

SPORTS BRIEFS

SPORTS

Erickson takes Oregon State job

Boxing-Maybe only The Shadow knows Tyson

LAS VEGAS- "Only the Shadow knows." Mike Tyson playfully referred to that old-time radio sleuth's signature phrase on Monday. Just joking, of course, but maybe, after all the real and amateur psychologists, sociologists and just plain fight fans who for years have tried to understand the troubled life and times of the former heavyweight champion, Tyson was on to something about himself: The Shadow, and only the Shadow, knows him. Tyson, getting ready to fight South African Frans Botha on Saturday in the ex-champ's first bout since his banishment for biting off a piece of Evander Holyfield's ear in June 1997, was at his best meandering, of course, but still entertaining.

Salt Lake Games could be in jeopardy

LONDON- The IOC official who blew the whistle on Olympic corruption said Monday the 2002 Winter Games could be in jeopardy because of the Salt Lake City bribery scandal. Hodler, the IOC's senior member, said it was possible the games could be moved elsewhere or canceled if Salt Lake can't raise enough money because of eroding public and corporate support.

Hoyas adjust to life after Thompson

NEW YORK- Reality hasn't sunk in yet. It won't for a while. The Georgetown Hoyas are still clinging to John Thompson's legacy much like the former coach himself used to cling to a towel draped over his shoulder. The towel was Thompson's sideline security blanket; Thompson was the Hoyas' security blanket.

Sooner or later, Thompson will learn to live without the towel. Just as the Hoyas will find there is life after John Thompson. Right now, they're too busy denying that anything has changed.

It's only a natural part of the mourning process. And we're not talking about Georgetown alum Alonzo Mourning. Everyone and probably every team grieves differently. The team Thompson abruptly abandoned last Friday after 26 years is grieving by playing its collective heart out on the basketball court.

Penn State's Jones shot point-blank with .357 magnum

MONESSEN, Pa.- Brad Jones, a freshman linebacker at Penn State, was in serious condition Monday after being shot in the neck from point-blank range.

Police said Jones, 21, was shot Sunday around 2:30 a.m., following an argument Saturday night with Lanyere Rockmore, 25, and Albert Reid, 25, both of Pittsburgh.

Redskins Sold for Record Price

WASHINGTON- Since the franchise was born in 1933, there have been just three names at the top of the Washington Redskins. Now, some new faces are poised to take over.

With a bid of "approximately \$600 million"—a North American professional sports record—brothers Howard and Edward Milstein and Daniel Snyder were announced today as the winners of an incredible bidding war for one of the nation's blue-chip franchises. The price breaks the \$330 million Alfed Lerner spent last year for the expansion Cleveland Browns, a team for which Howard Milstein also put in a bid. Media mogul Rupert Murdoch has a world record bid of \$1 billion pending for the English soccer club Manchester United.

TACOMA, Wash. — Dennis Erickson, fired last month as head coach of the Seattle Seahawks, will apparently remain in coaching, albeit at a much different level.

The addition of Erickson, who won two national titles at the University of Miami, would represent a change of fortune for Oregon State, which last week lost the coach the Beavers thought was the future of the program second-year man Mike Riley.

Erickson, who was 31-33 in five seasons with the Seahawks and coming off back-to-back 8-8 years, has said he was anxious to remain in coaching. He was rumored to be in contention for the job as the Pittsburgh Steelers' offensive coordinator, but that position went to Kevin Gilbride.

He's reportedly due to be paid \$1 million for the last year of his contract with the Seahawks, who replaced him last week with former Packers coach Mike Holmgren. A tour of duty in Corvallis, though would be reminiscent of his days at Washington State, where he coached in 1987 and 1988, before Miami came a-calling. Before that, he was a big hit at Idaho and Wyoming.

IN A SMALL TOWN SUCH AS Corvallis, Erickson would be getting back to stints similar to those in Moscow, Idaho, Laramie,

Oregon State's last winning season was in 1970, with an NCAA record of 28 consecutive losing seasons. The Erickson returns to

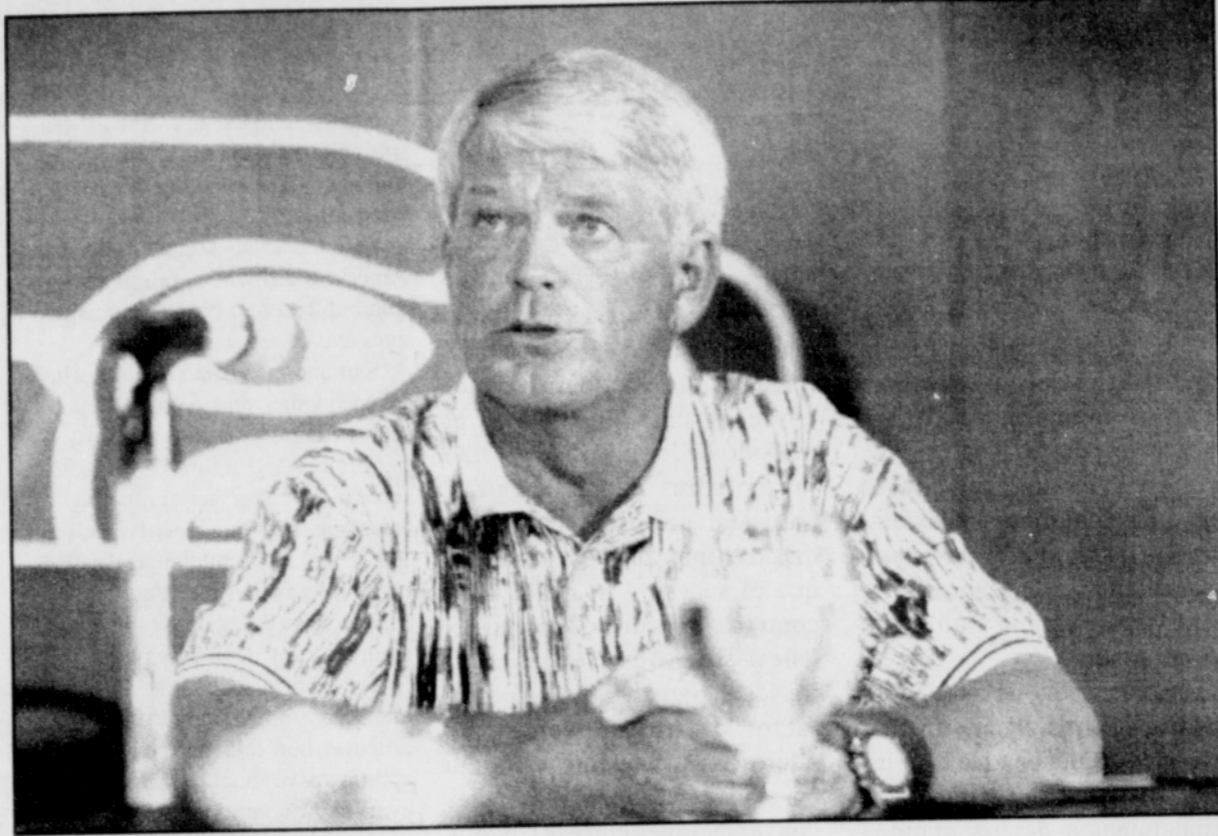
losses to Washington, Cal and UCLA. Seen, finally, as a program on the rise, OSU seemed to suffer typical disappointment when Riley

give the Beavers a chance to sustain their momentum. Unable to attract a high-profile coach, the Beavers' recent roster of coaches has included Craig Fertig, Joe Avezzano, Dave Kragthorpe and Jerry Pettibone.

THE ARRIVAL OF ERICKSON is also enhances the Pac-10's roster of coaches, which welcomed Rick Neuheisel to the fold as Washington's coach, officially on Monday. With letter-of-intent signing day just over three weeks away on Feb. 3, the rest of the Pac-10 will have to battle two more big-name coaches down the stretch for the best recruits in the West. Neuheisel is certainly equipped to grab his share of prospects despite the late start, while Erickson figures to be able to at least get his foot in the door.

Erickson, 51, last played the recruiting game while at Miami, where he won national titles in 1989 (his first year with the Hurricanes) and 1991. Before joining Miami, he spent two years in Pullman with

Washington State, finishing the 1988 season rated No. 16, which was the school's best-ever ranking at the time.



Wyo., and Pullman, Wash. away from the intense pressure of a Miami or an NFL organization.

the college ranks. Beavers came close last season, finishing 5-6 and suffering close

was hired last week as the San Diego Chargers head coach. Hiring Erickson, though, would

Michael Jordan Expected to Retire

CHICAGO - For six months, Michael Jordan teased, taunted and tantalized a nation awaiting his answer.

At last, he appears to have one. The greatest player in NBA history and the most popular athlete since Muhammad Ali is expected to announce his retirement Wednesday, a source with close ties to the NBA told The Associated Press on Monday night. The Bulls scheduled a news conference for noon EST Wednesday.

If so, it would be the second time in five years that Jordan has walked away from the game.

"I knew Michael wasn't coming back," Bulls free agent Dickey Simpkins said today at the team's training site in Deerfield. "He dropped hints last season and last summer that this would probably be his last go-around.

"Ending on top was how he wants to do it and that's about the best way you can do it."

Just as with Jordan's first retirement, a number of factors—his age, a picture-perfect ending to last season, a fractured beginning for this one—appear to have influenced his decision. And just like last time, Jordan could change his mind and return at some point.

"We look forward to seeing him sometime in late March when he makes his return again in Market Square Arena," Pacers coach Larry Bird said.

But for now, he is expected to once again leave the game that bears his indelible mark, leave it when he's

at the top, the way he said he would.

"This is a man who truly, as far as I'm concerned, is the modern day Babe Ruth," former NBA great and current Lakers vice president Jerry West said recently.

Jordan did not return a message left on his phone, and Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf, reached at his Arizona home, said: "I don't have any reaction. I don't have any comments."

Buzz Peterson, the Appalachian State basketball coach who was Jordan's teammate and college roommate at North Carolina, said he believes Jordan made up his mind a long time ago.

"I called him this morning and asked him, 'What's going on? I've got 25 pink slip phone messages here in front of me,'" Peterson said. "He just laughed and said everything's coming out now, and everything's being said. I can't confirm what he's going to say tomorrow but he feels like he's making the right decision for himself and his family."

Asked about Jordan's retirement, Bulls spokesman Tim Hallam said, "At this particular time, I can't comment."

Jordan's retirement also was reported by The New York Times, USA Today and The Denver Post.

His agent, David Falk, said that until Jordan "announces whether he is retiring or returning, anything else is speculation."

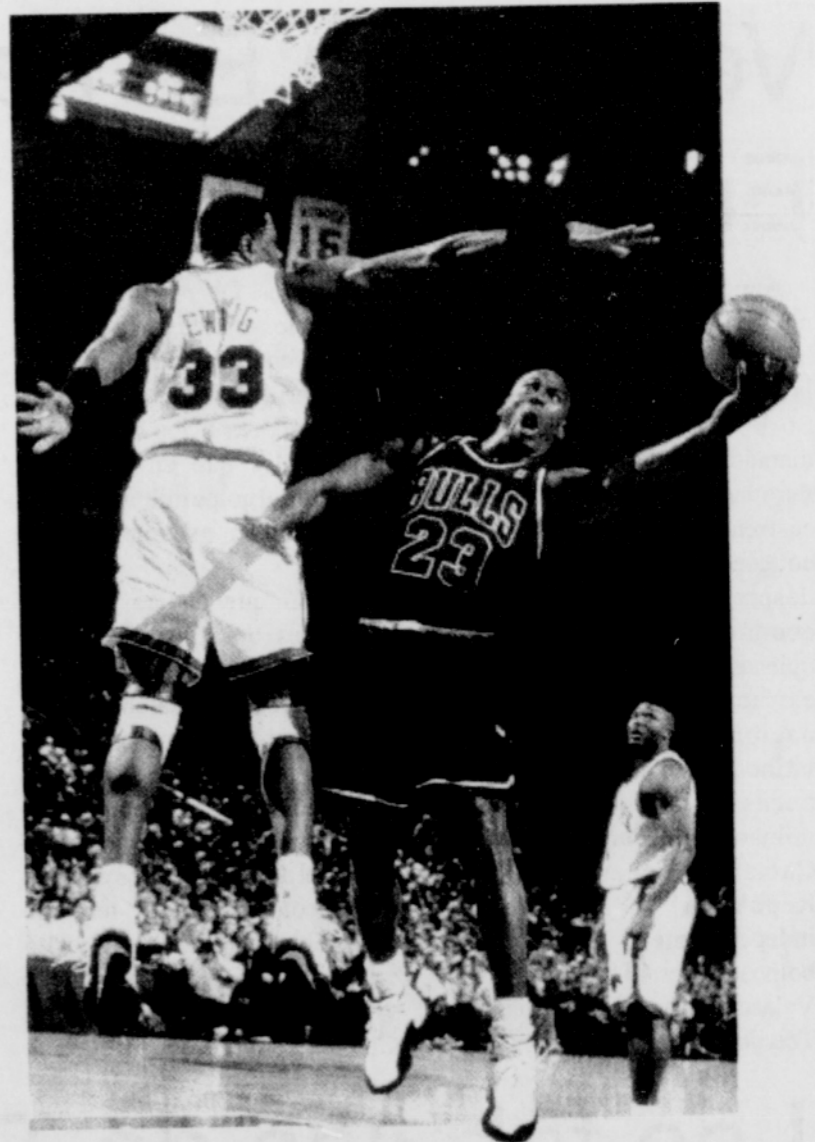
And there's been a considerable amount of that ever since Jordan hit the final, thrilling shot in Game 6 of

the NBA Finals in Utah to lock up the Bulls' sixth championship of the decade. That speculation intensified last week, when the NBA players and owners reached a settlement to end the six-month lockout.

Jordan turns 36 next month. The five-time league MVP led the NBA in scoring 10 times and averaged 31.5 points per game, best in league history.

With NBA players preparing for an abbreviated season to begin Feb. 5, Jordan was expected to announce his plans before training camps opened Monday. He had been in the Bahamas on vacation, but returned to Chicago earlier this week. Another source, who also requested anonymity, told the AP that Jordan summoned teammates Scottie Pippen and Ron Harper to his home to discuss the team's future.

Jordan retired from the Bulls the first time in October 1993, saying he accomplished everything he wanted to in basketball and planned to devote more time to his family. Instead, he spent 1994 playing minor league baseball for the Double-A Birmingham Barons, a farm team of the Chicago White Sox. The budding outfield prospect left baseball in the spring of 1995, rather than get caught up in another labor squabble between owners and players, and returned to the game he loved.



Called to Arms.....



Coach Dunleavy and the Blazers, are ready to roll with the start of the NBA season.

WAVES

HAIR DESIGN

WE'RE SERIOUS ABOUT HAIR
YOU SHOULD BE TOO!!

BARBERING/STYLIST
MATTHEW GARLINGTON

WALK-INS WELCOME

1926 NE SANDY BLVD., PORTLAND OREGON
(503) 232-6263