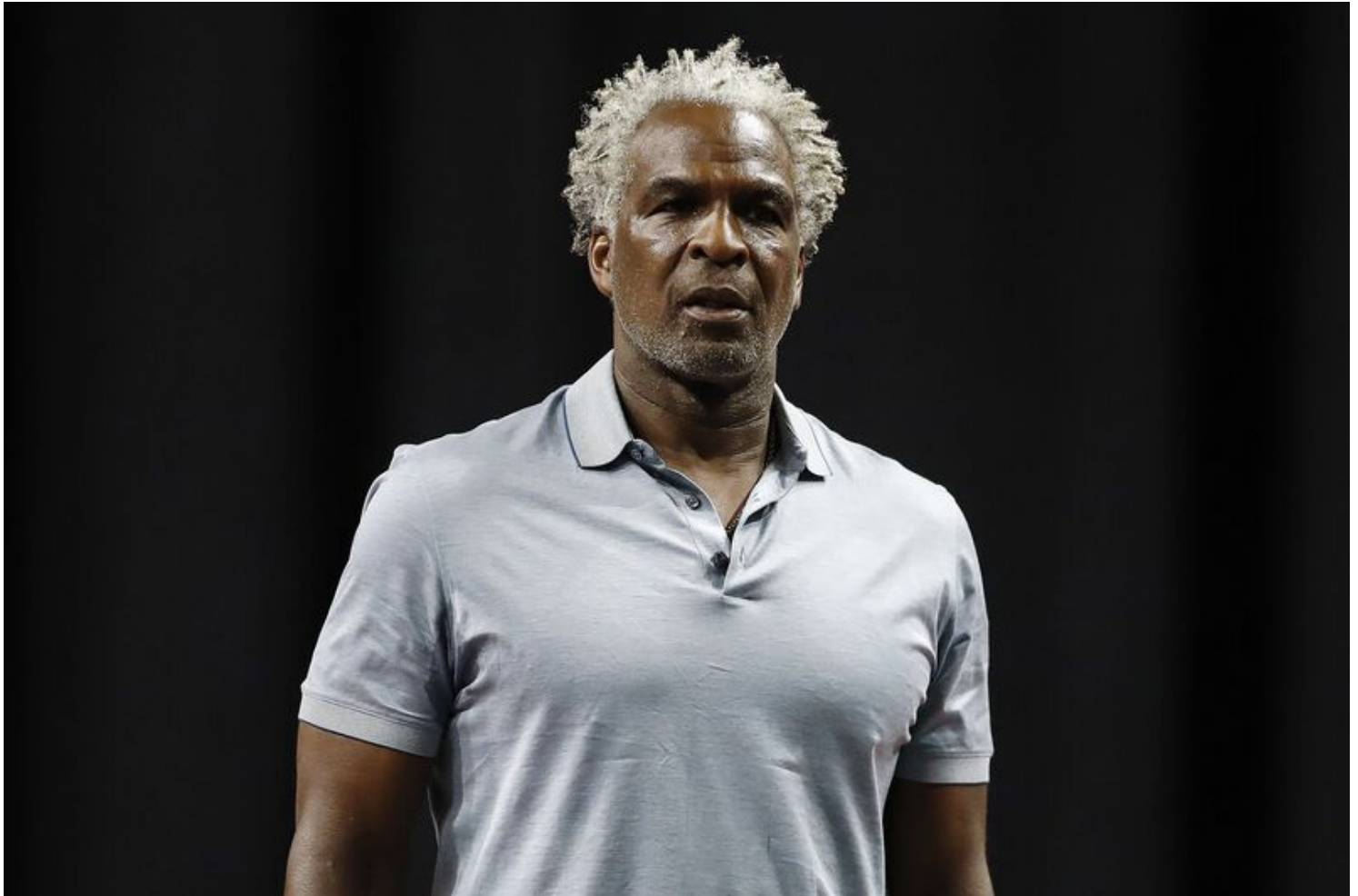


Pursuits

Appeals Court Reinstates Charles Oakley's Lawsuit Over MSG Ejection



Charles Oakley *Photographer: Christian Petersen/Getty Images*

By Bob Van Voris

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A lawsuit by former New York Knicks player Charles Oakley over his ejection from Madison Square Garden while attending a game six years ago was reinstated by a federal appeals court.

Video of Oakley being removed from the arena on Feb. 8, 2017, does not “blatantly contradict” his claim that security guards used excessive force, the three-judge panel said in an order Friday. The court reversed a trial-court ruling that dismissed the case, sending it back to allow Oakley to demand evidence related to his claim.

“The only video record of Oakley’s initial encounter with the security guards does not compel the conclusions that Oakley was provided a reasonable opportunity to leave the Garden and that any force used by the guards during that initial encounter was reasonable,” the appeals court in New York said.

The suit targets Knicks owner James Dolan, Madison Square Garden Co., MSG Networks Inc. and MSG Sports & Entertainment LLC as defendants.

Randy Mastro, a lawyer for Dolan, didn’t immediately return a call seeking comment on the ruling.

The case is Charles Oakley v. James Dolan, 17-cv-06903, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York (Manhattan.)