

Jackson NBA Bound

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — All-American Chris Jackson said Saturday he will make himself available for the 1990 NBA draft.

Jackson, a 6-foot-1 sophomore guard for Louisiana State, said he made his decision within the last few weeks. He announced it after the Tigers' 94-91 loss to Georgia Tech in the second round of the NCAA Southeast Regional.

"There has been speculation about my entering the NBA draft. I will enter the 1990 draft. I feel it is time for me to move on," Jackson said.

Jackson led the Southeastern Conference in scoring this season with a 28.7-point average after averaging 30.2 points his freshman year.

"My college career has turned out better than I expected and I just figured now



Chris Jackson

was the time (to turn pro). Things just started floating through my mind," Jackson said.

Jackson said he has not contacted an agent and that he sought advice on turning professional only from his mother and from LSU coach Dale Brown.

He also said he had no idea where he might be chosen in this year's draft.

"In the NBA, I will have to work on everything — my strength, my shot, everything," Jackson said.

Knicks to Represent NBA in Tournament

MIAMI — The New York Knicks will represent the NBA in the McDonald's Open Basketball Tournament in Barcelona, Spain next October, Commissioner David Stern announced Saturday.

Barcelona's Spanish League team and two finalists from the European Championships in April also will play in the event, which will be played Oct. 11 and 13.

The tournament was previously held in Milwaukee, Madrid and Rome. The Milwaukee Bucks, Boston Celtics and Denver Nuggets have won the event the first three years against European competition.

In a press conference after the NBA Board of Governors meeting at the site of All-Star Weekend, Stern also announced the election of Russell Granik to the new post of NBA deputy commissioner. He also said that six NBA representatives have been added to the Games Committee of USA Basketball.

Granik, the NBA's executive vice president for six years, will serve as the

league's chief operating officer, reporting to Stern.

Granik also is vice president of USA Basketball, which last year became the national governing body for the sport in international competition. USA Basketball's Games Committee will determine the makeup of U.S. teams in future Olympics and World Championship tournaments.

"The biggest practical problem is Olympic trials because it's one thing for a player to devote five weeks to the Olympics, but it's another thing for him to devote the whole summer," Granik said. "Obviously it's not fair or necessary to have traditional trials with 50 to 60 NBA players involved. Players don't want a two-month boot camp."

Granik said another problem to be resolved before NBA players participate in the Olympics is what sneakers they will wear.

"In the past, Olympic players were told what shoes to wear, but now something will have to be worked out with the shoe companies," Granik said.



AARON AT BAT

Driving in Runs

If there is one baseball record for which I am known, it is for hitting the most home runs. But there is another honor baseball has given me that really fills me with pride. A few years ago, the commissioner of baseball named the annual award given to the player in each league driving in the most runs the Hank Aaron Award. Each year it is my honor to present the trophy to the winning players. In my perhaps biased opinion, I think it is as important as the Cy Young Award given to the pitchers.

In my career I led or tied for the lead in runs batted in (RBI) four times. When I left active play, I had driven in more than 2,200 runs.

There is more to driving in runs than just hitting home runs or hitting for a high average. Some hitters naturally drive in runs even when they don't hit for a high average. They rise to the occasion when there are runners in scoring position.

On the other hand, there are players who can't seem to function when there are runners on second or third base. I can remember players who were considered dead outs when they came to the plate with runners in scoring position.

This is where the manager comes into play. You have to put players into the right position in the batting order. Some players are better than others in the third or fourth position in the batting order.

There is no one secret to driving in runs. Of course a player has to get good wood on the ball on a consistent basis. I always treated a runner on second base as my responsibility, even if two other batters would have a chance after me to drive him home. One important point: I tried not to alter my swing just because a runner was in scoring position.

Some managers make the mistake of asking players to do something that doesn't come naturally to them. Too many times a manager will ask a player to hit the ball to right field when the player may not have that capability. The biggest mistake a player can make is to alter his style because of runners on base. He has to go with his best, and a manager has to work with the talent he has. If a player is not a natural right-field hitter, he shouldn't be asked to try. That would be taking the bat out of his hands.

I always had confidence at the plate that even if I didn't get a base hit, I would get enough wood on the ball to drive it deep and move the runner along. And on more than 2,200 occasions, that's the way it worked out. *ll*

Hank Aaron is the top home run hitter of all time with 755 homers. A member of baseball's Hall of Fame, Hank is senior vice president of the Atlanta Braves.

©1990, PM Editorial Services

BOXING NOTES

NBC Says No More to WBA

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — NBC Sports television knocked out the World Boxing Association Thursday.

"We are ceasing to recognize the WBA," Kevin Monaghan, the network's boxing coordinator, said in a conference-call news conference. "We will never televise a WBA fight. We will not pay any WBA sanction fees."

"We pay the fees; we put the fights on; we make them famous," Dr. Ferdie Pacheco, NBC's boxing analyst, said. "Then these people come and tell us what we can and cannot do."

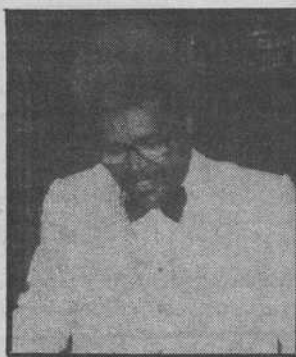
Monaghan said, "If we do a fight with a WBA champion we will not recognize it as a title but we will pay him a championship purse."

NBC's action came two days after the WBA knocked out NBC telecast of a featherweight title fight between champion Antonio Esparragoa of Venezuela and Stevie Cruz of Fort Worth, Texas, scheduled for April 1 at San Antonio, Texas.

On Tuesday, the WBA, whose president is Gilberto Mendoza of Venezuela, suddenly announced that Esparragoa must defend against Park Chlan-Mok of South Korea.

Douglas-King Trial Date Is Set

Heavyweight champ James "Buster" Douglas' legal brawl with fight promoter Don King will take place in federal court beginning April 9, a judge ruled. U.S. District Judge Howard McKibben, who also rejected a move by Douglas' attorneys to have the case sent back to state court, set the trial date at a hearing in Las Vegas.



Don King

Taylor Is Tabbed As No. 1 Contender

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The World Boxing Association classified Meldrick Taylor as its No. 1 contender for a rematch with super-lightweight Julio Cesar Chavez.

Gabriel Penagaricano, a WBA lawyer, said no date had been set for the fight.

Chavez retained the title on Saturday when referee Richard Steele stopped the bout with two seconds left in the final round after Taylor was knocked down.

Learn & Live!



DAVE BIDDLE
General Sales Manager

Automatically On Any New Car

\$ 600.00 1st Time Buyer

\$1,000.00* matching income tax return

\$2,000.00* Rebate

\$3,600.00* Total Spring Savings

FINDLAY OLDS WEST

4911 W. Alta at Decatur

COME IN TODAY FOR YOUR BEST DEAL

EZ Credit
Highest Trade-In Value

CALL 870-4333

Big Discounts
Satisfaction Guaranteed

* UP TO THIS DOLLAR AMOUNT