



For Immediate Release
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Rockets Hire Gerald Madkins as Director of Scouting and Shawn Respert as Director of Player Programs

HOUSTON – The Houston Rockets today announced the hirings of **Gerald Madkins** as Director of Scouting and **Shawn Respert** as Director of Player Programs.

“Gerald and Shawn are both quality additions to our basketball operations,” said Rockets Director of Player Personnel Gersson Rosas. “Gerald is a former professional player who has solid coaching and talent evaluations experience on both the collegiate and professional levels. Shawn played professionally in Europe as well as the NBA and really has a great passion for helping players reach their personal and professional goals.”

In his new role, **Madkins** will be responsible for scouting colleges and developmental leagues. Madkins joins the Rockets after serving as the Director of West Coast College Scouting for the Seattle SuperSonics last season and as a scout for the New York Knicks from 2003-07. Previously, Madkins served as an assistant coach for the men’s basketball team at his alma mater, UCLA, from 2001-2003 and at California State University from 2000-01. After a stellar playing career with the Bruins, Madkins began an eight-year professional career in 1992 that included stints in the Continental Basketball Association (Grand Rapids, Rockford), NBA (Cleveland, Miami and Golden State), Spanish Basketball League (Joventut Badelona), and French Basketball League (Pitch Cholet).

Respert joins the Rockets after spending nearly two years working at the NBA D-League offices in New York, most recently as its Director of Basketball Operations. Previous to that, he spent two and a half years working in a similar capacity at Rice University as its Director of Basketball Operations. A former college Player of the Year at Michigan State University from 1990-95, Respert was chosen by the Portland Trailblazers with the eighth overall selection in the 1995 NBA Draft. After being traded to Milwaukee prior to his rookie season, Respert played a total of four NBA seasons with the Bucks (1995-96), Toronto Raptors (1997-98), Dallas Mavericks (1998) and Phoenix Suns (1999). Following his NBA career, he went on to play four years in the European Basketball League, including stints with Olympiakos, Milano, Near East, Imola and Stargard.

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