirt I bought at the last game and my new Laser Beam Team Scholarship polo shirt.
I will wish for all the best for Angela, Bobbie, Jennifer, Sheri, Kedra, Charlotte, Clarisse, Clarissa, Anna, La Toya, Pam and Shep.
I will hope that something, somehow can be done to salvage this season.
I will wonder why now that the ABL is folding are we getting such great press from the Merc (yeah I know, I know they had improved some in the last week, and perhaps they were going to continue to cover the games better, but I am still very annoyed with the last 2+ years of a virtual coverage blackout. Thank you Merc for nothing much.) If I owned stock in NBC and the other big stations I would sell my stock.
I will be there on Sunday if something is happening. After all I already scheduled the game on my calendar.
I will hope that someday all young girls like Ariel, Michelle, Sharaye, Juvy, Chioma, and Jean will have another chance to play pro ball at home in the US when they graduate from college.
I will continue to support our scholarship fund to allow these girls to prepare themselves for the next women's pro league.
I will never forget what a great thing the ABL and The Lasers were for me and my friends over the last 2+ years.
GO LASERS! Forever in our hearts.

Lisa
Lisa Reiss
email: lreiss@ix.netcom.com

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 18:18:28 -0500
From: Mark Horton <mark@lucent.com>
Organization: Lucent Technologies

Quest Fans Mailing List - <http://www.columbusquest.com>



What a sad day! We had higher hopes for the league than a sudden shutdown in mid-season.

I feel badly for the players and ABL staff. They are such great people! To lose your job, after so much hard work, right before Christmas, what an awful feeling.

I feel badly for the people who invested their time and money into supporting the Quest and the ABL. Suzan Melton made those wonderful Quest Nest shirts and jackets, investing lots of her personal cash into equipment. She was about to expand into logos for the other 8 ABL teams. How she must feel right now. (She does other logos - I'm looking into having her do one for the GLBT group where I work. You can reach her at 614-646-1448 if you want her great artwork on your design, or if you want some Quest Nest clothing. I'll wear mine proudly!)

What strikes me most, however, is how the Quest has managed to turn failure into success. For three years, we've been the best in the league. This year, we lost three star players and a superb coach, and we still kept on winning!

The Quest is the ABL Champion 3 years in a row! The first two championships were decided by end-of-year playoffs, and the third year by end-of-season standings. There can be no doubt about it, the Quest is the Best of the 3rd ABL season!

Tanya Edwards, our big-hearted player-coach, finishes the season with a .750 winning percentage, better than any other team with a full time coach!

Our home winning streak of, what, 26 games?, will never be broken.

The Quest can hold their heads high. They are the classiest of any professional basketball team, anywhere in the world. We had a wonderful 2+ years, and will have great memories.

Mark Horton

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 18:20:46 EST

Subject: Something for the BEST TEAM from the BEST FANS

Quest Fans Mailing List - <http://www.columbusquest.com>

I am willing to work with others to try and setup a dinner or something with the email list fans, the web fans and the Q-Club members for the players, front office staff, and volunteers. I've already had a number of folks contact me this afternoon who are willing to help do this. Please contact me via this list (depending on how long it will be available) or via personal email to NOWCol@aol.com if you are interested in helping with this or even just want to attend....it may be difficult to get the word out once the email list and web- site go away.

I have no idea if the team players and management even have time to think about this, but I will contact Sue Wein (or try to get her...I'm sure she and all the front office staff are not having a great holiday as of today) next week and see what I can find out.

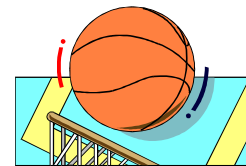
AL/Shane -- How long will you keep the web-site and email list running?

Everyone -- I just want to add my personal thanks to all of the QUEST fans I have met in cyber space and also face-2-face. I am so proud of the QUEST and everyone in the organization. For 2 years, the QUEST was indeed "the champions of the world" and the BEST TEAM of athletes I have ever seen.

I will certainly cherish the memories of wonderful basketball. I will certainly miss the excitement of the QUEST NEST.

The QUEST is (and always will be) the BEST..

Pat Varieur email:NOWCol@aol.com



From: "Lisa Reiss" <lreiss@ix.netcom.com>

Subject: Re: beamteam

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 15:21:31 -0800

Thank you so much for your kind and thoughtful words Etheridge. We will figure out how to continue somehow, there is always the Stanford camp and we will be checking to see if Azzi's camp will still continue this summer - once the dust settles of course. I know there will be other pro leagues for women and I want these girls to be ready for them when they open.

Lisa Reiss
email: lreiss@ix.netcom.com

> From: Etheridge james <jamese@SSA.CO.Santa-Clara.CA.US>

> To: lasersfans@elf.net

> Subject: beamteam

> Date: Tuesday, December 22, 1998 3:06 PM

>

> To anyone on the beamteam. I hope that you can get together with some of the
> local college teams and send kids to their camps. Maybe you can use the money
> that you've already collected. If you want or need any further contributions
> count me in. I would surely love to see your group continue because of all of
> the great things you have done for kids.
> Etheridge

>

From: Rebekah <lasersfan@riddlemaster.com>
Subject: RE: a get-together for Sunday

Yes, please! Anyone else out there not going to be able to make Sunday's get-together? We could do it the weekend that the All-Star game was scheduled. Or earlier if we can somehow get some players to come too.

At 03:14 PM 12/22/98 -0800, Melanie Anstett wrote:
>We will be out of town for the holidays. How about something extra in
>the New Year? Would love/need to be a part of it.

From: LSMant@aol.com
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 18:30:23 EST
Subject: fans forever



Thanks for the great post, Lisa. I agree with you on all counts.

I saw Cavalli and Cribbs at the game on Sunday. They must have known then but they certainly didn't show it. I wonder now if part of the reason Angela was so emotional at the fan club was that she had some idea of what was going to come down.

This whole ABL and Lasers experience has been nothing but wonderful for me. My husband and I bought season tickets long before the first season even began. I only missed one game but did see that on TV. If there was a game on the schedule it was a first priority. I have been inspired by the players, coaches, staff, and fans. A more incredibly supportive, enthusiastic, friendly group of people could not possibly exist. I am so grateful for the experience and would trade it for nothing. What a huge hole looms in front of all of us.
Ah, to be so wealthy that one could bail this league out. I will miss you all so much.

Thanks, Laura

Subject: sorry to see the ABL go...
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 18:40:33 -0500

I have been a fan of the Quest, as most of you have been, since the beginning; I was there when they won both of their Championship series, and was lucky enough to see the AllStar game last January in Orlando; The level of play is so much higher than what I have seen in the WNBA; It is unfortunate that being the best at playing the sport is not what keeps the teams and league playing; It is purely the money and backing of the NBA that is keeping the WNBA going, and not superior talent or play.

This is a sad day for all of us, especially for the players and coaches; I wish all of you a happy holiday season and hope you enjoyed playing and coaching; half as much as I enjoyed watching and cheering.

From: "Michael Randolph" <mlandolp@columbus.rr.com>
Subject: We're done....
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 15:47:57 -0800

I hope this is the only time you get this message-bad news hurts enough once, but I 'm having trouble w/listbot...

Anyway, I heard via my husband (a local media GM) that he received a fax from the ABL stating they suspended operations today. The remainder of the season has been cancelled and the teams are history. I am stunned and saddened and lost for words. Let's hope the team has a farewell so we can all grieve together....

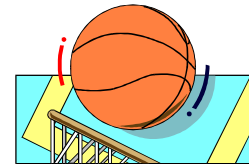
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 15:53:30 -0800
From: Deborah Dixon <dixons1@pacbell.net>
Subject: Re: The Quest goes out with heads held high!

Mark, I can tell you that the thoughts on the Quest list are echoed on the Lasers list, also. We are as devastated as you all are. Guess the good guys didn't win this one.

Mark Horton wrote:

> What a sad day!
> Mark Horton
>

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 16:00:15 -0800
From: Faye <faye@loc252.tandem.com>
Subject: such rotten news before Christmas



Wow...I am in shock. Even though I'm pessimistic by nature and didn't think the ABL would survive to put on a 4th year I did think they would at least finish out this year. I mean, I already bought my All Star tickets and bought tickets to future games as Christmas presents. If I'm dreaming would someone please pinch me so I will wake up?

I sat near Anne Cribbs and Steve Hamms (ABL co-founders) at Sunday's game and I would not have guessed from their demeanor at the game that the ABL was bankrupt. They hid it well. They were chatting with the San Jose mayor-elect and seemed to be enjoying themselves as much as they ever do (they're never really boisterous at the games). I'm not sure how much the players and coaches would've known. At the fan club meeting Angela and Bobbie were both talking of the long term future (e.g. getting a big inside player for next year).

I hope the WNBA will hire a lot of the ABL coaches and players if that's where they want to work. Even though I'm not a fan of the WNBA at least it offers some players a chance to play in the US. I'll never be a season ticket holder for the WNBA (Oakland is too far away for me to get to any weekday games) but I will go to a one or two weekend games if they ever start a team in Oakland. I think the NBA has never really been committed to women's basketball and may not last until their 4th year either (my pessimistic nature talking again).

I agree we all need closure to this sad event and getting together would be a good thing to do. I don't know how well it will work out if a big group converged on the closed Arena on Sunday but I'll go to wherever the planned location is. If something occurred after the holidays more people may be able to attend. And if people from the Lasers staff, players and coaches could attend (and bring merchandise to sell) that would be even better.

-Faye-

From: Dana Stewart DStewart@pinnaclesys.com

Subject: RE: fans forever
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 16:19:20 -0800

Let's all wear Laser stuff to work tomorrow--should be a pretty laid back day dress wise and you know it will be in the news tonight and tomorrow--so let's show our support.

Gosh--even my mom called me this afternoon because she had heard it on TV and was worried about how upset I'd be!

From: "A.L. Watts" <ripleyjones@email.msn.com>
Subject: Re: shut down
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 18:29:09 -0600



I have feared this but in the middle of the season-no chance to go to one last game. What will happen to Jennifer (Azzi)? I miss them already. this sucks

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 16:32:14 -0800
From: Deborah Dixon <dixons1@pacbell.net>
Subject: Re: fans forever

Well, guys. I couldn't handle work any longer and came home to tell Kyle before he heard it on TV. He had just received a Christmas card from Byrd saying she was coming out for the All Star game. So much for that.

He's being really quiet right now. The ABL meant so much to him. It was a big ego boost to get to talk to the players like they were real people and not gods or something. Jennifer even started calling him by name and set an autograph limit on him. I was crying so much I could barely tell him the news. This really hurts. Reminds me of how I felt when my dad died suddenly 3 years ago. This IS a death in the family.

I don't know where to go from here. I don't want to give up. Isn't there some benevolent billionaire out there who believes in what's right and decent?

Laura, I totally agree. I wouldn't trade this for anything. I've met the greatest people, had some of the greatest times (even the 2 and terrible was ok) and am just a better person because of the ABL.

From: "Rogers, Terry" <TRogers@sjmercury.com>
Subject: Lasers Fan List
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 16:43:49 -0800

Is it possible to get added to the Lasers Fan List so I can hear any info about the demise of the Lasers and any fan action? I am a season ticket holder & am obviously very distraught about the league's folding.

Thanks!

Terry Rogers
trogers@sjmercury.com
408-920-5449

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 16:45:57 -0800
From: David or Marian Cortesi <cortesi@dsp.net>
Subject: Telling off Beth Mowins

On the ESPN web page about the ABL suspension, there is a sidebar column from someone named Beth Mowins which I found very objectionable. I can't find a direct email address for this bimbo, so I sent the following "letter to the editor" on the ESPN web site. Since they will probably ignore it, I thought I'd also share it here...

I and my wife are (were!) season ticket holders with the San Jose Lasers of the ABL, and I need to respond to Beth Mowins' incredibly cold and insensitive column on the ABL's suspension.

Ms Mowins blithely advises the ABL players that 'the initial disappointment of not being able to finish the season' -- she doesn't mention the 'disappointment' of losing their jobs,

having their careers derailed, and facing the need to find a new income, probably overseas, just before Christmas -- 'will turn into anticipation and excitement about the new opportunities...in the WNBA.'

Ms Mowins, that is almost as insensitive as if your best friend's husband died, and you told her 'Cheer up, dearie, your disappointment will soon turn into anticipation of all the nice new boyfriends you can make.'

Ms Mowins, you can keep your consolations -- and your fly-weight summer league, nothing more than a place for pros to keep in shape while waiting for the European season to start -- to yourself, thank you very much.

Dave Cortesi

From: Acbowler@aol.com
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 19:48:42 EST
Subject: Just cannot let go



I agree. We need some sort of closure. I will go where ever you all go.

I could not take it anymore. I came home and immediately got online. I just need to stay as close as I can to you guys until the very end. For sure they will close this fan list down.

I swore I would never go to a Wnba game if it came to the bay area,,, but maybe they will hire Angela Beck and get a franchise going here. San Jose is the best place in the world for a Bball team. I think might support any franchise that would have our laser players on it. I would wear my Laser t-shirt and hat and pins no matter who they would be called. Yes I am dreaming. I just cannot let go.

All of you on this list are so special. I look forward everyday to see what has been said and what is going on all around.

Long live the San Jose Lasers!

Cathi Clark

From: "Gay Katilius" gay_kat@hotmail.com
Subject: Sunday
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 16:59:50 PST

The shock is just starting to hit me. The players, at least most of them, had no idea this was going to happen. I don't think the coaches did, either. I think the owners were looking for investors right up until the final minutes.

This has been a fantastic experience, and I am sorry I spent my last game volunteering instead of sitting in my courtside seats!

I'm all in favor of meeting Sunday, though I am not crazy about the idea of meeting in a cold, dark parking lot. So, I'm going to be checking some things out to see if we can go somewhere WARM!

You know, the players are going to be without the paychecks they were planning on getting next week - would anybody like to consider making this a rent party????

In case the list goes down, I'm at gay_kat@hotmail.com

Go Laser fans!!!!

From: Rebekah <lasersfan@riddlemaster.com>



Subject: Re: Telling off Beth Mowins

I completely agree with Dave. I sent off my own message to "eszeditor-L@starwave.com" (which was what the letters to the editor link gave you if you said you couldn't use the form).

Here's what I wrote (trying not to copy Dave)---- Dear ESPN:

However well-meaning that Beth's article was that the ABL players and coaches can now (oh goody) jump to the WNBA, it was to this ABL fan incredibly unfeeling. The fans and the players and all the supporters of the ABL are devastated by the loss of quality basketball and home-town teams, not to mention a league that really cares about the game of basketball. To "console" us with the idea that now we can perhaps see our favorite players for a few weeks in the middle of summer, playing for less than peanuts, and forced to focus on style instead of substance, is downright offensive. It honestly feels like a death in the family, not something to be brushed off lightly and with cheer.

--The Jensens (basketball fans and ABL season ticketholders)

At 04:45 PM 12/22/98 -0800, David or Marian Cortesi wrote:
>On the ESPN web page about the ABL suspension, there is a
>sidebar column from someone named Beth Mowins which I found
>very objectionable. I can't find a direct email address for
>this bimbo, so I sent the following "letter to the editor" on
>the ESPN web site. Since they will probably ignore it, I thought
>I'd also share it here...

From: "Russel, Charlie" <Charlie@SpearTechnologies.com>
Subject: RE: Sunday
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 17:08:51 -0800

I see no reason for the list to go down any time soon. It's run as a free service by Elf Systems (who did the web site the first two years) and they have no direct connection with the Lasers. I'm sure Leisa will keep it up as long as we want her to - there really isn't much overhead on it.

As for a rent party - not a bad idea at all. I am totally bummed and depressed by this, but I realize my sorrow is personal and not particularly financial - yeah, I'm out some money for the remaining season tickets. But that's peanuts compared with the players and coaches. This is a terrible blow to them, financially, professionally and personally.

Charlie Russel
Director, Information Technology
Spear Technologies
(415)284-7641
Charlie <mailto:Charlie@SpearTechnologies.com>

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 17:11:31 -0800
From: Leisa Fearing <leisa@elf.net>
Organization: Elf Systems Corporation
Subject: Lasersfans list

The lasersfans list will stay active as long as people are using it.

-Leisa Fearing
leisa@elf.net

Elf Systems Corporation
Tel: 408-279-1737 <> FAX: 408-971-1796 <URL: http://www.elf.net/>



From: Bonnie Hampton <BonnieHa@DiamondMM.com>
Subject: RE: Sunday
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 17:12:10 -0800

I am for the rent party too. I see this being a bleak Christmas for them all. my e-mail is alhamp@earthlink.net & Bonnieha@diamondmm.com Please lets all try to keep in touch. I think good things could come from this list. Maybe a basketball league for girls. They have nothing to look forward to in San Jose as far as basketball in the Big picture. They have smaller league but nothing major to get them really involved. My daughter is going to be so upset.

From: Rebekah <lasersfan@riddlemaster.com> Subject: Lasers reaction
Cc: LasersFans@elf.net

Hi Dave:

This family of Lasers fans is in a word -- devastated. I found out at work, and I can't explain to people here why something like the closing of a sports league would bring tears to my eyes and a moan of denial. After three years sitting in the seats and screaming for them, the Lasers were like a part of my family. The play game after game was thrilling, dynamic, and downright exhausting. To think we will never again see Charlotte Smith dancing at the free throw line, Jennifer Azzi floating up her sweet, sweet jumper, and Angela Beck's athletics in the coach's box as she tries to will her team to victory ... a hole has opened up in our lives.

--Rebekah and Jeff Jensen
Santa Clara
Lasers Season Ticket Holders

DaveTepps@aol.com wrote:

- >
- > Would you like to give me a few sentences of your reaction? Could I use your
- > name and your current hometown in the paper?
- >
- > If so, just send me an e-mail.
- >
- > Thanks,
- > Dave Tepps



From: REMARCR@aol.com
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 20:17:56 EST
Subject: Mourning lose of Lasers

Like so many of you I have a hole in my heart. I feel compelled to write as a way of easing my pain. I read the posts on this list every day and it has been such a fun ride to follow the Lasers. My husband and I started following the Lasers this year as a way to deal with the loss of my younger brother who died last year the day after Christmas. I immersed myself in learning who these woman are, loved getting autographs (my husband laughed at me each time, but I will now treasure them even more) loved the passion they play with. Each game I screamed the chants following along with the music and flashing sign. I yelled at the bad calls by the refs as well as yelling and screaming total support for our team. Slowly I felt the grip of grief easing the last month. When I heard the news today, it gripped me again. Not so severe but I realize how much this had come to mean to me. I'm sad for the players and coaches and all involved with this league. It was a great ride.
Becky

From: OGLady@aol.com
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 20:20:12 EST

Subject: re:can't speak

I am so glad that I did not have the radio on today cause I would not have been able to continue working at my customer's hoose!!! I am lost for words--I had no idea on Sunday and now it is Tuesday evening--the OG Lady is hell I will always be the OG Lady and I will be at the gathering on Sunday Dec 27 wherever it may be. I can't imagine how the players, coaches, staff, and all the people who volunteered their service feel. I have many tears in my eyes OG Lady

From: Dana Stewart <DStewart@pinnaclesys.com> To: OgLady@aol.com, Lasersfans@elf.net
Subject: RE: can't speak
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 17:20:45 -0800

But remember...Section 3 will always live on, no matter where we are, right?
And you were just getting so close to doing the splits :)

Date: 22 Dec 1998 17:28:34 -0800
From: "Ducky Sherwood" <ducky@webfoot.com> To: lasersfans@elf.net
Subject: Lasersfans

I plan on keeping on this list! Where else am I going to find people to play ball with? My foot is feeling better....

Date: 22 Dec 1998 17:29:50 -0800
From: "Ducky Sherwood" <ducky@webfoot.com> To: lasersfans@elf.net
Subject: re: Sunday

I would also like to get together to celebrate the good times that Lasers' ball brought us. I also think a cold, dark parking lot is suboptimal.

Date: 22 Dec 1998 17:33:00 -0800
From: "Ducky Sherwood" <ducky@webfoot.com> To: lasersfans@elf.net
Subject: Tree please phone



I heard that Katryna Gaither was a CS major. If so, and if someone on this list can get to her.... my husband works at Adobe, and I believe he is still looking for some junior programmers. Have her pass me her resume and I'll see what I can do.

Date: 22 Dec 1998 17:33:42 -0800
From: "Ducky Sherwood" <ducky@webfoot.com> To: lasersfans@elf.net
Subject: merchandise

Hey, Lasers front office! Got a bunch of merchandise? Get it to the party on Sunday -- wherever that is -- and I bet it will sell out!

From: HerMaj@aol.com
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 20:43:21 EST
Subject: Keep the team together

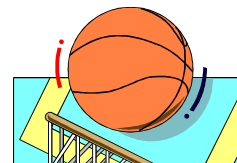
Three cheers for having a rally etc. BUT THINK ABOUT THIS....HOW TO KEEP TEAM TOGETHER.....HAVE THEM BE LADY WARRIORS....YEAR I HATE THAT BUT HAVING THE LASERS STAY TOGETHER AND MOVE TO OAKLAND....YEA A TOUGH LOSS FOR S.J. BUT I ATTEND FROM SAN FRANCISCO....WHAT MIGHT BE IMPORTANT IS KEEP THEM TOGETHER AS A TEAM SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO YELL FOR THEM..... LOTS OF COMPLEXITIES HERE...BUT E-mail warriors/ e-mail Jerry Brown the mayor of oakland to be....e-mail wnba and say keep a presences in bab area...better

than no team at all.

Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 11:55:29 +1000
From: Nev <envy@uq.net.au>
Subject: Re: Lasersfans list

This is good news, that the list will stay active, and will allow the great people on the list to continue building things for the good of the community and women's basketball.

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 18:19:07 -0800
From: Deborah Dixon <dixons1@pacbell.net>
Subject: Re: Laser reaction



Sure, but I can't stop with a few sentences. I'm in Santa Clara BTW.

At the end of the first season I took my teenage son to a game. Initially, he didn't want to watch 'girls' play. That changed with the first game and I became a season ticket holder last year largely because of his interest.

The Lasers and Lasers fans became like a family to us and this feels exactly like a death in the family. I met some great people. People who pulled together to bring Kedra Holland-Corn's HS coach to one of last year's playoff games. Why? Because we thought it was a nice thing to do and just wanted to see the look of surprise on Kedra's face. We weren't disappointed. We raised the money for that so quickly we decided to see how much we could raise to send girls to Azzi's camp. We sent at least six and had already started raising money for this year's camps. Why? Because the Lasers and the ABL were about providing role models and opportunities for girls and we wanted to help.

Many of us gave more than money to this league. We gave our time and efforts by volunteering at camps, during the games, and at community events. We distributed flyers, schedules, and posters. And we never felt used or taken advantage of because we believed in the league and its principles. It was a grassroots effort that allowed the fans and players to participate as equals. We didn't just support the ABL. We WERE the ABL just as much as the office staff, ABL founders and players were and today's events leave us feeling awfully empty. This is something that fans of other leagues can't fathom. A corporate suit plunking down \$200 for a ticket is the same to the NBA as anyone else. Some kid wants an autograph from his or her idol? Too bad. That wasn't the ABL.

I'm the first to admit I'm idealistic. I really wanted this league to work because they respected the athletes, paid them decent wages and benefits, and didn't make them wait until the boys were through playing before giving them access to the arenas. It was egalitarian. There were no 'personal appearance' contracts that paid some players six figures while the rank and file made \$15k.

It's disheartening for me to realize that money and influence talk. I mean I know it, but don't want to admit it because to do so leaves me seriously concerned that the little guy, or girl, can ever win regardless of how good their product is or how virtuous they are. I really believe that without the NBA jumping to form the wnba and putting pressure on TV networks to shut out the ABL, this league would have survived. I find it ironic that the ABL will be getting TV and print coverage now, but these same stations couldn't be bothered to cover the games. ESPN's already given more coverage today than they did of any game.

I have the utmost respect for all the players of the ABL, but especially Azzi, Teresa Edwards, Val Still, Rizzotti and others who committed to the league on principle. They could get more money in the wnba, but that wasn't what they were interested in. Where do you find those role models these days?

I left work early today. I didn't want to risk sitting at my desk crying while my co-workers wondered what was wrong with me. I also had to break the news to my son before he heard it on

TV. It was very difficult to do because for most of this year he's been doing the game tapes gratis for the team. He got to know the coaches and players and felt like one of them. He also learned that there are some things you do because you believe in the cause. I felt we were contributing to the league's success. Why? Because it was the right thing for us to do.

I really hope the league can re-form for next year or that there's someone out there with money to give to good causes. Guess I'm in denial. After all, that is part of the grief process and most of us Lasers fans are in mourning right now.

There's been some talk already of trying for one last get together before the team and staff disbands. We want them to know what they've meant to us and that we'll miss them. We need to do it for our own peace of mind, too. I'll keep you posted on this.

>
> DaveTepps@aol.com wrote:
> >
> > Would you like to give me a few sentences of your reaction? Could I use your
> > name and your current hometown in the paper?
> >
> > If so, just send me an e-mail.
> >
> > Thanks,
> > Dave Tepps



From: PennyHluv1@AOL.COM
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 21:20:28 EST
Subject: DEVASTATED

I POSTED THIS ON THE ABL FAN FORUM BUT I KNWO A LOT OF PEOPLE ON THIS LIST DON'T VISIT THAT SITE...

I am just devastated by this news. How are you fans coping with this? I am also a WNBA Liberty season ticket holder, so I still have women's b-ball to watch, but it's not the same. I am sickened. I just became a Blizzard season ticket holder this season and was LOVING every single game and the "grassroots" ABL style and great play. I was just calling to buy new ABL gear for Christmas and was eagerly awaiting the Christmas Day FSN game and the next Blizz home game on January 2 against Colorado. I am just so upset. We all figured this would happen eventually, but that can never prepare you for when the bankruptcy announcement is made. How is everyone dealing with this? I can't think of anything to make myself feel better.

What is going to happen to all the players. I don't mean just the superstars like Jennifer Azzi and Natalie Williams, but the less-known players that I love to watch like Angela Aycock, La'Keisha Frett, Dale Hodges and Falisha Wright.

And what about players like Adrienne Goodson, Shalonda Enis, and Tari Phillips. Will they be stars in the WNBA or will we never hear about them again?

I loved the ABL and I will always remember all my great experiences...

- Jacqueline

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 18:25:20 -0800
From: Deborah Dixon <dixons1@pacbell.net> Organization: Pacific Bell Internet Services X-Mailer:
Subject: Re: Lasersfans list

Great. Thanks, Lisa. I really think we need someplace to vent and share our feelings.

From: "Lisa Reiss" <lreiss@ix.netcom.com> To: <HerMaj@aol.com>
Subject: Re: Bad news very bad news



Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 18:46:47 -0800

I believe in the principles of entrepreneurialism. I support the little guy. I went to a wnba game in Sacto and was extremely disappointed with the quality of play and the cost of the tickets. Also it was quite impersonal. There was much more to the ABL and the Lasers than bball, I really have no interest in supporting the NBA in any way shape or form. It will never have the substance or quality of the ABL. What the ABL had was intangible. The wnba will always be second best, left overs and a cheap imitation dressed in a summer dress. As long as the NBA relegates the women to the off season they will be off my list.

Lisa Reiss
email: lreiss@ix.netcom.com

From: "Lisa Reiss" <lreiss@ix.netcom.com> To: <EJcyclist@aol.com>, <lasersfans@elf.net> Subject: Re: Farewell to our Lasers
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 18:49:12 -0800

I would vote for sooner rather than later, Sunday around 1pm would be ok with me. Also I vote for an indoor venue, how about the Tied House or Peggy Sue's downtown. Peggy Sue's may not be big enough though they do deserve our business as they were periodic game sponsors of the Lasers. Also they make great burgers.



What does everyone else think?

Lisa Reiss
email: lreiss@ix.netcom.com

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 18:59:51 -0800
From: Deborah Dixon <dixons1@pacbell.net> Organization: Pacific Bell Internet Services X-Mailer: Subject: TV news

Gosh, we were just on channel 4 for about 5 minutes. Imagine that! Complete with a report from in front of the Lasers office. First time I've EVER seen that on the news. Where was KRON when we needed a local TV contract? Oh right! NBC carries wnba games. Probably didn't want to buck the NBA. And gee, I wonder if their reporter understands why the wnba has those larger crowds and network TV deals?



Weyerman was shown carrying a box from the office. He looked really shocked. Makes me wonder who's on the board and what the vote was to shut this down. Anyone know the board makeup?

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 19:14:26 -0800
From: Deborah Dixon <dixons1@pacbell.net> Organization: Pacific Bell Internet Services X-Mailer: Subject: Re: Farewell to our Lasers

Hey, Etheridge, don't apologize for the anger. I'm sure most of us are feeling the same way. I know I am. Safeway (NBA) used every underhanded means available and just forced Mom and Pop (ABL) out of business and I don't like it one bit.

Kyle and I will meet anytime, anywhere, altho I think it should be somewhere indoors. Anyone (Gay) know if the office will be open next week? I'd think the players and coaches would have to come back to get their things, close out apartments and that sort of stuff. Maybe someone with access to the office can suggest a day when the players will all be in the area.

I'm for the fans meeting this weekend to commiserate, maybe even at a local college game. SJSU isn't playing until the 30th. Anyone else playing this weekend or are they all on winter break? Anyone want to do this?

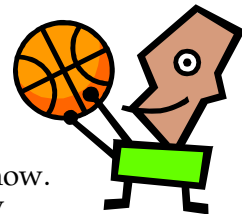
From: "Mark Sanderl" <mrsanderl@earthlink.net> To: <LasersFans@elf.net>
Subject: Utter shock and disappointment Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 19:18:00 -0800

I have been numb all afternoon since learning that the ABL has ceased operations I supported this league from the beginning and am now bitter and quite upset with the NBA and WNBA These two organizations, using their marketing and television strongholds, have driven the ABL (a great, honest, growing, grass roots league dedicated to) right out of business And the NBA really knows what they are doing - look at the current situation and lack of games! But let's remember that the old boys network was nice enough to let the WNBA teams and players use their idle arenas, colors, and similar names during the summer to offer over-priced women's basketball I am sure the fans really appreciate this. I lived in the Bay Area up until May and have continued to follow the Lasers through the papers and this fanlist. Now that I am living here in southern California, I don't ever think I can bring myself to attend a WNBA or NBA game from this day forward. Sure, I love basketball, and will stay faithful to worthy teams - such as my local high school and college teams. May the NBA and WNBA executives rot for letting their true greed and super egos ruin a great thing - the ABL REMARCR@aol.com

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 22:27:21 EST
Subject: Re: Farewell to our Lasers

We are out of town due to the holiday this weekend. I'm in favor of 1/24 but I appreciate the fact that people may have needed to move on. I'm glad this list was available to share what I was feeling today. So many people expressed the sadness, shock and anger of hearing the news. I don't think you need to apologize Etheridge for venting your anger. Venting and sharing is healthy and helpful. We have been sharing all the good things the last few weeks. Being in the top of our conference etc. Now is the time to support each other in our grief. I realized after reading my own 'morning the loss' e-mail how selfish I felt, like I was wallowing in my own self pity instead of thinking about others. But we need to support each other. We all have our own reasons for what the loss means and our own ways of reacting. I'm thankful for this way to express what I'm feeling. It's helping me to read all of yours. Becky

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 19:31:34 -0800
From: Deborah Dixon <dixon1@pacbell.net> Organization: Pacific Bell
Subject: Re: Utter shock and disappointment



Mark, I gotta agree with you. I feel a lot of bitterness toward the NBA right now. Maybe we're too idealistic, but I'd rather be like this than someone with lousy principles. I'll be going to a lot of college games now. There's no longer any pro women's league as far as I'm concerned.

From: REMARCR@aol.com
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 22:31:48 EST
Subject: Re: TV news

KGO had the longest coverage I've ever seen on TV tonight. It's pathetic it comes so late and for the wrong reason.

From: Teresa Feiock <teresa@theshakers.org>
Subject: What the Lasers mean to our family

My family got hooked on women's basketball 2 years ago when my daughter started playing in 3rd grade. We started with Stanford, watched some WNBA TV games 2 summers ago, went to some Lasers games last year and bought season tickets this year. We volunteered at some Lasers events, got involved in the Laser Beam Team scholarship Fund, I went to Fantasy Camp and Ariel went to Jennifer Azzi's camp last summer. We have gone to Fan Club meetings, watched and

taped every game on TV and listened to all the away games on the radio. We have passed out posters, pocket schedules and flyers to many people, and taken our friends to the games. We have also written countless emails to TV and radio stations and the Merc and Chron to get them to improve coverage-make that provide coverage.

We are feeling very strongly this death in our family. Doug and I, like Deborah Dixon, felt we needed to "break the news" to our daughter, Ariel. She cried for a very long time, at first in her dad's arms (I was at work) then in her room. Since I was at work, I had to save my tears for the ride home, where I heard the demise of the ABL announced in the NPR news headlines. I never heard a game result announced here.

A very strong memory for us is the last game of last season, where all us fans stood and chanted "LA-SERS, LA-SERS" for the last 2 minutes of the game. That is the family I will miss-right there in the Event Center, rooting for our beloved Lasers.

I also remember the TV game we all watched at the Boardwalk, where we met Liz/Tex (Kedra's high school coach) in person for the first time. Many of us also met each other in person for the first time at that game-name tags bearing email addresses as well as names. After that weekend, Liz and I exchanged some wonderful emails about kids and basketball, and I will always remember her. Ariel still has one message from Liz that we refer to as the "Liz letter". It helps us during basketball challenges, as well as many of life's other challenges.

I always felt tongue-tied and in awe of all the Lasers, which always cracked me up, considering I'm old enough to be the mother of most of them (but not all!). I think that kind of role-reversal is good every once in awhile.

I will continue to support women's basketball. I think there is too much momentum with the "Meeks" coming up from college, as well as many other very fine players. A phoenix will rise from these ashes, and it won't look like either the ABL or the WNBA. It will be better, and I just hope there is a team on this side of the bay.

GO LASERS!!!! Teresa and family

- Teresa Feiock
email: teresa@theshakers.org
voice: 1-650-854-9793
fax: 1-650-854-2557



Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 20:03:44 -0800
Subject: Re: Jennifer on TV

Hi, I am a Reign fan who has been lurking on your list for quite awhile. Earlier today I posted the following message to the Reign Fan Forum and to an informal Reign e-mail list. I just can't help but think that if we all do some brainstorming, we could come up with some unexplored possibilities. Is anyone on this list a lawyer? Maybe he/she could offer some advice. There was also a suggestion on the ABL Fan Forum about forming a club league for the short term. How did the Harlem Globetrotters begin? Could we take any ideas from their organization?

Fellow fans -

I can't help but feel there must be some way we can help salvage this situation. The Reign was turning a profit. The Lasers have the most organized, motivated fan base I have ever seen. Perhaps we can organize some sort of player/personnel/fan cooperative to keep at least the west coast alive until the end of the season. What about forming a non-profit?- there's an unheard-of idea in professional sports. We could step up the role of the players as mentors, clinics for kids, etc. What about involving kids in every aspect of the organization? It could include a Junior Achievement-type component where kids could learn about organizing and running a business. They could learn what it means to be on a team. They could learn what it means to work for something you really believe in. There are plenty of sports organizations that do not get tv coverage and manage to survive - minor leagues etc. I'm not saying for the long haul, but maybe

we could do something to keep the players in their jobs at least for a few more months. I don't have a background in business, but if anyone is interested in brainstorming and exploring possibilities, let's at least give it a try. I think a very small minority of fans come to this forum, but we know that the Reign has some high-level supporters who may be able to help us think of new alternatives. Let's take the ABL's grass-roots philosophy to the next level. We don't need a world with a woman's league made in the image of the NBA. We need a world with women and men's teams made in the image of the ABL, or in whatever new image we form out of our passion and dedication to women, to basketball, to kids, to equality, for a better world. (Yes, I know it's just a sport, but I think the spirit of the ABL was something new and special.)

If you would like me to organize a meeting, please e-mail me.

Date: 23 Dec 1998 04:05:43 -0000
Subject: Thank You!



I've been sitting here all day with today's news on my mind and it still hasn't really set in.

Like all of you, I have a mindful of memories that have come rushing back as the hours have passed.

The day that we became involved with this franchise, they didn't have a name and only had one table in their new office in Plain City. Starting that day, SportsNet Ohio has been involved with this team everyday.

Today is truly a sad day for all of us at SportsNet Ohio, both as partners and fans of the Quest.

Al and I were the driving force behind the Quest site, but there are others in our organization who were so helpful to the development and maintenance of this site and I know they feel sadness today as well.

Thanks from all of us at SNO to the players for being so receptive to this idea. In 1996, Andrea Lloyd was our biggest supporter. When everybody doubted that this site could succeed, it was Andee and Jim Day who stood behind us and justified our existence. Thanks for that.

Val, Tonya, Katie, Shannon, Sonja, Angie, Lisa, Latina, Shanele, Beverly, Markita, Traci, Pashen, Carol Ann, Cass, La'Shawn, and Nikki...Thank you for putting up with stupid questions and requests and doing it with a smile. Best of luck to each of you in your futures.

Thank you to Brian and Robin Agler...you both did so much with so little support from the league.

Shawn Robinson...you stepped into some huge shoes and were just coming into your own. Best of luck to you in the future.

Mike Vogt, thanks for your sense of humor and your willingness to answer the most bizarre medical questions. Keep snoring...

Tracy Peck, though you left last season, thank you for your unbelievable cynicism and humor.

To the game day Crew, including Emiele and the stat geeks and the Quilly's, best of luck in your futures.

Thanks to all the fans, who Emailed us with support all the time, sent us criticisms sometimes, but always stood behind the Columbus Quest.

Anyone that I forgot, I apologize. There were just so many who believed.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to Jim Day for his work in the first two years of the franchise. A lot of people don't know just how important you were to this team. Without you, we never would have made it to today. You're the best in the business, Jim. Because I said so!



Goodbye, Quest. I'll never forget the experience.

Fair Winds and Following Seas...

For the last time,

Shane Murphy, Administrator, ColumbusQuest.com August 1996 - December 1998

From: Sunbeam105@aol.com
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 23:13:07 EST
Subject: flooded

Hello all,
I have always been a member of this list but have never replied. I think you are all the definition of Die Hard fans! The kind of fans that keep a fire going.....like when the 49ers were losing all of those years. They called the fans the 49er faithful .
I know our team wasn't losing but we all were faithful and in a way we were losing because....come on, you have to have lots of money to compete with the NBA .

I will hold on to my memories of seeing a friend that I haven't seen in years.
Of feeling comfortable putting my arm around my girlfriend and rooting for a team that has what it takes to be champions.

Having Angela Beck for a coach was the best move that the Lasers management ever made.
She has the best record ever at Nebraska for wins....We see her on the side lines....when she takes that jacket off we know the game is getting close and we get crazy with her.....

It may be goodbye ABL ...but we now have high expectations for Women's Basketball thanks to Angela Beck and the San Jose Lasers.

Date: 23 Dec 1998 04:16:20 -0000
Subject: List, site will remain...



Quest Fans Mailing List - <http://www.columbusquest.com>

FYI:

We will keep this list operating for as long as there is still Quest related traffic. I know that many of you wish to organize farewell get-togethers and such, so I don't want to take away your communication tool.

The site will remain as well, though I'll probably just archive everything and leave the rest alone.

Anyone have suggestions on what to do with 2.3 years of game reports?

Shane

Subject: Fwd: Tree please phone
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 21:38:52 -0700
Barbara Havens <bhavens@pacbell.net

I think Ducky has a great idea!

There are undoubtedly hundreds of us fans out there in every industry you can imagine. All of us have contacts and I'm positive would be more than glad to pass on resumes and try to arrange interviews for anyone affected by this devastating loss - players, coaches, staff etc.

My profession is in manufacturing and I have contacts in all areas of that field - production, purchasing, materials management, production control, finance, sales, program management, engineering, quality, test, documentation, administration, human resources, information systems, etc.
etc.

Please feel free to contact me if these are areas of interest for anyone.

From: Doug Shaker <doug@theshakers.org>
Subject: Here are some of the things I remember...

It has been a sad afternoon at our house. Here are some of the things about the Lasers that help me remember why they were and are the greatest:

Laurie Byrd going back into the locker room to get Azzi's autograph for a child that wanted it. Doing it happily, without jealousy or pique, to please a child.

The fans chipping in money to bring Kedra's coach out to a game from Texas.

Jennifer Azzi sitting graciously talking with my daughter at a Stanford game.

Kedra Holland-Corn buying clothing for a family she read about in the San Jose Mercury. Kedra having the courage and confidence to testify on her web page about the spiritual connections she relies on.

Sheri Sam standing up for women's basketball at a sports auction and driving the bidding for the ABL jersey up to par with the men's jersey.

Charlotte Smith standing and proudly singing the national anthem at a game.

Joan Baez singing "American the Beautiful" (with a few strategic modifications) to open the Laser home season.

The fans at the end of the 1997-98 season, chanting "La-sers! La-sers!" after the last playoff game was lost and after the clock had run out.

They are world-class, talented, basketball players. But the things that I remember and prize them for have more to do with their pride, their compassion, their generosity of spirit, and the bond they forged with their fans.

-Doug Shaker (Teresa Feiock's husband)

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 21:00:44 -0800
From: Carolyn Terrill cterrill@unix.sri.com
Subject: The Loss of the ABL and the Lasers



What a devastating loss we have all experienced today. I am having a very hard time keeping my mind on anything else since I first heard the news today that the league is folding. I found that hard to explain that to any of my co-workers because I wouldn't have believed myself that I would feel this lost. All of your messages have helped me to know that I am not alone in what I am feeling. Even though I played basketball in high school, I was never much of a basketball fan until the ABL came along and then I was hooked!!! I am going to miss all of you - Angela, Bobbie, Tamara, Jennifer, Charlotte, Sheri, Clo, Mach, Kedra, and all the fans that I have come to know in the last three years. I will miss the Reign, the Power, the Rage, and even the Quest. I will miss being able to see Anita return to play in San Jose. I hope that in some form or another, women's professional basketball can return to San Jose - but it would never replace that special feeling I have about the Lasers! I would love to attend a get together but will be out of town this weekend.

Carolyn Terrill

From: Sweedie1@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 00:18:30 EST
Subject: Lasers

The players gathered at center court, turned, and as always waved goodbye to their loyal fans.....
I am so very sad.....
pkn

From: "Chris Lefever" <c_lefever@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: We're done....
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 21:24:30 PST

Quest Fans Mailing List - <http://www.columbusquest.com>

I would like to say thanks to all the Quest players for letting me be a part of their family. They were definitely the class act of the ABL. Battelle Hall will always be like a second home. They may be able to take the team from us, but they will never strip us of our memories of two Championship seasons. The Quest will live in our hearts forever.

Gary Cavelli is the true "Grinch who Stole Christmas"

From: BROCHE545@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 00:27:00 EST
Subject: news



Various tv stations have been out interviewing fans.
Check Ch 4 and 7
I am trying to remembering all the good things of the Lasers' along with the sadness of today. We have had such a good time....new friends, fun times...

From: OgLady@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 00:27:42 EST
Subject: re: coverage

Well, the ABL has been getting a lot of coverage, check tonite chan 4,5 and especially 7 OG Lady

From: Sharon Crawford <Sharon@scribes.com>
Subject: RE: What the Lasers mean to our family
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 21:29:59 -0800

>>A very strong memory for us is the last game of last season, where all us fans stood and chanted "LA-SERS, LA-SERS" for the last 2 minutes of the game.<<

I remember this too...it was a very very powerful moment. I cry thinking about it. How much I loved...love the players, the team, the whole experience.

From: OgLady@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 00:57:11 EST
Subject: re: still can't believe it

I am not anger with anyone I just feel for the players, ABL coaches and anyone who was

associated with this league. If it wasn't for Section 3 row K, L, M, N, seats 14, 13, 12, 11, there would never have been an OG Lady. Thru their support and many other fans, you all helped me to blossom to be more out-going. Boy, do I remember my first game, opening game of the 1st year and my section klmn kept encouraging me to go down there and get the cheer going like they do at Stanford games. And they suggesting I do flips!! When I tried to do a cartwheel and it ended up to be a "leap frog". But every game nite I got better, from leap from to "helicopter spins" and then finally to a somewhat cartwheel!! I have a smile on my face now, just thinking back to the beginning days of the Lasers games and how things came about, how much reward I have gotten from the Lasers, friendships and better basketball skills due to 2 fantasy camps I attended. This year at fantasy camp, someone mentioned to me that I was more aggressive. Hell, last year I got run over all the time!!!! Maybe with all this going on--something good will happen, I hope, but to everyone out there, keep the faith. If the WNBA does come to Oakland, I will try to attend games but right now I would not buy season tixs. We still need to support women's professional basketball and other sports too.
OG Lady with a tear in the eyes now



From: BlueSchuy@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 01:07:08 EST
Subject: The end of the ABL

What a rotten birthday present. I'm just glad that I got to watch the Lasers play on TV over the weekend.

I'm agreeing with the people who have posted about not supporting the WNBA, because they are a lot of the reason that the ABL was unable to get television coverage. I went to a WNBA game once in Charlotte, NC, and was stuck up in the boonies, watching a bunch of little ants running around on the court, and there was no way that they were going to let the wicked fans anywhere near the precious players for autographs. Not my idea of a good time. At the same time, I want professional basketball to exist for women in the US. I'd like to have the option of going to a pro game, although it's not very darn likely that I'll be doing so in the future. I want to support the ABL players who do choose to play in the WNBA, but I think that I'll be attending more local college games because I just can't stomach the idea of the "enemy" right now. And just to be spiteful, I hope the stupid NBA lockout continues for the ENTIRE season!!!

I was very excited about attending the All-Star game next month. The plane tickets are purchased and the motel room is reserved, so I'm taking suggestions about things to do/see in San Jose for a short weekend visit from any of you. San Jose will still be a great place to go in order to get away from an Iowa winter, but I sure would rather be going to the game.

Also, if anyone is able to get Lasers merchandise, I'd like a t-shirt or sweatshirt with the Lasers logo in XXL or XL.

Thanks to all of you for all of your efforts toward helping the league make it, and GO ABL PLAYERS!

Joanne

From: "leslie shapiro" <chelsea131@hotmail.com>
Subject: Shocking news...
Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 22:13:29 PST

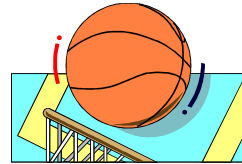
To Quest fans from a Reign fan,
Just wanted to send my deepest sympathy from Seattle. We Reign fans are in utter and complete shock over the end of the ABL. Are you all having a rally or anything? We are trying to meet at the sight of our next scheduled game (the Key Arena, where the NBA usually plays).
Yours in heartbreak,
Leslie Shapiro
Seattle, Wa

From: EJcyclist@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 01:54:50 EST
Subject: farewell

So far it seems that most people want some place inside. I have seen suggestions for the Tied House and Peggy Sues. I don't know how big those places are and if we do this in the day time it shouldn't be a problem but I don't know the rules for kids at the Tied House in the evenings. Most people seem to like sometime around noon on Sunday 12/27. A few people have mentioned Jan 24th. That might be a good idea if we can get the players here. I also like that day because there could be farewells in the 9 ABL cities on the same day and hopefully the players could be at each and every farewell. Of course I don't think we have to pick one day to the exclusion of the other. We could do both. Personally I would like Super Bowl Sunday but I don't know how many others would be willing to miss that game.

Etheridge
PS would someone please explain to me what a rent party is?

From: EJcyclist@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 02:01:50 EST
Subject: young ladies



This is for all those young ladies who are Laser/ABL fans and participants in sports looking forward to possible professional sports careers. For me this is quite devastating and I am hurt and angry. Some of you may be wondering if pro sports for you will even be a possibility. Remember this is only a setback. There are many people like myself who will strive to see fairness in sports and other areas of life for women and girls. Keep up with you dreams and play hard. Learn all you can in sports AND academics. Don't take no for an answer and remember what I told and still tell my daughter (she is now 19). Never let anyone tell you, "You have to..." and never let anyone tell you, "You can't..."
Etheridge

From: MtnBikeGrl@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 02:04:31 EST
Subject: goodbye my friends

I will miss the Lasers and all of the games. The games have always been a way for me to see friends that I would not normally see. I am glad that the last memory I will have of the Lasers is of Katryna Gaither signing a press photo that had headshots of the entire team and coaching staff. She had came out after dressing and signed the picture, she noticed that the entire team had not signed it asked if she could borrow my pen and took it into the locker room. About 5 minutes later she emerged with all of the players and coaches signatures on it. She then stood around talking to me and my cousin. When I got home I told a friend of mine who had a bad experience at a WNBA game trying to get an autograph (from a not so well known player). I will miss you Lasers past and present.

I have not yet been to a WNBA game and I will not go this year, unless ABL players are playing for them.

From: JSwit61074@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 02:05:10 EST
Subject: Our Lasers



Hi Laser Fans,

I am so glad that we have this site to get together and express our feelings of loss. I feel so sad as though someone died and I guess that about says it all. When I first read about the ABL in the Mercury I contacted the person who wrote the article to get information on who to call for season

tickets and haven't looked back. Unlike some of you I am an eternal optimist and thought they would make it--how could they lose with Jennifer Azzi, Teresa Edwards, Natalie Williams, Kedra Holland-Corn and all the other wonderful players.

Some of these young women I had never seen play before and was blown away by their talent. I wish there was some way to properly thank these players and let them know how very much we enjoyed them. I will continue to support women's sports in anyway that I can. I was a part of section 3 and enjoyed every minute of it. It was such fun to see the OG lady become a very proficient cheerleader. We were the loudest section in the whole Event Center and proud of it. I will miss the people that were my seat mates there. My husband became a very avid fan and enjoyed the games as much as I did--we will miss the outings to watch these amazing young women athletes.

I'm glad that this E-mail site will remain as long as we use it. I feel so sorry for these wonderful players having to deal with this at this holiday season.

Jean

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 23:39:40 -0800 (PST)

From: joan@hoopgirls.com (Joan)

Subject: Boo hoo!

How sad am I? When I saw that the ABL folding was the #2 story tonight on Fox's 10pm news (after a 4 alarm fire in San Francisco), and then they showed clips of the Lasers playing and Kedra getting into her car, I actually cried. And I never cry when I don't have PMS! I can't believe they couldn't wait four lousy days, so that the players could have a decent holiday. I guess we'll have to hope that the WNBA decides to lengthen its season and use the big ball and expand to a team in Oakland and have Angela Beck as the coach and the Lasers as the players and Klik as the mascot...The sad truth is, if this were the WNBA, the season would be just about over now, anyway. I will be doing a final ABL issue of Hoop Girls as an homage to the Lasers and other ABL players that I loved to watch, although I find it very depressing. So much for my exciting plans of staying home and watching the ABL on FoxSports Net on Christmas Day. But I don't really feel sorry for me; it's the players who really must be having a hard time. I hope they know how much joy they've brought to all of us -- I'm thankful that we got to see as many exciting Lasers games as we did this season. They really knew how to keep us on the edge of our seats. This is truly a sad day in history. And now I have to go back to retail hell.

Cheers,
Joan

P.S.I have six tickets to the All-Star game (and they weren't cheap ones, either) -- does anyone know if there is even a glimmer of a possibility that they could possibly still play that one? (I doubt it, but I'd hate to send them back for a refund and then find out they were going to play after all.)

Date: Tue, 22 Dec 1998 23:44:21 -0800

From: Deborah Dixon <dixons1@pacbell.net> Organization: Pacific Bell Internet Services X-Mailer:

Subject: Re: farewell

What's the Super Bowl? All I've been doing in the fall and winter for the past 2 years is the ABL. We don't need no stinkin' Super Bowl!

EJcyclist@aol.com wrote:

- >
- > So far it seems that most people want some place inside. I have seen
- > suggestions for the Tied House and Peggy Sues. I don't know how big those
- > places are and if we do this in the day time it shouldn't be a problem but I
- > don't know the rules for kids at the Tied House in the evenings. Most people
- > seem to like sometime around noon on Sunday 12/27. A few people have
- > mentioned Jan 24th. That might be a good idea if we can get the players here.



- > I also like that day because there could be farewells in the 9 ABL cities on
- > the same day and hopefully the players could be at each and every farewell.
- > Of course I don't think we have to pick one day to the exclusion of the other.
- > We could do both. Personally I would like Super Bowl Sunday but I don't know
- > how many others would be willing to miss that game.
- > Etheridge
- > PS would someone please explain to me what a rent party is?
- >

From: Teresa Feiock teresa@theshakers.org
 Subject: Lasers/ABL on TV

Well, I saw Amy Love and the Real Sports office on channel 4 I saw Allison, Arlene and Suzie-Q on channel 7 (and the reporter also showed the Real Sports magazine) I saw a bit on channel 2 but nothing on 5. It must have just been my timing. Did anybody see anything on 5?

And of course all these were under news, not sports.

Arlene spoke to someone at the Tied House who says we can meet there. I will follow up tomorrow and get back to the list. The manager said afternoon would be good on Sun because they are not too busy. As long as we don't order any food ahead of time there is no minimum charge. They can handle 200 people. So I will get more details as to a preferred time that works for them and will also allow children to participate and post back some time tomorrow.

I also like the idea of another gathering on Jan. 24. We can tackle that after the New Year.

I will also contact the ABL Charities office and see where we stand with the Beam Team Scholarship. We still have lots of shirts available, and I heard that Jennifer had her camp dates set last week. Perhaps she will go ahead with her camp, and perhaps Sheri and Angela will do the same. If not, there are camps at Santa Clara, SJ State (I think) and Stanford. We can sponsor some kids at one or more of those camps.

I also have an idea regarding autographs. You know how we are always getting autographs from the players? How would you like the opportunity to give your autograph to the team? I was thinking of printing out many of the messages on the list, compiling them into 14 books (the 10 roster players, plus LaToya, Angela, Bobbie and Tamara) with a bunch of blank pages that can be autographed by the fans. We can collect autographs at the party on Sun and give them the books that day or some other time if they are not present. Of course, it would be nice if you made a contribution to the scholarship fund for each of your autographs! We will also try to bring some of the Beam Team shirts to the party. Let me know what you think. Teresa

- Teresa Feiock
 email: teresa@theshakers.org
 voice: 1-650-854-9793
 fax: 1-650-854-2557

From: "Stoeckle" <STOECKLE@worldnet.att.net> To: <Lasersfans@elf.net>
 Subject: Message from Klik :)
 Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 00:37:32 -0800



Dearest Lasers Fans--
 I'm sure you've all seen me dancin' around the event center and the arena...I wanted to tell you how much you truly meant to me. I'm crying as I type this, thinking about the smiles on the children's faces, dancing in the stands, watching your faces light up, and really feeling apart of the Lasers family. You all are truly wonderful, I thank you for your love, high-fives, hugs, kisses, and smiles. I was truly blessed to be surrounded by your sweetness. It really feels like a family-loss, if you can imagine the feelings that would come over me as I stood next to the greats --Azzi, Sam, the rest of the Laser family-- who were all willing to give me high-fives in their opening line-ups (most players don't really include the

mascots in a lot of their actions). It was amazing to be in their huddles - before and after the games - to hear the love for the game in their voices, and the sincerity of trying to make you all proud of them. If you don't already know it, we love your support. You may not know, but I have read all of your comments on this list--from the blonde hair chaos, to my sign language with the kids. I will be out of town for the "semi-planned Lasers get together" on Sunday, but please kiss your children's foreheads for me tonight, tell them that I'll miss them, and keep on dancing! Thank you all so much!
--Klik

Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 02:44:20 -0800
From: sar@netscape.com (Sarah Broadwell) Organization: Build/Release
Subject: Re: Message from Klik :)

Ah ha! that's why Klik's hair is green this year! lol!

more seriously, though. I was nervous about the mascot uniform when it was first unveiled, but I think you gave it the life it needed to make Klik something/someone that I came to depend on as part of the games. Thank-you for all your wonderful spirit. And thanks for unveiling yourself now so that we can thank you in person.

Thanks
--sarah

From: TXKrause@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 10:48:26 EST
Subject: Re: What the Lasers mean to our family X-Mailer: AOL 4.0 for Windows 95 sub 214 X-

I am almost too sad to reply.
Thanks for your memories.



From: Cathi Clark <cclark@hardingmarcom.com>
Subject: Re: Keep the team together
I agree with this one. I went home early last night from work and just sat like a zombie for 3 hours. Mourning, like it was a death in the family, which it is!! I read all the posts here and began to think that even though I shutter to ponder that the WNBA will take over and some players may be playing in that league, at least there is still women's basketball and maybe I should try to rethink this out. IT COULD HAPPEN! I adore the San Jose Lasers, Angela Beck and Company and if there was a chance that they could play together in another league...I would jump on that and ride it all they way...Although San Jose is the best place for a new franchise....I would travel to see the Lasers play. I would travel to see even one player from the Lasers play..I would travel to see Angela Beck Coach....to hear her whistle just once more...and Jennifer go over and confer with her during a foul shot...Ohmigosh, I feel so bad. We must stick together....No matter what...wear our Laser gear...support women's bball, no matter what...

Cathi Clark

From: Cathi Clark cclark@hardingmarcom.com
Subject: Re: What the Lasers mean to our family

I feel so much like that too Teresa. You said it all the way. Something will come from this and we will be together again. Regrouping and stronger.. Thanx, you made me feel a little better. I remember all those events you talked about. I was right there with you all. That was the most exciting times of my life...the airport visits seeing the team off and welcoming them back.. Kedra's surprise at seeing her coach. What we did as a group of fans was incredible. We shall rise again. Once more thanx, Teresa.

Cathi Clark

From: Cathi Clark <cclark@hardingmarcom.com>
Subject: Re: Lasers/ABL on TV

I am for anything, anywhere. Thanx for doing this. Good idea.
Cathi

From: "Russel, Charlie" <Charlie@SpearTechnologies.com>
Subject: Memories
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 08:58:59 -0800

It's taken me this long to even try to write anything, but I need to try, so bear with me, please. My memories are mostly of people, but also some from the games...

OgLady/SusieQ - The smiles you bring, the smile you have when our side FINALLY gets an OG right. The "cartwheels" that became cartwheels, the almost splits, the look on your face when Klik did a split.

The team - the look on your faces as you came out of the tunnel the first time we all showed up at the airport. The times you lost but still came into the fan club meetings and tried to be positive. Your stories, your joys, your basic goodness.

Sheri - watching her mature as a player and a person. What a star you are.

Jennifer as she pumped her fist after getting fouled AND the shot going in against Marciniak last year.

The Event Center ROCKING as we beat Columbus that first time, in overtime. I was hoarse for days.

Klik - with all the little kids clustered around you, hugging and signing autographs. Mimicking Larry and the other refs. Holding up the Og sign.

The Fans, all of you. The first game this year at the Arena, as everyone came in, trying to find our friends, hugs from people not seen since last year.

The chant of "LAR-RY, LAR-RY" when we had had our fill of awful refs last year. And the chant the game before when we chanted "we want Larry!".
Larry, with a sheepish grin on his face when he blew a call.

Laura Justus - for all the great half time shows.

The Beam Team - what a concept, what a great group of people.

Coach Beck last year when we were 1 and too many, standing in front of the Fan Club, taking her licks and trying to find the positive while so obviously dying inside.

Coach Morse (BigDog!) saying "Well, we only got out rebounded 50 to 40. I was in charge of rebounding tonight."

The last game last year as the crowd chanted LAZ-ERS for the last two minutes, knowing we were eliminated, but cheering OUR team for who and what they are.

Way too many other moments to list or remember all right now.

From: Cathi Clark cclark@hardingmarcom.com
Subject: just checking



I find myself checking my e-mail every 15 minutes now to see if anyone has posted anything new. I am so attached to you guys. I cannot keep the tears away now. I was pretty composed for awhile. Just seems that if there is still a connection via this fan list, there is still a connection, you know? After reading all the posts in the last few hours, I recall all of your memories, all of your experiences, as if we were all one. This will not be the year I remember the President was on trial or impeached. It will be the year I remember the best Women's Pro Basketball League folded and as another fan put it yesterday, the day that basketball died!

Cathi Clark

From: AHLORI@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 12:17:12 EST
Subject: All topics Lasers



Sad tidings my friends,

I feel like many did when JFK was killed. You know how you'll always remember where you were when you heard "the news". Maybe a President didn't die, but something really important to all of us, did. I was on my way back from a late lunch, listening to KCBS on the radio. Thanks goodness I had just pulled into a parking space or I may have wrecked the car from shock. I just sat there - wanting to believe that I misunderstood what I heard. Then I wanted to cry.

My heart breaks for all of us . . . fans, players, coaches and the little girls whose local role models are now just gone from site. Just before leaving for lunch, I had been stopped by one of my co-workers who (is male by the way) coaches his 11 yr old daughters Bball team. I turned him on to the Lasers 2 years ago. He was raving about having recently attending a coaching clinic put on by the Lasers. He was soooo impressed by Angela and the team, etc. He spent about 10 full minutes talking about all that has impressed him. Even his son has some to respect women players (which apparently was no easy task).

As far as the gathering. I would like to see us wait and do it a little later. It will take a little bit of time for everything to become known to us. The announcement yesterday was just the first domino to fall. We need to try and get EVERYONE together to show our love and support, not just our faithful online group (which is awesome). We were wonderfully successful when we planned to bring out Tex (I will always remember the look on Kedra's face that day at the airport - I have a picture of Kedra and I from that day that I will always treasure). This time though, I think we need time to get even more people involved. It will take a while for the Lasers to know what they are going to do next as well.

What about the City of San Jose?? Does anyone have connections? Maybe the City will want to do one last thing to honor their team? We owe it to the whole Lasers family to have our closure done right.

We will be out of town on Sunday, but that's not why I think we should wait. We need to give things a chance to fully unfold over the next week or so.

A very sad Lori (in Scotts Valley)

From: SayCheese3@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 12:19:17 EST
Subject: Wow.....Is this a dream?



I don't believe it. I really don't. It's over. How can it be over, just like that? 3 years, and it's over. Wow. Just our luck, my dad (RAYBRUN) and I were chosen to participate in the father-daughter basketball competition during half-time on the 27th, if we won we would have gotten an All-Star Package, and lodging in San Jose for a night. After they told us that, KNBR said the ABL has suspended all operations. God, how can it be over? I know the 1 1/2 hour drive from Fairfield to San Jose so well. I know every little thing between. I have gone that distance so much, ever since

they started. And now, just suddenly, I'm not going to be doing that every week. I'm not going to do that again. This sucks! I'm like in shock. I just can't believe that it's over. I think it's really going to hit me when I'm spending all my weekend nights at home, instead of in the car on the way to and from a game. If only I'd known that the 20th was my last game ever. Not that it would have made a difference, but maybe we would have been so determined we would have won. I don't know.

I'm just in shock. Well, I don't know how much longer they're going to keep this list up, so I want to thank all of you. Even though I didn't always participate a lot in this, you guys have been wonderful, so thanks. Goodbye.

---Kristy:(

Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 09:58:13 -0800 (PST) From: Diana Wirt <diwirt@svpal.org>
Subject: Re: Place to meet

San Jose Woman's Clubhouse is available this Sunday, and is willing to let the Laser fans use it (some of us members are season ticket holders) for about \$200--the cost of heating, building mgr, etc. It holds 300 seated or 400 standing. That's why I didn't mention it earlier--I figured a couple thousand would show up--virtually everybody who would have attended Sunday's game.

The clubhouse is at 75 S 11th St, between San Fernando and Santa Clara Sts. People could probably park in the SJSU garage at the corner of 10th & San Fernando since school is out. If everyone put in \$1-2, that would cover the rental. There wouldn't be any food unless we bring it. Let me know if you want me to arrange it.

Actually I still like the idea of showing up at the Arena at 6:00 Sunday, in the cold and dark, just to make a big showing. We want the press to use the word "die-hard", right?

Diana Wirt
diwirt@svpal.org
993-1003

From: "Gay Katilius" <gay_kat@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Memories
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 09:59:30 PST

And what about the game where we finally beat Long Beach last year???
What an absolute thrill!! I still can't believe I didn't look up a fraction of a second sooner, in time to catch Sam's warmup jacket, which she threw out at the final buzzer; instead, the guy right in back of me caught it over my right shoulder. Too old, too slow!! (me, I mean!)

Date: 23 Dec 1998 10:06:17 -0800
From: "Ducky Sherwood" <ducky@webfoot.com>
Subject: waking up

This morning, the first thing my husband said to me as he drifted into consciousness and rolled over to me was, "I had this horrible nightmare that the ABL folded..."

From: Rebekah <lasersfan@riddlemaster.com> Subject: My reaction ...

... on waking up this morning in an ABL-less world:

"Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light." --Dylan Thomas

Date: 23 Dec 1998 10:16:28 -0800



From: "Ducky Sherwood" <ducky@webfoot.com>
Subject: autograph book

I *LOVE* the autograph book idea!

What about photos? There are surely some good photos of the fans doing interesting things: Susie-Q, meeting the players at the airport, the TV game at the Boardwalk, etc.

Teresa, if you'd like, I can come up with a photo of Jim&I getting engaged at the Lasers game...

Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 10:19:19 -0800 (PST)
From: jamese@SSA.CO.Santa-Clara.CA.US (Etheridge james)
Subject: the end of a dream

I personally don't agree that the ABL folded. I think that it was assassinated. That was done by the puppets (TV and newspapers) and their puppet masters (NBA). Someone from the press said that they do not influence what people think. Bull----. How many times have any of you gone to work or met with friends and the subject of the conversation was whatever was in the newspaper, on the TV news or maybe something that you heard on the radio on the way to work.

Newspapers definitely influence what we think and talk about.

They ARE biased no matter what they say about objective journalism. there is actually no such animal as completely objective journalism. That is against human nature. We all have biases. As it was said in the article from the Ohio journalist. The Wnba had the money and apparently none of the tv or newspaper executives had the b---- to challenge them. It was their own greed that destroyed the ABL. It wasn't the fans or the lack of their knowledge about what quality basketball is. In this country we are all taught that the media is free and unbiased. It is time to challenge that notion. It is one of the big lies. Right now there are other women's professional leagues gearing up.

Hopefully they will take a lesson from this and get the TV contracts before the puppet masters have a chance to destroy it.

Etheridge



From: "Mark Sanderl" <mrsanderl@earthlink.net>
Subject: A cry from all Laser fans
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 10:21:48 -0800

NO!!!; I am still trying to control my emotions and handle this devastating news; In the spirit of keeping hope alive and rekindling all the fun times I had at ;laser games, I plan on keeping my Laser hat packed away only to be worn during the WNBA season (if they have a season once the players unionize and follow in the footsteps of the big boys; Does anyone have any extra ABL All Star cards handed out at the end of last season; I am especially interested in getting a few Jennifer Azzi cards and would be willing to trade some of my duplicates to finish the set I have almost completed. Please respond/post if you are interested. Thanks to the coaches, players, Laser staff, volunteers, and all the die hard, energetic; An NBA or WNVA should be so lucky to have such terrific fans packing their stands and cheering; The ABL was awesome and no other leagues can match the great product offered!

From: deeann@express.com (DeeAnn Pritchard)
Subject: horrible dream

I had the most horrible nightmare last night. The Lasers moved Oakland and joined the other league. In keeping with that league's tradition of naming its teams after their big brother affiliates, our beloved Lasers became the Golden State Warrior Princesses. It was awful. Klik had morphed into a silicone-implanted, leather clad Xena clone.

And the worst part is that when I woke up, reality was only a slight improvement.

I am so sad about the Lasers and the ABL that I don't have any room left emotionally to support the other league right now. Please don't flame me for it.

DP

Date: 23 Dec 1998 10:30:39 -0800
From: "Ducky Sherwood" <ducky@webfoot.com>
Subject: my husband says....



"I grew up not liking sports. The ABL was the first sport I ever liked."
-- my husband

And that was *before* I proposed to him at a game....

From: "Lynch, Leslie" <Leslie.Lynch@icn.siemens.com>
Subject: A sad sad day indeed
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 10:47:52 -0800

I am sooo stunned and sad.

I can't believe this happened. I was just at the Lasers office yesterday picking up a sweater for my partner. I heard them saying there was a conference call, I heard them saying something about a rumor, and I heard the dreaded word "Bankruptcy". The office staff was locking up to go to lunch. They were recording a message saying that they would be in a staff meeting. I chuckled to myself thinking--ahhh, staff meeting, you guys are going out for a long Christmas lunch. Little did I know, that this would be their last lunch together.

When I heard bankruptcy, I wasn't surprised. I just didn't know it would be so sudden. I'd heard a while back that they probably wouldn't last the season. But I didn't want to be pessimistic, so I kept it to myself.

After I left their office, I went to my company's on-campus store where I had harassed them into setting up a group night for a game in March for us. We have about 1000 employees on-site in Santa Clara, I figured we could sell a lot of tickets for that game. I asked the girl working the counter if we were selling tickets yet. She said no, but she couldn't wait until we did. She hadn't been to any games yet, but her 7 yr old niece was an avid fan. She saved her allowance to buy tickets. She had already been to camp. She was a fanatic when it came to basketball. This little girls dreams just got crushed.

I tried getting our company to be a corporate sponsor, but "it's not in their policy to support Sports". But they can sell Warriors tickets, Sharks tickets, Clash tickets, etc... I had to fight to get a group event. I just pisses me off.

As far as getting a refund for my season tickets and my All-Star tickets, I would like to donate the money back to the players that need it. I read in todays Merc (I cancelled it, but it keeps coming) that there are single moms with no paycheck now. Give them the money. They need it more than I do.

I am for getting together as fans, signing autographs, etc. I would like the players to be there as well. I say we do it as soon as possible while the passion is still hot. I am for this Sunday since we were planning on going to the game anyway. If some people can't make it, then we can do another one on Jan 24th. I am not for skipping Super Bowl Sunday.

On a final note, Klik--thank-you for you sweet note this am.

It made me cry.

Leslie Lynch ô¿ô
Sr. Systems Analyst
Siebel Configuration Team
Siemens Information and Communication Networks (ICN)

From: Lompican44@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 13:48:29 EST
Subject: Re: Place to meet

In a message dated 12/23/98 10:36:27 AM Pacific Standard Time, cclark@hardingmarcom.com writes:

<< I, too like the idea of the parking lot at the Arena.. Should bring more attention to the damn press! >>

Say the word and this father and daughter will be there.

John

Subject: One Last Article
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 98 10:51:45 -0800
From: Sally Grey <lunac@mail.cruzio.com>

All,

I had prepared this article for La Gazette and handed it off yesterday.

Then I drove to Cupertino and heard on the news the ABL had dissolved.

Like the rest of you, I'm stunned.

What an awful Christmas present for the teams! What a blow for women's sports. I guess we have to remember that sports = business. What a cruel reminder!

Thought I'd send out the last article from the last game.

What a shock!

The Lasers Third Quarter

The Lasers went into their televised Sunday afternoon game at the Event Center against the Portland Power half a game behind Portland for first place in the western division.

At the half, the teams went to their locker rooms with San Jose leading 45- 42, the Lasers ahead as much as 9 points in the second quarter. It seemed an even match. But after a poor third quarter, the Lasers lost to Portland, 94- 85.

Coach Beck's first words to the media were, Obviously a disappointing loss but a great game. They played better than we did. Our third quarter wasn't up to snuff. I'm proud that we didn't let down and roll over. I felt that we stayed with it and wouldn't go away, but we got out there late in the third quarter, out of the locker room, and just really never got grounded. And they took advantage of us. Their inside game got two double doubles, but they've done that before and we've won. I really thought we did a great job on Steding and Henning, but then Debra Williams came in and had a career night.

This is no excuse for the game, but we did not know a fifteen-minute half time had been reduced to a ten. No one told us. So we're in there talking and somebody says two minutes, and Azzi and Davis were running on the floor with time on the clock. Then we shot our first two shots clunk clunk and they're warmed up. We still had ten minutes to make it happen and we didn't. The third quarter killed us.

We have to play some D. We can't give up 94 points and expect to win. Poor shooting performance we didn't have last year, we need to focus on that. I'm not that worried. Portland's a great team. They caught us on a bad night. Generally we need to keep improving. The rest I going to be good for us. We're basically healthy. We're not going to fold our tents. We'll be fine.

Clarisse Machunguana, Clarisa Davis-Wrightsil, and Jennifer Azzi came into the room as Beck finished talking. Clarissa had ice bags on her knees, Clarisse looked tired, and Jennifer had a floor burn the size of an egg on her left knee.



Beck asked, Any questions for the players? There was fifteen seconds of silence.

Clarissa leapt up from her chair, saying, ³Okay, I have a flight,² and the three were on their way out.

No questions asked.

Coach Beck was not pleased. She told the group that the next time she has players come to the media room, they¹d better ask questions.

A television team caught up with Jennifer and kept her back for an interview, but the others were gone, off to their well deserved vacation.

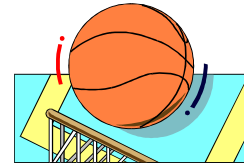
From: Julie Kronenberger <kronenberger-1@medctr.osu.edu>
Subject: organizing a Quest rally

I just got back from the Quest office. Several people are there still clearing out the office. I got to talk to Tonya and Sonja. I asked Debby Stocks about the possibility of having one final "good-bye" with the team.

She said the only way it can happen is if the city gets involved. Debbie (and I think Robin, too) will be talking to the mayor's office this afternoon about the possibility of one last "rally". She encourage us to spread the word and call the mayor's office, telling him we really want to have a final rally with the team. The number for the mayor's office is 645-7671.

Will someone post this to the listbot because I am unable to?

Thanks,
Kirstie



From: "Monarchi, Joselle" <JMonarchi@NWest.dcmdw.dla.mil>
Subject: RE: the end of a dream
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 11:23:11 -0800

Well said!! I ,too, am so distraught over the ABL shutdown I'm still in shock. I agree that the ABL was assassinated by the NBA/WNBA. I have a hard time believing that they truly feel bad about the shut down. Maybe they do feel bad for the players but you have to wonder about their excitement of acquiring REAL basketball talent now! And the media, local and national, also share the blame in the assassination. NBA/WNBA stabbed the ABL and the media twisted the knife. No support, no guts to stand up to the NBA.

It is a sad time in women's sport history. The ABL represented the true meaning of sports, simply put, playing for the love of the game and the development of professional opportunities for women. To me, the NBA/WNBA represents neither. The women players are exploited in my opinion and I think you all know what I'm talking about. Minimal salaries, a (short) summer season, 3 months of medical benefits, no stock options, etc., etc. I don't think I can support a league with these double standard values. It will be a LONG, LONG time before I allow myself to support the WNBA. Guess I need to refocus on the college arena.

This message was not meant to offend anyone in anyway, if I have I apologize in advance. I'm just really upset and am blowing off steam.

Joselle

From: Rebekah <lasersfan@riddlemaster.com>
Subject: My reaction ...

... on waking up this morning in an ABL-less world:

"Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light." --Dylan Thomas



Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 11:33:22 -0800
From: William Poschman <bilp@prado.com> X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 [en] (Win95; I)
Subject: this sucks

OK, this really sucks... I am not a typical *guy* sports fan, and as such I find most professional athletics to be little more than over-glamourized alpha-male posing... So, I finally find a sport (my first season as a Laser fan) that is clearly about intense athletic ability, plus an amazing display of strategic thinking, and fosters deep interaction between players and spectators.... So I figure this is what professional sports are all about, now I get it... only to have it pulled out from under... I am just enough of a paranoid cyber-geek that I believe that big money and the good old boys club have struck another victory for/with the same tiresome chest pounding that has kept me away from sports fandom in the past.... I wish I was one of those rich-guys and could do something about it... oops I'm sorry I'd probably schedule a doomed balloon trip around the world that would benefit no other person on Earth but would feed my ego for at least a month or two....

sorry, this has just made me really angry... and I don't like it...
bil

From: HerMaj@aol.com (by way of Rebekah <HerMaj@aol.com>)
Subject: Re: RE: a get-together for Sunday/Grieve/ celebrate together
yes, but act to keep team in bay area

Just called Mayor Willie Brown's Office (yes, the telephone) and Mayor elect Jerry Brown's office asking them to think creatively for them to call Mayor Hammer and the newly elected mayor....We need to keep a professional woman's team in Bay area be in it San Jose, be it in Warrior Arena....for all the richness in the ABL and I too have hated the WNBA there was a resounding theme that I am uncomfortable with...the fans were pretty lily white and San Jose is pretty Hispanic.....It isn't time to be politically correct but it is time to think about how business does work....What was the salary of the ABL CEO? Bravo that the "non star players got \$40,000 but why not the hot shots getting 75,000 as a high. Sure they can get injured etc. but I'm all for our movie, sports, etc. heroes recognizing that they too are just like everyone else. Give the CEO CEO 65,000, gasp but how could they raise a family in Silicon Valley or S.F. or Menlo Park. Well, they do it the same way we do....it's called struggle and recognizing that all the world's people deserve a joyous holiday. Now what does this have to do with keeping a pro team in the Bay Area? Yea, who could afford to go....no doubt the same white crowd I am a part of but by working within and with out we can change that.....CALL UP THE MAYORS/ MAYOR ELECTS KEEP A PRO TEAM IN TOWN BETTER YET KEEP THE LASERS TOGETHER. MARTI

Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 12:02:44 -0800 (PST) From: ashley schnuelle <ace_as_@yahoo.com>
Subject: What???

What's going on. There's no more ABL League?? Is it over?? Are they going to finish the season? Or are the done now?? Someone give me all the details. This really sucks 4 us and the. I know Anna DeForge. I feel so bad for everyone.
-Ashley

Froggie13@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 15:09:42 EST



First of all I'd like to thank the Quest for all they've done. On and off the court. These talented young ladies showed America how much heart they had. I'm a Senior in High School and I dreamed of one day playing for the Columbus Quest. I appreciate all of the help in the summer that Shannon "Pee Wee" Johnson and Tonya "Ice"

Edwards gave me. Tonya and Shannon will always be my role models no matter where they go from now. Everyone who has put anything into the Quest gets a thank you from me. All of the people who stood by the Quest through the good and bad....Thanks for being a true fan. To all of the Volunteers, Quest Employees, Convention Center Workers.....It's been fun. Thanks to REEBOK for being the ABL's official sponsor. Too bad nobody else wanted to support REAL WOMENS BASKETBALL. I don't understand why Gary Cavalli didn't give any warnings or anything. He just let go. If anything he could've told the players. The players had to find out on their own, well at least Katie Smith did. I think we should have one more rally. The Quest did all they could do. They should get some recognition for all the hard work they put into it. We love our Quest.....

Khisha #13
Quest Volunteer (Tonya Edwards Look-Alike)

From: "sarah coloton" <katgrrlgo8@hotmail.com>
Subject: no no no no
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 16:15:54 EST

i just can't believe it-----this cannot be happening.
this was such a big part of my life. everyone's life.
my heart is crumbling for the coaches, the players, us (the fans).
i have been a fan of the Lasers since last year when i visited california for the first time. my aunt and uncle took me to my first game and i fell in love. i have always loved basketball, but until i saw all these women play, i never fully understood the love. to see these women pour all of their emotion and spirit into the game----the love for basketball. i'm from ohio and have watched all the Lasers games on tv. i was sooo happy when the Lasers got into the playoffs and came to ohio to play the quest. i drove 2 and a half hours to see them play.
i just missed "our" fans here in san jose, columbus wasn't as devoted at you all are. i came to san jose to visit family for the holidays, and i got tickets to the Lasers next day game. i have 2 families here. i was very fortunate to have seen 2 of their games while here. i just cannot believe that i was here to see the last Lasers game. my sadness is so great. i will always be a san jose LASERS fan.

Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 13:17:00 -0800 (PST)
From: Stefanie Harvey <maddr@netcom.com>
Subject: Final decision on Sunday meeting?

Has their been any final decision on the Sunday meeting place?
Please let me know.

I have much sadness over this like everyone, but mostly I feel for the players and coaches.

As a scientist, I know what it's like to be a woman in a male-dominated field. Sometimes it's not very easy and other times it's a real joy.
However, I've always had the opportunity to professionally practice my "art".

I am so sad that these women do not have a chance to do so; I don't think the WNBA with its artificial season and poor salaries can seriously be considered "professional" basketball.

Best regards,
Stef

From: Dana Stewart <DStewart@pinnaclesys.com>
Subject: RE: Memories
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 13:59:06 -0800

I wanted to share some of mine too!



--being a charter member of Section Three! and egging Susie on to go down and lead cheers. Bringing numbers to score her. Watching all of the change fall out of her pockets (we gave her a zero for that one!)

--opening night last year at the Arena. Our dear friend Margie was very ill with cancer, but was able to make it to the game. We had to use the elevator on the way out and stopped at a wrong floor which put us right in the middle of the Laser's party. Christine Forter saw us and invited us in.

We had a grand time and Margie was just thrilled! Anita Kaplan was especially nice.

--the way we greeted ex-Lasers with a standing O upon their return

--making new friends

--yelling at Larry or for Larry, how ever our mood struck us. Also enjoyed calling an over zealous ref "whistle woman" or "whistle boy".

--calling out to certain players--"Once a Husky (Vol) (Bruin)--always a Husky!"

--The intimacy of the Event Center, the grandness of the Arena, the concession people from Waves who were always so friendly, the usher at the Arena who always tried to stop us from going into the mezzanine (never worked!)

--Joan Baez and the other great singers

--The Laser Light Shows

--the first opening night and the Laser Video (the Futures So Bright, I gotta wear Shades!), the second opening night and the team video showing various dancing ability.

--Klik--second best mascot of all time, only to the Phillie Phanatic--sorry we didn't get around to wearing those cheese heads!

From: "Mary Lou Chevront" <zaino@home.com> To: <listmom@elf.net>
Subject: ABL?????
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 16:37:48 -0600

I understand this is some sort of list you can subscribe to regarding the fallen ABL. >My name is Mary Lou Chevront - Nashville, Tennessee
Thank you for any information you could give me regarding venting about the ABL.

BROCHE545@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 17:49:30 EST
Subject: A BECK

I hear that Angela Beck will be back in town by Sunday and will attend a Lasers happening where ever it may be.

Many players are still here as well and I hope they join us as well!
Final plans are being made and should be out in a short time.
Cheerless here.....



From: LSMant@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 18:05:42 EST
Subject: LG Weekly

I just opened the Los Gatos Weekly and saw an ad for father-daughter night with the Lasers. It's a picture of three beaming little girls and a little boy in the background. It just started me crying all over again. Any time this bad dream wants to end is ok with me.

Laura



From: "Gay Katilius" <gay_kat@hotmail.com>
Subject: Details on THE PARTY!!!
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 15:32:54 PST

Okay - we are set!!!! Be there or be square, at the first ABL/Lasers Memorial Party!!!

When: Sunday, Dec 27th, from 2pm until 5ish pm

Where: San Jose Women's Club, 75 S. 11th St., San Jose (Very near Santa Clara St & SJ State Univ) - go to Yahoo for a map

What: A Laser Bash!! Here's the deal - we are asking a \$5 per head admission fee to cover rental of the room, plus the cost of napkins, ice, cups, plates. I will have a special Laser souvenir for everyone who comes. This will be a potluck and BYOB (bring your own bottle) - so please bring some munchies to share and something to drink to add to the cooler - soft drinks, water, beer, wine. Try to bring a little extra, as we will admit the Lasers and Lasers' staff and ABL staff in for free.

We know that Angela Beck will be there. Kedra may be flying home to Texas for a few days, but will be at the party if she is in town. We are trying to reach all of the players and staff, and definitely need your help in inviting them.

We're trying to make sure the ABL Charities part of the ABL stays around, so please be prepared to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund and get a BeamTeam polo or tee shirt. There will be a special thing going on to benefit the Scholarship Fund - Teresa S. is making up some binder books to give to all of the players and coaches - you can autograph the books for a small fee (and the fees count towards the shirts!)

Also, I'm trying to round up some auction items, so bring item donations, and bring your check book. By Sunday, we will have figured out where the money will be most needed, and will let you know before the auction.

If you can reach any of the players or any of the staff, please invite them.

So, please come ready to have a good time - wear your Lasers' gear, bring pictures, bring stories, bring tapes of games, bring your tears, and bring your smiles. If anyone has a VCR/TV they can bring, let me know!!

WE ARE FAMILY AND WE ARE GOING TO HAVE ONE HECK OF A GOOD TIME CELEBRATING THE MAGIC OF THE LASERS AND THE ABL!!!!

As usual, I'm also looking for volunteers to help with set up and cleanup, so please email me if you can help, or if you have any questions. Please don't ask if specific people will be there - I don't know!!!

Thank you Doug & Teresa for all of your work on this!



Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 16:00:59 -0800
From: Operations Manager <rosiland@womengolfers.com> Reply-To: rosiland@womengolfers.com
Organization: Fore Women Golfers
Subject: Jennifer on Ch 4

Jennifer Azzi will be doing an interview tonight (Wednesday) at 6:50pm on Channel 4. She will be explain some things about the League and the future. Be sure to watch.

Rosiland

X-Sender: rjensen@mercury (Unverified)
Subject: Re: Details on THE PARTY!!!

Any ideas about what we fans can do who are out of town this weekend? I've already gotten my beam-team T-shirt, but I want to be involved somehow!!

From: BBallCat24@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 20:03:11 EST
Subject: Questions

I too am very upset about the folding of the league. I was wondering if there are going to be refunds on the All Star Game. I heard season tickets were being refunded, but is the All Star Game as well? I was looking forward to attending, I can't believe the abruptness of the ABL folding. I was also wondering about an event that was going to be put on by the Lasers at my school. There was to be a workshop with two or more lasers players plus the coaches where they taught skills of the game. There was to be tee-shirts handed out, as well as tickets to the January 17th game against Nashville.

Would this event still have the chances of continuing? I know the game won't be there, but would the Lasers still put on this workshop? I was looking forward to it greatly. I am not sure if the event was going to be taken place in the first place however, because I sent in the request to attend only recently. Thanks!

Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 19:04:57 -0800
From: Deborah Dixon <dixons1@pacbell.net> Organization: Pacific Bell Internet Services X-Mailer:
Subject: Azzi's not giving up

Did anyone else just see the interview with Jennifer on Channel 4? She's still fighting for the league's survival. Appealing to someone to step in and save the league, at least until the end of the season. Who can we contact?

What can we do? I don't want to give up, dammit!

X-Sender: dshaker@shell14.ba.best.com
From: Teresa Feiock <teresa@theshakers.org>
Subject: Jennifer Azzi-1 in a Bazillion

Did you all catch her on Channel 4? It seemed like she just decided this afternoon to do this appearance. What a marvelous job she did. They sure don't give you lots of time, and she used hers beautifully.

- Teresa Feiock

From: BINA21@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 22:06:07 EST
Subject: Jennifer on TV

I just got done watching Jennifer Azzi on channel 4. What do you all think?

Do you think there is a small chance that someone could come forward with some money to help them finish out the year? She said she felt the players would play for a lot less money just to keep the league going. Maybe between someone coming forward and donating some money, and the players taking another pay cut, and us, the fans helping in some way, we could keep this going? What do you all think? I'd be willing to do just about anything to help. Maybe we could try to help raise some money.....anything.

Opinions.....anyone?

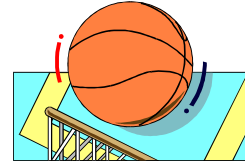
Sabine

From: "Lisa Reiss" <lreiss@ix.netcom.com>
Subject: Re: my husband says....
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 19:13:20 -0800

Your husband expressed my feelings exactly! The ABL was the first time I attended Pro Ball of any kind, the first time I read the sports section (now I won't bother), the first time a memorized team stats, the first time I read a rule book, the first time I read sports related books.....

Lisa Reiss
email: lreiss@ix.netcom.com

Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 19:33:58 -0800
Subject: with a heavy heart
From: lunacreciente-gnh@juno.com (Maria C Guerrero)



It's with a heavy heart that we say Goodbye to a wonderful team.....

thank you to the Lasers and to everyone in the background..... Here in SoCal we are missing all the news coverage, so what news you can place on the site will be appreciated..... We will be there on Sunday.....Thanks you guys for putting all this together, I'm sure we'll give them the best send off.....Forget the after Christmas sales, save your money for the Lasers!!!!!!

.....GO LASERS!!!!..... (just one more time...:(.....)

Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 19:36:55 -0800
From: Deborah Dixon <dixons1@pacbell.net>
Subject: Re: Jennifer on TV

Anne Cribbs reads this list. Maybe she can suggest what it would take to keep it going. I admire Jennifer's tenacity and I would do just about anything to keep the ABL alive. There have to be people out there with money who believe in the ABL's values and principles as much as we do or am I just grasping at straws?

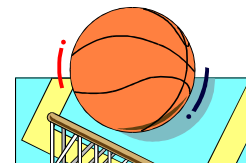
From: BINA21@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 22:39:44 EST
Subject: Re: Jennifer on TV

<< Anne Cribbs reads this list. Maybe she can suggest what it would take to keep it going. I admire Jennifer's tenacity and I would do just about anything to keep the ABL alive. There have to be people out there with money who believe in the ABL's values and principles as much as we do or am I just grasping at straws?

If you are grasping at straws, then so are all of us. If that's what it takes, then lets try to do something. I believe we have something special here. I really believe we could do something to make a difference. Does anyone here know how to get in touch with Jennifer and try to find out what it would take to get through the year? Lets do some brainstorming.

Sabine

From: Ejcyclist@aol.com
Date: Wed, 23 Dec 1998 23:33:54 EST
Subject: farewell



I think that it would be great to tell the players how we feel on video if we have enough time. And especially for those players who may not be able to be there. I have some of my own stories that help me remember the best relationship I have ever had with pro athletes and better than I have had with many amateurs. I would love to share them at THE PARTY. I would also ask that those of you willing to do so send your reasons for loving the ABL to every newspaper and TV and radio station in your area and let them know why you love the ABL. Who knows. Maybe if enough fans of those other male leagues hear what we have to say they will get jealous and demand the same from their players.
Etheridge

Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 19:46:55 -0800
From: BONNIE HAMPTON <alhamp@earthlink.net> X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.04 [en] (Win95; I)

Teresa ,
I missed Jennifer, did you tape it? What program was she on? When you have a sick baby nothing else seems to go the way you plan.
I wish Bill Gates had a daughter in basketball, man he could bail us out.
Just wishful thinking.

Let me know what I can do to help. I have told Gay I would be there to help set up. What time should we be there? Where exactly is it located?

Bonnie

Date: Tue, 21 Dec 1999 19:26:27 -0800
From: Darrell Cullen <dcullen@aplatform.com>
Subject: Re: Jennifer Azzi-1 in a Bazillion



Hi! I rarely (if ever write) but I feel compelled now as many do. As a dad that used the league to form a sports bond with my (shopping) daughters I am saddened. This was the first year I bought season tix, but we went to at least 5 games in each of the last two seasons including the playoffs. Do we know the rough cost to keep the league going for the remainder of the year? Are we talking 1M or 2 or 3? What would keep the league afloat for the rest of the year while a new or different strategy could be created.

Signed
Saddened Dad

From: AHLORI@aol.com
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 00:37:52 EST
Subject: Please ... another event as well.

It sounds like there are quite a few of us who are out of town (even away from our precious e-mail access) who cannot make it on Sunday. I feel like its one more thing to be bummed about. Please keep open the dialogue for doing something on the 24th as well.

Very sad in Scotts Valley (Lori)

From: BINA21@aol.com
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 01:09:08 EST
Subject: Re: Please ... another event as well.

In a message dated 12/23/98 9:39:40 PM Pacific Standard Time, AHLORI@aol.com writes:

<< It sounds like there are quite a few of us who are out of town (even away from our precious e-mail access) who cannot make it on Sunday. I feel like its one more thing to be bummed about. Please keep open the dialogue for doing something on the 24th as well.

Very sad in Scotts Valley (Lori) >>

I agree with you.....we are out of town this weekend too, and I hate to miss this. I would like to 2nd the request to keep the 24th in mind too.

Sabine (sad here too)

Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 00:38:11 -0800
From: tw2@earthlink.net
Subject: Re: Brainstorming

Does anyone know the specifics we need to be working toward? How much money do we need to raise? Under what conditions are players willing to play? And count me in for the \$1000 too (but I won't have it until January).

Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 05:33:17 -0800
From: Leisa Fearing <leisa@elf.net>
Subject: Brainstorming



What about if instead of looking to private investors, going public?

Everyone here already has emotional stock in the league, most would love to make it financial.

Clearly the industrials and large individual investors don't think the numbers work to throw in a few million, but I know I could get a handful of people to buy \$1,000 of stock in the league. If 1,000 people at each ABL location each bought \$1,000 of stock that would raise \$9 M. If each of them also got 4 other people to invest that would raise \$45 M

There have been some small IPOs on the net that have been successful, which would almost certainly have to be the way it was done, and even then I have no idea what the legalities would be.

Sometimes during a Chapter 11 a consortium will step in to acquire a failing company. Why not a huge consortium? If EBay, Amazon.com and CDnow can soar on speculation with no value and without showing profit, anything's possible.

Any legal or SEC experts out there? The technical part of setting up a website for this is simple, but don't know about the organizational structure and legal requirements.

I'm out of town, so won't be at the party, but maybe you could bounce this off people there. I don't want to miss being a part of the book, so will email something on the 26th.

-Leisa Fearing
leisa@elf.net

Elf Systems Corporation
Tel: 408-279-1737 <> FAX: 408-971-1796 <URL: http://www.elf.net/>

From: "Lisa Reiss" <lreiss@ix.netcom.com>
Subject: Re: Jennifer on TV
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 08:00:45 -0800

How about somebody up there in Reign territory contacting Bill Gates (who desperately needs something to improve his image) and ask him to do a Ted Turner (bought CNN) and buy the ABL???? The guy is loaded(\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$), has had nothing but bad press about his monopolistic practices in the software industry. Maybe in an ironic twist of fate he could help us fight the all powerful NBA monopoly on basketball?

Anyone else think this idea is crazy enough to work?

Diane Vincent where are you???

Lisa Reiss
email: lreiss@ix.netcom.com

> From: Tamara Modell <tw2@earthlink.net>
> Subject: Re: Jennifer on TV
> Date: Tuesday, December 22, 1998 8:03 PM
>
> Hi, I am a Reign fan who has been lurking on your list for quite
> awhile. Earlier today I posted the following message to the Reign Fan
> Forum and to an informal Reign e-mail list. I just can't help but think
> that if we all do some brainstorming, we could come up with some
> unexplored possibilities. Is anyone on this list a lawyer? Maybe
> he/she could offer some advice. There was also a suggestion on the ABL
> Fan Forum about forming a club league for the short term. How did the
> Harlem Globetrotters begin? Could we take any ideas from their
> organization?
>
> Fellow fans -
>
> I can't help but feel there must be some way we can help salvage this
> situation. The Reign was turning a profit. The Lasers have the most
> organized, motivated fan base I have ever seen. Perhaps we can organize
> some sort of player/personnel/fan cooperative to keep at least the west
> coast alive until the end of the season. What about forming a
> non-profit?- there's an unheard-of idea in professional sports. We
> could step up the role of the players as mentors, clinics for kids,
> etc. What about involving kids in every aspect of the organization? It
> could include a Junior Achievement-type component where kids could learn
> about organizing and running a business. They could learn what it means
> to be on a team. They could learn what it means to work for something
> you really believe in. There are plenty of sports organizations that do
> not get tv coverage and manage to survive - minor leagues etc. I'm not
> saying for the long haul, but maybe we could do something to keep the
> players in their jobs at least for a few more months. I don't have a
> background in business, but if anyone is interested in brainstorming and
> exploring possibilities, let's at least give it a try. I think a very
> small minority of fans come to this forum, but we know that the Reign
> has some high-level supporters who may be able to help us think of new
> alternatives. Let's take the ABL's grass-roots philosophy to the next
> level. We don't need a world with a woman's league made in the image of
> the NBA. We need a world with women and men's teams made in the image
> of the ABL, or in whatever new image we form out of our passion and
> dedication to women, to basketball, to kids, to equality, for a better
> world. (Yes, I know it's just a sport, but I think the spirit of the
> ABL was something new and special.)
>
> If you would like me to organize a meeting, please e-mail me.
>
>

From: "Lisa Reiss" <lreiss@ix.netcom.com>
Subject: Re: Brainstorming
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 08:02:36 -0800



I'm back in school but even I would throw in \$1,000 to buy shares in this league. And I'll bet I could convince my mother to do likewise. There, our first \$2,000! What a great idea!

Lisa Reiss
email: lreiss@ix.netcom.com



From: Acbowler@aol.com
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 11:47:45 EST
Subject: Re: Jennifer Azzi-1 in a Bazillion X-Mailer: AOL 3.0.1 for Mac sub 59

I did not see the interview. Did anyone tape it. Can you bring it to the party. If not, what did she say about everything? Please, I am desperate for any Laser news. I am still sick about it.

Cathi Clark

Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 09:06:31 -0800
From: Deborah Dixon <dixons1@pacbell.net> Organization: Pacific Bell Internet Services X-Mailer:
Subject: Re: Brainstorming

And there's another \$1k from me.

I like the Bill Gates idea. Anything's worth a shot. What about Steve Jobs?
The ABL is Apple (better product, corporate ideals, etc) and the NBA is Microsoft.

From: Acbowler@aol.com
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 12:09:46 EST
Subject: Re: Re: Brainstorming

I believe in miracles. I would buy shares. Thank you for restoring some sort of hope you guys. What a Christmas Present. Even the thought of rekindling the ABL and Lasers is a gift to me.

Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 10:11:59 -0700
From: Rachel <rscheibe@sirius.com>
Subject: So sad too

Don't post much to the list but have had fun lurking, along with going to all the games, following the ABL. Wanted to say i'm feeling so sad too, wondering what to do now with all the time i would have been at games, would have spent following the league wherever i could find info on the net, what to do with all that energy as a 'new' sports fan because of the ABL. Whoever posted the thought that even though we knew this was likely sometime, it doesn't make it easy at all - ditto on that. Wish i could come to the get-together on the 27th but will be out of town, would love to come to any get-together in January.
Very Sad up here in Berkeley (even tho' Cal did upset Colorado St., just can't be happy)
- Rachel

Date: Thu, 24 Dec 98 09:22:34 -0800
From: mckinney@molly.iii.com (deb)
Subject: Re: Brainstorming



Yes, at this point anything is worth a shot: Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Oprah. I was also thinking about who has been successful in the business of women's sports and thought of Billie Jean King. Not that she has a lot of money, but she was certainly instrumental in helping women's tennis get to where it is today. Just wonder if she's ever been approached about being connected with the ABL. She would certainly understand the "underdog" issue of the ABL vs. that other league. Just a thought.

Also I really like the idea of fans expressing their appreciation to the Laser staff/players on video.

See you Sunday!

Deb

mckinney@iii.com

Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 09:23:15 -0800 (PST)
From: jamese@SSA.CO.Santa-Clara.CA.US (Etheridge james) X-Mailer: Z-Mail Lite (4.0.1 13Jan97)
Subject: brainstorming

I knew that we could get something rolling once the shock waned. I think that tapping resources like Bill Gates and Steve Jobs is a good idea. Might be for naught but it's worth a try. How about Oprah? She has skads of \$\$\$\$\$.

I'm not sure if they can contribute funds directly but politicians can be very influential. Look at what Willie did in SF for the Giants and the 9ers. How about contacting mayor Hammer, Zoe Lofgren, or Barbara Boxer. I know that Barbara has been a strong advocate of women's rights. I know the peninsula NOW chapter leader of the young feminist group. I also would be willing to contribute to the fund to save the season. I can't donate \$1k now because I have to pay the IRS. I would rather pay the ABL though. I could contribute something though.
Etheridge

Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 09:25:05 -0800
From: Deborah Dixon <dixons1@pacbell.net> Organization: Pacific Bell Internet Services X-Mailer:
Subject: Re: Brainstorming

Also, I've heard that the Reign fans have started an email campaign to Oprah. If we inundate her with enough emails, maybe she'll at least check it out. Here's the url

<http://www.oprah.com/email-oprah.html>

Later this morning I'll post my email to her in case anyone wants to copy and paste some of it and send it to her.

From: cnef8473@WellsFargo.COM
Subject: What About Oprah?
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 09:40:00 -0800

I've been following the list for over a month now, but this is the first time I have posted anything. While we're thinking of 'crazy' ideas, I have one for thought.

How about contacting Oprah about buying the league? She is a great candidate for a number of reasons. She has the money. She has the heart. She has given money to programs to help women (specifically women/girls of color). She is in Chicago (Condors?). And the biggest reason - She is behind a new network called Oxygen that is debuting in January of 2000. The network will be a women's channel that will compete with Lifetime (WNBA). It has already been stated in their press release that they will be carrying women's sports. I cannot see a more perfect fit. Plus, Rosie O'Donnell is a huge WNBA supporter. This way, Oprah would have her 'own league'. What do you think?

Does anyone know how to contact her or Geraldine Laybourne? How about a 'petition' drive from everyone around the league, including children, sent to her? A national plea on her show? Perhaps Jennifer and Teresa Edwards could talk with her? Email/calling campaign? (Please see press release.) (I can't see a better time for oxygen than now...) Elizabeth

(Info is from Dave Cortesi's email sent to the list last month) The press release can be found in full at this URL: http://www.foxnews.com/js_index.sml?content=/entertainment/stories/112498b.sml

Geraldine Laybourne and Oxygen Media recently bought control of most of AOL's woman-oriented sites such as Moms Online. In a story on this at http://www.wired.com/news/print_version/culture/story/15090.html, Laybourne's goals are given as follows:

"The mission for Oxygen Media is to create a media revolution led by women and kids. It's not a humble mission," said Laybourne, the New York-based startup's chairwoman and CEO.



Oxygen Media will use its online properties and create television programming to stretch and broaden women-centric content, with the goal of providing better female role models in the media.

The potential for synergy between the new network and the ABL is just flamingly obvious! Gary Cavalli, Ann Cribbs, Steve Hams, I sure hope you are working this opportunity every way you can!

Here is more of the text of today's press release:

Winfrey and Partners Forming New Cable Network Called Oxygen 12.20 p.m. ET (1720 GMT)
November 24, 1998

NEW YORK + Three of the most successful women in television are banding together to form Oxygen, a cable network aimed at women.

Former Nickelodeon president Geraldine Laybourne's company, Oxygen Media, announced today it will team with Oprah Winfrey and producer Marcy Carsey to create the new channel, which will provide entertainment, news and sports programming.

Oxygen would compete with Lifetime, the only established cable channel that caters directly to women. Lifetime, already seen in 72 million homes, has provided mainly movies and reruns but recently added women's basketball and original programs to broaden its appeal.

Oxygen is expected to make its debut on Jan. 1, 2000. It has already signed a deal with cable giant Tele-Communications Inc. to deliver Oxygen to 7 million homes.

Laybourne helped build the Nickelodeon children's network into one of the most successful channels on cable and later served as president of Walt Disney Co.'s cable channels. She left Disney in May to form Oxygen Media, a cable TV and online company geared toward women and children.

Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 09:40:28 -0800

From: Deborah Dixon <dixons1@pacbell.net> Organization: Pacific Bell Internet Services X-Mailer:
Subject: Reign Fan Forum URL

In case you're interested in what the Reign fans are doing and how they're coping.

From: "Gay Katilius" <gay_kat@hotmail.com> To: LasersFans@elf.net
Subject: If you were wondering about scheduled events...
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 09:42:11 PST



No one asked me to post this message. I am just responding based on common sense.

The players are under no obligation to do any events scheduled for them by the Lasers, since they are no longer employed by the ABL. They are now out of jobs, just like every other league

employee. There is no one to let them know about appearances, where to go, what to do, etc. The staff is now looking for new jobs; the players are also looking for their next employment opportunity. If they can afford to stay in this area and do appearances out of the goodness of their hearts, I'm sure they will. They are good people. However, please don't 'expect' them to. These women aren't millionaires - they need to make a living, the same as the rest of us. If we want to have the Lasers around, we (meaning ANYONE reading this message) have to be proactive in finding a way of financing the league.

Gay

I'm sure I'm misquoting someone here - "If you are not a part of the solution, you are probably a part of the problem"

Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 10:45:43 -0800
From: deeann@express.com (DeeAnn Pritchard) Subject: Re: Brainstorming

I like the idea of going public. I'd pitch in a thousand and I'm sure my husband would contribute another thousand, too.

What about if instead of looking to private investors, going public?

From: SayCheese3@aol.com
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 13:54:20 EST
Subject: Re: the end of a dream



I totally agree. They were assassinated. The WNBA took the tv coverage, the sponsors, everything a league needs to survive. I guess there really isn't room for two leagues. Why did the ABL have to be the one that shut down? Sigh.

This is really depressing. Everywhere I look, I see things that remind me of them. The Go Lasers signs. The schedule that I have sitting on my desk. The merchandise. The picture frame with all the pictures of my dad and me with each of the players from the End-Of-The-Season Party. I still can't believe it's over, ya know? Every time I see something that reminds me, I feel like crying again. Those were some of the best times of my life. In our hectic lives, they were many times the only real time I got to spend with my parents and grandmother. Wow. Well, that's all for now, but this won't be the last post I make.

---Kristy:(

From: BROCHE545@aol.com
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 13:59:36 EST
Subject: \$\$\$

I wonder if we could get a big money person to match our money. For example if I put in \$1,000. would they match it with \$10,000 or \$100,000. It is a starting point.....?????

From: Lompican44@aol.com
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 14:01:37 EST
Subject: Re: Brainstorming

Just talked to the family. We all agreed that we would invest \$1000 if the ABL went public. I've also emailed Oprah. Is this a rerun of "It's a Wonderful Life" or what? Now if we can just start hearing some bells ringing.

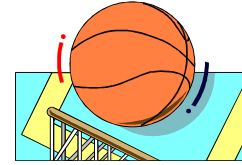
From: AHLORI@aol.com
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 14:07:05 EST
Subject: Re: What About Oprah?

I agree about Oprah. She can back up her talk with action and money! I will send my email to her when I'm done with this one.

I would also pay \$1000 for a piece of the league. Maybe someone like Oprah would consider it (ownership) if we showed that we are willing to take some risks as well (without having her kind of money).

Still sad in Scotts Valley,

Lori



From: cnef8473@WellsFargo.COM
Subject: Oprah's Email
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 11:10:00 -0800

Just sent Oprah an email. It's easy. She's at <http://www.oprah.com/email-oprah.html>

I basically told her a few things:

- How these women are role models to children of all ethnicities and backgrounds.
- How the players are champions in their communities.
- How the ABL, as an employer, has treated these players well (health benefits, stock options, advisory board, etc.).
- How the ABL couldn't get a TV contract (or sponsors based on the lack of a strong TV contract) and how much we need OXYGEN (her cable network).
- Asked if the founding players could come on her show and talk about the issues.

Another idea is Roseanne Barr. Has anyone watched her daytime talkshow (it's not your traditional show)? She will take a topic and spend the entire hour on it. For example, Tori Amos (singer/songwriter) was on her show and they focused on the subject of rape. Rosanne is always discussing equity/social issues and she has ovaries...She has a lot of influence and seems to thrive on the idea of bucking the system/being the underdog. She is in contact with Marcy Carsey (one of the three women founding the Oxygen network I mentioned on a previous email - she was the producer of Roseanne, her sitcom, and has produced many other projects). I can imagine a show with Jennifer and Teresa Edwards and some young fans (girls and boys) talking about how the ABL has influenced their lives and what a loss it is to their generation.

Let's face it, although we all know and love the ABL/Lasers, people outside the sport have no idea that they exist. In fact, ironically, the first time most people have heard of the league was probably the other night when it folded! We need to educate and reach out - ask for help. Stranger things have happened and if we are successful, wouldn't that be worth celebrating?

Does anyone know how to contact other fan lists to unify our fan base? We need to pick a couple plans and start concentrating our efforts. What could it hurt?

Don't forget to email Oprah. If someone knows someone who knows someone (you get the idea), how can we reach her? Even if it is only for exposure, anything will help. Roseanne? I like the 'going public' idea. I just wonder what the players are feeling. This might be a silly question, but do they want us to fight for the league? If Azzi is any indication, I think it's worth trying. Let's keep talking.

Merry Christmas to all - off to holiday celebrations - let's direct our passion and energy to something positive - we can make an impact. See you all on Sunday!

Elizabeth

From: OGLady@aol.com
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 14:13:13 EST

Subject: re: Oprah

Well folks, I e-mailed Oprah and told her we have already raised \$3000 to keep the league and gave her the story about the Lasers and fans. OG Lady

From: BlueSchuy@aol.com
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 14:14:19 EST
Subject: Re: Brainstorming



I've got \$1000 for the league as well. I'd love to see the All-Star game next month.....

From: Denise Michaels <dmichaels@mindspring.com>
Subject: How did it end so soon?

Days late, I am grieving--after refusing to believe that the ABL really was folding, then focusing my feelings on anger at the ABL office for getting caught up in trying to compete with the WNBA instead of focusing on the good product they were building from scratch (like, spending \$\$\$ to move games to bigger arenas before consistently selling out the smaller arenas, ditching BET broadcasts for 2 very expensive NBC broadcasts.....).

Finally, when my home page news came up at work--with a list of ABL headlines (of course, I have the page set so ABL headlines and game results are on top)--I just looked at the computer and started crying like a baby. I couldn't explain my tears to my co-workers, although I was tempted to say that a dear friend had died--that is how it feels.

Now I'm at home, reading all the laser list mail I couldn't read before today (or else this would be too real), and crying my eyes out. I am sad for all of our hopes, optimism, ideals--the good things we believed could happen with a women's league based on integrity and true love of the game. I am sad for the players and coaches and staff who truly believed in their work and care so much about the game and the fans, and the influence they have on the children who see them.

There are so many good memories of the past 3 seasons--examples of true sportsmanship and honor, but I can't really see the monitor well enough to type--and tears are dripping onto the keyboard. Starting with the very first game, where Saudia Roundtree was asking "for real, you want my autograph in that book?" to the love the Lasers fans felt and returned to the team--and Angela's constant surprise that we love the team and the players, win or lose.

I have so many memories of individual players reaching out to help or just be nice to fans and the community.

I'll never forget that last fan club meeting--with Angela saying she loves San Jose and wants to stay as long as we'll have her, Bobbi Morse talking about plans to get a big player next year, and Mach telling the kids to make sure they focus on their education.

Now, I'm kicking myself for not seeking out the laser fans I've come to know and enjoy on this list, always thinking there will be more games and more gatherings.

I will painfully miss everything that made the Lasers what they are.

Denise



Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 11:35:23 -0800 (PST)
From: jamese@SSA.CO.Santa-Clara.CA.US (Etheridge james) X-Mailer: Z-Mail Lite (4.0.1 13Jan97)
Subject: saving the league

I think that we're on a roll. The ideas sound great. I will be looking for the addresses to the SJ city council and chamber of commerce. I heard that the loss of the All Star game may cost the city tons

of money. If they know that we, the fans, are willing to shell out the bucks maybe they will feel motivated to make a deal with the ABL. Sure they won't GIVE the ABL the arena or the time but many businesses will benefit and isn't that the whole idea behind the arena and the all star game? I also will be trying to get the websites for the newspapers in the 9 ABL cities and try to get an editorial printed asap about contacting us on this net and keeping the league alive. I don't want to give this address because we might get a bunch of goofballs on here trying to defeat everything we are fighting for. I will give them my own email and some information about what we in SJ are doing such as a farewell party and trying to contact Oprah, Oxygen, Roseanne, etc. It has to be worth a try. We may not get a lot of money from many people but we may get a little money from a lot of people and remember this: A penny is not much but if everyone in the US gave you a penny you would have almost \$2.5 million as much as an NBA player earns in a year; when he is playing that is.
Etheridge

Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 11:51:37 -0800
From: Rebekah <lasersfan@riddlemaster.com> X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 [en] (Win95; I)
Subject: Another Pledge

We have another \$1K we would give to see more ABL games. Now if we could just figure out a way to make it tax deductible, a lot more people would be interested, especially if it could be done before Dec 31st for tax reasons. People give a lot of money to get out of tax problems.

From: Peachies89@aol.com
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 14:54:01 EST
Subject: Re: Brainstorming

If we go public then maybe someone rich will realize that with that strong of a fan base they might not be putting money into a lost cause.

<< I like the idea of going public. I'd pitch in a thousand and I'm sure my husband would contribute another thousand, too.

What about if instead of looking to private investors, going public?

>
>Everyone here already has emotional stock in the league, most would love >to make it financial.
>
>Clearly the industrials and large individual investors don't think the >numbers work to throw in a few million, but I know I could get a handful >of people to buy \$1,000 of stock in the league. If 1,000 people at each >ABL location each bought \$1,000 of stock that would raise \$9 M. If each >of them also got 4 other people to invest that would raise \$45 M >
>There have been some small IPOs on the net that have been successful, >which would almost certainly have to be the way it was done, and even >then I have no idea what the legalities would be.
>
>Sometimes during a Chapter 11 a consortium will step in to acquire a >failing company. Why not a huge consortium? If EBay, Amazon.com and >CDnow can soar on speculation with no value and without showing profit, >anything's possible.
>
>Any legal or SEC experts out there? The technical part of setting up a >website for this is simple, but don't know about the organizational >structure and legal requirements.
>
>I'm out of town, so won't be at the party, but maybe you could bounce >this off people there. I don't want to miss being a part of the book, >so will email something on the 26th.
>
>-Leisa Fearing
> leisa@elf.net



From: cnef8473@WellsFargo.COM
Subject: re: Oprah
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 11:55:00 -0800

I love that idea. Suzie Q! Oprah has the reputation of matching funds that communities raise. For example, her Angel Network sent one kid per state from the Boys and Girls Clubs to college. The initial funds were raised from people donating change (yes, pennies, etc.) nationwide. Oprah matched that money (one million) and Garth Brooks matched Oprah's million! If we became truly grassroots, going public, and raised the money, perhaps Oprah would match it or at least see the valor and help in some way. Can it happen?

Let's make a video on Sunday. We can tape people telling how much the league has changed their lives and the lives of their kids (let's especially get the kids). We can show the community support and the goodness of the ABL, talk about our memories. Hopefully, some players can make it and we can talk with them about what the ABL has meant to them. We'll then take the tape, edit it, and send it to Oprah! It is one thing to talk about our commitment in emails -which is great and we all should email- but let's SHOW Oprah our sincerity, the impact our Lasers/ABL have made on the community, etc. Is Major Hammer coming? Would she agree to be taped? Does anyone know how to get in touch with the Seattle people who are putting on the rally on the 26th? They could do the same thing and we could send the tapes together.

They would be a 'living' testament about the positive impact of the league on communities and lives. Can you imagine if every team did such a thing and we showed a united front, combined with the notion of putting our money where our hearts are? Does anyone else know if any of the other communities are having get-togethers?

I will not return to this list until Monday. Can someone find out if other parties are taking place, and, if so, can they do a video, too?

Best regards,

Elizabeth

From: OgLady@aol.com
Subject: re: Oprah
Date: Thursday, December 24, 1998 11:13AM

Well folks, I e-mailed Oprah and told her we have already raised \$3000 to keep the league and gave her the story about the Lasers and fans. OG Lady



From: steve rhodes <srhodes@well.com>
Subject: Re: Brainstorming

i don't think bill gates is a good possibility (though stranger things have happened).

Another microsoft billionaire, Paul Allen might be a possibility. He already owns the Timberwolves and Seahawks (yes the nba ownership might be a conflict, but he is a maverick) and also has cable holdings.

<http://www.paulallen.com/>

And there are lots of very rich people (at least on paper) in Silicon Valley (though they are mostly men so far) as well as Jeff Bezos, the owner of Amazon in Seattle.

it could even be a company, lycos, based in MA is sponsoring a new men's league

<http://www.lycos.com/press/collegiate.html>

Steve Rhodes
<http://www.well.com/~srhodes>

Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 11:57:30 -0800
From: Tamara Modell <tw2@earthlink.net> Reply-To: tw2@earthlink.net

Subject: Brainstorming

Just throwing out ideas:

As Diane said, Bill Gates doesn't give much and when he does it's designed to further the interests of Microsoft. My e-mail to him included the following: "The ABL's biggest obstacle was the monopoly the NBA has on television stations. What if you partnered with the ABL with the intention of launching a whole new era of cybercasting? The first television broadcast was of a sporting event, why not have a broadcast of the ABL kick off a new and improved way of cybercasting?"

The possibilities for the future are enormous. ABL players are active in the community and particularly as role models for children. It would be easy to integrate your involvement with schools with the ABL's.

Advertising on the web continues to flourish, and a web audience is instantly a worldwide audience of millions."

Would it be possible to barter for services (travel, hotels, uniforms, etc.) in return for stock in the company?

Is there any way to use public access cable tv in a new way? If the ABL could just hold on for another season, perhaps we could work on making a mass marketed documentary (a la the Michael Moore movies or hoop dreams). Nothing seems to spark interest and motivation in the American public like a movie. When Top Gun came out, the airforce recruitment numbers spiked. The movie Titanic has sparked a whole industry of products about the real Titanic. They don't even have a movie tie-in.

The ABL story has everything a director could ask for: human interest stories galore, individuals living out their dreams, an underdog struggling against the Goliath, whiny NBA, drama, excitement, heart. It would really spread the word about what the ABL is and would garner public support and sympathy and force tv contracts.

I count \$13,000 in pledges so far. If some newspapers wrote about the effort of fans to save the league, maybe it would spur a private investor to come forward.

From: Sharon Crawford <Sharon@scribes.com>
Subject: RE: Let everyone know....
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 12:01:37 -0800

I'm writing up a press release about the party -- now I need your help.
Please send me all the email addresses you have for TV, newspaper, radio...

Everyone you send me is one more I won't have to look up AND you (by which I mean the list as a whole) know lots more media outlets than I do (I don't know any of the local radio stations, for example).

Help get the word out to all the many many fans who are NOT on this list!!!

Sharon Crawford
sharon@scribes.com



From: Sharon Crawford <Sharon@scribes.com>
Subject: RE: If you were wondering about scheduled events...
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 12:08:58 -0800

I'll do the press release, but I need the names and phone numbers of TWO people who would be willing to be "For further information" contacts. In other words, the media *might* call and we need someone who can talk about the Lasers and what they mean to the community, etc.

Can you do it?

If not, who do you suggest?

The press release needs to be sent Christmas Day so it'll be there for the staff working to produce the next day's newspaper/broadcast. Saturday is when we gotta hit 'em. Sunday is too late.

From: Sharon Crawford <Sharon@scribes.com> To: lasersfans@elf.net
Subject: RE: Let everyone know....
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 12:29:59 -0800
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.1960.3) X-Rcpt-To: teresa@theshakers.org

OK, I need to be able to quote a couple of people (not counting ME) in the press release. Something like:

"My eight children and I are devoted Lasers fans," said Mildred Plotnick of San Jose. "We want to do whatever we can to save the Lasers." Quotes about the role of the players in the community. The role model aspect. A lot of this has already been said in various postings to the list but I don't want to quote anyone without their EXPLICIT permission.

Please send to me in email, include your name and city. I'll use any that I can. Don't delay. Time is of the essence!

Subject: another voice
From: John Dowding <dowding@ai.sri.com> Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 13:01:05 -0800

Like everybody else, I'm in shock about the league folding. Also in a bit of denial. Even after I heard the news, I was reminding myself not to forget about the all-star game.

I am in Providence with my family until Dec. 30th, so I will have to miss the party this Sunday. Give the team a hug for me.

Count me in for \$1000 if the league goes public...

Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 13:21:52 -0800
From: Tamara Modell <tw2@earthlink.net> Reply-To: tw2@earthlink.net
Subject: Brainstorming



What if instead of buying the League, we could find a combination of the public/city/private investors willing to buy a team? Whichever teams were funded could continue the league?

Also, I know we don't want a "minor" league, but if we can't save the ABL, perhaps we could keep the spirit alive, keep some players in jobs, and keep the momentum of already established fan bases by forming a minor league with the intent of building back up to a major league. Minor league hockey is very popular. The Seattle Thunderbirds started out playing in Mercer Arena, where the Reign play. Several years ago they moved to Key Arena, where the Sonics play, and they fill the place. As far as I know, they don't have any tv contracts. They began with a very dedicated fan base and players who partied with the fans.

From: SayCheese3@aol.com
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 16:46:48 EST
Subject: Re: Memories

Here are a few memories of my own:

- The 3 hour round trip drive we drove almost every weekend. I know it sounds like all that time in the car would get old, but I actually enjoyed. It gave me a break from my hectic life. I could chill. I also got to spend time with my family.

- How the players would have fun and mess around when it was appropriate. They were real people, and they showed that.

- Talking to the players at various occasions. They all were always SO nice. You all know that. They never got sick of their fans. They never were rude. They were so nice.



- How Kedra stuck around for a long time after the Season Ticket Holders Picnic at the beginning of the season, playing with the kids. You could tell she really loves kids.

- Watching the rookies sing "Old McDonald" at the picnic.

- The second opening night at the arena. We really won that game, and it was so much fun.

- Getting on the arena tv with my best friend at this season's opening night. We had so much fun, and I made a lasers fan out of her.

- The end of the year party for the second season. My dad and me got pictures with each of the players, and they were so nice to us.

- The pre-game laser shows.

- The practice game before the first game ever. We went and watched them play a scrimmage game, and got autographs afterwards.

- Watching this team develop from the start.

- The look of shock whenever I tell people that we drive 3 hours almost every weekend "just to see a basketball game". Of course, for me, it was not "just a basketball game". It was more. But it was still funny to see their faces.

- Knowing each landmark on the way, and how close it would bring me to San Jose.

- The great feeling when we won.

- The hoarse feeling in my throat that I would have on the way back from a game. It was always so much worse when we won, of course, but I didn't mind.

There are so many more, but I have to go help my mom bake pies, so that's all I'm putting for now.
--Kristy:(

From: Denise Michaels <dmichaels@mindspring.com>
Subject: Tell other teams fans....

Hey, everyone who has contact with fans of other teams: get the word out, tell them to spread the word to tell Oprah and company about the ABL, its principles, the good work ABL players have done in their communities etc etc

If we can flood the Oprah offices with email, letters, calls, faxes from all over the country, she would HAVE to hear us.

An excellent example is the note someone forwarded from the ABL forum, saying "the WNBA doesn't want Lacy and Azzi and their principles...." Exactly why we need good role models for kids.

This would be perfect programming for Oxygen, and the ABL upholds and promotes the ideal Oprah supports.

Again, find Oprah at:



<http://www.oprah.com/email-oprah.html>

optimistically,
Denise

Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 14:18:56 -0800
From: Tamara Modell <tw2@earthlink.net> Reply-To: tw2@earthlink.net
Subject: Re: The Azzi Interview

Thanks for the transcript, John!

> (Graphic goes up showing ABL advertising budget \$5M avg. attendance
> 4333, WNBA advertising budget \$15M avg. attendance 10000)

Don't these numbers show that the ABL is actually ahead of the WNBA?
They got more attendees for the buck even though their product was less well known.

From: "Gay Katilius" <gay_kat@hotmail.com>
Subject: Merry Christmas
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 15:18:23 PST

Laser Fans,

I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas, if you celebrate Christmas.
If not, please don't be offended by this message.

We have a lot to be grateful for - we would never have known each other if it hadn't of been for the Lasers (and I got to know some old friends better because of this). I feel like we are a family, and we are a very special group.

I went to the Reign list today, and read some of the comments - they have some real wackos up there!! Some really great folks, too, but not too many like most of us.

Please have a good day tomorrow, and enjoy your families and friends and all, and I'll look forward to seeing you all on Sunday at the celebration!!! By the way - in addition to the binder/scrapbooks, I'm going to get little presents and/or thank you cards for the players and coaches, so they will have some good wishes to take with them. Let's bring some shopping bags along, in hopes they get filled up with 'little' wishes from everyone!

Gay

From: "Marilyn M." <mjm30@amdahl.com>
Subject: Re: brainstorming

There is lots of recent wealth in this valley such as thru Yahoo. I believe someone on this fan list works there. What about appealing to them? I'm sure there are many more companies out there with individuals of like wealth. Let's create a list of them and see who has associations or associates with/in the companies/with the executives.

Marilyn Martinyak

From: BROCHE545@aol.com
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 18:43:48 EST
Subject: emali address for Blizzards:

the_chill_factor@hotmail.com



From: Teresa_Cabico@notes.amdahl.com
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 15:50:14 -0800
Subject: LASERS

I have sat here in a daze wondering if this is a dream...I can't believe this is happening to our team...I was never a fan of women sports, but when my godchild who was inspired by the team and especially Sheri Sam, she introduced me to the game and I was hooked. To see excitement in her eyes, the cheers she gave every time Sheri would hit the basket, and the comment my godchild would make...."GO Sheri...you're the bomb" she would turn to me and say, "I'm going to play like my idol, Sheri!" Those words stuck to me and whenever Nicole played her game and at the end she would always ask me "Did I play like Sheri?" This breaks my heart to know that it's over and there is no one for her to look up to. Nicole made me promise to get her Sheri's head band so that she can wear it during her games, but it looks like I'll never have that opportunity. I'll keep the spirit going and encourage Nicole, hoping she will continue the drive of women's sports as she goes into high school...I want to thank the team for giving hope and role models not only to my godchild but all the kids who had that certain sparkle in their eyes whenever they saw their favorite player on the court.
It was the magnificence of team that brought the "Can Do" attitude in our kids.

The Og lady, thank you for bringing the youth in us, the cheers...

Klik, thanks for smiles you put on the kids whenever they greeted you at the stands.

Angela Beck, your energy that put us on the edge of each game

Gay, thanks for the time and support you gave to the team

The Beam Team committee, you have done an exceptional job in getting this scholarship off the ground. Thanks for the smiles you put on the kids who went to camp.

The fans, you guys and gals were absolutely beautiful. thanks for giving emails on the web

The Laser Team, you will continue to be part of a family in our hearts...
YOU'RE AWESOME....thanks for the memories

From: Mrlaw10@aol.com
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 19:45:45 EST
Subject: A way to save the ABL

List Fans,
I read all the posts here on a daily basis... and I am always amazed at all or your true love for the ABL.

Here is my sweet and short suggestion...You sit in Silicon Valley and those computer folks have TONS and TONS of money...surely someone knows someone who could put a bug in someone's ear....follow my drift here?

Wayne

From: Mrlaw10@aol.com
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 19:49:53 EST
Subject: Re: Brainstorming

Now there is some smart thinking too.....

Count me inI have my grand ready and I can't even see the games anymore!!!

Wayne



From: "Shannon Terry" <ShannonT@ix.netcom.com>
Subject: Re: Brainstorming
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 17:18:31 -0800

Dear Lasers Fans-

This is a Seattle Reign staffer that has \$1000 for the league, too. Hope this works!

Shannon

From: OgLady@aol.com
Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 00:25:25 EST
Subject: re: money

Well, I have just counted the money and there is about \$5-6K already pledged. I got an e-mail from Oprah's staff saying they rec'd my e-mail. Keep flooding her with e-mail-- she's gotta listen!!! The OG Lady (will have to paint/wallpaper extra places on the weekends) pledges \$1000!!! Susie-Q



From: LSMant@AOL.COM
Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 02:01:21 EST
Subject: \$\$\$

Well, I don't know where it will come from but we will come up with our share of the bucks somehow. Count us in, Susie Q.

Like others on this list, I have my share of wonderful memories of being a Lasers fan.

*Getting to know the folks who sit around us in Section 2 has been so much fun. Not once did they complain about my screaming and yelling in their ears! And they all made my parents feel so welcome. Many thanks.

*Katie Ho catching my husband and me when we arrived early for a game. I had to talk my blindfolded husband to the basket and then he had to shoot. His basket won us a gift certificate to Eulipia.

*Winning the Safeway seats a couple of games ago and getting a real kick out of Charlie and Sharon.

*Helping with mailings at the Lasers office. Being totally impressed when everyone stopped in to say thanks - staff, coaches, players, and big wigs!

*Women everywhere. Wonderful women. Strong women. Incredible role models even for old folks like me.

*Weird guy - remember him? The one who wore the hood and sunglasses. Never saw him again after he started to strip at one game last year.

*The MANY posters I got from the kids at the school where I work in the library. They'd attended a softball banquet at which Jennifer spoke. Afterwards I was flooded with posters because the kids knew I was a BIG fan.

*Teresa's daughter playing basketball right there in the Event Center for all of us to see.

*Those incredible fan clubs - with our very own stand up comics. Many thanks to Angela and Bobbie, not to mention all the players and Cully.

Well, it's Christmas Eve and Santa needs to go fill the stockings. Yeah, even college kids get them. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

Laura

Subject: RE: \$\$\$
Date: Thu, 24 Dec 1998 23:41:37 -0800
Reply-to: "saladsue" <saladsue@goplay.com> From: "saladsue" <saladsue@goplay.com>

You can count on me to chip in some \$\$\$.

As far as the memories go:
I had forgotten about that "weird" guy. We kinda liked him and called him "dancing man".

Thank you all for reminding me of all the good times we've shared. As sad as I am, it has made me feel a little better.

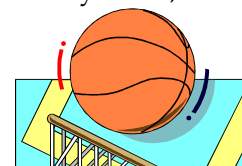
Merry Christmas...

Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 00:53:05 -0800
From: "Scott W. Larson" <scowl@teleport.com> X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 [en] (Win95; I)
Subject: Pictures

For those who have never read my posts on the ABL Forum, I'm the guy behind the camera and the Portland Power Picture Page at www.teleport.com/~scowl/Power. I have many pictures of the last game the Lasers played here in Portland with the quality ranging from OK to "I can't believe I took this amazing picture". If these pictures can help your cause, I'll be glad to replace the Seattle game pictures on the site with the Laser pictures so you folks can check them out. I also have a handful of pictures from the final Lasers game in Portland last year.

The reason I joined this list is so I can continue to be amazed by Jennifer Azzi and help her and her goals in any way I can. What she has done on the court has made me admire her to no end. I have no doubt that what she does now under these painful circumstances will, at least in my heart, make her the most admirable woman in the history of sports.

From: Teresa Feiock <teresa@theshakers.org>
Subject: ABL Charities good news



ABL Charities is still in business!, so that means we can definitely move ahead with the Beam Team scholarship for next summer. If you haven't already done so, please consider making a contribution before the end of this year. Your contributions are tax deductible.

You can make a contribution at our big bash this Sunday, or you can contact me via email and I will tell you how to mail it in. We will also have our thank you shirts available at the Sunday party, and for those of you who mail in a contribution, we will mail you your thank you gift. Minimum \$20 gets a t-shirt, \$40 gets a polo.

The Lasers can live on in basketball camp scholarships next summer. For any new folks to this list, here is what I'm talking about. Last year after we collected the money to bring Kedra's high school coach to a San Jose game (from Texas) we decided to start up a scholarship fund to send girls to Lasers summer camps. In about 2 months we raised enough money to cover 6 girls at Azzi's basketball camp, including lunch stipend, shoes donated by Reebok thanks to Kedra, other ABL and Lasers goodies, and transportation to and from camp by volunteers. We were looking forward to expanding to 18 girls at Azzi's, Beck's and Sam's camps this summer. If any Lasers players conduct bay area camps we will focus on those for our scholarships. If not, we will try the local college programs, such as SJ State, Santa Clara and Stanford.



Happy Holidays, Teresa

From: DIVINCENT@aol.com
Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 11:14:33 EST
Subject: Organizing Seattle and San Jose

In a message dated 12/24/98 8:01:00 AM Pacific Standard Time, lreiss@ix.netcom.com writes:

<< Diane Vincent where are you??? >>

I was having lunch with Bill Gates. just kidding, and wishful thinking!

Hi,

I am here (thank you for noticing my silence) snowed in and iced in, in Seattle, with pipes bursting and apts flooded and water shut off and alarms going off and fire trucks here several times a day (thank God it's finally warming up and starting to rain again); and reading all of the Lasers emails, and have been in shock and grieving and brainstorming and crying along with all of you, and trying to gather my thoughts to post.

Tuesday I spent hours reading emails here and on the Reign fan forum and the ABL and checking out the websites, and surfing all the news channels here and taping all the ABL news (with Starbird as always optimistic, and Enis in tears, and taking all the computers out of the Reign office, etc.) All of the words in the many, many Lasers fans emails expressed my feelings over and over. Then Wed. as I read more emails I had many more tears (especially about Klik; I always loved Klik and really missed her up here; I enjoyed watching her and with the children as much as the games), and in awe, as usual, at the incredible organizational powers of the fans on this list, and then so sad that I can't be at the party there on Sun. (but I will be at the rally up here on Sat). I am so impressed with all of you, and honored to be in your midst.

Does anyone know about Machanguana?; she is my favorite player and was so much looking forward to seeing her again Sat.; sure don't want to lose her; is there any way to get an email address for her or any of the players? I know Jennifer isn't into the internet from an online interview I read of her on The Hoop Girls.

In response to the request to contact Bill Gates; first I have to tell you that the thought had already occurred to me to contact him and Paul Allen, and what about all the wealth in the bay area, and many more possibilities, but until hearing people speak up on the list, I had the impression that everyone was just willing to accept the loss; so I was thrilled when all the dialogue turned to solution and raising money.

I have definitely learned a lot more about Gates since moving here, and that one of the reasons he has so much money is he doesn't like to give any of it away. If anything I would be wanting to try to reach his wife, Melinda, and appeal to her as a woman and mother of a 2 year old girl. I have already done some research on their foundations, but most of the money they donate is allocated for computers for kids; they recently donated a chunk (a pittance for them, but a chunk for Seattle) to the libraries, and had also funded vaccinations for children; but as their reputation precedes them, I would think getting money from them would be less likely than winning the lottery, but still worth a shot; we can sure try. Or contacting his parents, who have been philanthropists for generations.

Last night I read on the list that Jennifer was on Ch 4 and talking about wanting to find investors and keep the league going, (that was the best news) but it wasn't real detailed about what she had said, and who else of the players are with us on this; so I ran a search to find Ch 4 in the bay area, and then searched Ch 4 website trying to get any info about her interview, and I could not find anything (but there was an audio of the sports cast, and an interview of an ex coach of the WNBA, talking about what she thinks happened to the ABL, which really pissed me off); so I sent several emails to Ch 4 and requested transcripts of the Azzi interview, but have not received a reply yet.

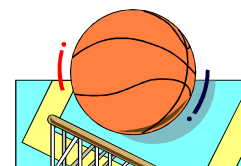
I think what Azzi wants to do will have a HUGE impact on what we all want to do, and I really want to find out specifically what she had said, what she knows, what her intentions are; if Azzi is behind keeping the ABL going, I really believe we could pull this off, by all of us pulling together and pooling our resources and making contacts. I would also like to know what all the other players think about this, if they are willing to work with us, if they are still going to stick around if we all work hard at trying to make it happen; and how to even contact any of the players? I put in a couple calls to the woman I was sitting with at the last Reign/Lasers game, who is friends with Jennifer, to see if she has talked to her or knows anything; also waiting for feedback from her.

And I have contacted the woman here (Tamara) about getting organized in Seattle, and know I can gather others; I network with lots of people through email in Seattle, many who are fans but not on these lists, so when we decide on meeting time/place, I will get the word out; but I think it would be better to gather more info; and the most important info I want to know is what Jennifer Azzi wants to do; she is an incredibly powerful woman, based in her spiritual beliefs, and she doesn't seem to let anything stop her; and she is the recognizable name that we need to make this happen. I have also been encouraging some of the Reign fans to join the Lasers list so we can have a more centralized and efficient forum for organizing. And it would be great if we could get Starbird and her name on board, and other players to join with us.

Most people have been naming powerful and rich men to ask for money, which were also my first thoughts, but the ABL failed with men owning/running it; I would rather seek out mostly powerful women with the economic resources (certainly not to the exclusion of men; I am in awe and grateful for the wonderful men we have on this fan list who are so supportive of empowering women); and not just Oprah and Rosie, but philanthropic women here and the bay area, corporate women in power, etc. And encouraging Oprah to get her new cable channel up and running for us ASAP is the best idea. I have many more ideas, and know all of you do too. I also think we need to be smart and organized in our approaches, with well thought out letters, and have lists for all of us to write to; sample letters posted for those who have more difficulty or less confidence in their writing abilities would also be helpful (when people write letters to Oprah, for instance, like Susie Q, it would be helpful to have those copied to the list). And any ideas for contacts, emails addresses, web sites, etc. to be posted to help all of us make the contacts, and come up with more ideas, and avoid overlapping efforts. We have the momentum and passion, and absolute love for the ABL, but we do need more information (like how much money really does need to be raised to make this happen and are the players with us).

Well I finally got out last night (Christmas eve), now that the snow and ice has washed away, and went dancing, and to a midnight concert, and then drove through downtown Seattle to look at all the lights, without any people; quite wonderful; and now have been up writing all night, so is now Christmas morning; so Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of you. I am very thankful for this list; thank you for keeping it going.

Diane Vincent
425-277-2567
divincent@aol.com



From: KaatjeLW@aol.com
Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 11:18:58 EST
Subject: Re: Brainstorming

I have been part of this list since the beginning but I have never wrote. I am a huge Lasers fan but I live in Nashville. That was never a problem until this year when we got a team. I was so excited. I am a big fan of the Noise too. When San Jose came to town I was torn as who to cheer for. I decided to cheer for my favorite player, Sheri Sam, instead of for either team. This was my first ABL game in person. It was great and I even got to sit courtside. I have been a volunteer for the Noise and will miss this league. I am willing to help it survive so count me in for \$1000 and I am sure there are other Nashville fans that would also contribute. Today being Christmas I opened one present to find two courtside tix for the Lasers game here in Feb. I just cried. I wish I would be able to attend the party. That would be great. If anyone talks to Sheri tell her that Nashville is praying for her and we hope to see her at some Vandy games.

Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 08:58:40 -0800
From: David or Marian Cortesi <cortesi@dsp.net>
Subject: Basketball History

Richard C. Smith omitted a significant fact from his basketball history lesson about the NBA, which "... survived as a minor league sport for years before moving toward its current stature".

There was no major basketball league with mega-bucks and a lock on TV coverage in those days, determined to retain 100% control of the business of basketball. ESPN reported the demise of the ABL on SportsCenter with the statement, "The WNBA has won the war."

The ABL was a group of talented, strong, passionate women trying to play their sport in their country. There didn't need to be a war.

Marian Cortesi
2340 Tasso St.
Palo Alto, CA 94301
650-321-1986
cortesi@dsp.net

From: BlueSchuy@aol.com
Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 11:58:49 EST

In a message dated 12/24/98 11:27:00 AM Central Standard Time, mckinney@molly.iii.com writes:

<< I was also thinking about who has been successful in the business of women's sports and thought of Billie Jean King. Not that she has a lot of money, but she was certainly instrumental in helping women's tennis get to where it is today. Just wonder if she's ever been approached about being connected with the ABL. She would certainly understand the "underdog" issue of the ABL vs. that other league. Just a thought. >>

Billie Jean was a season ticket holder for the Chicago Condors. I don't know if Condors management had asked her for assistance in marketing the Condors or not. But at least she probably cares about the end of the ABL, just like we do.

Joanne

Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 09:13:24 -0800
Subject: Re: Pictures

Scott,
I just checked out your Power Picture Page and loved it -- wish we had had something like that for the Lasers.

I don't know how publishing Lasers pictures there would help our cause, but it would certainly help our spirits. I, for one, would love to see them.

I'm restating your URL as a hyperlink here, so that Lasers fans can just click on it:
<http://www.teleport.com/~scowl/Power/>

Thanks for doing this and for your support of the Lasers.
Marian

Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 09:15:56 -0800
From: "Scott W. Larson" <scowl@teleport.com> X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.5 [en] (Win95; I)



Subject: Re: Brainstorming

(I just joined this list so forgive me for not knowing what efforts have already been made.)

Has there been any talk of finding a way to keep just the West coast teams operating to some degree in sort of an regional I-5 version of the ABL? Of all the ideas I've heard so far about salvaging anything from the ABL, I think this idea has the highest likelihood of succeeding (still very low!). Consider these facts:

1. The Lasers, the Power, and the Reign all have good attendance so far this year. The Reign's has been somewhat inconsistent though, but the Power's has been very solid.
2. They had three of the five best records in the ABL so far.
3. Travel between these three cities is inexpensive.
4. Mercer Arena and the San Jose Event Arena are small and aren't very expensive to rent. The Memorial Coliseum is more expensive unfortunately, but maybe not too expensive.
5. The media would probably still give about as much coverage as before, especially if attendance remained what it was before.
6. They were very well established in their areas and the closure of the teams has received an amazing amount of attention. It made the front page of the Oregonian here.

My guess at what things a league like this would have to give up:

1. Large salaries. They would be lucky to earn half of what they were earning before.
2. TV. That insane deal with Fox and CBS was poison to the league anyway.
3. Lots of games. Each game would have to be very well planned i.e. not very often.
4. Decent benefits, 401k, retirement plans and so on.
5. The idea that they're competing with the WNBA. When and if the WNBA invades these cities, expect a league like this to be the butt of many jokes.

I may be mistaken, but if this hypothetical league did not require exclusivity like the ABL did, the players could still play for the WNBA during the summer and earn enough pocket money so they won't starve.

Any opinions on this? I wrote this up in less than 30 minutes. Well, I've been thinking about it continuously for days now but this is all I've come up with so far.

From: Froggie13@aol.com
Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 12:20:31 EST
Subject: Re: investing

Quest Fans Mailing List - <http://www.columbusquest.com>

Can we really do something?
A lot of people would donate. I would give them all of my Christmas money.
Khisha #13



From: OgLady@aol.com
Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 13:54:16 EST
Subject: re: money

Hey you all, pretty soon I will say it like a real american!! I have my interview with the immigration office on Jan 26 to see if I can pass the questions to become a citizen. I have kinda counted all the pledges and it looks like we have about \$11K plus. Happy holidays, OG Lady

Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 11:17:11 -0800

From: Deborah Dixon <dixons1@pacbell.net> Organization: Pacific Bell Internet Services X-Mailer:
Subject: Re: Organizing Seattle and San Jose X-Rcpt-To: teresa@theshakers.org

Diane, you bring up some good points.

We need to have a figure to shoot for and I'll see what I can come up with. Same with a way to contact Jennifer. I would think that we could at least find someone to forward messages to her so she knows we're still willing to fight if she doesn't know it already. There's also the Lasers party on Sunday where we can get some info first hand from Angela. From what I understand, she's been talking to the players and probably has a feel for what they want to do.

re the TV appearance: Jennifer felt that players would be willing to take pay cuts to keep this going and emphasized the work the teams do in the communities and schools.

I'm compiling an email list and will post what I have but I need other people to contribute to it. Do you know how to contact Gates' parents? I'll also copy any emails I write to the Lasers and Quest lists, the Fan Forum, the Reign fan forum and rec.sport.basketball.women. Do you know of any other lists or web sites where ABL fans have gone to communicate? I've emailed Nashville and Blizz fans and asked them to pass the word. Any ideas on how we could centralize this effort?

Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 11:35:30 -0800

From: Deborah Dixon <dixons1@pacbell.net> Organization: Pacific Bell Internet Services X-Mailer:
Subject: Re: money

So does this mean you're going to stop saying "eh"?

OgLady@aol.com wrote:

>

> Hey you all, pretty soon I will say it like a real american!! I have my
> interview with the immigration office on Jan 26 to see if I can pass the
> questions to become a citizen. I have kinda counted all the pledges and it
> looks like we have about \$11K plus. Happy holidays, OG Lady

From: PennyHluv1@aol.com

Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 14:44:31 EST

Subject: Re: Brainstorming

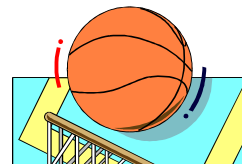
How can the ABL do this to us? Look at us here, desperately searching for a way to bring back the ABL. The ABL has the most loyal and dedicated fans, and anyone can easily see that! The ABL must know how this is affecting the fans, so why don't they do something!!!

Jacqueline

From: Sharon Crawford <Sharon@scribes.com>

Subject: Press Release

Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 11:57:35 -0800



Press release has gone via email or fax to Mercury news: Killion, Geracie, Tepps, rlaymance, and the wonderful Tracie Cone
Channel 8 Monterey

Channel 11
KNBR radio
Bay TV
KGO TV
Channel 5
Channel 2
KGO radio

Chronicle sports plus CW Nevius, Joan Ryan, Bruce Jenkins Examiner sports editor, news editor, R Ratto, Gwen Knapp also to editors of: Alameda Times Star, San Mateo County Times, Argus (Fremont), Daily Review (Hayward), Oakland Tribune, Tri-Valley Herald (Pleasanton).

If anyone can send me the email address and/or fax numbers for any other likely media outlets (particularly radio stations), I'll be happy to send a press release. However, my eyes are now falling out of my head and I refuse to do any more web searches for a while....<g>

From: Denise Michaels dmichaels@mindspring.com
Subject: Dancing guy and more memories

Laura remembered:

>*Weird guy - remember him? The one who wore the hood and sunglasses. Never saw
>him again after he started to strip at one game last year.

I was looking for him at games this year! I called him the dancing man--remember how he used to dance all over the bleachers? I keep seeing a guy who looks like him at every game, but he's all "normal." I was speculating that it is the dancing man, but that he got [back] on medication & all of that creative expression is back in the "don't do that in public" mode. (He was getting more and more layered with clothes and that's a behavior schizophrenics show: piling on all the clothes they can wear.) I always thought he was probably harmless and having a great time in his own way. I'll miss looking for him, too.....

I also remember Hoopgirls Joan stepping out there and boldly running across the court to beat out the competition when they called her initials during a break--I think of her every time they specify now: "Do not run across the court." :-D

Another item to mention in your oprah letter: Last year, my friend's daughter attended Jennifer's camp for kids. On the first day, Jennifer sat down with them and talked about charities and asked them to think about what charities they thought were important. Then she had them name a charity they would do something for--and she promised to match whatever each girl did for her charity. This is a wonderful thing that will never get mentioned anywhere, because Jennifer understands the spirit of charity, and it is not doing it for self-promotion. What a shame to lose that kind of positive influence on the world.

keeping the faith,
Denise

From: "Bart N. Locanthi" <bart@sabl.com>
Subject: resurrection w/ net marketing?

..apologies as a newbie to any horses previously flogged..

i'm wondering if we, the net-faring folk, could make a difference between an additional cash infusion and real restart.

from the beginning it was clear which league had the money and which league had the grass-roots support. unfortunately, the league w/o the money didn't take advantage and lost out big time.

i'm sure we could do a *much* better job of bringing a new abl to the [net] world.. my question is, would that make a difference in the real world?

i bet we could also deliver eyeballs to pop-up ads for azzis favorite shampoo, nat's nike knuckle pads, or whatever. paying the bills with that.. i dunno..

i keep reading quotes from people who absolutely Did Not Know there was an abl. wow. well, to some extent, the net ignores city boundaries.

tv was the key to revenues, and the abl lost that one big time (can you say "anti-trust"?). can the net equivalent evolve and reach enough people to support a league?

From: Sharon Crawford <Sharon@scribes.com>
Subject: RE: money
Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 12:07:51 -0800

Bill Gates is not a good prospect. He's not particularly interested in sports -- his charitable donations go to schools, libraries. Just gave \$100 million to childhood immunization programs...so he does give away lots of money. However, this is not an area he's likely to be interested in. And we don't have time to "convert" someone who's not already in our corner.

The people to go after are those who have shown some interest in promoting/helping

- 1. sports
 - 2, kids
 - 3. women athletes
 - 4. Afro-American women
- any or all of the above.



Just off the top of my head: Ted Turner (and his rather famous wife). Oprah Winfrey. Martina Navratilova. Jerry Rice & Roger Craig (both of whom attended Lasers games). Dusty Baker (he was at the opening game last season). Don't just think of who has money -- think of those who have shown at least a little interest in what the Lasers and ABL represent.

Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 12:46:05 -0800
From: Deborah Dixon <dixons1@pacbell.net> Organization: Pacific Bell Internet Services X-Mailer:
Subject: Re: money

Thanks, Sharon. Good suggestions. Martina should have popped into my head immediately. I agree Bill's a longshot, but if I'm already emailing people I might as well send one to him, too. Maybe we'll catch him in a weak moment after one too many egnogs!

Thanks for doing the press release. I plan on emailing Mr Teppis and company and see if they'll give us any ink about trying to save the league. After all, they miraculously found all that space Wed. Can you forward the release to me? Thanks.

How's Charlie? He's been pretty quiet.

From: "Bart N. Locanthi" <bart@sabl.com>
Subject: Re: Brainstorming

>As Diane said, Bill Gates doesn't give much and when he does it's
>designed to further the interests of Microsoft. My e-mail to him
>included the following: "The ABL's biggest obstacle was the monopoly
>the NBA has on television stations. What if you partnered with the ABL
>with the intention of launching a whole new era of cybercasting?



he also might like the notion of creating a market where established interests are ready to fight him head on.

and being on the underdog's side, for once, might improve his public image.

>Would it be possible to barter for services (travel, hotels, uniforms, >etc.) in return for stock in the company?

not barterings, tie-ins! snap your favorite action shot off this webcast and have it printed on your gen-yoo-wine abl jersey!

having complete access to the game and its presentation might open up a world of possibilities.

Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 13:08:34 -0800
From: "Bart N. Locanthi" <bart@sabl.com> Subject: Re: Brainstorming

>he also might like the notion of creating a market where established interests are ready to fight him head on.

sorry.. "*aren't* ready to fight him".. apologies for the mistake and the annoyance of another msg.

From: Lompican44@aol.com
Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 16:28:13 EST
Subject: The Azzi Interview

Lasers & ABL fans,

For those who couldn't see it, here's the interview from Wednesday night. I transcribed this today from my tape. I can't claim I got everything right, but I think it's close.

John

Dennis O'Donnell, O'DONNELL interview with Jennifer Azzi:

O'DONNELL:...<snip re:NBA Lockout>..the stalemate? How to divide 2 billion dollars in revenue. The ABL season ended yesterday for a different reason. There was no money to divide. And today one of it's marquee players and probably it's top spokesperson, Jennifer Azzi, is out of a job. Azzi could have bolted to the rival WNBA but instead chose to stay with a league she helped create and promote. Alongside, and in the channel 4 studios, Jennifer Azzi....boy Merry Christmas, eh.

AZZI: (shaking her head) Not a great present....for sure.

O'DONNELL: You basically came here because you want to make a plea, because you think you can save...the ABL can be saved.

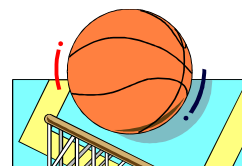
AZZI: Well, I don't personally think I can do too much. But I think there is still a chance with ah, while the league is going through this bankruptcy process, and there's kind of a window of time that someone could come in and invest in the league and potentially buy the league.

O'DONNELL: Why do you think a league...anybody would come in to save a league that is clearly losing money?

AZZI: Well, I think our league goes so much farther than basketball. If you look in San Jose...the community support....the fan support...I think it's been a tremendous tragedy, what's happened with this league because we're the ones that go to the schools and speak to kids, you know, we're involved and very proactive in the community and I think that's something that is a shame to waste. And I think if an investor or someone comes in and sees that potential that maybe there's still a chance.

O'DONNELL: Yeah, but I'll play hard businessman.

AZZI: (snicker like thanks a lot) Great.



O'DONNELL: If I want to make money, I want a good investment. And if you guys aren't...if you guys are showing up completely in the red, what's the point?

AZZI: Right, I mean, I definitely agree, but I think you have to put in money in order for it to make money and that's the thing that we lacked. We lacked enough money to market it like it needed to be marketed. And unfortunately, the American public and people don't see beyond the media and don't think beyond what's on TV and what's being advertised.

(Graphic goes up showing ABL advertising budget \$5M avg. attendance 4333, WNBA advertising budget \$15M avg. attendance 10000)

I mean, you yourself said you went to a game and loved the product. So if people come and see the product and see what we're all about, then, I think it could be a money maker down the road.

O'DONNELL: Yeah, you're looking at how much the WNBA spent.....15 million compared to the \$5 million that you guys spent, on advertising. That is one issue.

(Graphic goes up showing avg. salaries \$80000 for ABL, \$30,000 for WNBA -TV contracts BET, FOXNET for ABL NBC, ESPN, LIFETIME for WNBA)

The second issue, is that the WNBA salaries, average salaries, were much lower than the ABL's. In hindsight, that didn't appear to be a very good strategy. Agreed?

AZZI: Yeah I agree, but you know what? Right now, I think I'm too emotional and too upset probably about what's gone with, you know, looking at these players and everyone without a job and I think a lot of players right now, at this point, would play for a lot less money to try to save this season and just to at least finish this season. I think the biggest shock.....We knew that something like this could potentially happen. And I would have thought, at least we would make it through another year...through another season.

O'DONNELL: I'm going to ask you a question you've answered many times and one you probably don't like, but it's the stereotypical one, that the women's players are not as fast as the men, not as spectacular, they don't put on the same kind of show. Now having seen a league fold, I'm going to ask you that question again. Do you think that the countrySan Jose, is ready for women's basketball?

AZZI: We had 35,000 people at the Olympics...at our games. We have incredible fan support. People that come to the games, love the product. I think everyday people can .. can relate to what we do. You know, we're not fighting over a billion dollars here. We're talking about survival and doing something that we love to do. It's a passion within each of the players and it's a great level of play. I mean, I'll bet we could, we could probably get you out on the court and some of the guys around here and

O'DONNELL: (interrupts, laughing) and take me to the hole.

AZZI: and show people the level of play, because I think, people that do come to watch us play respect the talent.

O'DONNELL: OK ah...quickly, you personally. Everybody knows you're probably more popular than any WNBA player, let alone the ABL player, what will happen to you if this league does not go on?

AZZI: You know I haven't even really thought about that. I haven't thought about my future. I mean, I'm committed to go for the Olympic team in 2000. I'm not really actually worried about my personal future. I think I'm the most sad about what's happened in losing the Lasers. I mean we were a part of San Jose. I had a woman come up to me at lunch today and started crying. She was about 65 years old, not even a real fan, and she's like, "What happened? Is there anything I

can do?" And I think that's what prompted me to come on tonight. Was, well, maybe there's something I can do. I can speak, I can ...you know.

O'DONNELL: OK Heh, Jennifer, good luck. You did a great job with the ABL. Hopefully it's not over yet.

AZZI: Yeah, hopefully....thank you.

O'DONNELL: All right. Jennifer Azzi. Still thinks, still thinks Pete and Wendy, that there's some hope for saving the ABL.

PETE: We hope so.

WENDY: Good luck to you, Jennifer.

PETE: Thanks a lot.



From: MWenzinger@aol.com
Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 16:54:32 EST
Subject: the Team

I don't mean to sound negative, and I guess if everyone wants to put the effort toward saving the team great. However, look at the facts. No one has been interested in the ABL. I mean come on Rosie Odonell had the WNBA on but never the ABL, so why all of a sudden do you think that Oprah or Ted Turner or anyone else with money would be interested in saving a league that yes has GREAT talent but no airway time or big endorsements. I know people in Columbus who still do not know who the QUEST was and many of these people are sports fans.

I too love the ABL and the QUEST. I have been a volunteer since before the first game. However, I do feel that their was not enough money to get the interest or to advertise and get fans. Their is a small and loyal following but that does not make money. And even though I hate to say it sports today is about money.

So do your best but don't be disappointed. And remember all the great times the ABL has given us and the fact that those can never be replaced. I feel for all the players who on such sudden notice were without jobs. And fans that are going to miss the great excitement the league has given us.

Good Luck!

Missy

Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 14:30:47 -0800
From: M Diva <diva@sirius.com>
Subject: Beam Team Scholarship



Teresa--

Thanks for the positive info on the Scholarship fund. I'd like to get a check in the mail before I leave on vacation on Monday. Could you tell me where to send it. Is it still:

Laser Beam Team Scholarships
c/o ABL Charities Foundation, Inc.
1900 Embarcadero Road, #100
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Thanks for all your efforts
Happy Holidays---

Marilyn

Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 17:44:22 -0500
From: Mark Horton <mark@lucent.com>
Subject: Re: brainstorming

My initial reaction was that, while I'd gladly put up \$1000 to buy stock in the team, that Cavalli would have done that if it were likely to work. He concluded that the league can't make it financially without television, and he couldn't get the ABL on TV.

But Beth pointed out that the way around that is to get one of the TV moguls with lots of money and a big ego interested. Ted Turner and Rupert Murdoch come to mind. If one of them could be interested, they could take care of the TV easily. Ted's wife, Jane Fonda, was once a feminist, after all.

But I see what happened with Fox Sports Network (Murdoch) and I note that both the Atlanta and Long Beach franchises, home turf for Turner and Murdoch, had to close down, I suspect Cavalli has already tried.

Another approach that might still work is to do what the ABA did: merge some of the clubs with the NBA. The ABL teams in an NBA city, such as Seattle or Chicago, might be merged into the WNBA and fit the WNBA formula, with the TV contract and the support of the NBA. Certainly San Jose (near the Warriors) and New England (Celtics) fit. I wish Columbus could be included in that, but with our attendance record and the closest NBA team already having the Rockers, it would be a tough sell.

I'd love to see it work, and I'll be first in line with my checkbook if given a chance to keep the ABL alive. But it may not be realistic.

Mark

From: BROCHE545@aol.com
Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 21:23:00 EST
Subject: just a reminder

Call your friends, email everyone...

I did talk to Angela Beck yesterday. She will be at the gathering on Sunday. She will bring as much of the team as she can.
Arlene

Please help us round up the Lasers fans:

From: Lompican44@aol.com
Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 21:29:45 EST
Subject: The "We got game!" Game

The "We got game!" Game - or another desperate idea.

A couple of things in the Azzi interview got to me. First, Jennifer characterized the situation as a matter of survival, which it is. She and most competitors have one reaction to a situation like that and that is to fight to the last buzzer. Right?

The second thing that got to me was the necessity of the KRON interview to bring up the "stereotypical question", as in do women really got game? We all know they do, but I must admit, that's also the reaction of many of my former Warriors' ticket partners that have yet to take me up on offers to go see a Lasers' game. I will say that everyone that did go to a game, came away pleased and interested in coming back.



Anyway the fact is, the public that has not seen the ABL, doesn't really believe they can play. Sounds like Billy Jean King and Bobby Riggs all over again, so here's my crazy idea. Why not challenge them? Last I checked, baby boomers are still the majority of the population and they will remember that famous piece of publicity magic. (Geesh, we even have Joan Baez in our camp.)

It can be done locally with the Lasers challenging a team made up of ..say.. local sportscasters that most resemble Bobby Riggs my vote would be Gary Radnich. He played college ball at UNLV and if he claims he's too old or has bad knees, we can just say, "But Gary, it's only women. Right?" (In fact I'd rather see Jennifer just challenge him 1 on 1, but that's another story.) Or it can be done nationally with each team contributing a player or two and their own local Bobby Riggs.

We stage it the day the All Star Game was to take place. Allow those that bought tickets to the all-star game to use them. That insures the 5000 already sold.

The stakes? How about if the women win, the local TV stations have to sell coverage for all games to finish out the season on a no-interest loan basis? (in the bay area, I would pick KPIX because they are on a national satellite feed). If the men win, the ABL will go quietly into the history books. Of coarse, the ABL has nothing to lose, and the women have never claimed to be as good or better than men. They have only claimed they can play the game at high level, which they can.

If such a crazy event could catch on, and get coverage, who knows? Maybe the women will get the respect they deserve and even a chance to be the role models want to be. The one thing I know, win or lose, they will show the same intensity, hustle, defense, and team play that makes the ABL fun to watch and that will be evident to all who watch.

John

From: "D. Ellen March" <ellen@nil.org>
Subject: Re: Pictures
Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 18:42:54 -0800 (PST) X-Mailer: ELM [version 2.4 PL23]



I still have the San Jose Lasers Observer Web site up at

<http://www.nil.org/observer>

which has over 125 action photos of the lasers from the second season.

Ellen

From: TXKrause@aol.com
Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 22:21:15 EST
Subject: still here

I've been sitting back a little bit this year and listening to ya'll this year and not replying much. I'd have to say its mostly because I've been busy coaching my boys team, and by the time I get to my mail I've got 140+ messages to read. Not much time left to reply.

Wanted to let ya'll know that I talked to Kedra "the morning after the ABL's death" and she is doing all right. About as well as can be expected, when your dreams go "SPLAT" and ya gotta get back up and walk again.

She is a fighter ya'll. Her husband has a good job, so they'll be ok. Her faith in God will lead her through this, and of course her family and friends are still by her side. I think her greatest wish was that ya'll would see the joy she has in her life because of Jesus Christ. She has tried to live that through her actions, and I for one am very proud of her.

I thank you all for "taking care of her" for us, and I'm so glad that we were able to share her wonderful spirit with San Jose. Texas is definitely blessed. I also want to again share my love for all you did for us by bringing me out there to see her play last season. I will cherish that forever -

and because of what has happened - I'm sure ya'll can imagine how even MORE significant that gift was to both her and me.

God's richest blessings to you and your family this holiday season - Liz (Tex)

From: LSMant@aol.com
Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 22:24:15 EST
Subject: dancing guy



We called him the dancing guy, too. And I could have sworn he was at one game dressed in fairly normal clothes but then I just couldn't be sure. He kind of just stood and watched the game from the bleachers at the end. We were just talking about him at the last game and figured he was locked up somewhere or on appropriate medication.

I must say that I am amazed and impressed with the level of creativity and energy that the folks on this list have. Right now I am so wiped out from shopping and cooking and cleaning up and being with people that there isn't a creative idea anywhere in my brain and certainly not a lot of energy to spare.

I applaud and support you all.

One of our gifts today was season tickets to the Stanford women's games. My folks (who are season ticket holders) bought them for us. They felt so horrible about the ABL folding. Turned out they had to pay for a full season even though there have already been a number of games. Rather pricey and the seats aren't nearly as good as our Lasers seats. But it will fill the void a bit.

Hope you all had a bit of cheer today in spite of all that has been going on.
Laura

Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 13:24:50 +1000
From: Nev <envy@uq.net.au>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.04 [en] (Win95; I)
To: LaserFans@elf.net
Subject: Fan Database
X-Rcpt-To: teresa@theshakers.org

Have you got one fan who might be prepared to set up a database of all you wonderfully energetic Laser Fans?

With such a database, you would perhaps be able to organize small interest groups in the one area for whom it might be convenient to meet sometimes, or it might be a group who support/go to Stanford games, or a group with

children of the same age playing basketball, or one group of particular expertise might like to concentrate on a particular aspect of revising the ABL, or one aspect of the Lasers team, or one aspect of increasing awareness of women's basketball or sport, etc, etc.

Nev

Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 13:25:25 +1000
From: Nev <envy@uq.net.au>
To: OgLady@aol.com
Subject: Re: Citizenship



OgLady@aol.com wrote:

- > Hey you all, pretty soon I will say it like a real american!! I have my
- > interview with the immigration office on Jan 26 to see if I can pass the
- > questions to become a citizen. I have kinda counted all the pledges and it

> looks like we have about \$11K plus. Happy holidays, OG Lady
>
> *****

I bet they didn't ask Rupert Murdoch any difficult questions when he became an American citizen.
Nev.

From: LSMant@aol.com
Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 22:32:33 EST
Subject: citizenship

Hey Susie Q, when our daughter became a citizen (she was born in Korea) we were asked if she had ever taken or sold illegal drugs and if she'd ever been a prostitute. Mind you, she was all of 5 months old when we brought her home and was only 3 when she became a citizen! Sarah was so excited about becoming a citizen which we thought was kind of funny since she was so young. Turned out that she thought she was getting a Sit and Spin - one of those toys you could sit and spin yourself around on.

Anyhow, I am sure you'll do fine and we'll all vouch for your many talents and the contributions you have made to this country!

Laura

From: BROCHE545@aol.com
Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 23:31:03 EST
Subject: Memories

Every time I try to write about Lasers memories ...I just can't. There are so many fond, wonderful Lasers memories,....even my birthday surprise party... set around the Lasers last year, I still have the top of the cake, in the freezer, Jerri-Ann had made with the Lasers logo...just too much to express right now.

After hearing/seeing Jennifer Azzi on tv, I still have a glimmer of hope. How realistic this is, I do not know!

Arlene

From: DIVINCENT@aol.com
Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 00:08:38 EST
Subject: Re: The Azzi Interview

Thank you so very much for taking the time to transcribe and post this interview; very helpful. Very inspiring for me, and now we have some numbers for the marketing, and some idea about how the other players also feel. Jennifer Azzi is the best.

Sure wish I could be there Sunday.

Diane Vincent

Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 21:35:49 -0800
From: BONNIE HAMPTON <alhamp@earthlink.net> X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.04 [en] (Win95; I)
Subject: Re: money

I cant do \$1000 but I will do what I can. so count me in there for some.



Date: Fri, 25 Dec 1998 21:42:56 -0800
From: BONNIE HAMPTON <alhamp@earthlink.net> X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.04 [en] (Win95; I)

Found this on the seattle web site. I am not to good with words so someone please help me out with wording and I will sent him an email.

This is Bill Gates email address from microsoft.com:
askbill@microsoft.com Thanks Bonnie

From: AHLORI@aol.com
Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 01:31:14 EST
Subject: Re: The Azzi Interview

Thanks for sending this out !! I didn't get to see the interview. Boy, I love this group.

I can't believe I'm disappointed about being in Tahoe for a week. I am soo bummed out to miss out on sunday. Take lots of photos (digital for downloading, please - would be great) and notes. Has anyone notified the press. I hope the club will be able to handle the crowd that's bound to show up.

Wish I could be there with you all. We leave in the morning and won't have e- mail.

Does anyone know a way to go into AOL from some public access? Maybe I could at least read my mail .

Lori

From: AHLORI@aol.com
Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 01:35:45 EST
Subject: Re: still here

Good to have you join us again, Liz. I hope you eventually got your pictures and they will also be a reminder of this great group of people and your trip out here. I'm glad to hear that Kedreea doing okay. She is the only Laser that I have a picture with and I will cherish it.

Hope you have a great New Year. Our love to Kedra

Lori and Z



From: AHLORI@aol.com
Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 01:40:47 EST
Subject: Re: dancing guy

We also called him "Dancing Guy". I think he did show up one night in a suit and tie. very strange.

One night he was out front saying "welcome to the stairs, please watch your step" he just kept saying it over and over. We got a kick out of it. Whenever we have to go up stairs now, we say "welcome to the stairs" Just cracks us up.... maybe you had to be there to really get the humor.

Lori

From: DIVINCENT@aol.com
Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 08:38:32 EST
Subject: Letter to the Lasers

Hi Teresa,

I know you are putting a scrapbook together, and this may be too long to include, but I really want to get a personal message to the Lasers, since I cannot be there; if this is too long to include, would you please print out and pass on to all of the team for me; I really appreciate it. If there is another party for them the weekend of the All Star game, I may still try to come down (I am hoping we can somehow save the league before then and instead celebrate with a game and startup of a new version of the league). Also hoping there will be lots of photos taken Sunday, and possibly I can get some copies afterwards?

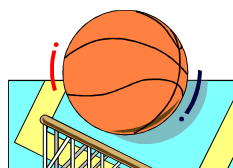
We are meeting here in Seattle on Sat., and hoping some of the Reign team and staff show up.

Thanks,

Diane

12/25/98

Dear Lasers,



I love and admire all of you; you have been a shining light for women, children, and men; you have brought so much enjoyment and inspiration into our lives; you have been role models of extraordinary athleticism and modeling how women can integrate strength, intelligence, beauty, kindness, spirit, generosity and more. Most of you are many years younger than me, and yet I often feel like a child in your midst; you lift up and inspire the young girl inside of me who never had the opportunities and role modeling that you are providing for the young children today. Who you are, what you do, what you portray, are so important to my life; I do not want to lose you.

I lived in the bay area the last 10 years, and was at every Lasers home game the first 2 seasons, and the All Star game in FL; so many wonderful memories!

Watching you all play was the highlight of my last year in the bay area; I moved to Seattle in July, so am now a Lasers and Reign fan; I have absolutely cherished each trip that San Jose made to play here in Seattle (and I love Klik and have been sad at not getting to see her dancing and interacting with the children, since she doesn't travel with you).

Because of now living in Seattle, I cannot be there with you Sunday, but wish I could be there, and my heart and thoughts are with you. I will be at a rally for the Reign here Saturday at the Key Arena (the day you were supposed to be here again).

Two weeks ago you played here and I came down to the Mercer Arena an hour early so I could watch you all warm up, and to give Jennifer a card congratulating her on her 1000 pt. I was so happy to see all of you, and wanted so much to run out on the court and give each of you a hug. It's hard to choose favorites amongst such outstanding athletes; Clarisse Machanguana (who has always been my favorite of favorites) was so kind as to chat with me a few moments before the game, and again walking out of the arena afterwards, which was such a thrill for me. I remember her warm smile, as she waved goodbye, and I said "see you back here on the day after Christmas". In my excitement about the wonderful evening with my beloved Lasers and new team the Reign, I found myself blocks beyond where my car was parked, and the child in me just laughed.

Last Sunday, I was snowed in here, watching you all on TV playing against Portland; I taped the game and watched again later, delighted to see the close-ups, and to see all of you on TV where you belong. I am so grateful to have this game on tape. At one point during the game, there was a close-up side view of the bench, with about five of you lined up, and I thought "Wow, what beautiful women!" Then remembering back to last year, at the party after the first game, and the fan party fund raiser at the end of the season; you were all in your "street clothes", looking oh so lovely, and were so warm and friendly interacting with all the fans (and Klik at the pool table). Such fun times.

There are so many examples of your generosity with the children, fans, and community. Is it any wonder we are all in such awe of you, and unwilling to let you go?

Please do not give up; we need you and the other ABL teams. And as you have inspired us, we will fight for you to stay.

Sincerely

Diane Rose Vincent
425-277-2567
divincent@aol.com
1900 NE 48th Street, #F304
Renton, WA 98056



From: BROCHE545@aol.com
Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 11:59:24 EST
Subject: Re: Last call

Truly wonderful that you are doing this!!!!
Arlene

I wish I could express my feelings for these past , all too short seasons, butI am spending much time gathering folks for tomorrow, calls, emails...I do hope many people show up!

From: OgLady@aol.com
Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 13:04:52 EST
Subject: re: so sorry

Hey you all: sorry to inform you that I will probably not make the gathering tomorrow as my Mother past away this morning about 9 am our time and I have to go back to Montreal. She was 91. Have a great gathering. OG Lady. Things come in 3's so I need one more thing to happen.

From: BROCHE545@aol.com
Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 13:14:00 EST
Subject: Lasers Memories

I remember when the American Basketball League had just begun. My mom was very excited. She began as a volunteer, and worked her way up to their picture taker at camps and a loyal fan and helper. My mom, Arlene Rusche, was always so excited to have me come home for Christmas, partially I think because then I could go to Lasers games and cheer loudly with her! I will never forget the time when about 20 Lasers fans came up to Portland to celebrate Laurie Byrd's 39th birthday. The university I attend is in Portland, so it was nice to have a game and Lasers fans in another part of the basketball world. Most of all I think I will remember seeing young girls and boys at Lasers basketball games with their eyes gazing up at their stars. With such great admiration, these young kids had real heroes who would come to their schools, have camps for them to attend and sign their shirts and basketballs after the game. I can go back and see myself looking with admiration just like these kids did, to the Stanford players way back before the ABL came about. It is a sad day that the ABL will not be able to make some of these kids future stars, but at the same time you must look at the great things that this team and the rest of the teams have accomplished in three years. A dream was born and will hopefully continue in some capacity. For three years, America was treated to great basketball, great stories, and a wonderful display of heart, courage and strength, in a game that at one time women were not allowed to play. As much as it saddens me to see the Lasers go for now, I must say thank you to everyone involved, including my mom, for making the game such a wonderful event and providing role models for young kids, and dreams to come true for us older kids....

Allison Burzio
Portland, OR
hometown: Santa Clara, CA



From: REMARCR@aol.com

Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 13:44:30 EST
Subject: Re: Last call

This is a message to all the Lasers. My husband and I became fans after seeing you play at the Santa Cruz High School gymnasium floor benefit in Santa Cruz. We enjoyed what we saw so much that we got a weekend miniplan and had gone to each game since. My husband is a devout NL baseball fan (Giants) but quickly fell in love with the Lasers. He was surprised at the level of play and the feeling of contact they had with the fans. We will miss our basketball date. Thank you for your community involvement. Our kids have benefited from your generosity for their high school. We look forward to seeing where your lives take you from here. We will be there to support your efforts in our community.
Lindsey and Becky Cramer

From: SJRisinger@aol.com
Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 15:09:19 EST
Subject: Re: Brainstorming

Hello to everyone:
We have been reading all the really great ideas and are totally on board in efforts to keep the league. We'll be at the gathering Sunday and are bringing others. We had organized a group of 8 people up here (Emeryville, Berkeley, Oakland and SF) to share mini-plan tx and go the all-star game. We're esp. bummed because we only got to see 1 of our 9 games selected before the demise of the league.

When we read the ideas about buying the team or trying to keep the West Coast teams going, we were concerned that people were forgetting about the wnba. They're not just going to sit there and do nothing. There was an article in 12/25/98 Oakland Tribune that the wnba is already talking about a team for Oakland. Their strategy will be to go into markets that have had good ABL attendance and try to split loyalties. That way they can undercut the energy to sustain the ABL. It's important to try to sustain the whole league and before the wnba can start advertising in new locations (like the Bay Area and New England) for new teams.

It would be really insulting if the Lasers (and Portland and Seattle) were looked at as minor league teams for the major league (wnba) franchises.

Keep Fighting,
Sal and Deb



From: Andi300@AOL.COM
Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 15:13:49 EST
Subject: An Eternal Lasers Fan

I am passing this on from my partner, Mary, who is not on this email list but wanted to contribute and share her thoughts and feelings ...

Hi there, fellow ABL and S.J. fans! This is a long note, so please be forewarned...

This is my first writing to the list. My soulmate, Andrea (you know her as "andi300") is an active member of the list (I'm not on the list. Andrea represents us.) and of the Beam Team Scholarship Committee. For the past two seasons, we've had four season tickets...this year, we share them with a wonderful couple and their daughter.

Andrea (Andi) called me at work when she heard the news. I was stunned. Fortunately, when I'm not traveling (50%), I work only a half-mile or so away from her. So, I drove over there immediately and we had lunch, shared tears, and tried to make some sense of what we had just heard.

I just want to share a few notes, although most everything I will state has already been sent out to the list. But there is a sense of community, strength, and renewal that comes from sharing these feelings and views with all.

-Since I travel a lot, I read USA Today, which as you travelers know, mysteriously shows up at your hotel door in the wee hours of the morning. The USA Today has great coverage of, not only the ABL, but the Lasers. A couple of times they've written articles that I've seen in the Merc. a few days later. When I'd see these articles, I'd call Andrea and leave her a voicemail at work with the latest scores and stories...I am often on the East Coast so would have the news "in advance" of when she'd see it.

-I love seeing children and children-at-heart all gleefully run to get autographs from players and coaches, and just be so into the game. We went to Sportmart a couple of weeks ago and Jennifer (Azzi) autographed my SJ Lasers banner and wrote "1,000 points, 12/11/98" and "Keep the Faith!". It was the day after she reached 1,000 points. We talked about her "Keep the Faith" comment on the drive back...I thought I appreciated it then...now, I wish I had further demonstrated my faith...shared my passion for the league with one more person, bought one more t-shirt...anything. We're committed to doing everything we can now: continuing the Beam Team Scholarships, investing \$1,000 for each of us, and providing whatever support we can.

-I own part of a semi-pro women's soccer team that is based on the same principles as the ABL and which came into existence around the same time in late '95. Building stock programs for the players, doing camps for kids, lots of community involvement activities. Cities across the U.S. and even a team for Mexico participate. But we've had a hard time getting marketing \$\$ and even the players presently aren't paid. But we have had a lot of the big players...feeder players for the National Team and Olympic Team members.

Another league came along that was sponsored by some Big Name sponsors with an inconceivable marketing budget, etc. and has wreaked havoc for the smaller league trying to do the right thing. I've used the ABL as a model in success saying that we could get there if we persisted. We even started discussions about contacting the ABL/Lasers for joint-marketing efforts to keep us alive.

Because of what's happened with the ABL, I'm digging deep into my competitive spirit and upping the efforts to go forth and to succeed!

The message here is for all of the future leagues, journals, and whatever...related to women's sports. Talk with each other, leverage each other's efforts, "share the wealth". But work together, build a foundation together, and thrive together. CREATE the market first, then segment it with different leagues if merited.

-And, finally, my last comment:

- Thanks to each and every child who hugged Klik showing her that they cared.
- Thanks to each parent/adult who brought those children to the games/camps.
- Thanks to the refs (even Larry!) for working in the ABL and making it real.
- Thanks to all of the sponsors, no matter how big or how small, for supporting our local team, the Lasers. I'm a devout Volvo owner and already patronized Smythe European/Volvo...a major SJ Lasers sponsor. And I have a Lasers front license-plate. When I went in to get my car maintained this week, the Lasers schedule was still posted in their office. I thanked them.....
- Thanks to Mayor Hammer and her constituents for supporting the Lasers and for providing funding when needed. Keep the Faith in your new post, Ron G.!
- Thanks to the WNBA...yes, thanks to them. Because they've given us much:
 - 1) A clear reality of what the public sees and how they are influenced
 - 2) A U.S. pro women's league that still gives hope to today's girls. Don't get me wrong. They're no ABL...they're too driven by money and glitz. But they have a huge opportunity right now to WAKE UP!...and I hope they choose to.
 - 3) A lesson learned that I will never forget...and from which I'll apply those learned lessons to future ventures--never give up, go for what's right, involve the community, and hold to my values (which do not involve fame, multi-colored basketballs, or off-season play for low-paid players with few benefits)
- And, finally, thanks to the ABL founders, players, staff, volunteers, and fans.



For without you, there would be no product, no marketing, no energetic talk around the dinner table about last night's game. Carry forward your passions, your tenacity, your professionalism, and your drive to improve the communities in which we live. By all of us doing this, every school yard basketball game will be filled with hope, every girl/child will realize that confidence/strength/competitive spirit are great and necessary attributes, and each of us will do our part in building a better world.

Thanks to all for reading this email--my heart is sad but my will is strong. And we will not give up in our quest!

An eternal Lasers fan, Mary
sprowter@aol.com



From: "Jim D" <perfected@hotmail.com>
Subject: My boy's xmas gift
Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 12:19:01 PST

Hi all...

I was in Reno when the news broke, and we got back on The eve of the 24th. Then I found out the news.

My wife and I had already wrapped up four up-close (fourth row) Tickets for the All Star game to give our little boy (and for us to go too) for Christmas. We put them in an envelope and then a box and then a bigger box and again and again and again...you know what I mean. So he had a nice large gift.

We decided to give it to him anyway...and not tell him the news yet. He is only eight. So yesterday...when he did open the box.. he was overjoyed with it. He let out a big "All Right!!!". It was breaking our hearts. But we wanted him to at least experience the fact that we did get the tickets for him...since he so wanted to go.

Now...we need to let things settle down...and break the news to him in a few days. Of course, we will need to do a little fibbing that we did not know...but we both feel badly over the loss too.

We love you Lasers....we wish you well. We miss you.

Jim

From: Lompican44@aol.com
Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 15:25:42 EST
Subject: For the book

Our favorite Lasers' memory started at Kid's Night last year, I took Makenna's (my daughter) youth league team to the game and they stayed around for autographs. It was a large crowd so I didn't think the Lasers would come back out. Of course they did and everyone got Jennifer's autograph and many others.

While we were waiting, the maintenance crew was pulling the giant stickers off the floor. Makenna and her friend Meghan asked them for the one that said "San Jose Lasers". He handed them this ball of adhesive plastic that was wadded up about the size of a basketball.

On the way back home (Santa Cruz side of the hill) the girls began pulling the sticker open. They decided to do an overnight and continue the project. Finally to our amazement, they had removed virtually all the wrinkles and we pasted the sign onto cardboard and cut it in half. Each girl kept a half, kind of a "friends forever" thing. Each game after that we lugged this 3 foot by 6 foot, 2 piece sign and began getting autographs on it.

I particularly remember a loss where Jennifer had hit the deck hard about half a dozen times. The girls waited, sign in hand, even after security said Jennifer wasn't coming out that night. Sure enough, out she came. You could tell she would have preferred taking a night off, but that's just not her way.

We continued to bring the sign through the playoffs and got everyone's autograph except Sonya. We hoped to get that this season. We have many other great memories, but this one stands out as evidence of the influence the Lasers have had on young girls by showing their genuine love for the fans, and commitment to make the world better for little girls everywhere.

We'll be bringing the sign to the farewell party and thinking about the empty spot in our hearts that would have been filled with the memories we knew were yet to come. Thank you, Lasers, for planting the seed for the dreams of the future. We'll love you forever.

Santa Cruz Mountain Lasers' Fans,
John, Sue & Makenna Cunliffe
Kevin, Jane, David, Allison & Meghan Ryan Dennis, Sherrie, & Katie Belville
Paul, Anita, & Christine Regan
Dan, Char & Sierra Ford



From: Andi300@aol.com
Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 16:05:34 EST
Subject: Faithful Fan Forever

I am finally getting a chance to put my thoughts down, but still without enough time to say all I'd really like to. I'll give it my best attempt.

In the past few years, I've experienced the death of a couple of close family members. I never knew I could feel that same deep void from the death of a basketball league.

Of course, the ABL was not just *a* basketball league. I, as true optimist, refused to believe that an organization with such respectable core values could possibly fold. I got hooked on the Lasers after the first game I attended (near the end of the 1st season) and haven't missed a game since, unless I was out of town. As I learned more about the differences between the ABL and the other league, I loved it and believed in it even more. I passed on my knowledge to others and did what I could to support and to promote the Lasers and the ABL. Last season, my partner and I bought 4 season tickets so we could invite two friends to each game with the intention of getting them addicted to the Lasers. It worked. No matter what the buzz was regarding the survival of the league, I continued to believe that the Lasers and ABL were going to make it because they were truly a quality product.

I do still believe that the ABL will come out on top somehow, and I will continue to do all I can to help in the efforts to renew this league.

In the meantime, I'd like to give big THANK YOU's to ...

- Arlene, Gay and many other active volunteers for donating your time to support and promote our Lasers and the ABL.
- Anne Cribbs, for your support and encouragement of the Laser Beam Team's efforts, and especially for pursuing a dream to give women opportunities and equality in the world of sports and beyond. Please continue to have faith; there are soooo many of us behind you.
- The volunteers of the Laser Beam Team Scholarship committee, who have given so much - (Lisa Reiss, Teresa Feiock, Doug Shaker, Marie Lelanie, Gay Katilius, Teresa Cabico, Martha Hanlon, Bonnie Hampton, Sal Risinger, Chris Shuttlesworth, Kristin Noel, Julie Michaels, Kathy Perino, and several others I'm sure I'm missing). It has been and will continue to be a wonderful experience putting smiles on young ladies' faces.
- The fans on this list, for all of your contributions. I've made some great friends and love the strong sense of family that has developed here.
- The Lasers and ABL coaches and staff, for working together and for believing in this league.

- And, finally, to the Lasers team ... for being real people and refusing to get caught up in the glory of being a star athlete where you lose touch with people and reality. That is what truly makes you all a star. You have been incredible role models for children and adults, unlike too many other athletes. You have inspired me more than you'll ever know.

keeping the faith ...
Andi Burnett



From: Lompican44@aol.com
Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 16:21:10 EST
Subject: Re: For the book

Please add this from Makenna if you have a chance:

I must have done something right to deserve all of the ABL Lasers' games that I have seen. God bless the ABL, and especially the Lasers!

From: OgLady@aol.com
Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 16:43:37 EST
Subject: re: memories

To the Lasers Players, Staff & Fans:

For the past 2.5 yrs ,you all have given me a extra gift!! From opening day to starting the cheers, getting my 1st official GO/OG sign, to doing the cartwheels on the floor and right after that when I was sitting in the seat in the FAMOUS SECTION 3 being asked to sign a waiver form that I will be responsible for my own injuries!!!! Selling the programs and meeting so many people and giving me the "high 5" and asking me when I plan on doing flips!!! It was so cute when the young kids came up to me and said that they could not do a cartwheel and how could I do them since I was "old". I told them they had to be "over a half a century" and the look on their faces was cute (like, what is she talking about)!!! Having players come up to me and say that the cartwheels were getting better (guess they were not listening to the coach during breaks). Listening to Coach Beck and Bobbie at the Fan Club--kept everyone in stitches even if we won or lost the game. To everyone, thanks so much for your encouragement and friendships. Cheerio OG Lady

Teresa: use whatever you want--just kinda hard to think right now but I know I made the right decision to stay here for one more day and be with my friends. Susie-Q

Date: Wed, 22 Dec 1999 14:12:20 -0800
From: Darrell Cullen <dcullen@aplatform.com> Reply-To: dcullen@aplatform.com
Subject: Re: What About Oprah?

Why don't we pool our money as fans and take out an ad in some of the major newspapers and talk to the people that have money (i.e. Seattle Times for Gates, Chicago Tribune for Oprah, SF Chronicle for the Oracle owner, etc. etc.) That may be money worth spending.

disappointed Dad

Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 14:53:46 -0800
From: Deborah Dixon <dixons1@pacbell.net>
Subject: Re: Last call



Sorry for waiting until the last minute. I don't know if you have anything from me yet. If not, a few thoughts..

The great community of fans that has opened up new friendships for me.

Remember when so many of us were scared to death that we'd embarrass ourselves at Angela's camp this past summer? Remember, too, how we passed emails of encouragement around and ended up having a great time and feeling good because we went out there and did it?

The Portland trip last year to help Byrd celebrate her birthday. God, what a game! We almost pulled it out. After the party for Byrd many of us sat around with Bobbie and Angela and Angela tried to teach us her piercing whistle. Most of us just ended up blowing spit, but it was fun. I still can't do that damn whistle.

Chants of "put Shelley in" or "put Byrd in" and Angela would turn around and just smile at us.

The 'after the game wave' from the team. The fan club meetings where Bobbie was always in charge of whatever aspect of the game had gone wrong that night. She and Angela always made us laugh. The players were honest and inspiring, like Kedra this year explaining her community involvement. The fan club meeting last year when a young girl asked Jennifer why she didn't go to the wnba and Jennifer's response that she'd die believing that the ABL was the right way to go.

Angela's brainstorm to ask Kyle to do the game tapes. It meant a lot to him and gave him a chance to feel as if he were really contributing. At first, he was scared he'd screw it up, but he tried it and did a great job. During the games, he'd tell me not to bother him with my chatter because he was working. Hopefully, this work ethic will transfer to his homework! At a time in his life when he's less and less interested in doing things with mom, the games gave us time together. They were "our" time.

I will be forever grateful to the players for being such great role models for all of us and doing it without complaint. They actually seemed to welcome the opportunity.

Mostly the feeling that we were all family, the players, coaches, staff and fans and that we were all in this together. We were all striving toward a common goal. Some did their work on the court, some in the stands, some behind the scenes.

They rekindled the belief in me that some things are worth fighting for. Regardless of whether we can save this league, I will always remember these times as some of the best and most meaningful in my life.

From: Sharon Crawford <Sharon@scribes.com>
Subject: Video of Sunday's event
Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 15:00:50 -0800



Celebrating the Lasers and the ABL

Charlie (Larry's favorite fan) will be videotaping the party on Sunday. We want as many people as possible to just say a few words about what the Lasers have meant to us individually and to our families and community. And we want to capture our own Lasers-fan-community spirit.

Copies of the tape will be for sale by mail for \$15.00 with all profits going to the Laser Beam Team scholarships.

Information on how to order the tape will be available at the party AND here on the list.

Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 15:04:31 -0800
From: Denise Michaels <dmichaels@mindspring.com>
Subject: Re: Last call

There are so many good memories of the past three seasons, it is hard (and very painful) to sit down and try to put them down into words. The Lasers--players, coach and staff--have brought so many joyous times into our family.

We have so many examples of good sportsmanship and positive role models for our daughter in the Lasers--the very players she and her 9-year-old friends think are stars will stop and talk to them, pause to give them "five" when running by at halftime, take time to ask them if they are working hard in school, ask them questions about themselves, sign the nth item the girls can find.....this is the example they will take with them as they grow up and see the influence they can have on others.

There are so many times we've run into a player or coach outside a game, and I always managed to say something incredibly stupid in my attempts to express how much we appreciate our Lasers. Every one of you is so gracious and did not even run away or laugh at my ridiculous compliments.

Thank you for building such a feeling of community and family among people who were strangers before...little did we know that, even if the ABL would not continue, we would have the power to continue to build positive things in the community--thanks to the leadership and example of the Lasers.

In our hearts, we will always be Laser fans, and we will continue to carry on the sportsmanship and giving traditions you have shown.

We love you, Lasers,

Denise, Julie and Kyle Michaels

Date: Sat, 26 Dec 1998 15:34:42 -0800 (PST)
From: joan@hoopgirls.com (Joan)
Subject: Coping and Hoping

Hi, all.

Well, I just finished emailing Oprah. I also emailed my friend who works at Microsoft to talk to Bill Gates, but I don't know if she's high up enough in the ranks to get to him. Unfortunately, Julie and I won't be able to make the party tomorrow, due to our retail jobs.

Have we thought about the Rock and Jock angle? What about someone like Melissa Etheridge or the Indigo Girls (they're way into grassroots stuff) or Sarah McLachlan (I know she's Canadian, but she's into the women-supporting-women thing -- hey, and I know they know Joan Baez, because she performed at Lilith Fair with them this year!)...I smell a benefit concert!

Cheers,
Joan

Date: Sun, 27 Dec 1998 15:49:13 -0800
From: BONNIE HAMPTON <alhamp@earthlink.net>
Subject: to the Lasers



I would like to express my sincere love for the Lasers as a team and all the individuals that make up the best team ever anywhere.

I can't say enough to you all to explain why a grown woman would love a basketball team, as I love you. I will try very hard now.

1st Kedra, when I first met Kedra was last year at the first game at the Event Center. I told my sister at that time she was special and this has come to light. Her love for the Lord as well as other people have helped me to believe that there is still good in people. I could go on forever, but just the love she shows, she made an appearance at my daughters school and you don't know how much it meant for her to stop and talk to Imani. The concern for everyone and love she shows in her daily walk, has made it a pleasure to say I know her.

2nd Jennifer, My daughter went to her camp last summer and she took the time to show the girls she was just another woman. They had water gun fights and she took the time to help some of the girls personally, not just walk by and see what they were doing. She remembered some names, (my daughter is still so excited because she remembered hers this year). Again I could go on, but her love for the game and sharing it with our daughters.

I could go on for days, but these last two things are what the Lasers showed when ever I saw them. At the first game when they were handing out the miniature basketball. I went down to the end of the court and Katryna saw us. She had 1 ball left and ran all the way from the other end of the court and gave the ball to Danielle.

The last was at the last game at the end of the autograph session, Sheri was told that was it lets go. Imani was standing there (last person) she said wait a second and came back and signed it,

If this isn't true love for your fans then what is?

Thanks for enriching our lives.
If there is anything we can do for anyone I am here.

Bonnie, Imani & Danielle
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