



Michael Jordan retires

By Rick Gano

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) - The NBA's greatest player made it official today.

Michael Jordan retired from the Chicago Bulls after 13 seasons, six championships and countless soaring dunks. But he left open the slightest possibility that he might return one day.

"Mentally, I'm exhausted. I don't feel I have a challenge," Jordan said at a news conference at the United Center, where a bronze statue of him stands outside. "Physically, I feel great.

"This is a perfect time for me to walk away from the game. I'm at peace with that."

Jordan said he was "99.9 percent" sure he would never return and added, "You can



MICHAEL JORDAN

read that for what it's worth ... I'm very secure in my decision."

When pressed why he wouldn't say he was 100 percent certain, Jordan said: "Because it's my 1 percent and not yours."

Word of Jordan's retirement broke late

Monday, but he had refused to comment until today. After leading the Bulls to their sixth championship in June, Jordan said he would make an announcement on his future only once the NBA lockout ended.

The players and owners reached a deal last week to save what's left of the season, and everyone's next question was whether Jordan would return.

The Jordan era included five MVP awards, 10 scoring titles, 12 All-Star appearances and many magic moments, from last-second shots to phenomenal scoring outbursts. More important, Jordan had charm and a nice-guy image that earned him multimillion-dollar sponsorship deals and

reached even non-sports fans.

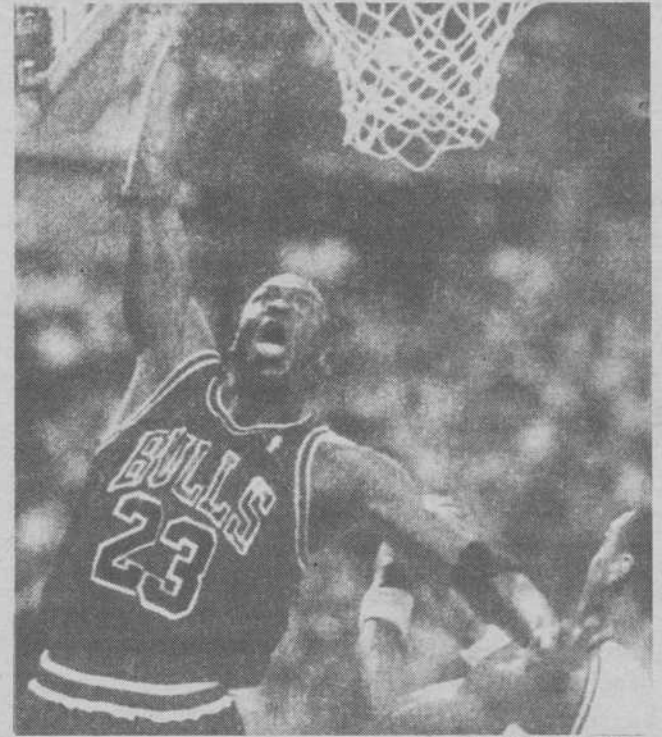
"I tried to be the best basketball player I could be," said Jordan, who was joined by his wife, Juanita, Bulls chairman Jerry Reinsdorf and NBA commissioner David Stern. "I've had a great time."

Jordan alluded to his first retirement in 1993, when he briefly pursued a professional baseball career before returning late in the 1994-95 season.

"Well, we do this again, a second time," he said to open the news conference.

At one point, the Bulls unveiled a banner in the rafters from Jordan's first retirement. It said "Jordan 1984-1993" - but it will now have to be updated.

Asked if he had lost his (See Jordan, Page 4)



Sentinel-Voice file photo

Jordan drives to the hole against the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Live like a King



Sentinel-Voice file photo

Martin Luther King Jr. would have been 70 years old Friday. The civil rights champion didn't begin the civil rights movement but grew to define it. King's legacy of human decency and non-violent resistance would shape the culture of the nation. The Martin Luther King Jr. Committee invites Las Vegas to celebrate King's dream with its 18th annual parade Saturday. Start time is 10 a.m. at Coolidge and 4th streets traveling north to Ogden.

NAACP elections signal start of new battle

Failed candidates oppose Saturday's election results

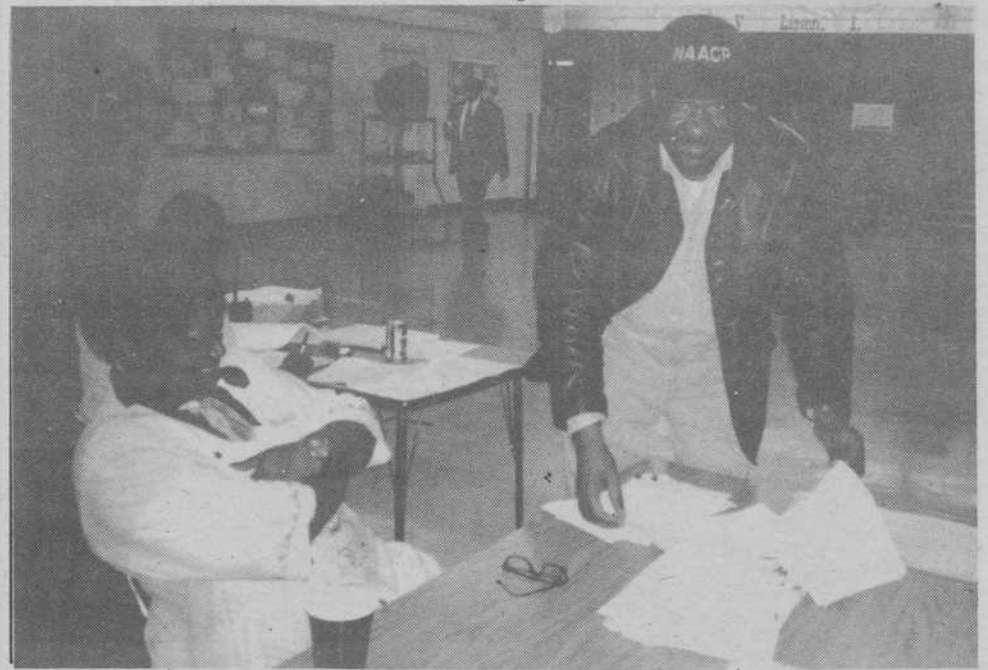
Catisha Marsh
Sentinel-Voice

The Las Vegas NAACP elections are over but the political wrangling has yet to subside.

A quarter of the civil rights group's 1,200 members — approximately 252 — voted in Saturday's elections in which former assemblyman Gene Collins won the presidency of the local branch. His opponent, the Rev. Jesse Scott and Louie Overstreet, who was removed from running by the national office, plan to contest the election results.

"We've done the best that we can reconstructing the membership lists and I'm very comfortable that we did everything in accord with the constitution," said national Field Secretary Mark Clack, who came from his Washington D.C. office to oversee the elections.

Carolyn Hughes, an election committee observer, said the elections were fair. "Whoever takes office, I just hope that the black community will hold his feet to the fires of accountability," she said.



LV Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

NAACP national field secretary Mark Clack came from his Washington, D.C. office to help oversee Saturday's elections for the local NAACP branch.

Meanwhile, Collins, who has yet to be officially sworn in, has hired a salaried office manager and is looking for two clerks. "We're going to bring back credibility and respectability to the branch," he said, adding that the organization has already received \$15,000 to cover operation expenses.

All of Collins' work will

be for naught, opponents say.

"I have up to five days to protest the election and I'm in the process of doing just that," Scott said, without elaborating.

Overstreet has gathered 172 signatures on a petition protesting the process. He said at least two members of the election committee have signed affidavits alleging

misconduct and that he will seek corroborating information from the remaining three committee members.

When asked if it would be more proficient to just abide by the election results and work with the president-elect, Overstreet said, "Under no circumstances would I work (See Elections, Page 3)