

Jordan's wife files for divorce

By Amanda Vogt
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO (KRT) — Juanita Jordan has taken the first steps toward ending her 13-year marriage to Michael Jordan, filing for divorce in Lake County, Ill.

In a petition filed Friday in circuit court in Waukegan, J. Vanoy Jordan, 42, of Highland Park cited "irreconcilable differences" in seeking a dissolution of her marriage to M. Jeff Jordan, 38, also of Highland Park.

She seeks permanent custody of the couple's three children, the 25,000-square-foot "marital residence" in Highland Park and half the couple's property.

"It is the parties' hope that the media respect the family's need and desire for privacy in this painful matter," Juanita Jordan's lawyer, Don Schiller, said Monday,

declining further comment.

The six-page petition says irreconcilable differences have caused "the irretrievable breakdown" of Juanita Jordan's marriage to the basketball superstar and that future attempts at reconciliation "would be impractical and not in the best interests of the family."

Michael and Juanita Vanoy Jordan were married on Sept. 2, 1989, in Las Vegas. Their children are 13-year-old Jeffrey, 11-year-old Marques and 9-year-old Jasmine.

Michael Jordan cited a desire to spend more time with his family when he retired from the Bulls the first time in October 1994 and joked about "driving the car pool."

He maintained his Chicago residence when he returned to basketball as a front-office executive with the Washington Wizards last season, but this year's decision to

resume his playing career necessitated his being in Washington full time.

The petition describes Michael Jordan as "a well and able-bodied man who is capable of making suitable provisions for the support and maintenance of the Petitioner and for the support and education of the parties' children in a style commensurate with that enjoyed by the parties during marriage."

Michael Jordan, who was paid more than \$30 million in his final season with the Bulls, is regarded as one of the world's richest athletes through his work as a product endorser and a reported \$50 million stake in the company that controls the Wizards and the NHL's Washington Capitals.

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Goebel works on artistry

By Ann Tatko
Knight Ridder Newspapers

LOS ANGELES (KRT) — Earning a reputation as The Quad King was not enough, and Timothy Goebel knew it.

No one questioned his technical ability. How could they when few other figure skaters could land a quadruple jump the way he could?

His technical ability made him good, but not great, and not necessarily an Olympic caliber skater. He needed better artistic ability for that.

So with the Olympics 18 months away, Goebel changed coaches in 2000, won last year's U.S. championship and enters today's State Farm U.S. Figure Skating Championships not only with a shot at making the Olympics but also an excellent chance of defending his title.

"At first maybe I did rely almost entirely on my technical strength," Goebel said. "I still do more than anybody else when it comes to jumping, but I've also focused more on my artistry. That's the only way to narrow the gap."

Goebel's not just talking about the gap between him and his fellow U.S. competitors.

He decided to move to El Segundo in 2000 and work with Michelle Kwan's former coach, Frank Carroll, because he wanted to gain ground on Russians Evgeni Plushenko and Alexei Yagudin, who have won the past four world championships.

Achieving that goal meant injecting more emotion into his program. The results were wins at nationals and Skate America, a second-place finish at the Nations Cup and a bronze at the Grand Prix finals in 2001.

At the age of 21, Goebel is starting to understand that it no longer matters if he was the first American to land a quadruple jump in competition.

He doesn't have what five-time defending U.S. champion Todd Eldredge and two-time champion Michael Weiss have.

"I may have a technical edge, but Tim and Mike have the edge of being former Olympians and being at this level for a long time," Goebel said. "No doubt, if the three of us go, we'd be a really strong team."

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Vikings close out season with a loss

By Sean Jensen
Knight Ridder Newspapers

BALTIMORE (KRT) — The stage for the auditions couldn't have been more grand, on Monday Night Football, in the final regular-season game of the 2001 season, against the defending Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens at PSINet Stadium.

The entire Minnesota Vikings organization was yearning to end one of the most tumultuous seasons in its existence with a victory, building some momentum into another important off-season. But, alas, in a season riddled with setbacks, it seemed almost fitting the Vikings ended this one with a 19-3 loss to the Ravens, falling to 5-11, their worst finish since going 3-13 in Les Steckel's lone year as coach in 1984.

For a second consecutive week, though, even in defeat, the Vikings took a step forward, showing resilience against a playoff-bound opponent. The Vikings' defense stopped six short-yardage attempts inside their own 5-yard line, and they held the Ravens' offense to four field goals. Bennett put up a solid effort against the NFL's fourth-rated run defense, earning 52 yards on 13 carries.

Unfortunately, Vikings quarterback Spergon Wynn struggled for a second consecutive week, failing to execute even the most basic passes.

Wynn completed just 13 of 29 passes (44.8 percent) for 86 yards and two interceptions, one of which occurred after a botched punt attempt by Kyle Richardson gave the Vikings the ball 10 yards from Ravens' end zone. Also, late in the fourth quarter, as he was being sacked, Wynn fumbled and the ball was recovered by Ravens linebacker Jamie Sharper, who ran it into the end zone for his team's lone touchdown.

Ironically, the Vikings were undone most by former Vikings. Receiver Qadry Ismail converted a third down with a 20-yard catch late in the first quarter; running back Terry Allen had a season-high 133 yards on 23 carries; and running back Moe Williams, released by the Vikings in the final cut-down before this season, had seven carries for 49 yards.

But the Vikings' defense provided a few flashes of hope.

It contained the Ravens on their first two possessions, enabling Minnesota's offense to score first. Mid-

way through the first quarter, Vikings fullback Harold Morrow barely converted a third-and-2 play, setting the stage for the Vikings' most exciting play of the game.

Wide receiver Randy Moss took a reverse handoff from Spergon Wynn, rolled right and then unleashed a pass to Carter for 29 yards.

Then, after a 15-yard catch by Carter, the Vikings were inside the Ravens' 10. Yet they settled for a 26-yard field goal by Gary Anderson.

The Ravens, however, immediately responded. Ravens kicker Matt Stover tied the game with a 21-yard field goal.

Then, on third and goal from the Vikings' 2, Elvis Grbac badly overthrew Williams toward the left side of the end zone, with free safety Orlando Thomas covering Williams tightly. An official called pass interference, although the ball appeared uncatchable.

Yet with first and goal from the 1, the Ravens were unable to pound the ball in and had to settle for a 20-yard field goal by Stover.

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Basketball

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Huskies, she helped the Ducks defeat Washington, 69-56, before 4,791 fans at McArthur Court. Oregon defeated their Pacific Northwest rival for the 12th straight time, and the Huskies have not won in Eugene since 1993.

"She's becoming that player we knew she would," Smith said of Kraayeveld. "She can score and drive but the assists are her best asset."

If there was one team the Ducks could take lightly, it would be Washington State. Fortunately for Oregon, the Cougars visited Mac Court two days after the Ducks' impressive win against Washington, and Washington State would be no different.

Their 76-47 win over the Cougars represented Oregon's

biggest margin of victory this season, with "balance" the key term in the win.

Eleven of the 12 Oregon players scored at least one point in the victory, with only senior Alyssa Fredrick scoring in double figures. After the blowout, the Ducks were 3-1 in conference play and were beginning to gel as a team.

After splitting a weekend series against Arizona and Arizona State in their most recent games, Oregon is 9-6 overall and 4-2 in conference play.

As usual, Williams has been the heart and soul of the offense, but she has gotten help in recent games. Kraayeveld scored a career-high 18 points against Arizona, and senior Jamie Craighead has been electric from beyond the three-point line.

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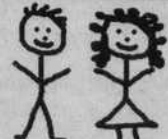


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