

SPORTS



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Hip Hop Star to Run in Marathon

Sean "P. Diddy" Combs announces his entry in the 2003 New York City Marathon. The hip-hop star has been training for the Nov. 2 race for several weeks. He hopes to use the event to raise \$1 million for three children-focused groups. (AP photo)

Judge Bounds Bryant Case for Trial

Prosecutors chided for minimal evidence

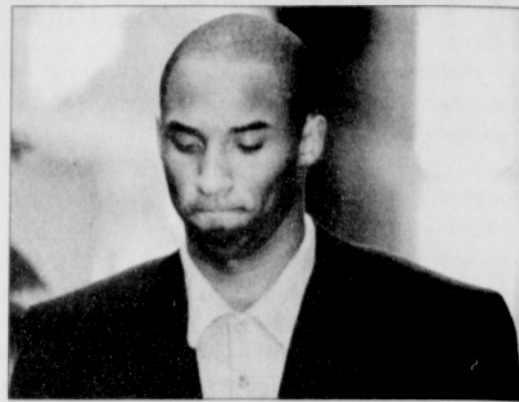
(AP) — A Colorado judge said prosecutors have presented a "minimal amount of evidence" against Kobe Bryant, but enough for the NBA star to stand trial on a charge of sexually assaulting a 19-year-old resort worker.

Eagle County Judge Frederick Gannett ruled that the evidence shown at a preliminary hearing - including photographs of the woman's injuries and blood on her underwear - indicated "submission and force." But he chided prosecutors for offering conflicting information.

"Simply put, this court could not make a finding of probable cause... absent reliance upon those inferences supportive of the people's case," Gannett said.

The next appearance for the Los Angeles Lakers' guard was set for Nov. 10 in district court. He could face life in prison if convicted.

Bryant, 25, has said the sex was consensual. His attorneys suggested the woman's injuries came during sex with other men in the days before her June 30 encounter with Bryant at a posh resort in nearby Edwards.



Kobe Bryant

The preliminary hearing lasted nearly two days and included graphic testimony about an encounter prosecutors say turned violent after flirting by both Bryant and his accuser.

The defense argued that semen and pubic hair found in the woman's underwear that weren't from Bryant prove he is innocent - an argument ridiculed by prosecutor Greg Crittenden.

At Bryant's trial, any discussion of the woman's sexual history could be limited by Colorado's rape shield law, unless Bryant's attorneys successfully argue the evidence fits into one of the few exceptions.

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Marlins Pull For Homefield Advantage

(AP) — A tied up World Series moved to South Florida for game three Tuesday night with Mike Mussina (17-8) going for the New York Yankees and the Florida Marlins starting Josh Beckett (9-8).

The scene has shifted from baseball's most hallowed park to 2267 Dan Marino Blvd., the address of Pro Player Stadium.

Not that the Marlins mind at all. "I think our advantage in this park is that people think it's ugly and think it's not a baseball park," outfielder Jeff Conine said. "But we call it home and we feel like we've got that advantage."

"They always come in and say, 'Oh, the lights are bad' and 'It looks like a football stadium.' I think they just can't get up for playing in a place like this, as compared to a



New York Yankees' Hideki Matsui is surrounded by reporters and photographers Monday at Pro Player Stadium in Miami, Fla. (AP Photo)

Yankee Stadium or a Camden Yards or a Fenway Park that's got all the history. So I think it definitely works in our advantage that it is kind of a dreary and glum place to play."

The Marlins were one of the majors' best home teams this season. There are shades of October, too - the last time the Series was here, the crowd was going

crazy as Edgar Renteria hit a winning single in the bottom of the 11th inning to beat Cleveland in Game 7 in 1997.

Besides, the ballpark isn't that drab. Not with the overwhelming display of orange-and-teal seats, pulsating music and Cuban cuisine.

"This is different," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "We come in here, see the palm trees. It's weird. It really is weird."

Another big difference that should be apparent: The sellout crowd of 65,000 is expected to be split.

"We know everywhere we go, we have our share of fans. We certainly know that there are a lot of transplanted New Yorkers in South Florida," Torre said.

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Boxing legend Muhammad Ali poses for photographers during the presentation of a book chronicling his life. (AP photo)

Book Profiles Boxing Champ

(AP) — Raising his fists in a fighting pose, Muhammad Ali greeted an adoring crowd at the Frankfurt Book Fair as he presented a book chronicling his life.

Ali, 61, walked slowly around a boxing ring set up for the recent event, posed for photographers and waved to several hundred fans chanting his name before signing a copy of the 800-page book.

The book, titled "G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time), A Tribute to Muhammad Ali," weighs 75 pounds and sells for \$3,545. It's being published simultaneously in German and English by Co-

logne, Germany-based publisher Taschen.

"It is wonderful to experience the love that people have for this man, all around the world," said Ali's wife, Lonnie. "It's just astounding."

The book includes more than 3,000 photographs and hundreds of essays and reflections by Ali's coaches, family and friends, as well as by Ali himself.

"You never get to go back in life," said Ali's former trainer Angelo Dundee. "But this book brings back everything in Muhammad Ali's life."

Viking Defense Propels Win

A defensive assault led by Josh Ratliff and Joey King led the Portland State Vikings to a 20-7 Big Sky Conference victory Saturday over

Sacramento State at PGE Park. The Vikings venture out on the road again this week, playing at Montana.

Nuggets Defeat Trail Blazers

Randolph scores 27, grabs 18 boards in loss

(AP) — Andre Miller had 24 points and Carmelo Anthony added 20 points and five rebounds as the Denver Nuggets needed overtime to defeat the Portland Trail Blazers 101-95 in an exhibition game Monday night.

Zach Randolph had 27 points and 18 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who have dropped their last three preseason games.

Earl Boykins' turnaround jumper put the Nuggets up 93-92 in the extra period before Anthony, the third overall pick in this year's NBA draft, hit a 7-foot jumper. Denver led the rest of the way.

The Blazers were without starter Derek Anderson, who missed his third straight game with lower back spasms.

The Blazers, down 78-77 with just over seven minutes left, pulled ahead on a pair of free throws by Randolph, then held a narrow lead until Nene's slam tied it at 85.

Rasheed Wallace's jumper put

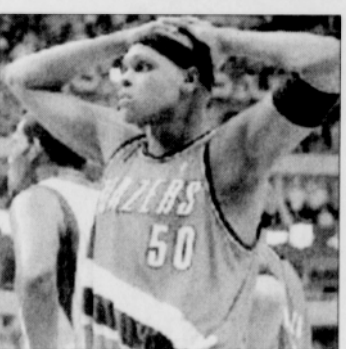
the Blazers back in front, but only until Miller's 17-foot jump tied it again.

The Nuggets took an 89-87 lead on Miller's free throws with 4.5 seconds left. After a timeout, Randolph tied it again with a layup to take the game to overtime.

Miller scored 10 of his points in the fourth quarter and overtime.

The Blazers led by as many as 16 points in the first half but saw it slip away in the second quarter when the Nuggets went on an 18-8 run and tied it at 47 on Anthony's layup.

The Nuggets took a 48-47 lead on Boykins' free throw, but weren't able to extend it and the game was tied at 52 at the half.



Zach Randolph

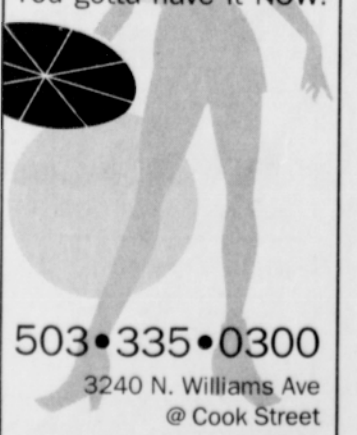
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