

Dolphins running back Ricky Williams, the NFL rushing leader in 2002, stunned the league by retiring Sunday.

## Sanders: Williams' retirement strange

DETROIT (AP) - Ricky Williams has told the Miami Dolphins that he's retiring after just five years in the NFL. The Miami Herald reported on its Web site Sunday.

Williams said he was overjoyed by his decision.

"You can't understand how free I feel," Williams told the Herald in a cell phone interview Saturday before boarding a plane in Hawaii and heading to Asia to begin several months of travel.

Barry Sanders, who unexpectedly left football five years ago, said even he was surprised to learn Miami's Ricky Williams had done the same thing.

"I'm as surprised as anyone," Sanders said Tuesday in an interview with The Associated Press. "Even for me, it seems very strange."

Williams, 27, decided to retire at the peak of his career, stunning the Dolphins and leaving an enormous void in their backfield less than a week before the start of training camp. Williams, who rushed for 3,225 yards in two seasons with the Dolphins, phoned from Hawaii to inform coach Dave Wannstedt of his decision, then continued his travels by flying to Tokyo.

"He's pretty young, but he always seemed like football wasn't the most important thing in his life," said Sanders, who was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in January. "He didn't seem as excited about it as everyone else. I know in Miami, from friends I talk to, they saw him as a savior in Miami. Maybe he didn't see himself that way."

Sanders was the first player to rush for 1,000 yards in his first 10 seasons, leading the league four times. In 1997, he was co-MVP with Brett Favre after rushing for 2,053 yards. Like Williams, he quit on the eve of training camp — in his case at age 31 before the 1999 season with Detroit. At the time he was within 1,457 yards of Walter Payton's career rushing record.

That mark was broken two years ago by Emmitt Smith.

New York Jets coach Herman Edwards also was surprised by Williams' decision.

"I'm more disappointed for the league than anything else," Edwards said. "You hate to see young players like that end their careers abruptly. He's a marvelous player, the fans enjoy him playing. He decided to do something he wanted to do. Whether people feel it was the right time, that was his choice. He says he's retired but you never know. He can un-retire, too, so we'll see."

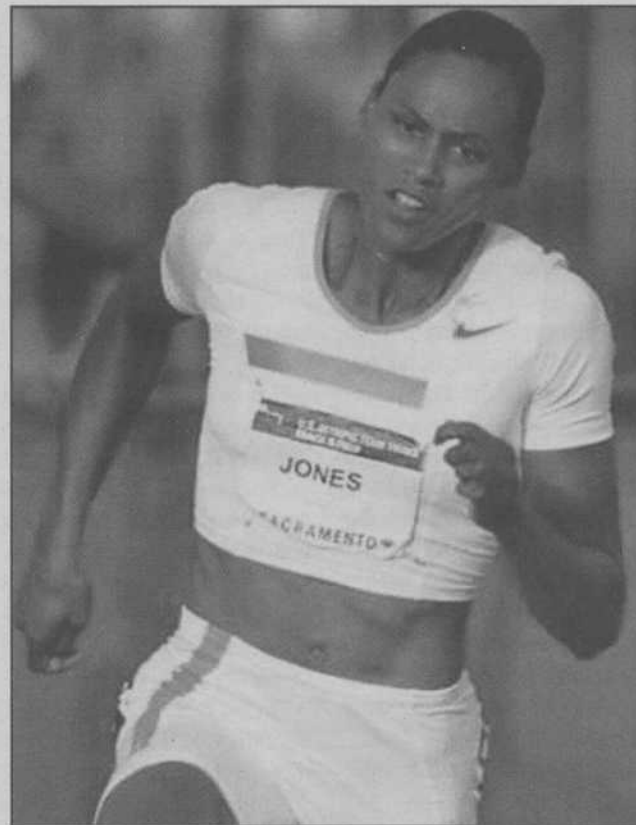
## Jones pulls out of London Grand Prix

LONDON (AFP) - Embattled triple Olympic champion Marion Jones stunned organizers of the IAAF Grand Prix due to take place here on Friday by withdrawing from the event.

The 28-year-old has been the subject of allegations that she took performance enhancing drugs which have been exacerbated by claims by her former husband CJ Hunter — who tested positive several times himself — he injected her with them during the 2000 Olympics.

However she angrily denied those claims through her lawyer last week and was due to contest the 100m and the long jump in London, though for the moment she is only due to compete in the long jump at the Olympics next month after winning the title at the US trials.

The two-time world 100m champion has not competed since then and London was



Olympic champion Marion Jones surprised London track officials by withdrawing from sprint and long-jump competitions. U.S. Olympic officials are investigating Jones for allegations of using performance-enhancing drugs.

seen as a vital stop on her way to Athens to measure up her form.

She still has a chance of making the three spots on the 100m team if Torri Edwards is suspended by the IAAF for testing positive for a banned stimulant and Gail Devers opts to only run in the 100m hurdles, a title she has never won at the Olympics.

"Marion Jones has decided not to compete so that she can continue to concentrate on her pre-Olympic training," a statement from her management company read. The company gave no other reason for her pulling out other than to quote her as saying "My focus is on winning gold in Athens."

She is still slated to run in the 100m at the Golden League meeting in Zurich and is also lined up to run in a relay for the United States in a meeting in Munich on 8 August.

## Sealed Bryant file mistakenly posted

DENVER (AP) - Swabs taken from Kobe Bryant during a hospital exam found DNA from the NBA star and the woman accusing him of rape, but none from an unidentified person whose DNA showed up on other evidence in the case, the judge said in a sealed filing mistakenly posted Wednesday on a court Web site.

The defense wants to present the DNA evidence from Bryant's hospital exam to jurors. In the sealed filing, District Judge Terry Ruckriegle said the prosecution does not intend to introduce that evidence. The filing orders both sides to come up with an agreement by Friday on its use.

Bryant's attorneys have said they believe the 20-year-old woman had multiple sex

partners in the three days before her hospital exam last summer, including one after her encounter with Bryant. Her attorney has denied she had another sexual partner in the 15-hour period before the exam.

The order, which included the accuser's name, appeared on a Web site where public filings are posted as a convenience to court staff and the media. The Web site was shut down for about three hours to remove the document.

State courts spokeswoman Karen Salaz said the mistake stemmed from a new posting procedure and that a clerk chose the wrong document to post without a "critical safeguard" in place. The state court administrator plans to apologize to the alleged victim and her family and is

weighing unspecified actions involving staff, Salaz said.

The accidental posting was the latest in a string of mistakes that the accuser's attorney, John Clune, has said prompted her to consider ending her participation in the case.

"It is inconceivable how this court can explain its continual pattern of revictimizing this 20-year-old girl," Clune said in a statement Wednesday. "This judge must learn that the trust that a victim places in the judiciary is the foundation for the courage that all victims must have to endure the brutal nature of rape prosecutions."

Clune declined to comment about his client's resolve to continue her involvement in the case.

In September, the

accuser's name was included in another filing posted on the Web site. Last fall, the Glenwood Springs hospital where she and Bryant were examined accidentally turned over her medical records to lawyers in the case.

In late June, a court reporter accidentally e-mailed to The Associated Press and six other media groups transcripts of a closed-door hearing that dealt with aspects of the accuser's sex life and money she received from a state victims' compensation fund.

Ruckriegle has threatened a contempt of court citation for any news organization that publishes details from the transcripts. None has done so, but media attorneys have challenged his order as an unconstitutional restraint of a free press.

## Throng watches Tyson train, boxer fights Friday in Louisville

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) - Despite past legal troubles, bankruptcy and some bizarre fights, Mike Tyson showed Tuesday he is still one of the biggest draws in boxing.

A few thousand fans packed downtown's Fourth Street Live entertainment district to see the former heavy-weight champ work out for his Friday night bout against Danny Williams.

Tyson, who has not fought in 17 months, is trying to earn

another shot at the heavy-weight crown. He is still probably the No. 2 attraction in the sport, behind Oscar De La Hoya, trainer Freddie Roach said.

"Once Mike gets active again and shows that he means business, he'll be back on top," Roach said.

Williams, who is British, worked out before Tyson and drew token applause. The crowd roared as Tyson made his way to the outdoor ring,

Fans pressed to get closer, looking for autographs and photos, but police held them at bay.

"This is what it's about," promoter Chris Webb said, grinning. "This is what I wanted."

A few lucky fans got what they wanted, too, as Tyson shook hands and signed autographs after his workout.

Tyson, 38, served three years in prison for rape, has a bankruptcy reorganization

plan pending in New York and once bit off part of Evander Holyfield's ear in a fight.

That didn't stop Latoyia Lackey from having her picture taken hugging Tyson as he was hustled away, through a still-under-construction bowling alley.

"He's like a legend," Lackey said, wearing Tyson's sweat on her shirt. "I don't normally get excited, but I was excited."

Roach said his fighter was overwhelmed by the support.

"Everywhere we go it's the same way," Roach said. "At first he didn't want to be here because he was a little embarrassed. He said, 'What are all these people here? For me?'"

Tyson (50-4, 44 KO) worked out for three rounds with trainer Roach, who wore padded mitts for his fighter to punch. The crowd "oohed" and "aahed" as Tyson threw

combinations, making the gloves pop.

Williams (31-3, 26 KO) did a similar routine, sparring with his trainer, Jim McDonnell, and did some sit-ups and jumped rope. He seemed to take it a little easier than Tyson, working more on technique.

Roach estimated Tyson's effort at about 90 percent.

"He's a fighter and he's a performer," Roach said. "He likes to show his stuff."