

## Great Cleveland What-If's: Ron Harper

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Cleveland sports history will- or should- remember this as the Cavaliers' answer to Warfield-for-Phipps. On November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1989, the team broke up its sensational young nucleus, sending Ron Harper off to the Los Angeles Clippers and getting back very little in return. As another team from the same division rolled up one Championship after another, claiming the glory the Cavaliers once thought would be theirs, Cleveland fans couldn't help but wonder... would it have been different had the high-flying ex-Miami Redskin not been sent packing to the L.A. Junior Varsity?

### ***What if... the Cavaliers hadn't traded Ron Harper for Danny Ferry?***

**Background:** In 1988-89, the Cleveland Cavaliers went 57-25 with one of the youngest teams in the NBA. The team's core of 23-year old Brad Daugherty, 24-year old Mark Price, 25-year old Ron Harper and 26-year old Hot Rod Williams, along with veteran Larry Nance, seemed poised to dominate the league in the next decade. Magic Johnson certainly thought as much when he dubbed the Cavaliers "the team of the