

SPORTS

Pippen Ends 17-Year Career

(AP) — Scottie Pippen stood in front of the six championship trophies he helped the Chicago Bulls win and announced his retirement Tuesday, ending his 17-year NBA career in the same city where it began.

Pippen, 39, chosen one of the NBA's 50 greatest players in 1996 for the league's 50th anniversary, was the sidekick to Michael Jordan during the Bulls' run of dominance in the 1990s. Known for his all-around play, especially his defense against some of the league's best scorers, the seven-time All-Star won titles in 1991, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997 and 1998.

After leaving the Bulls in 1999 and playing one year in Houston and four in Portland, Pippen was

brought back to Chicago last season to provide leadership and experience to a young Bulls team. But he had knee surgery in December and played in only 23 games as the Bulls went 23-59. It was the first time in his career Pippen missed the playoffs.

Pippen said he wouldn't have been able to play a full season.

"To say I could go 82 games would be kidding myself," Pippen said.

"Scottie Pippen is the epitome of a true professional. He is a great teammate and a winner who is one of the best to ever wear a Bulls uniform," said John Paxson, the team's executive vice president of basketball operations, who played with Pippen in Chicago.



Chicago Bulls' Scottie Pippen pauses as he announces his retirement during a press conference Tuesday. Pippen helped the Bulls to six world championships. He played for Portland for four seasons. (AP photo)

PSU Home Opener Spoiled

Eastern Washington quarterback Erik Meyer spoiled Portland State's Big Sky Conference opener Saturday, throwing for 325 yards and four touchdowns in leading the Eagles to a 41-21 win at PGE Park.

The loss dropped PSU to 2-2 on the season, and will also drop the Vikings out of the top 25 poll. Meanwhile, the Eagles go to 2-0 in conference play, 3-2 overall. The loss also spoiled Viking Coach Tim Walsh's attempt for a 100th career win.

Despite playing without Ryan Fuqua who missed the first game of his career due to a left hip injury, the Vikings established the run early. Joe Rubin gained 59



Joe Rubin rushed for 167 yards in the PSU Vikings loss to the Eagles.

yards on the Vikings' first scoring drive, including a career long 37-yarder that set up a one-yard touchdown run by Allen Kennett.

Late in the first-half Eastern quarterback Erik Meyer engineered two quick scoring drives and the Eagles led 34-7 at half-time.

Joey King made 11 tackles, including two for loss, to lead the defense. But, a combination of three PSU turnovers and Meyer's effectiveness in the pocket was too much.

The challenge grows for the Vikings now as they go on the road for the next three weeks. PSU plays at Sacramento State next Saturday in a 6 p.m. game.

True Life Sports Story Told

'Friday Night Lights' Opens Friday

Derek Luke stars in Friday Night Lights, the true story of Boobie Miles, a high school football player from Odessa, Texas who was the powerful running back for the Permian Panthers. His dream of stardom on the college circuit is jeopardized by a serious knee injury.

The story has been hailed by Sports Illustrated as one of the top five greatest sports stories of all time.

Luke, the young actor who first came to our attention in title role of Antwone Fisher, stars along with Oscar winner Billy Bob Thornton as the coach and country-western star, Tim McGraw, in his film debut.

Friday Night Lights is scheduled for release nationwide by Universal Pictures on Friday, Oct. 8.

"This is a bittersweet story of a

group of guys who come from various ethnic backgrounds and are modern day warriors who bond together to win," Luke says. "I liked playing Boobie. On one hand, he

was the bold, good-looking athlete who got all the girls in high school. Now as an actor, I get to be that guy."

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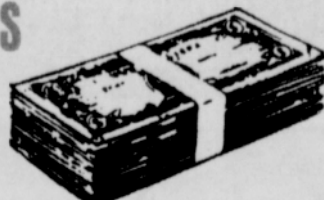
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