

## WESTERN CONFERENCE ALL-STARS



KOBE BRYANT

TIM DUNCAN

STEVE FRANCIS

KEVIN GARNETT

YAO MING

## EASTERN CONFERENCE ALL-STARS



VINCE CARTER

ALLEN EVERSON

TRACY McGRADY

JERMAINE O'NEAL

KEN WALLACE

# Jordan, O'Neal among NBA All-Star reserves

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

NEW YORK - Michael Jordan and Shaquille O'Neal, who were nudged out of starting spots in the fan voting, were among 14 reserves named Tuesday to the NBA All-Star Game.

Jordan, the second-leading scorer on the Washington Wizards and a 14-time All-Star, has said he would not play unless voted in as a starter. The 39-year-old guard has declared that this will be his last season, and NBA officials may ask the most popular player of all time to reconsider.

"Michael deserves to be an All-Star this year because he has played like an All-Star," Wizards chairman Abe Pollin said. "But it is also fitting that he be selected in the final year of his remarkable career. It is the perfect way for the game to pay tribute to him."

O'Neal, the fourth-leading scorer in the league and a 10-time All-Star, has been somewhat hobbled this season after undergoing toe surgery in September. It is possible may opt to take the four days off.

Joining Jordan as Eastern Conference reserves are Boston's Paul Pierce and Antoine Walker, New Jersey's Jason Kidd and first-time All-Stars Zydrunas Ilgauskas of Cleveland, Brad Miller of Indiana and Jamal Mashburn of New Orleans.

Kidd was selected for the sixth time while Pierce and Walker both appeared in last year's game. Walker, who also participated in 1998, has been battling a knee injury but is expected to play in the February 9 game in Atlanta.

Joining O'Neal on the Western Conference team are Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki and Steve Nash, Phoenix's Stephon Marbury and Shawn Marion, Sacramento's Chris Webber and Seattle's Gary Payton.

Payton will be making his ninth appearance while Webber was selected for the fifth time. Nowitzki and Nash both made the team last year. Marion will be making his first appearance.

"We are very happy that the coaches recognized the efforts of both Stephon and Shawn with All-Star honors," Suns general manager Bryan Colangelo said. "In a very deep and talented Western Conference, they beat out several deserving players."

While fans voted for the starters, coaches select the reserves, although they are not permitted to vote for their own players. Two forwards, two guards and a center must be added to each team before two more players are added regardless of position.

Fan balloting placed Philadelphia guard Allen Iverson, Orlando guard Tracy McGrady, Indiana forward Jermaine O'Neal, forward Vince Carter of Toronto and center Ben Wallace of Detroit on the East squad.

McGrady received more than 1.3 million votes, while Wallace is a first-time All-Star.

The starters for the West are Houston center Yao Ming, forwards Tim Duncan of San Antonio and Kevin Garnett of Minnesota and guards Kobe Bryant of the Lakers and Steve Francis of Houston.

Yao is the first rookie to start an All-Star Game since Grant Hill did it with Detroit in 1995. Bryant, the MVP of last year's game, led all players with nearly 1.5 million votes.

Jordan is averaging 18.2 points, 5.6 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 1.7 steals per game this season. Six days ago, he passed Wilt Chamberlain for third place on the all-time scoring list.

He has three All-Star MVP awards and holds the highest scoring average in the game's history at 21.3 points per contest.

Among the players bypassed for selection to the East squad were Indiana's Ron Artest, New York's Kurt Thomas, New Jersey's Kenyon Martin and Milwaukee's Ray Allen. In the West, Utah's Karl Malone, the Los Angeles Clippers' Elton Brand and Sacramento's Peja Stojakovic and Mike Bibby were passed over. It is the first time since 1987 that Malone was not selected.

Six teams - Boston, Dallas, Houston, Indiana, Phoenix and the Lakers - have two players in the game. Overall, 18 teams are represented.

The coaches were determined last week by virtue of records. Rick Adelman of the Sacramento Kings will coach the West and Isiah Thomas of Indiana will guide the East.

The Mavericks have the NBA's best record, but coach Don Nelson guided the West last year and rules prevent coaches from working consecutive All-Star Games.

The five international players from five different countries ties the All-Star Game record. Ilgauskas is the first Lithuanian and Yao the first Asian to be selected for the game.

The teams will wear uniforms with the same design as those worn in the 1988 game, which featured 13 of the NBA's 50 Greatest Players, including Jordan. The East will wear white and the West red.

The All-Star Game will be held at Philips Arena and televised by TNT at 8 p.m. EST.

# Serena gets Grand Slam

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) - Serena Williams has said all along that she's the perfectionist in the family. Now she has a perfect set of trophies from the last four major tennis tournaments.

Williams completed her "Serena Slam" by defeating older sister Venus at the Australian Open, 7-6 (4), 3-6, 6-4 Saturday. Serena has beaten Venus in the final of the last four majors.

The match was filled with mistakes, and Serena committed 54 errors, compared with 51 for Venus.

Serena slammed down her racket after a few of the more serious miscues, and she berated a line judge even after winning a key point.

"I think she just about had me," Serena said of her sister. "I just wanted to win so bad."

Serena missed last year's Australian Open with an injury, ruining her shot at becoming the first player since Steffi Graf in 1988 to win a true Grand Slam - all four majors in the same calendar year.

But after winning last year's French Open,



American Serena Williams, right, holds the trophy after beating her sister Venus, by 7-6, 3-6, 6-4, in the womens singles final at the Australian Open Tennis Tournament.

Wimbledon and U.S. Open titles, and now the Australian, Serena joins an elite group of players who have held all four major titles at once; the others are Maureen Connolly, Margaret Court, Martina Navratilova and Graf. Connolly and Court also won all four in the same year.

"I just can't believe I can now be compared to these women," Serena said. "They're such greats, and I don't know if I'll accomplish everything they have. But to even be in the category of winning four in a row is, for me, really amazing, it's something I've always dreamed of and wanted to do."

What's next?

"I'm just going to keep fighting, keep working hard and keep smiling," Serena said.

Venus, who now trails her sister 5-4 in major titles won, said she's more motivated than ever.

"I don't want to be the player that won four Grand Slams, whether she wins five or 15," said Venus, who has won Wimbledon and the U.S. Open twice each.

"When you look at the great players who have won 20 and all those kinds of numbers, I still have a long way to go - and not much time."

# Marcus Allen elected to Hall of Fame

SAN DIEGO (AP) - Marcus Allen was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame a day before the team he left during a bitter feud returns to the Super Bowl.

The former Oakland Raiders running back was chosen Saturday for the Class of 2003 in his first year of eligibility. He will be joined by Elvin Bethea, Joe DeLamielleure, James Lofton and Hank Stram, who went in as a senior's candidate.

Allen was the first player in NFL history to rush for more than 10,000 yards and catch passes for 5,000 more. He finished his career with 12,243 yards rushing and 5,411 receiving.

He scored 145 touchdowns and was regarded as one of the game's best goal-line and short yardage runners.

Most of that production came with the Raiders. He led Oakland to the 1984 Super Bowl title; the team's last, and was voted the game's MVP for his 191 yards and two touchdowns.

The next season Allen won

## RUNNING INTO HISTORY

Marcus Allen displays a big smile at news conference Saturday, in San Diego, where the new inductees to the Pro Football Hall of Fame were introduced.



the league MVP award when he ran for an NFL-high 1,759 yards and 11 TDs.

He also caught 67 passes for 555 yards and three more TDs.

But he is barely acknowledged by the Raiders. He was dismissed following an ugly contract fight with owner Al

Davis, who called Allen "a cancer on the team." After 11 years with the Raiders, he moved on to the Kansas City Chiefs for four more productive seasons.

Enshrinement of the class of 2003 is scheduled for Aug. 3 at the Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

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