

“THE LOST FILMS OF PISTOL PETE” IN HIS NEW ORLEANS JAZZ PRIME UNCOVERED!
NEVER BEFORE SEEN PETE MARAVICH FOOTAGE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME
FOR SALE BY SCP AUCTIONS IN MARCH 2021

“Pistol Pete” Maravich was one of the first sports stars to be a “rock star”, long before that terminology was used. Pete’s scoring accomplishments, ballhandling wizardry and flashy style were unique and groundbreaking in basketball and sports in general. When the expansion NBA New Orleans Jazz franchise acquired Pete in 1974, which became known as the “Louisiana Purchase”, “Pistol’s” stature as a basketball legend soared to new heights as he lit up the “Big Easy.”

During Pete’s prime in New Orleans, from 1974 to 1978, the NBA and its star players were far from getting the global attention they enjoy today. Few games were televised nationally or locally and Maravich’s accomplishments, rarely seen on film, were often more urban legend and rumor than were witnessed by fans. Adding to the scarcity of “Pistol Pete” footage from this era is that reel to reel film was being replaced by tape, and for cost savings and practicality reasons, tapes were often reused and recorded over.

Fortunately for basketball aficionados, historians and filmmakers, legendary basketball coach, executive and scouting pioneer Bill Bertka was the General Manager of the New Orleans Jazz during Pete’s years there. Coach Bertka knew the value of game film for scouting and preparation, so he took the initiative to hire a private firm to film Jazz games. Coach Bertka also had the presence of mind to save these films in his personal basketball archives and they are now being presented to the public for the very first time as “The Lost Films of Pistol Pete.”

The film reels are the 7” 16mm black and white format in their original metal cannisters, scouting film without sound, preserved in Coach Bertka’s storage room for decades. 37 different, complete New Orleans Jazz games from 1974 to 1978 are included. Examples of jaw dropping stat lines from “Pistol Pete” are his 1/17/75 game against the Seattle Supersonics when he delivered a mind-bending triple-double of 42 points, 10 rebounds and 17 assists, as well as a 10/26/75 battle against the New York Knicks when Maravich goes off for 45 points, 11 rebounds and 8 assists.

Along with “Pistol Pete’s” exploits note that many other NBA legends from the era like Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Rick Barry, Julius “Dr. J” Erving, John Havlicek, Bob McAdoo, Earl “The Pearl” Monroe and Bill Walton have strong performances in the game footage.

“The Lost Films of Pistol Pete” will be presented for sale by SCP Auctions in their Winter Premier Auction, which runs from March 17 to April 3, 2021.