

## SPORTS

## Jordan's comeback mistaken

NEW YORK (AP) - He's back! He's back!

Oops, well, he's almost back.

For 90 minutes Monday, Michael Jordan was listed as an active player for the Washington Wizards on the team's Web site. Apparently, someone pressed a button a little too soon.

"Just a clerical error," NBA spokesman Tim Frank said. "Our Internet department was making preparations in case he comes back."

Jordan had all but confirmed he would announce a comeback at a news conference as early as this week.

Because of the terrorist attacks, he is now more likely to announce his decision in a more low-key manner, such as a faxed news release, in the next two weeks.

Wizards spokesman Matt Williams said he was inundated with phone calls after Jordan was included on the Web page, tucked alphabetically between Popeye Jones and Christian Laettner.

Jordan was listed as a 6-foot-6 guard, 198

pounds. The uniform, of course, was No. 23.

The Web site also included a brief biography, complete with his career statistics down to such trivial information as the fact that he wore his blue North Carolina shorts underneath his Bulls shorts when he played for Chicago.

Jordan's name was taken off the active roster late in the afternoon by the NBA, which controls the rosters on the Web site.

This would be the second comeback for the 38-year-old Jordan, who led the Bulls to six NBA championships.

He retired in October 1993 to play minor league baseball and returned to the Bulls in March 1995. He retired again in January 1999.

At the NBA Store in Manhattan, employees said they were stocking several blank Wizards jerseys that will be embroidered with Jordan's name and number when the comeback is official.

For now, the only Wizards jerseys available at the store are Richard Hamilton's No. 32 and rookie Kwame Brown's No. 5.

## NFL strengthens security measures

NEW YORK (AP)—The NFL has implemented the tightest security measures since the 1991 playoffs and Super Bowl during the Gulf War.

"The commissioner has decided that security is top priority," Milt Ahlerich, the senior director of security, said Monday.

In a memo sent to all teams, Ahlerich outlined a series of security measures that will take effect this Sunday and remain in effect indefinitely.

The league is set to resume play after calling off the second weekend of the season after the terrorist attacks in New York and Wash-

ington.

The measures include:

- strict screening at all parking and stadium entrances, meaning that fans will have to leave tailgate parties and head for seats much earlier.

- checking cars at the gate and moving parking spaces away from the stadiums.

- barring fans from bringing bags into stadiums.

Credentialed media also will be asked to show picture IDs before admission, and players will be checked before boarding charter flights.

Ahlerich and other league officials have spent the past week communicating with local authorities, the FBI, the

FAA and team security officials.

The league also has security contractors in all league cities who will work with team officials.

Ahlerich, a former FBI executive, heads a general security committee that also includes Lew Merletti, a former head of the Secret Service who now heads stadium operations and security for the Cleveland Browns.

There also will be a large increase in the number of uniformed police at games.

"It depends on geography," Ahlerich said.

"Some places will need more than others. But it has to be adequate-plus."

## Woods cancels pre-Ryder Cup trip

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Tiger Woods canceled a trip to Paris this week for the Lancome Trophy, saying on his Web site Friday that it was inappropriate to play competitive golf and he was concerned about travel safety.

"I feel strongly that this is a time to pause, reflect and remember the victims of Tuesday's horrific attack," the statement on tigerwoods.com read.

"I have always felt that I must be fully committed to each and every golf competition I enter, but due to this week's events, I am not," Woods said.

"I also fear that the security risks of traveling overseas at the present time are too great."

Earlier last week at the American Express Championship in St. Louis, Woods had goosebumps on his arm as he talked about the terrorist attacks, calling it a "sad, sad day in America."

At the time, he expressed doubt he would play in the Lancome Trophy, a European tour event for which he was to receive a reported \$2.25 million appearance fee.

Woods originally planned to play in part because it was the week before the Ryder Cup in England.

Woods wondered whether the matches would be played, but said Tuesday it was too early to figure out what would happen.

"I don't think the Ryder Cup is even on his mind right now," said Mark Steinberg, Woods' agent at IMG. "He's really shook up about this."

Organizers of the Ryder Cup said it could be a couple of days before they decide whether the matches will be played.

"It is our desire for the Ryder Cup matches to go forward," said Jim Awtrey, chief executive officer of the PGA of America.

"Having said that, the magnitude of the matches requires many logistics which are impacted by the events of this week."

Meanwhile, the European tour has agreed to allow its Ryder Cup players to file late entries into the Lancome Trophy because the World Golf Championship event was canceled in St. Louis.

Several of them are still in the United States because of air travel restrictions.

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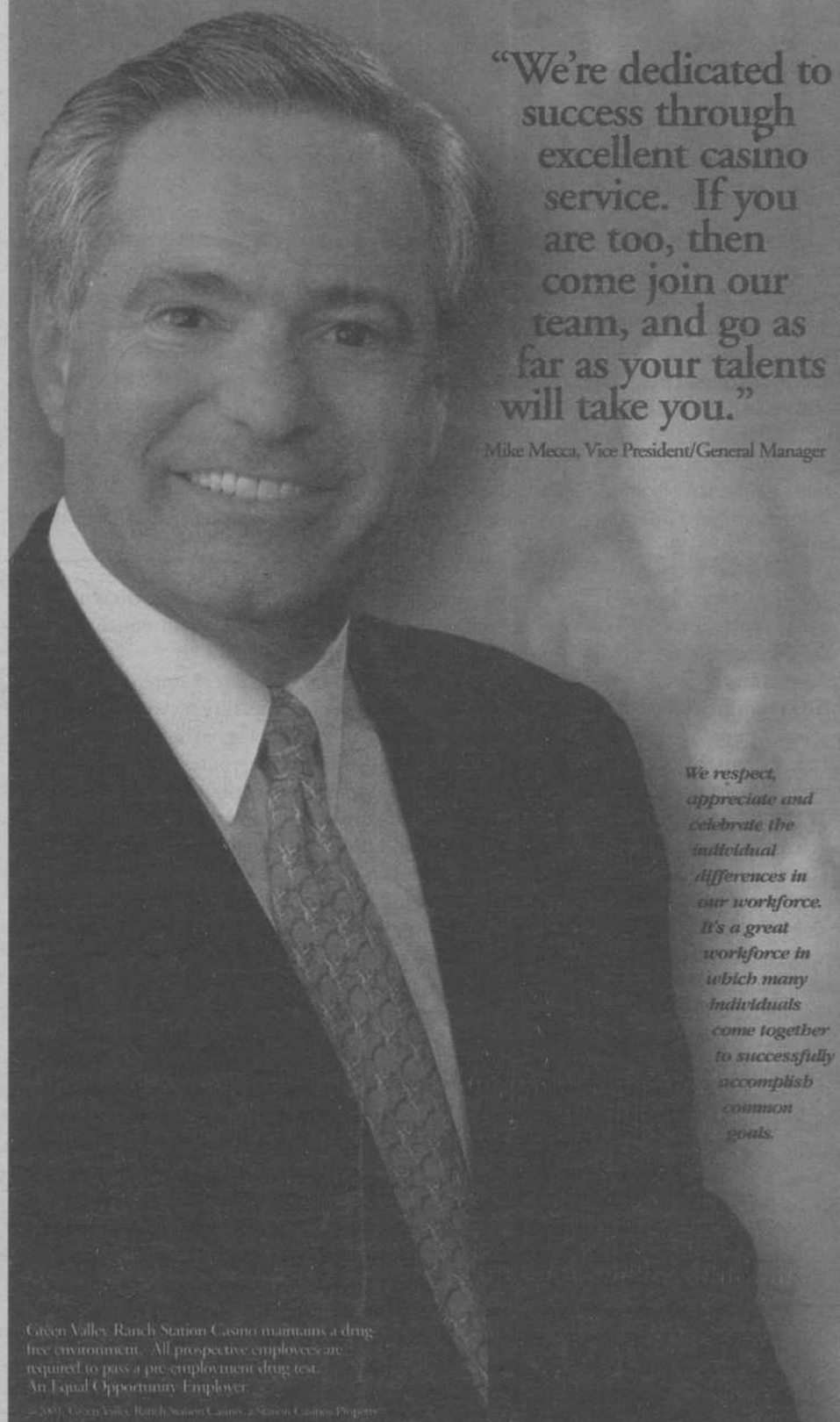
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