

SENTINEL SPORTS

NBA Players Vote On Whether To Decertify Union

Stars Karl Malone, John Stockton and Jeff Hornacek of the Utah Jazz were among a group of N-B-A players today who voted against union decertification.

Voting took place today and again on September 7th at regional offices of the National Labor Relations Board. The results will be announced on September 12th, with the league's labor future in the balance.

The N-B-A and its players reached a tentative agreement on a six-year collective bargaining agreement August 8th, but the deal could be nullified if a majority vote to decertify the union. A vote against decertification is considered a vote for the agreement, although that may not be so in each case.

Free agent Danny Ainge of the Phoenix Suns, John Salley of the Miami Heat, Anthony Mason of the New York Knicks and Steve Smith of the Atlanta Hawks were among others who voted to ratify the tentative

agreement.

Malone cited the damage caused to baseball by last year's players strike in voting against decertification. "I don't want to see it wind up like baseball and I love the game of baseball, but baseball is hurt and they might never recover from that," he said.

Stockton has openly supported the agreement in union meetings. "I think it is a good deal," Stockton said. "There's never a deal you're ever going to make anywhere that's going to absolutely please everyone — that's just reality but I think it's a good deal, a fair deal and I think both sides will probably be saying it could always be better and that's a good sign that it's fair. And hopefully everyone would realize that accordingly."

Superstars Michael Jordan and Patrick Ewing are the most visible players leading the decertification movement. Alonzo Mourning of the Charlotte Hornets has also openly lobbied for decertification. "It's an

anonymous procedure and based on my affiliation with this whole ordeal for the past couple of months, I think you can pretty much figure that one out," said Mourning when asked how he voted. Many players who voted today did not indicate if they voted for decertification.

"The reports we've received indicate that there has been a large turnout by N-B-A players," Deputy Commissioner Russ Granik said in a statement. "We're very encouraged because we think the overwhelming majority support the union, the new deal and want to play the 1995-96 season."

N-B-A Commissioner David Stern admitted Tuesday that the league is "petrified" at the possibility of the union decertification vote today jeopardizing the 1995-96 season.

His interview with E-S-P-N came just hours after New York Knicks center Herb Williams, a vice president of the Players Association, reportedly shifted

sides and is lobbying against the new collective bargaining agreement between the owners and players. Williams reportedly appears on a videotape which urges about 420 N-B-A players to reject the latest deal.

Ironically, Stern and Jordan, the men most responsible for the league's popularity explosion over the last 10 years, now find themselves as foes in the labor dispute. Owners locked out N-B-A players on July 1st in the first

Olajuwon To Face Shaq In Pay-Per-View Event

NEW YORK - Superstar centers Hakeem Olajuwon of the Houston Rockets and Shaquille O'Neal of the Orlando Magic will compete in a \$1 million pay-per-view one-on-one competition at Atlantic City, N.J., Sept. 30.

The event, called the "Taco Bell One-on-One Championship," will be staged at the Trump Taj Mahal Resort. It will be distributed by Showtime Event Television (SET) with a suggested retail pay-per-view price of \$19.95 to \$29.95.

Olajuwon led the Rockets past Shaq and the Magic in the National Basketball Association Finals to capture the league championship for the second consecutive year.

Leonard Armato, chairman and chief executive officer of Management Plus Enterprises, said Wednesday that Olajuwon and O'Neal will play 10 rounds

work stoppage in league history. "I think everybody is glad this is coming to a climax one way or another," New York Knicks forward Charles Oakley said.

"You've got owners against players, players against players. I think the bottom line is we need to get this thing resolved so no matter what happens the guys can make their next move."

The first proposal, which contained a luxury tax, was approved unanimously by

for a total of \$100,000 per round.

According to the ground rules announced by Armato, a tie in a round will roll over the prize money to the next round. The

Vernon Maxwell Busted For Pot

HOUSTON - Former Houston Rocket Vernon Maxwell was arrested late Monday for possession of marijuana, a police spokesman said.

Police found two bags of marijuana and a smoking pipe in his Mercedes Benz after pulling Maxwell over for running a red light, Houston Police Department spokesman John Leggio said.

He said Maxwell was jailed and released on bail Tuesday morning. He faces up to 180 days in jail and \$1,000 fine if convicted.

Maxwell, who turns 30 on Friday, told police he was living out of his car and gave no home address, Leggio said.

owners but player representatives tabled their vote. The second proposal saw owners remove the luxury tax and will be voted on following the decertification vote.

Jordan and Ewing were among several players who said they were upset with the way the negotiations were handled by union chief Simon Gourdine, who took over as executive director after Charles Grantham resigned April 14th.

player with the most money after 10 rounds will be declared the winner. If they are tied, a tiebreaker will be played for the title.

The troubled Maxwell, who was a starter on the Rockets' 1994 National Basketball Association championship team, has had a number of run-ins with police in recent years and was suspended for 10 games in the 1994-95 season after charging into the stands in a game against the Utah Jazz and attacking a fan. He left the team during their first playoff series this year because of a disagreement with head coach Rudy Tomjanovich over his lack of playing time.

The Rockets went on to win a second consecutive championship without Maxwell and later released him from the team.

National Sports Briefs

Suns' Barkley Sues Nikon

NEW YORK - Phoenix Suns star Charles Barkley has filed a \$4 million lawsuit against Nikon, claiming the company used an unauthorized photograph of him in an advertisement.

Barkley filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in New York.

Barkley said he never gave Nikon Inc. permission to use his photograph to sell its cameras. The lawsuit contends the advertisement has caused consumers to believe Barkley endorses Nikon products.

The photograph, which shows Barkley in uniform with head back and mouth wide open, was published in a supplement to Advertising Age/Creativity, a leading trade magazine. Nikon had no comment.

Parker will not play at Mesa Community College

Richie Parker, the New York high school basketball star who pleaded guilty to sexual assault, is still looking for a place to play.

A committee Monday ruled against permitting Parker to play at Mesa Community College in Arizona, becoming the fifth school to deny the troubled teen an opportunity to play. Parker has been admitted as a student, although he has yet to enroll in classes.

The 6-foot-5 Parker was sentenced to five years probation after pleading guilty to a felony charge of sexual abuse. Pressure from students, parents and alumni forced four schools to back off their recruitment of Parker, who played at Manhattan Center High School in New York.

Panthers Waive Barry Foster, Sign Derrick Moore

The Carolina Panthers Monday waived veteran running back Barry Foster and signed running back Derrick Moore.

Foster, acquired in a trade with the Pittsburgh Steelers, gained 62 yards on 22 attempts in limited play during the preseason. He had been

bothered by recurring swelling in his right knee.

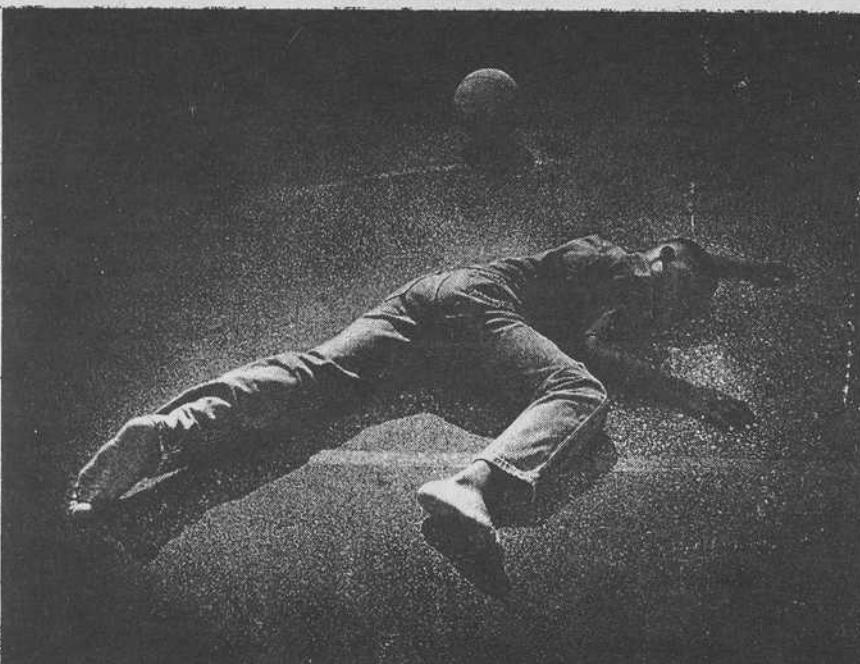
The 26-year-old Foster won the A-F-C rushing title in 1992 with 1,690 yards and was named to the Pro Bowl, but has missed 12 games over the last two seasons due to injury.

McNeeley's manager to receive share from fight

The Nevada State Athletic Commission Monday decided against withholding a purse for Vinnie Vecchione, the manager for Peter McNeeley who stepped into the ring just 89 seconds into his fighter's bout with Mike Tyson on August 19th in Las Vegas.

The Commission Monday decided to release the \$179,000 cut for Vecchione because there was no proof that the manager acted in an illegal manner.

"All the rumors have been followed," the Commission said in a prepared statement. "There has not been one shred of evidence at this time to substantiate any of the rumors."



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