

RON ARTEST

Who were you listening to back in the day?

Back in the day I was listening to Michael Jackson, Slick Rick, Special Ed, Nas and Mobb Deep. I also loved the oldies, I listen to them a lot today. I love Jay Z's album "Volume 1," and Eminem's first two albums. But the Queensbridge rappers have definitely had an influence on me.

What's the biggest change about playing in the NBA? Biggest change?

Some things have changed and some have stayed the same. For me, I have had the opportunity to play for three different teams now, starting with the Chicago Bulls, then the Indiana Pacers, and now the Sacramento Kings. The Kings and the community of Sacramento have been real supportive of me and have shown me a lot of love, so I gotta thank them for that. The Maloofs have been great, they even came to Queensbridge this past summer to see my hood. And I have a lot of respect for (head coach) Eric Musselman as well.

Who was the greatest NBA player of all time?

Michael Jordan was my idol when I was growing up. He was the ball player that I saw as my mentor, even though I had never met him back then. He is an amazing ball player, and was able to parley his skills on the court to other successful business ventures as well.

Is Mike Bibby really that good?

Mike Bibby is a huge talent. I have a lot of respect for all the guys on my team, and I think the Kings are gonna have a great year.

What you think now of the NBA with all the non American players?

On one hand, it would be nice for Americans to play in the NBA, but on the other hand, I have no problem with anyone in the world trying to elevate themselves, whether they're American, French, Chinese, Spanish, Black, White, Asian whatever. The NBA is a business, and I respect that. They need to be able to make decisions that make their business successful.

What up with your rap label?

My rap label is called Tru Warier Records, Tru Warier is a nickname I got back in the day playing basketball so when I was coming up with a name, I thought about nicknames I had and Tru Warier stuck. Right now, I am working on developing a few artists I have signed, and the next artist coming off Tru

