

# Jordan may play fall baseball

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan may go on playing baseball until December. The Chicago White Sox on Tuesday asked the Arizona Fall League for permission to allow Jordan to play in its upcoming season. Jordan is currently with the White Sox's Double-A Birmingham team. He is batting .203 with three home runs, 49 RBIs and 30 stolen bases. He has struck out 109 times in 424 at-bats, and has 10 errors in the outfield. Jordan is scheduled to finish his first year in pro baseball on Sept. 3 when the Southern League ends its season. But the former NBA star has expressed interest in sharpening his skills, and the White Sox want him to do it in the Arizona

Fall League, made up from top prospects from all major league teams. White Sox general manager Ron Schueler said he expected to hear in seven to 10 days whether Jordan is approved as an extra player for the league, which runs from Oct. 6 to Dec. 1. Terry Francona, the manager of Jordan's team in Birmingham, will manage the Scottsdale Scorpions, the Arizona team on which Jordan would play. Each big league club can submit up to six players, almost all of them from Double-A and Triple-A, for the Arizona league. The White Sox's list of six last week did not include Jordan, and the club is petitioning to allow him as a seventh player. The Scorpions will be made up of prospects from the White

Sox, Boston Red Sox, Baltimore Orioles, Kansas City Royals and San Francisco Giants. "It's the first time we've ever been petitioned like this," said Steve Gilbert of the Arizona league. "It's kind of a gray area as to who makes the decision. We're figuring out whether it's the league or the major league teams themselves or the commissioner's office." Rosters for Arizona league teams are 28 players. If Jordan is approved, the Scorpions would have 29. The Arizona Fall League will be starting its third season. There are six teams and each play 51 games in five ballparks used during spring training. More than 100 former players from the league played in the majors this season.

## Cowboys prepare for smashmouth game

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Barry Switzer hasn't been around the NFL very long. But he knows what's coming on Sunday against the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Dallas Cowboys rookie coach figures the Steelers will try to pound the Super Bowl champions between the tackles. "It will be a north-south hammer offense," Switzer said. If so, then the Cowboys thin defensive line and questionable linebacking will be the targets. "It will be (middle linebacker) Robert Jones' true test and we'll see if he can handle it," Switzer said. "We have to accept the challenge and play in a frenzy." The Cowboys lost defensive tackle Tony Casillas to free agency in the off-season. Casillas refused to report to Kansas City and gave his bonus back, but he's unlikely to surface with Dallas because of the salary cap. It will be Tony Tolbert and Charles Haley at the ends and Leon Lett and Russell Maryland at the tackles against the Steelers at 3 p.m. Sunday in Three Rivers Stadium. Chad Hennings will be the first sub off the bench. The starting linebackers will be Jones, Dixon Edwards and Godfrey Myles. Ken Norton, the starting middle linebacker on the Super Bowl champions, took the free agent road to San Francisco.

## Oilers challenge Leslie to reveal arena specifics

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Oilers, abandoned in their push for a new \$245 million downtown domed stadium, on Tuesday challenged the Houston Rockets to come up with a better idea. Rockets owner Leslie Alexander said Monday he will not help Oilers owner Bud Adams pitch for a 70,000-seat facility near the city's convention center. Alexander said instead, he hopes to build a new arena for the NBA champions. So on Tuesday, the Oilers asked what Alexander has in mind if not the downtown dome project. "We challenge Mr. Alexander, since he no longer wants to be part of the plan," Oilers vice president Mike McClure said. "It's time for him, since he mentions using public funds, to say what he would build, where, how much it would impact the public and what benefits it would bring to the community at large." The Oilers want the stadium built downtown near the George R. Brown Convention Center at a cost of \$245 million, which some analysts have said is a modest estimate. Oilers owner Bud Adams suggested he and Alexander contribute \$25 million each to the stadium and the city would be asked to finance the remaining \$195 million. "The Oilers have every intention of proceeding with the downtown stadium project, but for now we feel it's time to step aside a little bit," McClure said. "Now it's time for others to step forward."



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