Enter the Gotta Get It All Sweepstakes!
(See page G42)

Sports Illustrated

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YEAR-END DOUBLE ISSUE!

Star Athletes Want You to Help Make the Earth a Better Place

Including

STEVE NASH

Yao Ming
Bob Burnquist
Aaron Peirsol
and Ruth Riley

(Even Steve's shoes are green! See page G10)
RUTH RILEY  |  Center  |  San Antonio Silver Stars
Message: Reduce, reuse, recycle

Ruth Riley knows that when it comes to going green, it’s the little things that count. She turns off lights, unplugs electronics, and shuts off the faucet when she brushes her teeth. But one of her biggest pet peeves is the number of plastic water bottles that get thrown away after practices and games. “When I look at how many water and Gatorade bottles are thrown away at practice, I just feel like we gotta do something about this,” says Riley. “I think it’s all of our responsibility to do what we can to preserve the environment.” Riley uses a reusable water bottle and tells teammates to recycle. She would love to see all sports arenas encourage recycling and have the WNBA and other leagues get involved. “If there’s a recycling bin right next to the trash can and someone has a [plastic] bottle, the decision is pretty easy,” says Riley. “So if those resources are available, its easy to do what’s right for the environment.”

AARON PEIRSOL  |  Olympic gold medalist  |  USA Swimming
Message: Clean up the oceans

Growing up in Newport Beach, California, five-time Olympic gold medalist Aaron Peirsol was no stranger to the Pacific Ocean. “Where I grew up, everyone learns how to swim at the beach,” he says. So when Peirsol started noticing the level of pollution in the water near his hometown, it was a no-brainer that he had to help. “I realized there were more and more days where it’d be so dirty you couldn’t even go in the water,” he says. “And I knew that at this rate the beaches wouldn’t [be clean enough] for the next generation.” In 2006, Peirsol joined forces with Oceana, an organization dedicated to protecting the world’s oceans. Together they planned Aaron Peirsol’s Race for the Oceans, a program in which Peirsol finds sponsors to donate money for every mile he swims. So far, he has swum 1,494 sponsored miles, including all the laps he did while training for the 2008 Olympics, and raised more than $30,000. And while the Beijing Games may be finished, Peirsol isn’t. He plans to continue his efforts with Oceana right up to the 2012 Olympics in London. “I see my ability as a swimmer as an opportunity to use what I’ve done for something good,” he says.