

Houston puts on fabulous show in hosting the NBA All-Star 2013 game

Written by Yolande Y. Lezine

Wednesday, 20 February 2013 00:00



It was a very long, eventful, and late night/early morning week of activities as the city of Houston played host to the 62nd annual NBA All-Star game.

Various celebrities came to our city along with fans displaying their favorite team's jerseys and enjoying all of the activities, parties and our very exciting Houston nightlife scene. There was even media from all over the country in attendance throughout the week, which truly reflected the NBA's International Global market.

Both current and legendary NBA players showed a side that many people don't get to see. They went out throughout the city of Houston and lent a hand in various community projects such as NBA All-Star Team Works in School, NBA Fit All-Star Youth Celebration, NBA Cares All-Star Day of Service which included a visit to the Children's Hospital at Memorial Hermann, food sorting at the Houston Food Bank, Home Refurbishing projects, and building a playground with KaBOOM!

Several players and coaches made stops at the NBA Jam Session to play with kids and sign autographs. And as usual, the entertainment celebrities were so down to earth it was great just talking with them and seeing them personally interact with children.

Former San Antonio Spurs guard T.J. Ford had such an impact on a sick child during the visit to Memorial Hermann until it touched all of us on the floor. A young child who had been in the hospital for a while had stopped walking under his own power for quite some time. His mother would have to hold him up and carry him for everything; however, when he met Ford and the other players God touched the kid and he got out of the wagon his mother was pulling him in and started walking!

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“This is what it’s all about,” T.J. Ford said. “It means a lot to be in position to give back to children, especially when it puts a smile on their face and helps them fight more to get better so that they can return home.

Other NBA/WNBA players joining Ford at the hospital included: Tina Thompson-Seattle Storm, Lindsay Harding-WNBA, Renee Brown-WNBA Chief of Basketball Operations & Player Relations, Dikembe Mutombo, Bob Lanier, Avery Johnson, and Mrs. Mary Ford-who’s the mother of T.J. Ford.

Overall the city of Houston ran a smooth, hitched free event with very little problems if any. My hats go off to Tim Frank and all of the NBA/WNBA staff who came down from New York, Brian Savage-Director of Security for the Toyota Center and all of their staff, Tara August-TNT and the production crew for all of their hard work. The city of New Orleans will have a huge act to follow in 2014!