

SPORTS

Jordan decides not to join Bobcats

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Michael Jordan doesn't want to be one of Bob's Cats.

Charlotte Bobcats owner Robert Johnson officially ended his summer-long courtship of Jordan on Friday, clearing the way for Ed Tapscott to begin building the NBA's newest expansion team.

"The possibility of having the greatest icon in the history of the game as a member of our organization was one that we pursued to its fullest," Johnson said Friday. "But Michael ultimately decided that his goal is to be a majority owner of an NBA franchise, and we wish him the best in that pursuit."

Jordan couldn't do that in Charlotte, where Johnson had promised him any role he wanted — except majority owner.

After all, Johnson, the billionaire founder of BET, paid \$300 million for that right late last year and has already placed his own stamp on the team — naming it after himself and allowing his teenage son to pick orange as the domi-

Future NBA Hall of Famer Michael Jordan, who once owned part of the Washington Wizards, has opted not to join the Charlotte Bobcats, the new NBA franchise owned by his close friend, Black Entertainment Television founder Robert Johnson.



nant team color.

Jordan tried to buy a majority interest in the Milwaukee Bucks earlier this summer, but Sen. Herb Kohl decided not to sell.

The Bobcats, who begin play in 2004-05, then patiently waited for Jordan's next move. Johnson eventually decided he needed an answer by early September or risk the team falling too far behind in development.

Now that there's a resolution, Tapscott, Johnson's first hire, will begin interviewing general manager candidates.

"Bob has greenlighted me and the rest of the staff to start building the organization," Tapscott said. "We have an aggressive but rea-

sonable time frame and would like to have a general manager in place within the next month to six weeks."

The ending of the Jordan saga was good news to at least one minority investor.

"I personally don't think Michael would have added much to the organization other than helping ticket sales," said investor Felix Sabates. "Ed has worked very hard to establish himself in this community and deserves the chance to run this team."

"Michael would have tried

to run it from Chicago and that just doesn't fly in this community. You have to live here to have an impact on Charlotte."

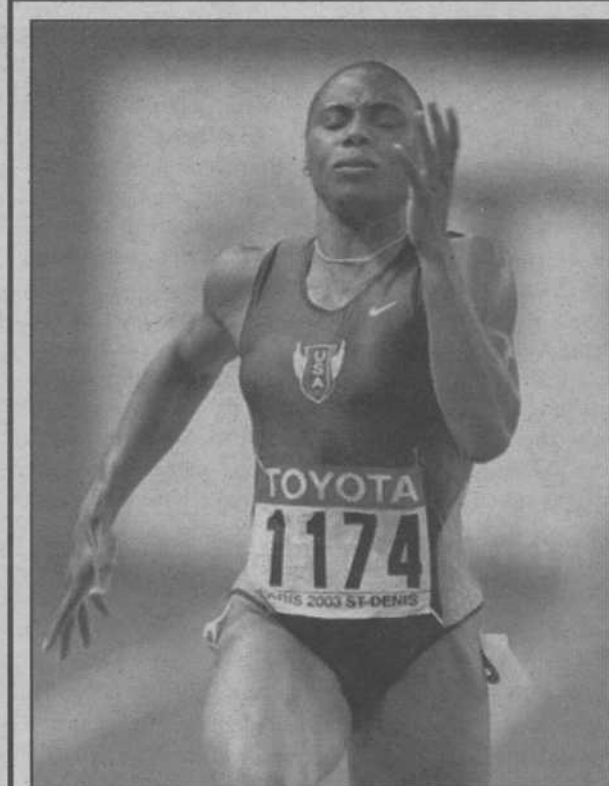
Johnson began courting Jordan the minute the Washington Wizards parted ways with him in early May, offering him any job he wanted.

Although Jordan made it clear he wanted to own his own team, the Bobcats believe he was sincere in his discussions with Johnson.

"I think he is good friends with Bob, this is his home state and he was intrigued by having a clean canvass to build an operation," Tapscott said.

"But ultimately he decided to pursue his ownership dream and we applaud Michael for staying true to his heart."

"Now that he has come to his decision, it permits us to move in our own direction."



TAINTED VICTOR

Kelli White of the United States heads for the line last month to win the gold medal in the Women's 200 meters at the World Athletics Championships in the Stade de France, Saint Denis, north of Paris. White committed a doping offense at the World Championships and should be stripped of her two gold medals, track and field's governing body ruled Tuesday.

Clarett suspended for season

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Maurice Clarett's suspension left Ohio State coach Jim Tressel wondering if he could have done something to prevent it.

Clarett was suspended for the season Wednesday for violating NCAA rules, tarnishing the Buckeyes' first national title in 34 years and clouding the talented running back's future.

"Maybe we should have hoisted some red flags that we didn't," Tressel said Wednesday night.

Tressel said he spent more time with his record-setting tailback than any other player on the team over the past two years, yet was unaware that Clarett had accepted thousands of dollars in improper benefits.

"The question would be could I have spent more time with him, could I have done a better job in some areas," Tressel said. "Those are things I think about often ... perhaps I didn't do as well as I could have done."

Earlier Wednesday, athletic director Andy Geiger said Clarett was guilty of 14 violations of the ethical-conduct bylaw for lying to investigators and two violations of receiving preferential treatment or benefits because he is an athlete.

"This is a sad day," Geiger said.

Even though the infractions date to 2002, the school is not in jeopardy of being stripped of its national title.

Because the NCAA is not in charge of the bowl system, it does not have the power to strip a school of a national title.

YOU CAN'T WATCH A FIGHT THIS BIG JUST ANYWHERE.

PRESENTED BY TOP RANK, INC. AND GOLDEN BOY PROMOTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH MGM GRAND.

DE LA HOYA vs MOSLEY

SEPTEMBER 13

CLOSED-CIRCUIT

You can watch the fight at these MGM MIRAGE™ Resorts. Tickets — \$50.

BELLAGIO 693-7722

MGM GRAND 891-7777

MIRAGE 792-7777

GOLDEN NUGGET 386-8100

PRIMM VALLEY RESORTS 1-800-FUN-STOP

CANYON LAKE MORTGAGE, INC

Morse Arberry Jr.
CEO

2551 S. Fort Apache Rd., Suite 102
Las Vegas, NV 89117
(702) 562-2323 • Fax (702) 562-1805
www.canyonlakemortgage.com