

Jordan starts NBA season in memorable arena

NEW YORK (AP) — Asked recently to recall his favorite Madison Square Garden moments, Michael Jordan picked the 1998 “sneaker game” and the 1993 “Charles Smith game.”

He neglected to mention the 55-point comeback game in 1995, the 50-point opening night in 1986 or the triple-double in the 1997 All-Star game.

After Tuesday night, the 2001 comeback game might make his list.

Jordan returns to the NBA at the arena where he’s had some of his greatest moments, including seven games in which he scored at least 42 points.

“It enthused me to play there every chance I got,” said Jordan, who returns from a nearly 3 1/2-year retirement wearing the uniform of the Washington Wizards. “There’s a lot of memories of playing on that floor, and I’m not going to forget them.”

After eight preseason games, it all begins to count now for the 38-year-old Jordan. He will start at small forward, matching up on opening night with Knicks forward Latrell Sprewell.

Jordan returns with six championship rings and with the fourth-highest scoring total in league history. But he is coming back with a team that won only 19 games last season when he was the team president.

“I go in with no preconceived ideas other than just to play hard, and whatever happens, happens,” Jordan said Monday. “I’m in better shape than I thought I would be. I feel really good right now — just want to go in and get off to a good start of the regular season, and hopefully the team feels the same way.”

Sprewell was also on the opposing team when Magic Johnson made his comeback in 1996 after a 4 1/2-year

retirement. Sprewell recalled with a laugh Monday that Johnson made all the highlight reels that evening by making him look bad with a head fake.

“It’s going to be fun. It’s what everybody has wanted to see for some time now. I guess people are anxious to see how good he is,” Sprewell said. “I expect him to play hard and to get a lot of shots off.”

Jordan was spectacular at times during the preseason, scoring 41 against New Jersey and 18 in one quarter against Miami. But the players guarding Jordan in those games were rookies Richard Jefferson and Brandon Armstrong and the since-released Donny Marshall of the Nets, along with the recently waived Rodney Buford of the Heat.

Sprewell, a much better defender than any of them, is aware that Jordan has been shooting mostly jumpers with

the Wizards. Some defenders will try to crowd a jump shooter, forcing him to drive, but Sprewell said he wouldn’t go overboard on any such strategy — nor would he apply fullcourt pressure when Jordan brings the ball up as the playmaker.

“He can still go left or right. He has a ton of shot fakes, so I don’t think getting up on him will solve the problem,” Sprewell said. “One of his strengths is being able to go in any direction, and if he’s cut off he’s going to go in the other direction. From what I’ve seen, he can still do that.”

Jordan will return to the court with some impressive personal accomplishments. Aside from his six championships and 10 scoring titles with the Bulls, he reached 40 points 201 times, 50 points on 38 different occasions and 60 points five times.

Not counting his time with the Birmingham Barons when he was playing minor league baseball, Jordan has not had a three-game losing streak since the opening three games of the 1990-91 season.

Coach Jeff Van Gundy, whose first career coaching victory came against Jordan and the Bulls in their 72-win season of 1995-96, recently watched a tape of Jordan’s return to the Garden following his first retirement.

Van Gundy said it struck him how physical that game was, “like hand-to-hand combat.”

“Five games back and he gets 55 against the best defense in the league and he makes it look easy,” Van Gundy said.

Two weeks ago, Jordan was asked about his most memorable Garden moments. He recalled the game on

March 8, 1998, when he brought out the pair of original Air Jordans and got blisters on his feet while scoring 42. He also pointed to a 1993 playoff game when the Bulls blocked three shots by Smith at the end of the fourth quarter to take a 3-2 lead in a best-of-seven series they went on to win in six games.

The Knicks will issue 500-600 media credentials for the game, and it might be the toughest ticket in town—even with the New York Yankees playing Game 3 of the World Series in the Bronx, a few miles to the north.

“Michael has played in games far bigger than this one,” Wizards coach Doug Collins said. “Although it is his return, he hasn’t played in three years. When you’ve played in world championship games, that’s far bigger than a home-opener in New York, even though this is a big, big game.”

Senior named player of week

DALLAS (AP) — Kansas State senior running back Josh Scobey, Nebraska senior linebacker Jamie Burrow and Nebraska sophomore kicker Kyle Larson were named the Big 12 players of the week.

Scobey rushed for a career-high 204 yards and two touchdowns on 28 carries in Kansas State’s 40-6 homecoming victory over Kansas. Scobey’s effort ranked fourth on the single-game

list at Kansas State, and he became only the fifth Wildcat ever to have 200 yards rushing in a game.

Burrow led Nebraska’s Blackshirts’ defense against the then-No. 1 Oklahoma Sooners and recorded a team- and career-high 17 tackles, including seven solo stops. Burrow added two tackles for losses, including a sack for -12 yards and had one of the team’s 14 quarterback hurries.

Larson also played a key role in the Huskers’ 20-10 victory over Oklahoma as the sophomore collected 382 yards on 10 punts for a 38.2 yard average. He boomed a career-long 68-yarder in the third quarter to aid the Huskers in pinning the Sooners deep in their territory.

Larson also scooped up three low snaps and did not have a blocked punt during the busy performance.

Raiders’ game a dream vacation

DENVER (AP) — At this point, a road game against the Oakland Raiders sounds like a dream vacation for Denver Broncos running back Terrell Davis.

Davis, nearly six weeks removed from arthroscopic knee surgery, insisted Monday that he is pain-free and said he plans on playing next week when the Broncos visit the AFC West-leading Raiders and their rabid fans.

“You can never think of a better stage than that,” Davis said. “The Raiders are an excellent team right now. It’s a nationally televised game. It’s a game that

we have to have. You look forward to big games like this.”

Davis, beset by injuries since his 1998 MVP season, ran for 101 yards in Denver’s season-opener Sept. 10 but has missed six games since having arthroscopic surgery on his right knee Sept. 20.

A stress fracture in his left leg forced him to miss Denver’s final seven games of 2000, and he has been sidelined for 30 of 36 games since 1999.

So why should anyone think his latest return is not a hasty decision to quiet the critics?

“Because of last year and things that happened in the past,” Davis said. “I would never be on the field if I didn’t feel I was ready. If I’m not ready, I’m not going to play.”

Davis told coach Mike Shanahan last Friday that he was ready to play Sunday against the New England Patriots.

Shanahan decided to wait another week because Davis worked primarily on the scout team leading up to the Patriots game. Though disappointed, Davis said he understood Shanahan’s reasoning.

Bronco suffers knee injury against Patriots

DENVER (AP) — Left guard Lennie Friedman tore a ligament in his right knee Sunday against the New England Patriots and is considered questionable for the Oakland game.

“We’ll just see how quickly he recovers and how much pain he can handle,” coach Mike Shanahan said Monday.

Friedman, who tore a ligament in his left knee before the 1999 season, fin-

ished the New England game after he was injured in the first half.

“It shows you how tough he is, that he played the majority of the game with a second-degree MCL tear,” Shanahan said. “A third-degree is as bad as it gets. Then it’s completely torn, so that gives you an idea that he played with a lot of pain.”

The injury is the third for a Denver offensive lineman in three weeks.

Right guard Dan Neil missed one game with a sprained ankle, and his replacement, Steve Herndon, ligament tear on Oct. 21.

Because his injury is less severe, Herndon had a better chance of playing against the Raiders. If neither he nor Friedman can play, Shanahan said David Diaz-Infante would make his first start since 1997.

Husker fans take loyalty to grave

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Die-hard Nebraska football fans are taking their team loyalty to the grave.

The state crazy about the Cornhuskers has purchased more caskets featuring the team’s logo than supporters of any other college team in the nation.

Nineteen of the Cornhusker caskets, made by Collegiate Memorials of Macon, Ga., have been sold to funeral homes in Nebraska and at least three have been used since their introduction at the end of May.

“Our first sale in Nebraska was a 93-year-old lady who was big supporter of the Huskers,” said Scott Walston, who founded Collegiate Memorials after six years at a funeral

supplies business.

Nebraska has led the specialized caskets sales since their kickoff five months ago, followed by North Carolina’s 13 caskets and Georgia’s nine. Oklahoma, Alabama, Tennessee and Florida are not far behind.

The company offers caskets featuring the insignia and optional exterior colors of 46 schools. The caskets cost about \$200 more than comparable caskets and come in school-color steel and wood models.

All of the universities are paid licensing fees by Collegiate Memorials for the use of their logos.

In the Cornhusker caskets, an eight-inch block red “N” with the word “Huskers” written across it in

black script is embroidered in the fabric that lines the top of its interior.

“I had no idea they would that big of hit in Nebraska, but it does speak for the loyalty they have in that state,” Walston said.

Omaha’s Westlawn Hillcrest Funeral Home, Holechek Funeral Home in Sidney and Govier Brothers Mortuary in Broken Bow have used the caskets.

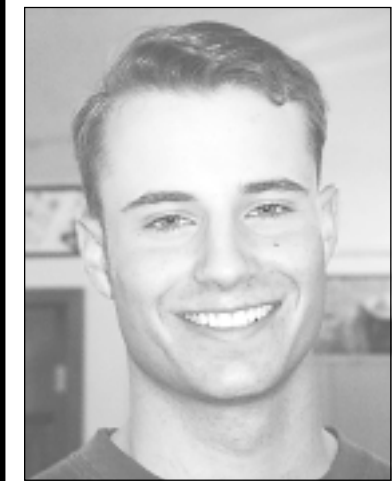
A customer at Forch Funeral Chapel in Benkleman also has arranged to be buried in one of the caskets.

The families who bought the caskets declined to be interviewed.

No one has complained about the caskets being in poor taste, the funeral homes said.

Brewster All-Star Booster Club		The Goodland Daily News 1205 Main Goodland, KS (785) 899-2338 <i>Check our On-Line Site at nwkansas.com</i>
Thursday, Nov. 1 – Little 8 Vocal Clinic at Cheylin, 1 p.m. & 6 p.m.; All Saints Day Saturday, Nov. 3 – HS FB Playoffs. Monday, Nov. 5 – Athletic Buffer Week. Tuesday, Nov. 6 – WKLL Vocal Clinic at Rexford, 1 p.m. & 6 p.m.; WKLL Meet at Golden Plains, 3 p.m.		
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student of the week



Name: Brian Coon
Parents: Keith & Judy Coon
Grade: Senior
Age: 18
We’ve nominated this student because: Brian is always willing to participate and learn. He has set his goals and organized his academics to accomplish them. He doesn’t back away from difficult subject matter.

Student Comment: I enjoy all of my science and visual communications classes. I will remember all of the teachers who have such a great sense of humor.

Activities involved in at school: 4-H, NHS, FCCLA, Basketball, cross country, science olympiad and 4-H Ambassadors.

My choice of movies, books, and games : I enjoy all types of movies, country music, card and board games.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: go to college and get a teaching certificate in secondary science education.

And 10 years from now, I think I’ll be: Older & wiser.

Favorite Quote: “Chance favors a prepared mind.” - Louis Pasteur

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Tuesday, Oct. 30 – area FB Bi-District games
Wednesday, Oct. 31 – Elem. Book Fair, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 1 – Parent/Teacher Conf., 4 - 8 p.m.; Elem. Book Fair, 7:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.; JH Candy Sales Begin.
Friday, Nov. 2 – No School; Parent/Teacher Conf., a.m. only; Elem. Book Fair, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Saturday, Nov. 3 - 3 p.m., All-Star Volleyball Match, Max Jones Fieldhouse.
Monday, Nov. 5 – SADD Wiffle Ball Tournament, MJFH. United States Navy Band Jazz Commodores, 7:30 p.m., Fieldhouse. Free tickets at the Goodland Daily News.
Tuesday, Nov. 6 – SADD Wiffle Ball Tournament, MJFH.; JH Scholars Bowl, 4 p.m.; Plan test for Sophomores, 8 a.m.; North Awards Ceremony, 2 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 7 – SADD Wiffle Ball Tournament, MJFH.; BB Rules Clinic, JH Gym 6:30 p.m.; Elem School Bank day PDC Meeting, 3:45 p.m.


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