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Men's Basketball Uniforms Throughout History

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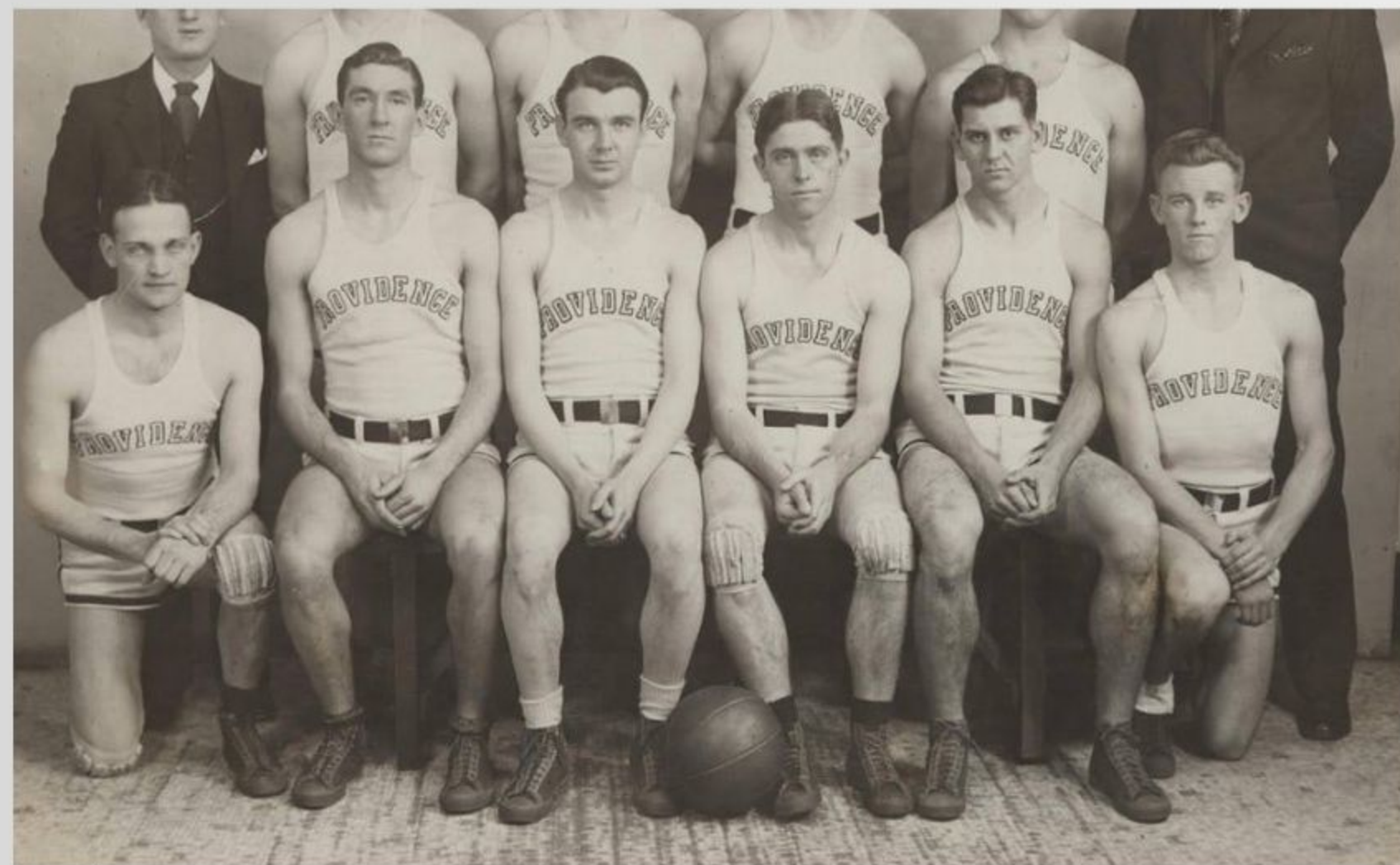
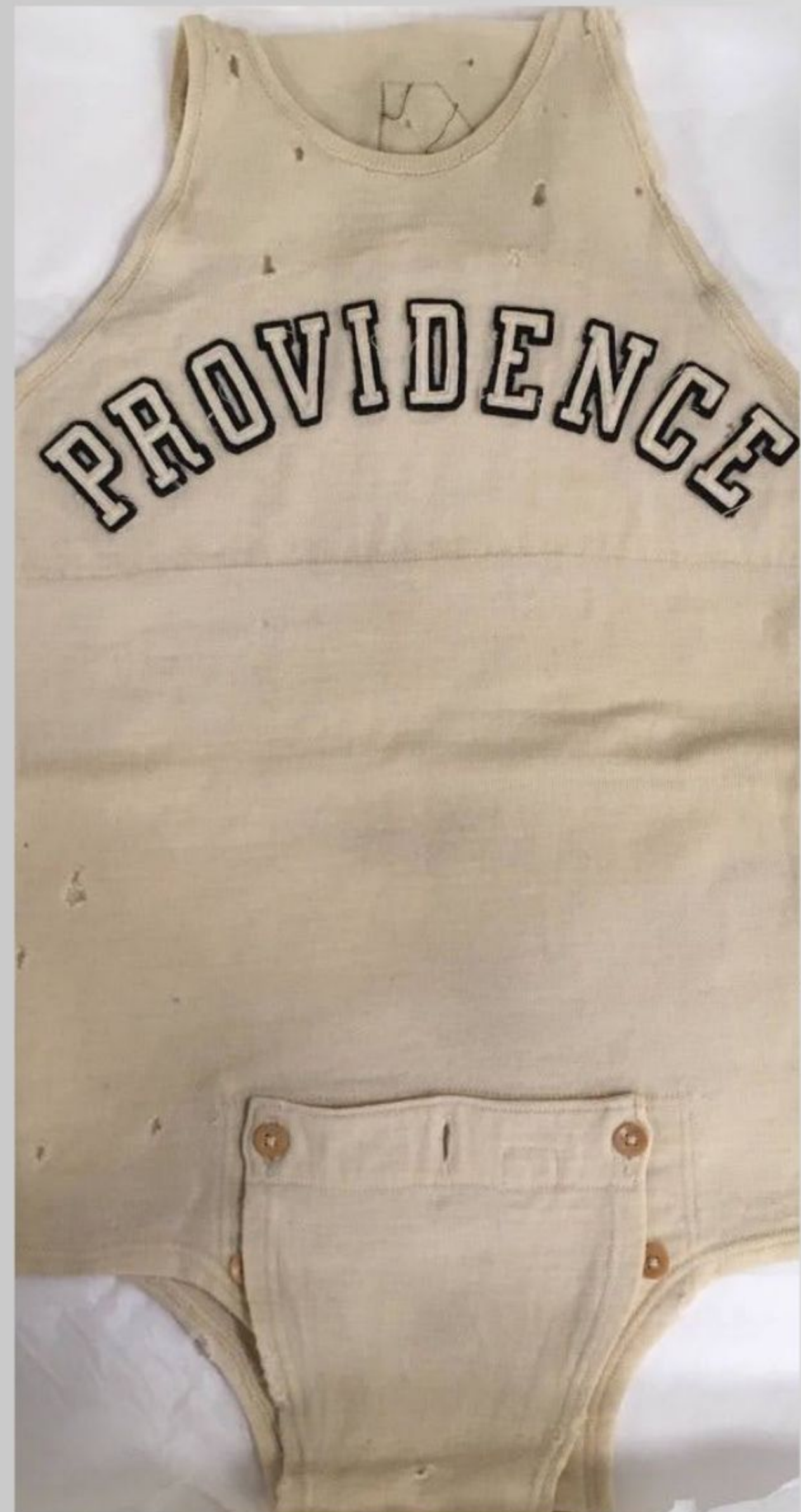
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Men's Basketball Uniforms Throughout History

By: Laney Manware

National Relevance:

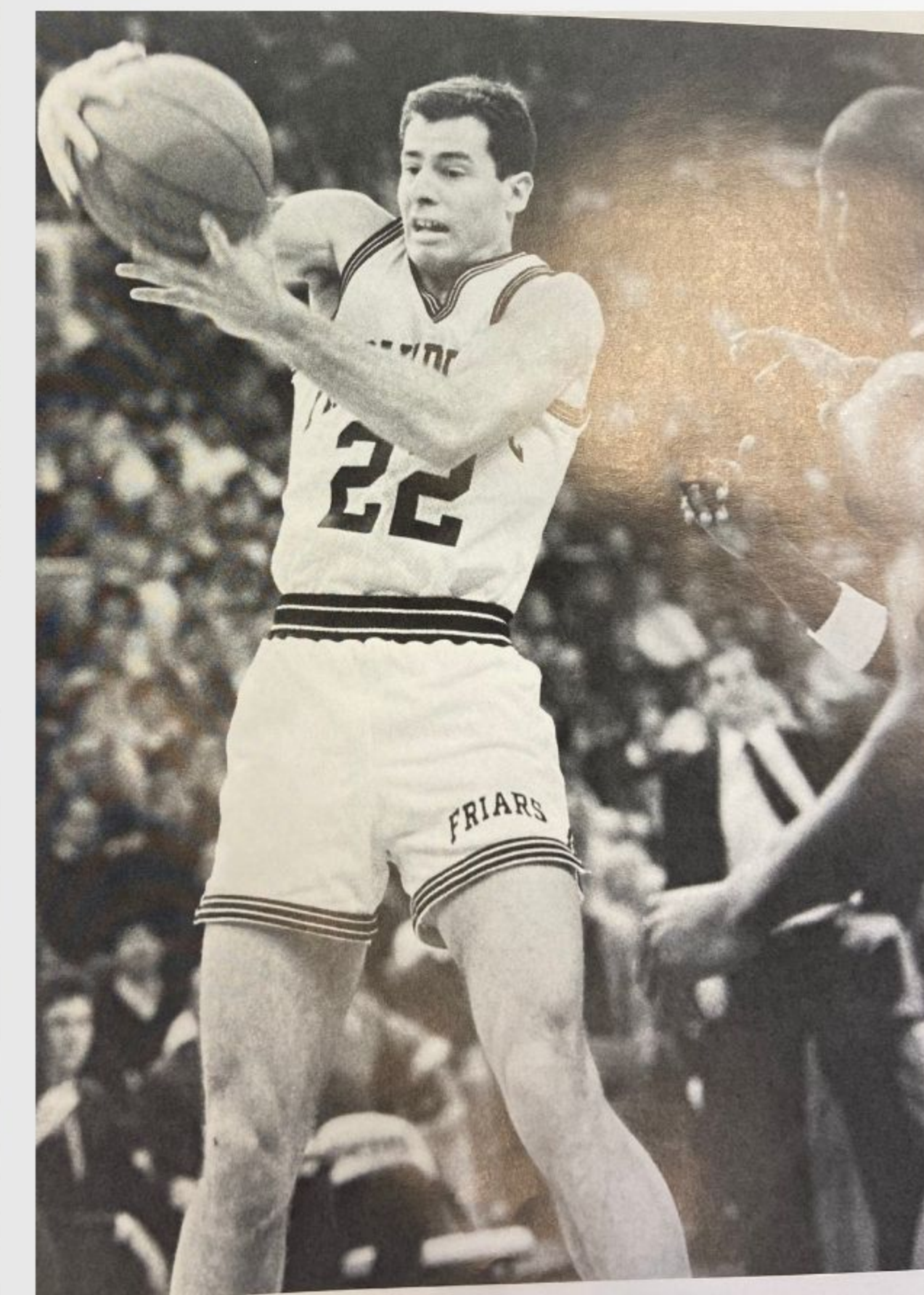
- The change in basketball uniforms reflects the diversification of the sport, as the longer shorts are embedded into the African American and hip-hop culture.
- The change of uniforms shows the sport going from conventionally professional and proper to vibrant and young.



(1930s PC Archives & Special Collections)



(1973 PC Yearbook)



(1989 PC Yearbook)



(2015 PC Yearbook)



(Gary A. Vasquez-USA TODAY Sports)(Providence College Athletics. 2023, January 20)

1930s

1973

1989

2015

2023

- PC Uniform was a form fitting wool bodysuit and shorts with a belt.
- Wool isn't a breathable fabric, causing the players to sweat more.
- Polyester wasn't invented until 1940s, hence why uniforms were made of wool.
- The short shorts were nationally seen as more professional.

- The shorts still remain short, but the bodysuits disappear and the jerseys are made out of a looser polyester material.
- Shorts still have a belt, that appears to be for aesthetic reasons, for a professional look.

- Shorts are a little bit longer and looser and no longer have the belt attached.
- Uniforms are starting to look more similar to our current ones.
- In 1984, Micheal Jordan asked for longer and looser shorts and helped popularize the movement away from tight short shorts(WSJ).

- During the 90s and 2000s shorts became dramatically longer, impacted by the hip-hop culture and introduced by predominately black players. (*Sport in Society*)
- The PC uniforms consist of loose shorts that slightly surpass the knee.
- This change in uniform was controversial as many saw it as unprofessional looking.

- LeBron was one of the first to return to shorter shorts to honor the elders of the game and their professionalism. (The Wall Street Journal.)
- PC uniforms have followed the trend by being significantly shorter in 2023 than in 2015.
- Many wonder: will basketball uniforms cycle back to look like the ones seen in the 1930s-1980s?