

Metro / Sports

Michael Jordan, Wizards Win Top Draft Pick

(AP)—Michael Jordan finally won something with the Washington Wizards — the NBA Draft Lottery.

The questions now are will the Wizards keep using the top pick in next month's draft, and if they do, will No. 1 choice get a chance to play with his boss. Jordan refused to shed light on either question Sunday evening in a static-filled telephone conference call from the 12th fairway of an undisclosed golf course after the Wizards posted their biggest win in years.

"Right now I've been focusing on my job," Jordan said when asked if the thought of playing with the top pick might influence his decision on a return to the NBA.

Jordan, the Wizards president of basketball operations, was thrilled see-



Washington assistant general manager (right) Rod Higgins represents the Wizards at the NBA lottery.

ing the Wizards beat the odds in jumping from the No. 3 spot to No. 1 in the ping pong ball lottery.

"When you're trying to build a team, you need some wild cards," said Jordan, who led the Chicago Bulls to six NBA titles before retiring after the 1997-98 season. He joined the Wizards as a part-owner in January 2000.

"Having the No. 1 pick is a wild card," Jordan added. "You're going to have some options thrown at you. We have an opportunity to rebuild this franchise a lot quicker."

Having Jordan in the lineup would help, too. He has been working out with fellow retiree Charles Barkley in recent months. Barkley has hinted an announcement on their possible return will be made this summer.

Hall of Fame Coach Ralph Miller dies at 82

(AP)—Former Oregon State basketball coach Ralph Miller, who led the Beavers to four Pacific-10 Conference championships and eight NCAA Tournament appearances, has died. He was 82.

Miller retired in 1989 as the sixth all-time winningest Division I coach with 674 victories. His teams had just three losing seasons in 38 years as a major college head coach.

"Oregon State University has lost a true giant," said athletics director Mitch Barnhart.

Miller died Tuesday at his home

at Black Butte Ranch near Sisters, university officials said.

The Hall of Fame coach compiled a record of 359-186 during his 19 seasons at Oregon State, beginning in 1971.

Miller led the 1981 team to the No. 1 ranking in the nation for nine weeks, and five of his teams were ranked in the top 10. In addition to conference titles and NCAA appearances, his teams made three trips to the National Invitation Tournament and won seven Far West Classic titles.

He also was a two-time Pac-10 Coach of the Year and coached two consensus All-Americans — Steve Johnson and Gary Payton.

"I looked to Ralph as my mentor, but most of all as a good friend," said his longtime assistant and former OSU head coach Jim Anderson. "Every head coach in the program since Ralph has attempted to emulate the high level of achievement his teams experienced."

Miller was born March 9, 1919, in Chanute, Kan., where he earned four letters in football and track,

three in basketball, and one in golf and tennis at Chanute High School.

He also earned all-state honors in basketball three times before he entered the University of Kansas in 1937 and became a two-sport star for the Jayhawks.

He earned three letters as a football quarterback and three in basketball playing for the Phog Allen.

He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1988, and received the National Association of Basketball Coaches Hillyard Golden Anniversary Award in 1997.

Schools Start After School Fishing Club

The Portland Fire and Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife are helping introduce students at Kenton and Chief Joseph Elementary schools to rural and natural outdoor experiences.

The two groups have sponsored after school aquatic and angling clubs that teach children positive hands-on, educational and life-long skills. The students are learning about fish habit, the environ-

ment, and getting hand-on experience with rods, reels, tackle, fish cleaning, and cooking.

The activities culminate in a graduation where the kids will take a field trip to com-

pete with other neighboring clubs in a fishing tournament. After the trip, club members will receive a graduation gift from the Fire in addition to tickets to a game this summer at the Rose Garden.

Fire Offers Money-Back Guarantee

The Portland Fire is confident that WNBA Basketball is the best entertainment value in town.

The team has made a special offer that if fans don't have a blast on opening night, May 31 versus the Minnesota Lynx, they'll get their money back.

Portland Fire officials take pride in offering fans a unique

experience in sports entertainment. The energy and excitement generated at Fire games is the reason behind the team's motto this season, "Fire Basketball: It's A Blast!"

For those who have yet to experience the summer basketball atmosphere in the Rose Garden, the team is offering the opportu-

nity to enjoy Fire Basketball without any risk. If fans are not enjoying their game experience opening night, they may bring their ticket stub to the Rose Quarter Ticket Office by the end of half-time and will be refunded the full face value of their game ticket. Only one ticket refund per customer will be honored.

Center For Sports Medicine Announces New Location

Providence St. Vincent's Center for Sports Medicine, a unique facility for the rehabilitation of athletes with injuries, has moved to a larger location. The center is now at Mother Joseph Plaza, 9427 SW Barnes Road, Suite 495, located just south of its former location at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center.

There was a blessing and open house on May 1 at the new location that gave visitors a chance to tour the center and pick up information on safe exercising programs.

The Center for Sports Medicine sees all types of athletes, from walkers in their 70's to professional athletes.

The center provides diagnostic, treatment and rehabilitation services for injured athletes who would like to return to activity as quickly and safely as possible. Therapists can help with orthotic devices, conditioning, training and fitness evaluation.

Other services include computerized muscle strength testing, grit analysis, taping and bracing, and golf swing analysis.

Injuries commonly seen by and tendentious. Since prevention of injuries is one of their top priorities, staff member at the Center for Sports Medicine offer these tips for safe exercising

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