

NBA-Dissident Players Still Oppose Deal, Want Union Dissolved

CHICAGO - A group of dissident National Basketball Association players said on Wednesday they find the latest collective bargaining agreement proposal worked out between the league and its union to be unacceptable and they will continue in their effort to have the union decertified.

"We still feel that this deal is not sufficient enough to stop the decertification effort," New York Knicks centre Patrick Ewing told a news conference here.

Among the objections the players have to the agreement, the second worked out between the league and its union this summer, are that it eliminates

most exemptions to the league's salary cap and limits salary increases, said Jeff Kessler, attorney for the players seeking to dissolve the union.

Kessler said players were also dissatisfied that group licensing rights remain with the NBA.

Under the agreement "free agency is almost eliminated," Kessler said.

But in a separate news conference NBA Commissioner David Stern said players will be eligible for unlimited free agency after three years in the league and that the league's salary cap would rise to \$32 million from \$23 million.

Stern said those concessions were among the trade-offs NBA team owners gave in return for elimination of most exceptions to the salary cap and the imposition of a limit on salaries for first-year players.

"We tightened the cap, no question about that," Stern said in a teleconference following the players' news conference.

The owners have imposed a lock-out on players that threatens the upcoming NBA season.

But Stern said he believes support for the decertification effort is "dwindling" and predicted "There will be a season."

Two votes by players on decertification will be held within

the next 20 days. The National Labour Relations Board scheduled voting for August 30 and September 7. Ballots will not be counted by the NLRB until September 12.

About 400 players will vote in the decertification process, with a simple majority determining whether the union would be stripped of its powers.

The union news conference was attended by more than 30 players either in person or by

telephone. Some players met with Kessler and others involved in the decertification effort before the news conference.

The Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan, who quit a brief foray into baseball when that sport shut down in a contract dispute, said the threat of an interruption of the NBA season should not force players to accept the contract.

"I don't think that's in the best interest of the league," Jordan

said in response to reporters' questions by telephone. Players also rejected the notion that they were being forced to rebel against the agreement by their agents who could lose lucrative commissions if a limit is placed on salaries of first-year players.

"I wasn't brainwashed. I wasn't misinformed. I made my own decision," said Charlotte Hornets centre Alonzo Mourning.

"This is an attempt to kidnap our contract," Stern said.

Gooden's Request For Reinstatement Denied

Dwight Gooden's request to be reinstated to baseball this season has been rejected by acting commissioner Bud Selig.

Selig refused to shorten Gooden's one-year suspension, sighting the fact that there are only six weeks left this season and Gooden would be better served to keep working on his aftercare program.

"I know it was a tough decision for him (Selig), but that means I'll just keep working even harder to make it back next year," the former New York Mets pitcher told the Bergen (New Jersey) Record.

Gooden has been throwing regularly and is considering playing in the Dominican Republic this winter.

"If I was allowed back this year, the Yankees would've won," he said.

Gooden, who initially underwent drug rehabilitation in 1987, was suspended last June for testing positive for cocaine. He was suspended again in September for the entire 1995 season for violating his aftercare program.

Gooden, the National League Cy Young Award winner with a 24-4 record in 1985, was 3-4

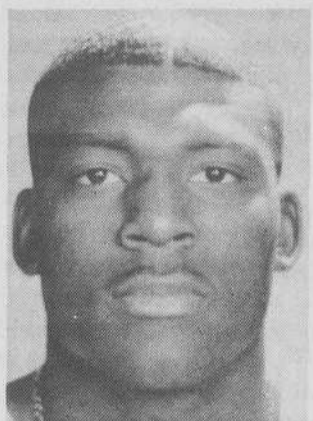
with a 6.31 earned run average in the strike-shortened 1994 season for the Mets. He was in the final year of a contract with the team.



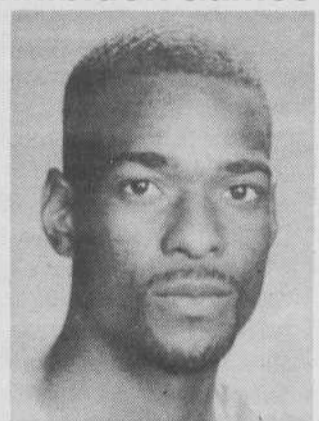
GOODEN

Former Runnin' Rebels Larry Johnson And Stacey Augmon Return To T&M For NBA Exhibition Games

Two former UNLV Runnin' Rebels return to Las Vegas in two exciting NBA Exhibition games coming to the Thomas & Mack Center in October. Larry Johnson and the Charlotte Hornets will take on the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday, October 17th and Stacey Augmon of the Atlanta Hawks face the Denver Nuggets on Saturday, October 28th. Both games are scheduled for 7:30 p.m.



JOHNSON



AUGMON

Tickets are on sale now at the Thomas & Mack Center Ticket Office and all Ticketmaster locations, including Smith's, Tower Records, Robinsons/May and Blockbuster Music.

Ticket prices are \$29.50 (courtside), \$24.50 (center plaza), \$19.50 (end plaza), \$14.50 (center balcony) and \$9.50 (end balcony). Special two game package prices are

also available at \$50 (courtside), \$45 (center plaza), \$35 (end plaza), \$25 (center balcony) and \$17 (end balcony). For more information, call 895-3900. To charge by phone, call 474-4000.

Local League Announcements

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■ Wallyball leagues are forming through Aug. 1 at the Chuck Minek Sports Complex, 275 N. Mojave Road.

The City of Las Vegas-sponsored league, which costs \$40 per team, is open to all teens and adults.

Competition begins Aug. 3 and continues thereafter at 6:30 p.m. on random weekdays.

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■ Coed volleyball teams are being organized for a cost of \$160 at the Minker Complex. Leagues are open teens and adults.

Beginners play Tuesdays and intermediates compete Thursdays, both starting at 6:30 p.m.

Call 229-6563 for additional information on the ten-week league format.

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■ The City of Las Vegas Dula Gymnasium, 441 E. Bonanza offers a variety of opportunities for the mature population that would enjoy fitness activities.

Specializing in Active Sports For Seniors, Dula offers the game of indoor paddle tennis on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Games and instruction take place from 9-11 a.m. Registration is \$1.

From 9-11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the program changes to table tennis. There is no charge for table tennis.

Dula also offers Yoga classes Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. Suzanne Barnes teaches the class by introducing a system of exercises for attaining physical and mental control. Classes are \$3 weekly.

All programs are designed for seniors, 55 or older. Call 229-6307 for details.

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■ Local organizations in need of facilities to sponsor sports tournaments, competitions or exhibitions, can now rent the gym at the City of Las Vegas Chuck Minker Sports Complex, 275 N. Mojave Road. Groups may reserve the facility for exclusive use at a cost of \$20/hour during business hours or \$30/hour at other times.

The facility is open weekdays, 7 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sundays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Possibilities for use may include, but are not limited to, basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, dances, seminars, or workshops. Groups must include ten or more individuals. Call 229-6563 for reservation details.

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■ Please send your announcements to:

Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice League Announcements, 1201 South Eastern Ave. Las Vegas, Nevada 89104. Please include any age requirements for activity, dates for sign-ups as well as dates that activity will begin, phone number and any other pertinent information.

The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice reserves the right to edit any announcement submitted for print.

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