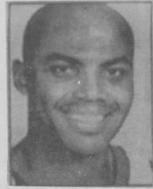
LAS VEGAS

OPENS PRACTICE FOR OLYMPIC

JOHNSON IS BACK IN A



CHARLES BARKLEY



LARRY BIRD



CLYDE DREXLER



PATRICK EWING



MAGIC JOHNSON



MICHAEL JORDAN



CHRISTIAN LAETTNER By W.G. Ramirez November 7th, 1991 marked one of the saddest days in NBA

FLOAT!



KARL MALONE

history as Earvin "Magic" Johnson announced his retirement after contracting the HIV



CHRIS MULLIN

Johnson returned to the court in February, however, and put



SCOTTIE PIPPEN

on a dazzling display in the All-Star game.

Magic may not be able to



DAVID ROBINSON

withstand an 82-game regularseason schedule, but he says he feels fine and is ready to spend the next six weeks playing basketball with potentially the best squad ever assembled.

"The anticipation was wearing me out because I was so excited and now we're finally here," Johnson said. "I can relax now and do what I do best, and that's just play basketball."

Johnson was doing commentary for NBC throughout the NBA playoffs but admits that he has cut back on work and travel in order to get back into basketball shape.

"You prepare yourself, you come here, you're in shape and you've got your basketball instincts down," explained Magic. "You're just like them.

They have nothing over (me), and I have nothing over them.



JOHN STOCKTON

I'm just ready to play.

"I'm not gonna let up. That's the only way I know how to live."

The U.S. Olympic "Dream Team" opened practice this past Monday in San Diego.

Head Coach Chuck Daly said the whole team was in good shape and had an impressive workout.

The Olympic team ran through a two-hour practice at UC Sand Diego and continued to practice throughout the week. The NBA-dominated squad will practice through Friday in preparation for the Tournament of the Americas which will begin Saturday in Portland.

The United States must finish in the top four to advance to Barcelona.

The United States is expected to breeze to the gold

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