

Baseball superstar Ken Griffey Jr., left, is introduced by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as a new U.S. envoy.

## **Griffey becomes** latest U.S. envo

Ken Griffey Jr. has joined a new team.

The star outfielder became the newest American Public Diplomacy Envoy, introduced Tuesday by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Griffey is set to make his first baseball-related trip for the State Department to Panama in January. In his role, he'll represent the "values of the United States, not the government of the United States," Rice said.

"When Ken Griffey travels overseas, one of his greatest objectives will be to talk to young people and to spark their interest in America and in our culture," she said.

Griffey said he was eager to get going.

"When Dr. Rice called and said that she would like me to do this, I didn't really have to think about it," he

"After a certain age, you pretty much set your ways.

But if we can reach out to young children about our culture and also about our pastime, which is baseball—not those other sports like football," he said, drawing laughs in a State Department cer-

Griffey, who turns 39 this week, is sixth on the career home run list with 611. He played for Cincinnati and the Chicago White Sox last season, and later filed for free

Griffey joined former baseball star Cal Ripken Jr., figure skater Michelle Kwan and actress Fran Drescher as envoys.

On the same day Griffey was introduced in the role, a baseball clinic Ripken was to give for kids in Nicaragua was canceled by its sponsors because protests surrounding local election results were causing travel problems.

Ripken became an envoy for the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in 2007.

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The NFL has reinstated Dallas Cowboys cornerback Adam Jones. Cowboys owner Jerry Jones announced that the reinstatement will take effect after two more games. That makes Adam Jones eligible to participate in the Cowboys' game at Pittsburgh on Dec. 7.

The cornerback has missed the last four games after being suspended by the NFL without pay for violating the league's personal conduct policy. The suspension came after Jones was involved in a scuffle with one of his bodyguards in a restroom at a Dallas hotel in early October.

Adam Jones will be eligible to practice with the Cowboys beginning next Monday, according to Jerry Jones. The owner indicated last week that the Cowbovs would welcome Jones back if he was reinstated.

The league announced last month that Jones would miss at least four games without pay and his playing status would be re-evaluated following the Cowboys' game last Sunday against the Washington Redskins.

The league said the incident with the bodyguard was alcohol-related when it announced Jones's suspension, He had to curb his off-field actions before reinstatement.

## Vick wants to return to NFL

Special to Sentinel-Voice

(NNPA) - It appears that Former NFL star Michael Vick has no doubts that he will return to the field upon his release from prison. His bankruptcy attorneys have laid out a plan to pay creditors based in part on his anticipated earnings as a player.

"The Debtor has every reason to believe that upon his release, he will be reinstated into the NFL, resume his career and be able to earn a substantial living," Vick's attorneys wrote in a disclosure statement filed



MICHAEL VICK

before a hearing recently in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Norfolk.

The former Atlanta Falcons star is serving a 23month sentence in a federal penitentiary for bankrolling a dogfighting ring in rural mid-December on the ap-Virginia and is scheduled to be released on July 20.

Once the NFL's highestpaid player, Vick has assets of \$16 million and liabilities of \$20.4 million, according to the court filing in which attorneys wrote in extraordinary detail about Vick's dizzying financial mess - listing a fleet of vehicles, properties, businesses and the extended family he supported.

A Vick attorney said a committee representing all his debtors has proposed a plan to pay off his debt. A judge scheduled a hearing for

pointment of a trustee, which Vick's attorneys op-

Vick still faces two state felony counts - dogfighting and animal cruelty. They carry maximum prison terms of 10 years, but under a plea deal, Vick would serve a suspended sentence and a year of probation.

He is scheduled to appear in Surry County Circuit Court on Nov. 25.

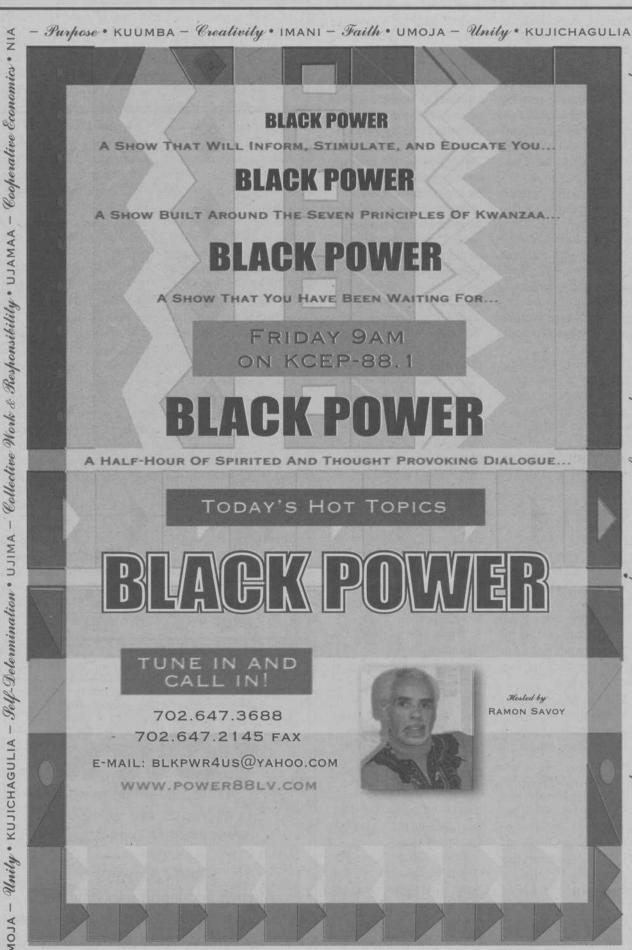
Information from the Associated Press contributed to this report.

Gelf-Determination . UJIMA -

Collective Work & Responsibility . UJAMAA -

Cooperative Economics . NIA

hose · KUUMBA - Creativity



KUJICHAGULIA - Self-Determination . UJIMA - Collective Work & Responsibility .