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航天城休斯敦 的疯狂：

THE CRAZE OF THE CITY
OF AEROSPACE: HUSTON







休斯敦这座城市很有趣，它在中国体育爱好者心中有着特殊的地位，哪怕是从未去过休斯敦，在看到这座城市名字的时候，人们依然会有一种奇妙的他乡遇故知的感觉。

因为一个人，一支球队，一项运动，让这个原本处于大洋彼岸的陌生都市，一下子有了家的味道。这个人就是姚明，这支球队叫作休斯敦火箭队，而这项运动，就叫篮球。

如果说，足球是最受欢迎的运动，那么，篮球就是参与人数最多的运动。自从 1891 年，詹姆斯·奈史密斯博士发明篮球以来，这项运动在极短的时间内席卷北美，并迅速扩散到全世界。1946 年，美国成立了世界上水平最高的篮球职业联赛组织 NBA。1967 年，得克萨斯州的休斯敦市迎来了属于自己的 NBA 球队，这座城市对于篮球的热情被彻底激活。

伴随热情而来的，还有这座城深入骨髓的航天情节。

游走在休斯敦街头，人们会不自觉地把目光聚焦到位于市中心的一个体育馆身上，它的名字叫丰田中心。有意思的是，所有将这里做为主场体育馆的球队，他们的名字里都有一个航天梦，休斯敦火箭队、休斯敦彗星队、休斯敦航空队，不管是男篮、女篮，还是冰上曲棍球队，都把航天梦和体育梦装进了自己球队的梦想里。体育文化与航天文化在这里完美地结合在了一起。无论是年逾古稀的老者，还是蹒跚学步的孩童，休斯

敦人都浸泡在这座城市浓厚的体育文化与航天文化氛围中。

曾几何时，在中国人眼中，休斯敦更多的是作为“太空之城”的身份出现的。这里是美国航空航天局下属约翰逊航天中心所在地，亦是任务监控中心所在地，第一个登上月球的太空人尼尔·阿姆斯特朗在月球上所说的第一个词“休斯敦”便是向这里发出的。

2002 年，在 NBA 选秀中，火箭队选中了来自中国的小巨人姚明，从那时起，中国人才真正了解了这座城市的篮球氛围有多么热烈。热情的中国球迷毫不掩饰自己对这支球队及这座城的热爱，秒变“火蜜”。

休斯敦球迷身上，有着得克萨斯州传统的牛仔老派气息，但他们并没有牛仔那种十足的狂野，反倒是多了几分航天之城所独有的沉着和冷静，他们在对球队的表达上有着不同于其他城市的风格。当球队领先时，他们会呐喊助威；当球队落后时，他们又不失冷静。他们对胜利充满渴望，却又不会用过于蛮横的方式来宣告自己的决心，儒雅而不失执著，这也许就是这座城市独有的气质吧。

球迷如此，城市如此，休斯敦火箭队的整体气质也是如此。他们比赛时风度翩翩，就像一位绅士。恰恰因为这样的风度，让这支队伍的争冠内心比其他球队都更加坚毅。姚明曾经







的主教练鲁迪·汤姆贾诺维奇有一句名言——“永远不要低估一颗冠军的心”，这既道出了这支球队的作风，又道出了这座城市坚忍不拔的性格。

休斯敦这座沉着冷静的航天之城，因为篮球的存在而变得充满激情，如同腾空的火箭，直指苍穹。

其实，除了拥有火箭队这支职业篮球队之外，休斯敦更是一座文化底蕴丰富的休闲城市，休斯敦是美国几个能拥有本地公司表演戏剧、芭蕾、歌剧和交响乐四种主要艺术的城市之一，这里拥有世界顶尖的艺术、蓬勃发展的商业、职业的运动赛，还有诱人的美食……

休斯敦遗产组织

在休斯敦历史公园旁，有一个迷你博物馆，可自由参观，是了解休斯敦城市起源和发展的地方。休斯敦遗产组织是非营利组织，致力于休斯敦文化遗产保护，常年举办展览、讲座等。

休斯敦太空中心

美国太空总署约翰逊宇航中心（NASA Johnson Space Center）官方观光中心，1969年人类登月遥控地。可以参观控制中心、宇航员训练中心和宇宙空间站内部。

休斯敦自然科学博物馆

全美游客最多的10大博物馆之一，休斯敦最大的博物馆，坐落在赫曼公园（Hermann Park）东北角，内含固定展区、特别展区、星际馆、MAX电影院及蝴蝶馆。

米勒露天剧场

位于赫曼公园旁，几乎每个周末晚上都有高水平的免费演出或电影，交响乐、芭蕾舞、歌舞、爵士乐等应有尽有。每年七月底到八月中，还有莎士比亚戏剧节。

Houston occupies a unique place in the heart of Chinese sports fans. Many of us who have never been to the city feel a strong affinity to it.

Because of a person, a team and a sport, a strange city across the Pacific Ocean feels like home. The person is Yao Ming; the team is the Houston Rockets and the sport is basketball.

If football enjoys most popularity, basketball can pride





itself on the greatest number of players in the world. Since 1891 when it was invented by Dr. James Naismith, basketball quickly took the North America by storm and soon spread to all corners of the world. In 1946, the National Basketball Association (NBA), the most significant professional basketball league in the world, was founded in 1946. In 1967, Huston, Texas welcomed the first NBA team of its own. A citywide craze for basketball was instantly ignited. The craze is also wedded to the city's aerospace

culture.

In downtown Houston, the stadium Toyota Center is attention-grabbing. Interestingly, the arena is home to the Houston Rockets of the of the National Basketball Association, the Houston Comets of the Women's National Basketball Association as well as the Houston Aeros of the American Hockey League: all were named to pay homage to Huston's aerospace prowess. Grey-haired elders and toddlers alike are immersed in the perfect melding of sports and aerospace.



In the past, Houston was known to the Chinese as the City of Aerospace, as the NASA Johnson Space Center and the Mission Control Center are located here. The astronaut Neil Armstrong announced to the world, "Houston. Tranquility Base here. Eagle has landed" after guiding Apollo 11 to a safe touchdown.

In 2002, the Houston Rockets picked the Chinese basketball player Yao Ming in the 2002 NBA draft. It was only then that the Chinese fully understood the city's fervor for basketball and soon surrendered to the charm

of the team and the city.

Houston fans are endearingly old-fashioned, reminiscent of Texan cowboys but without the uncouthness. With the characteristic aplomb and patience of citizens of the City of Aerospace, they cheer to boost the morale of their teams when their beloved teams are doing well and show restraint when the teams fall behind. They crave success but would not flaunt their ambition. Their quiet unobtrusive persistence is admirable.

The city is like the fans, so is the Houston Rockets. Players behave gentlemanlike in competition. But beneath the suavity the team is more determined to win than other teams. Rudy Tomjanovich, a former coach of Yao Ming famously said, "Never underestimate the heart of a champion", from which we can glimpse the team's style and the city's gritty personality.

The high-tech and cool-headed City of Aerospace Basketball

is infused with passion like a fully fueled rocket.

Besides the professional basketball team Rockets, Houston is also proud of its cultural richness and leisure facilities and events. It is one of a small number of American cities with their own companies of opera, ballet, theater and symphony, four major art forms. Top-tier artworks, thriving commerce, professional sports games and mouth-watering delicacies are all available...

The Heritage Society

The Heritage Society Houston is a small museum beside the Sam Houston Park. Visitors are free to enter and explore the origin and development of the city. It is a NGO dedicated to heritage conservation, with year-round exhibitions and lectures, etc.

Space Center Houston

The Space Center Houston is the official visitor center of NASA Johnson Space Center and the control site of the moon landing in 1969. Visitors can access the Mission Control and astronaut training facilities. The International Space Station Gallery provides a look inside the space station.

Houston Museum of Natural Science

Houston Museum of Natural Science, situated in the northeast corner of the Hermann Park, is one of the 10 most-visited museums in America and the largest museum in Houston. The museum complex consists of a central facility with four floors of natural science halls and exhibits, the Burke Baker Planetarium, the Cockrell Butterfly Center, and the Wortham Giant Screen Theatre (formerly known as the Wortham IMAX Theatre).

Minute Maid Park

The Minute Maid Park, right by the Hermann Park, provides a full spectrum of quality but free performances like symphony, ballet, singing, dancing, jazz or movie screenings almost every weekend nights, completed with a Shakespeare Festival from late July to mid-August every year.

