

Johnson scores in Calif.

Special to Sentinel-Voice
Basketball's Kevin Johnson became mayor of Sacramento, Calif., while Heath Shuler and Sam Wyche scored victories that had little to do with football Tuesday on a night when more than a dozen sports figures ran for office.

Joe Mesi, once one of boxing's top heavyweights, had a rough time in the political ring, losing a bid for a legislative seat in New York.

Craig Robinson wasn't listed on any ballot, but the first-year Oregon State basketball coach could soon be

a frequent White House visitor.

Robinson was in Chicago to watch election results with his family, which includes brother-in-law and President-elect Barack Obama.

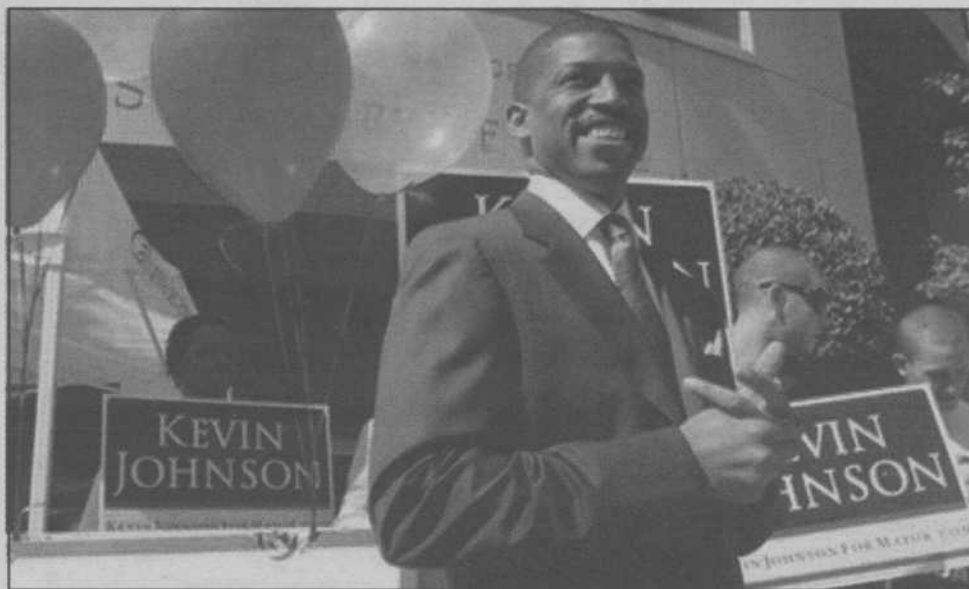
Johnson, a former All-Star point guard for the Phoenix Suns, is the first Black mayor of Sacramento. The 42-year-old Democrat with conservative social views defeated two-term incumbent Heather Fargo in a run-off election.

"Sacramento also made history today in electing its first Black mayor," Johnson said.

"Both Obama and myself, we ran on a promise and the theme of change. No more business as usual."

Johnson put some flash into his campaign with the backing of basketball royalty Shaquille O'Neal, Magic Johnson and Charles Barkley. He wants to raise the profile of his hometown and bemoans his city's image beside that of Los Angeles and San Francisco.

"We should be a destination place," he said leading into the election.



Former NBA star Kevin Johnson became the first Black mayor of Sacramento, Calif., on Tuesday. The Phoenix Suns superstar unseated two-term incumbent Heather Fargo.

MLB agents oppose tax increase plans

DANA POINT, Calif. — Looking ahead to an Obama administration, some baseball agents already are thinking about trying to beat a possible tax increase for their well-paid clients.

President-elect Barack Obama has proposed increasing the top federal income tax rate from 35 percent to 39.6 percent, where it was under the Clinton administration. If signing bonuses are paid before Jan. 1, they likely would be taxed at the current rate and would not be subject to any tax increase.

"It's something we'll consider," agent Craig Landis said Tuesday at the general managers' meetings. "Besides the federal issue, we have a state issue in some cases, anyway, where it's advantageous to take signing bonuses because of the state income tax. A Florida resident can take the signing bonus and not have to pay his

team's state tax."

Obama's proposal would increase federal income tax on families earning more than \$250,000 annually, money that would help finance a decrease for workers and families earning less than \$200,000 annually.

Next year's major league minimum is \$400,000. Agent Scott Boras, negotiating eight- and possibly nine-figure deals for free agents Manny Ramirez and Mark Teixeira, already has thought about the possibility of asking for larger signing bonuses payable this year in some of his contracts.

"There's some consideration to be had with the impact of the election," he said.

Free agents can't start negotiating money with all teams until Nov. 14. Only a relatively small percentage of contracts are finalized before Jan. 1.

(See MLB, Page 11)



NEW START

Allen Iverson, the newest addition to the Detroit Pistons lineup, right, holds up his new jersey with team president Joe Dumars during a news conference at the Palace in Auburn Hills, Mich. on Tuesday. The Detroit Pistons acquired Iverson from the Denver Nuggets for All-Star point guard and former finals MVP Chauncey Billups, top reserve Antonio McDyess and project Cheikh Samb.

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