

# JACKSON, PIPPEN CALL 6TH TITLE "LAST DANCE" AT BULLS PARADE

Coach Phil Jackson and forward Scottie Pippen officially called the sixth NBA title for the Chicago Bulls "the last dance" while the legendary Michael Jordan left the door open for a possible return today at the team's victory parade.

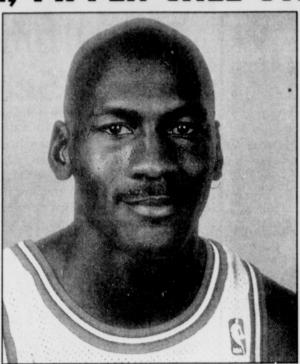
In what has been a June tradition for the better part of this decade, Bulls fans gathered in downtown Chicago's Grant Park this morning to celebrate the Bulls' third straight NBA title and sixth in eight years. But the festive atmosphere was quickly dampened by Jackson and Pippen, who both indicated they will leave the organization.

"This was our last dance, and it was a wonderful waltz," said Jackson in capping off his brief speech to the crowd.

After thanking the Bulls fans for their support over his 11-year career in Chicago, Pippen closed by saying, "thank you for our last dance."

However, Jordan, the six-time NBA Finals MVP, was serenaded with chants of "one more year, one more year", and left open the

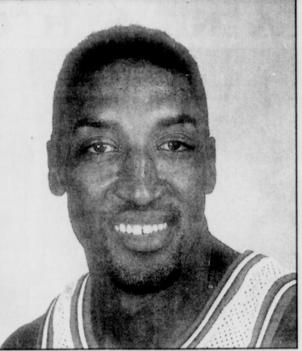
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Michael Jordan

possibility that he will continue his legendary career with a heartfelt speech to the fans.

"My heart, my soul, my love has always gone to the city of Chicago," said Jordan. "No matter what happens, my heart, my soul, my love will always be with the city



Scottie Pipper

of Chicago. Thank you for your support, your energy and hope and pray we have the opportunity to celebrate again."

Appropriately, a large banner with Jordan adorned in a Superman costume was unfurled before he addressed the crowd. In another

superhuman performance, Jordan scored 45 points, including two baskets and a steal in the final 38 seconds, in the series-clinching 87-86 win over the Utah Jazz in Game Six of the NBA Finals Sunday night.

Jordan, Pippen and Phil Jackson - the only Bulls who have been a part of all six titles - all have contracts that expire on July 1st. Jordan stated throughout the year that he will retire if Pippen and Jackson do not return in 1998-99.

Pippen has had a long-running feud with management and intends to test the free-agent market, where he could remove his unofficial title of most underpaid superstar in the league.

Jackson, who moved past John Kundla of the pre-shot clock Minneapolis Lakers with his sixth coaching championship, also has feuded with management. Bulls general manager Jerry Krause, who was booed today by the crowd, stated before the season that Jackson would only coach for one more year. Jackson even expressed a desire to walk away from coaching after the 1997-98 season and had a long embrace with Jordan after the final buzzer on Sunday.

Jackson actually thanked Krause today, but then took a subtle shot at the general manager.

"I thank Jerry Krause for giving us the opportunity to repeat," said Jackson. "He had another plan and

he put it aside for another year." The six championship trophies were held aloft by Jordan, Pippen, Jackson, Dennis Rodman, Ron Harper and Toni Kukoc at the conclusion of today's celebration.

"If this was our last dance, it was a great dance," said Harper. The flamboyant Rodman, who

is also eligible for free agency and not expected to return, added his usual spice to the proceedings

"They say this is a family show, well I'm going to change this (bleep)," said Rodman in opening his address. But Rodman quickly tamed his act and proceeded to thank Jackson and his teammates.

Jordan called Chicago's sixth title the most difficult in the run of championships. Before beating the Jazz in six games in the Finals for the second straight year, the Bulls were forced to a sevengame series by the Indiana Pacers in the Eastern Conference finals.

The Bulls won three straight titles from 1991-93, with Jordan retiring before the next season and returning 17 months later.

# Town goes wild over boxing's golden boy

#### **By EDUARDO MONTES**

When a party lasts a week, you'd think it would eventually run out of steam.

But with a guest of honor like Oscar De La Hoya and an invitation list that appeared to include an entire city, El Paso seemed like it would never stop celebrating.

Some 50,000 people packed the Sun Bowl on Saturday night to watch De La Hoya successfully defend his WBC welterweight title against No. 1 challenger Patrick Charpentier.

"I thank the city of El Paso for giving me the strength, the opportu-

wonderful, beautiful fans," De La Hoya said. "I promise you one more thing - that I will be back."

To a person, excited fans agreed this was the city's biggest event in years.

"The Cowboys were a big deal and the Rolling Stones, but this is definitely bigger," said Millie Garcia, one of hundreds of women who turned out to get a glimpse of De La Hoya.

The Dallas Cowboys have scrimmaged twice in the Sun Bowl, once before a sellout crowd, and the Rolling Stones have also filled the stadium in recent years. De La Hoya's nity to fight here (and) for all these fight topped them all when it came to

achievements in the field

Boys & Girls Clubs pro-

r o -

of youth development.

excitement

Unlike the other one-day events, De La Hoya's trip to El Paso kicked off a week-long frenzy that seemed to consume most of the city, or at least the city's women.

Hundreds showed up to greet De La Hoyaat the airport Tuesday. Hundreds more crashed a "secret" workout Wednesday apparently discovered by some young girls who followed De La Hoya's tour bus through the city.

On Saturday, the Sun Bowl field disappeared under lights, cameras and a voluminous tent shielding a party for some of the city's notables. among others.

There was also unexpected excitement as wind gusting over 25 mph buffeting the scaffolding supporting the lights over the ring. As the metal bars swayed, security officials cleared ringside seats and an undercard fight was delayed for about 20 minutes until the scaffold could be secured. Amidst all this, the boxing match

seemed almost incidental. Except to people like Debbie

O'Sullivan, a fight fan from Sacramento, Calif., who trekked to El Paso because she thought it was her best shot to watch a premiere event with a



## **U.S. Open Tickets Valued** at \$360,000 Stolen From **Olympic Club**

U.S. Open were stolen from an office at the Olympic Club in San appears that at least one thief en-

More than 6,000 tickets to the and 8 a.m. Wednesday, are valued at as much as \$360,000. While it Francisco, where the golf tourna- tered an unlocked window in the

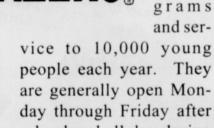
Blazers donated and honored Boys & Girls Clubs for 50 years of service to Portland's Youth

To help support youth 50 years of outstanding programs at all four Boys & Girls Clubs in the Portland metropolitan area (Blazers,

Hillsboro, Lents a n d Meyer),



the Blazers presented a \$50,000 check to Virginia Hensen, Executive Director of Boys & Girls clubs of Portland. The donation is in recognition of



school and all day during spring and summer breaks.

**Congratulations** Jake! **On A JOB Well Done** We Love You Very Much!

-Mom & Dad



fighter like De La Hoya.

### **Tuesday's Sports** Scoreboard **All Times Eastern American League**

-2 Minnesota 0 Detroit 0 -1 DEL Cleveland 3 Kansas City 0 Toronto 1 Tampa Bay 0 -2 N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore, 7:35 p.m. Boston at Chicago White Sox, 8:05 p.m. Oakland at Texas, 8:35 p.m. Seattle at Anaheim, 10:05 p.m.

#### National League

Milwaukee 11, Chicago Cubs 2 F Arizona 1 Cincinnati 0 -1 N.Y. -3 Pittsburgh 0 Philadelphia 0 Mets 0 Montreal 0 Florida at Atlanta, 7:40 p.m. St. Louis at Houston, 8:05 p.m. Colorado at San Francisco, 10:05 p.m. Los Angeles at San Diego, 10:05 p.m.

#### National Hockey League

Detroit at Washington, 8 p.m.

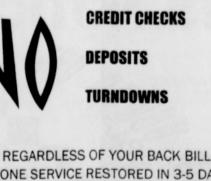
#### WNBA Basketball

Los Angeles at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

#### Major League Soccer

No games today. World Cup Soccer Scotland 1, Norway 1 F Brazil 3, Morocco 0

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ment is scheduled to be played next week, the Associated Press reported. The tickets, which police believe were stolen between 7 p.m. Tuesday

two-story clubhouse, investigators said they have no suspects and no other items were reported missing, AP said.

### Tickets to the 98th U.S. Open Golf Championship are sold out

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