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Get into the swing of summer sports

with the Oregon Daily Emerald every Tuesday this summer.

Injuries: Torn ligament fouls Bleakney

Continued from Page 7A

Freshman pole vaulter Karina Elstrom missed the opening height of 12 feet 1 1/2 inches in Friday's competition. She was one of 13 collegiate competitors in the field of 23. Elstrom ended her first collegiate season by placing 16th at the NCAA Championships on June 5.

Senior triple-jumper Gregg Bleakney, a one-time all-American, capped off the action for the Ducks on Sunday. He was excluded from the eight-man final com-

petition after fouling on the first of his three preliminary attempts, and passing on his other two chances.

The Register-Guard reported Sunday that Bleakney suffered a torn ligament in that first attempt. According to Oregon assistant coach John Gillespie, Bleakney may have to undergo knee surgery, the Register-Guard said.

Bleakney entered the meet seeded 10th of 13th entries after recording a personal best of 53 feet 9 3/4 inches in May.

Also on Saturday, former Duck and NCAA champion Kelly Blair claimed the heptathlon title with a score of 6,402 points, and Melody Fairchild, a former NCAA champion for Oregon, placed 11th in the women's 5,000 with a time of 16 minutes, 32.78 seconds.

Another former Duck all-American, Shannon Lemora, claimed the last qualifying spot for Sunday's men's 1,500 final. He finished his heat with a time of 3 minutes, 41.13 seconds, good enough for seventh place.

Jackson leaves Bulls in lurch

The coach's departure spawns questions about the future of the team

By Nancy Armour
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — One Chicago Bull down, how many more to go?

After six NBA titles in eight years, the running of the Bulls has begun, with coach Phil Jackson the first to say goodbye.

Jackson made good on his pledge that this was his last season, turning down an offer from Chicago chairman Jerry Reinsdorf to coach another year, agent Todd Musburger confirmed Sunday. Jackson's departure was first reported in an interview with Newsweek magazine, which went on sale Monday.

"I said no, it's time for me to step away and enjoy some different things," Jackson told Newsweek.

"For me, it's the perfect conclusion to a wonderful team. There's nothing we can do to top this anymore. Now it's time to step back from the game for a while."

Neither Jackson, Reinsdorf nor Bulls general manager Jerry Krause returned messages left for them Sunday by the AP. But Reinsdorf told the Chicago Tribune that Jackson was offered a deal for at least his same \$6 million salary, regardless of whether Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen return.

That Jackson left is no surprise. After saying all season this was it — he even coined the Bulls' sixth championship run the "Last Dance" — it was a question of when, not if, he would announce his departure.

So now that he's made it official, what happens to the rest of the Bulls? Jordan, Pippen, Dennis Rodman and six others on the 12-man playoff roster are free agents.

Jordan once said he would only play for Jackson, though he's retreated from that lately. Pippen, unhappy after years of being undervalued and underpaid, has said repeatedly he would rather go somewhere else, but he too has softened his stance. Rodman wants to return, but only if the rest of the gang comes back.

Jackson told Newsweek he thinks Jordan, who scored the title-winning basket as the Bulls beat the Utah Jazz in six games, will retire.

"I can't imagine him doing it again. I don't know but I anticipate that's how he feels," Jackson told Newsweek.

Jordan's decision probably will hinge on who re-

places Jackson. Iowa State coach Tim Floyd is a Krause favorite, but it's unlikely Jordan would play for him.

But Jordan would probably play for fellow Tar Heels George Karl or Roy Williams. Karl is out of a job after being fired by the Seattle SuperSonics a few weeks ago. Williams has said many times he's happy at Kansas.

"All of the principals involved have individual reasons for whatever choices they make," Musburger said. "It's an individual decision, and I know if Michael decides to return, he will have Phil's blessing."

In the NBA of the 1990s, where players hop from team to team in search of more money and playing time, the intense loyalty of Jackson's players was unusual, though not surprising.



The ex-hippie and Zen master was a motivator, mediator and basketball maestro all in one, able to blend the egos and personalities of such diverse players and talents like Jordan, Pippen and Rodman. He was

able to get through to his players and relate to them with, as Jordan refers to it, "that Zen Buddhism stuff."

He found a style that suited all of them and showcased each of them, and out of that he created a team for the ages.

His style was unique — not many other NBA coaches would go to a bookstore and pick out a book for each of his players before the first West Coast road trip of the year — but it worked. Under Jackson, the Bulls won six titles and the 1995-96 squad went 72-10, the best record in league history.

Jackson has the highest winning percentage of any coach in NBA regular-season (.738) and playoff (.730) history. He was coach of the year in 1996.

Jackson spent 11 of his 13 NBA seasons as a player with the Knicks, and was a member of their 1973 championship team. He worked his way up through the coaching ranks, coaching the Albany Patroons of the CBA for five years — often driving the team van with one hand while working the New York Times crossword puzzle with the other.

He became the Bulls' coach on July 10, 1989, replacing the fired Doug Collins for whom he had been an assistant the previous two seasons.

Musburger said the coach doesn't have another job, and Jackson told Newsweek he does not expect to coach anywhere next season.

Jordan hopes Pippen, Rodman will stay

Jordan says he still enjoys the game but is wary of team turnover

By Chip Brown
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — As Phil Jackson was cleaning out his office and leaving as coach of the Chicago Bulls, Michael Jordan sounded like a man who wanted to keep playing basketball.

As long as the Bulls don't change much more.

Without directly addressing whether he would play for another coach, Jordan said his teammates would have to stay for him to put off retirement.

"I hope Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman will come back," said Jordan, who was in Austin for a children's basketball clinic and celebrity charity game. "It will take some time for them to think about it, but I think there's a chance they will."

Before Jackson made his announcement at the Bulls' practice

facility outside Chicago, Jordan was asked about his coach not returning.

"If that's his choice, that's his choice. I respect Phil," Jordan said. "But I haven't heard it from Phil yet."

Asked about the matter further, Jordan declined to answer.

Jordan once said he would play only for Jackson, though he's retreated from that lately. Pippen, unhappy after years of being undervalued and underpaid, has said he would rather go somewhere else, but he too has softened his stance. Rodman wants to return, but only if the rest of the gang comes back.

Jackson's departure was no surprise to his players. The team had dinner at Jordan's restaurant after a citywide celebration in Grant Park last Tuesday, and backup center Bill Wennington said it was understood Jackson was leaving.

Jordan repeated Monday that if the Bulls, who just won their sixth NBA championship, change too much he would strongly con-

sider retiring.

"The coaches may not be the same and the players may not be the same, and that would be like starting over," Jordan said in listing possible reasons to leave.

When asked by a child attending the clinic if he was really going to retire, Jordan said, "I don't know. I want to play with the same guys I've been playing with. If that happens, great. If not, those things happen."

Asked why he would keep playing, Jordan smiled and said, "I still enjoy the game, and there are some young players in the league who still need some lessons."

The charity basketball clinic is run by Jordan's friend, Eric Martin, a former New Orleans Saints player. The clinic is usually in New Orleans, but Jordan asked if it could be in Austin this year so he could play some golf courses in the area.

The celebrity game Monday night also featured Bulls guard Ron Harper.