



# TECH CORNER

Always by Phoenix Suns swingman Josh Childress

What's up everyone? I'm in Cleveland right now, grabbing lunch in the hotel restaurant. (Pasta and spinach salad, keeping it healthy!) We're in the middle of a long road trip. We left Phoenix on Saturday, today is Wednesday, and we don't get home until early next Tuesday morning. It's funny because I'd gotten used to long road trips before I went to Greece, but over in Greece we never had long trips—I think the longest trip we took was a five-day trip, and that was for the final four. So I'm trying to re-acclimate to the longer trips.

A few issues ago I wrote about my house in Phoenix, which I was getting set up. Well, it's all hooked up now and it's pretty dope. I have a system called Savant that controls everything, and by using my iPad, I have control of everything—the lighting, the security cameras, the TVs, whatever. It's also zoned so that it's all independent. So say if I'm having a barbecue outside and I want music on, but there are other people chilling inside in the living room, they can be listening to different stuff.

I also have a thing called Kaleidescape controlling all my movies. Basically, I burn my movies to a server, so every movie I have is accessible in any room. Everything else is hooked up through Apple TV, all throughout the house, and it all runs on iPod touch remote controls.

Everything is controlled by my iPad, but it also has voice controls. I was skeptical about that, because on cell phones sometimes you have to repeat something 50 times to get the phone to understand you. But with this system, you have a control about the size of a D battery that you put around your neck, and I can sit there and say, "ESPN," and it'll turn to ESPN. What's great about the whole thing is that as complex as it all sounds, it's actually pretty simple. My mom came to stay with me and she figured it out pretty quickly, once she got used to the iPad. All in all, it's really dope.

## BOOK REVIEWS

For most people, the pick-up hoops equation is simple: a court plus a ball plus 10 guys equals one game. *Pick-Up Game: A Full Day On The Court* sees the math differently, though. A court and a ball, coupled with 10 players, equals one game and at least nine stories.

Edited by Marc Aronson and Charles R. Smith Jr (a former SLAM photographer), *Pick-Up Game's* nine chapters and poems, written by 10 talented and acclaimed contributors, create and take the reader

through a sweltering summer day's worth of action at the famed Cage at West 4th in New York. What sets the young adult read apart from the pack is that while each author picks up where and when the previous one left off, they each focus on a different person at the Cage and a different storyline. So instead of having just a single narrative arc, *Pick-Up Game* has multiple separate and equally interesting ones.

Depending on age, you'll probably enjoy some of the storylines more

than others, but if you've ever spent a day balling on concrete, this is a book you want to pick up.

Only in basketball can we go from a fictional day of high-flying ball in modern New York to a historically accurate recounting of a set-shot shooting championship team in Philadelphia. Douglas Stark's *The SPHAS: The Life and Times of Basketball's Greatest Jewish Team*, chronicles everything about the SPHAS, from their unlikely inception to their gradual decline. Why,

you might be wondering, does some Hebrew Association team from the early-mid 20th century merit a 200-plus page tome? Well, as Stark tells it, the SPHAS were basketball pioneers, and for a sizable chunk of time, one of the most dominant teams in existence, winning a plethora of titles in multiple leagues.

Steeped in well-researched detail, *The SPHAS* helps resurrect the memory of a team that represented a nation and dominated a game.

—TZVI TWERSKY

