

Celebrate Nike's New Huarache 2012 Releases with a Look-Back at Michael Jordan & Others Who Wore the Original

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To celebrate the release of the Nike Huarache Free 2012, here's a sneaker-look back.

Have you hugged your foot today?

The question was posed by Nike in 1992 as one of the cornerstones of their ad campaign which presented a freaky, internally stretchy mishmash of a shoe that polarized some and was embraced by others – the Nike Huarache.

With the much anticipated release this month of the Nike Huarache Free 2012 Basketball and Running editions, it's safe to say that on the hoops side, the pros

are missing out. As long as the bad boys in business keep the NBA handcuffed, we may never see who would have flaunted the 2012 remix of the shoe on court – much less drooled over which player exclusives would have debuted.

Instead, we take a nod to the past and reflect on who was fly enough to wear the OG Huarache Air and Flight editions in their heyday – and the dirty things they did while rocking them.

Continue onto the pages below to reflect on the shoe.



The Fab Five

You already know this, so a complete introduction to the players is unnecessary. The Duke hating, jaw yapping, sagging shorts having, trendsetting EPMD listeners from the mitten state embraced the Nike Flight Huarache and made it their own - so much so that the Fab Five are usually the only individuals credited with lacing up a pair of the Swooshless wonders. Pictured above is Jalen Rose, the former cocksure ringleader of the Wolverine madness, donning a pair of the purple and blue Nike Air Flight Huaraches. But again, you already knew that.



Scottie Pippen

Dazzling the star-studded cast of the 1992 NBA All-Star game by throwing down three vicious stuffs in the first quarter (including the beauty above courtesy of Mark Price) was Mr. Scottie Maurice Pippen, who filled in for an injured Larry Bird. Pip finished with 14 points in 21 minutes, all while wearing a pair of the Air Flight Huaraches in original white, purple and blue colorblocking.



Stacey “Plastic Man” Augmon

UNLV Runnin’ Rebels alum Stacey Augmon rocked some Flight Huaraches, this time in Red and White to match his ATL squad colors. With one of the iller nicknames of the ’90s, Plastic Man did the Huaraches proud in 1992, racking up around 14 a game for the Hawks.



Michael Johnson

Before blinding everyone in sight with the gold dipped Swoosh joints he wore in 1996, sprinter Michael Johnson hugged his feet with purple Air Huarache Runners. If the legs of the once heralded “Fastest Man in the World” could hang with the shoes, there’s no excuse for present day sprinters not to swoop a pair of the 2012 Free Runners.



Reggie Miller

The often hated, Jumpman logo donning, bomber of a shooting guard Reggie Miller didn't always wear his rival's signature sleds. In the 1992 NBA Playoffs against the Celtics, Killer Miller wore white and blue Air Flight Huaraches and almost forged an 18-point comeback victory in Game 3 of the series. Although the Pacers got swept, Reggie and his then high-top fade put up 27 per during those three games, all the while shooting a very Miller-esque 63 percent from downtown.



Michael Jordan

Michael Jordan not wearing his own namesake brand is always a sight to behold as it begs the question: What is he showing off instead? After shrugging away the Blazers in six games in the 1992 NBA Finals, Money took a break from his Air Jordan VII's and chilled out in some fresh white and purple Air Huaraches to enjoy the festivities.



Christian Laettner

The saying “imitation is the most sincere form of flattery” could not be more true in the curious case of Christian Laettner and the shoes made popular by his former Wolverine foes. Added on as the token college player of the inaugural Dream Team, Laettner, the former golden boy of Duke and foil to many a Michigander, did the unthinkable by donning a pair of Flight Huaraches as he no doubt assumed bag carrying duties as part of the nearly flawless US Olympic Squad from 1992. Removing Laettner from the Dream Team is like putting on Kanye’s The College Dropout and passing over the skits – the result equals perfection.



Kobe Bryant

One of the more recent ambassadors of the Nike Air Flight Huaraches was one time sneaker free-agent Kobe Bryant, here donning a pair of white, yellow and purple 2003 edition retros. Mamba only averaged 24 per for the '03 season, but since then his scoring hasn't dipped below 25 a game. Bryant would also wear a player exclusive Flight Huarache in black which was never released to the market.