

## NEWS

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### A heave from half-court, with a half-million bucks on the line **Larry's Big Chance**

by [Mike Mosedale](#)  
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Two days before Christmas, Larry La Coursiere got a phone call from the folks at Chicago-based public-relations firm Golin/Harris International. "I almost hung up on the guy, because he couldn't pronounce my name right," recalls La Coursiere (whose name is pronounced La-ka-SEER). But then the caller explained that La Coursiere had been selected as a contestant for the upcoming Million Dollar Shootout, a weekly promotion of Turner Broadcasting System's Tuesday-night National Basketball Association telecasts.

As its name suggests--and as any NBA fan knows--the Million Dollar Shootout offers fans a chance at cash prizes if they are lucky or skilled enough to sink a long ball under the bright lights of center court. Naturally, La Coursiere, who had entered the drawing at a Timberwolves game the night before, began to contemplate what a sudden flood of riches could bring. For some, such fantasies might involve swimming pools or sports cars or exotic travel. But La Coursiere--who is 35, has three kids and makes his living as a machine operator for a Hastings weather-stripping manufacturer--engaged in only the most pragmatic of idylls. "I had just moved into a new house, and I figured if I won, that would take care of all my house payments and free up money for other things."

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CAPTURE BY ROB LEVINE

A taste of failure: Larry La Coursiere's long shot sails wide left

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