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King James captivates like King of Pop



NBA basketball star LeBron James smiles while participating in the LeBron James Skills Academy in Las Vegas. Four years after he left for Miami, a widely criticized departure that damaged his image and crushed a long-suffering city's championship hopes, James is coming back to play for the Cleveland Cavaliers to try and end Cleveland's half-century title drought. (AP Photo/John Locher, File)

SIGHTINGS

Barcelona star Gerard Pique, a member of Spain's quickly ousted World Cup team and husband of music star Shakira, partying near James' table early Thursday at Encore Beach Club. They were drinking Macallan 18-year Scotch and Dom Perignon. Pique was in town to compete in the World Series of Poker's \$10,000 buy-in Main Event. Also in the tournament: Australian cricket legend Shane Warne and UFC's Martin Kampmann. ... Mexico's World Cup goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa, partying with friends Thursday in a bungalow at Encore Beach Club. ... Former NBA players Gary Payton and Jason Kidd, the new coach of the Milwaukee Bucks, dining with a group Friday that included 7-footer Andrew Bynum at N9NE Steakhouse at the Palms. ... Talent manager Larry Rudolph, whose main clients include Britney Spears and Miley Cyrus, celebrated his 51st birthday with a group of friends at Fizz (Caesars Palace) on Friday. The group included George Maloof and Caesars headliner Matt Goss, who sang "Happy Birthday" and Frank Sinatra's classic "Fly Me to the Moon." Rudolph's birthday is July 24. ... Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban, taking in Saturday's Summer League action at Cox Pavilion. ... Chinese actor Leo Ku, marrying Lorraine Chan, both of Hong Kong, on Saturday at the Little Church of the West. ... Former Miami Dolphins quarterback Bob Griese and his wife, Shay, celebrating their 20th anniversary Friday at "Jersey Boys" (Palazzo). It was the 10th time they've seen the show. ... UFC lightweight champion Anthony Pettis and Mike Henry of The History Channel's "Counting Cars," shopping for cars at Towbin Dodge on Friday. ... Retired Review-Journal artist Mike Miller, hosting an exhibit of his work Friday at the Fine Art Gallery at The Market LV in Tivoli Village. ... Miss Nevada Teen USA Alexa Taylor celebrating her Sweet 16 birthday at Sugar Factory at Town Square on Friday with friends and family. ... Lance Bass and "Divas" star Frank Marino at Liaison (Bally's), at the same table celebrating different occasions on the Fourth of July. Bass had just released his new single, "Walking on Air" and Marino was marking his 21st anniversary since meeting his partner, Alex Schechter.