

Peete may opt for baseball

LOS ANGELES -- Rodney Peete says baseball is beginning to look more and more appealing, especially since he has yet to sign a contract with the Detroit Lions.



Rodney Peete

The Lions' sixth round NFL draft pick says he is ready to report to the Oakland Athletics' Class A team in Medford, Ore., if Detroit does not make a satisfactory contract offer by Wednesday.

Peete, who starred as a third baseman as well as quarterback at Southern California, is due in the Lions' training camp next Friday.

"Detroit has been lagging in working out a deal, while Oakland has been actively pursuing me ever since, to the point that my baseball interest has really peaked," Peete told the Los Angeles Times in Sunday editions. "I've become more intrigued with baseball."

"That's why I've set Wednesday as a deadline date," Peete said. "All along in my mind over the last year, I've been placing football first and baseball second."

"Right now, I'm just kind of straddling the fence. I'd say it could go either way."

Peete was an All-Pacific-10 Conference infielder in 1988 after hitting .338 with 12 home runs. Oakland drafted him after that season, and Peete nearly signed. The A's drafted him again this spring, although he didn't play baseball in his senior season.

He said the Athletics would let him play football as well as baseball, as Bo Jackson is doing with the Los Angeles Raiders and Kansas City Royals.

"Oakland is being extremely open-minded about it, and I haven't completely ruled out playing both sports," Peete said. "One thing about Oakland, you can tell that they're going to be a good team for a long, long time."

Peete, who has not played organized baseball since June 1988, announced just before the Rose Bowl that he was opting for an NFL career.



Peter Koech of Kenya jubilates with flags and banners after he won the 3,000 meter steeplechase by setting a new world record at an international meet in Stockholm, Sweden.

Warrant issued for Jordan

LEXINGTON, Ky. -- A Lexington patrolman did something to basketball sensation Michael Jordan that most NBA guards have trouble doing -- slowing him down.

Jordan, a starting guard with the NBA's Chicago Bulls, was ticketed while traveling on Interstate 75 near Lexington on June 6 for traveling 90 miles per hour in a 60 mph zone.

When Jordan failed to appear in Fayette County District Court Thursday, Judge John Adams issued a warrant for his arrest.

Adams said it was standard practice to issue a warrant for out-of-state drivers who fail to show up in court.

"I didn't treat him any different than I would anybody else," said Adams, a former University of Kentucky basketball player.

Lexington patrolman Tommy Puckett stopped Jordan, driving a 1988 Ferrari Testarossa, near the 99-mile marker of the highway. Besides speeding, Puckett cited Jordan for failing to have an operator's license.

Although he doesn't normally lecture speeders, Puckett said he made an exception with Jordan.

"I told him given the position he's in, he should be setting an example rather than flying down the road like a bat out of hell," Puckett said Thursday.

Puckett described Jordan's demeanor as nice and polite.

"I should have arrested him because he had no identification. Lucky for him, I knew who he was ... I told him people would lynch me for writing him a citation, this being basketball country and all."

Puckett said he immediately recognized Jordan when he stepped from his bright red car. The car's license plate read M-AIR-J.

Puckett said Jordan was en route from his home in Highland Park, Ill. to his house in North Carolina.

Jordan could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Barbara Allen, Jordan's agent in Arlington, Va., said she knew nothing about the ticket.

Adams said Jordan could resolve the matter by paying the ticket.

If Jordan does not, he's subject to being arrested if he's ever stopped again in Fayette County.

Braves' Perry out for season

ATLANTA -- Atlanta Braves first baseman Gerald Perry will undergo surgery this week after dislocating his left shoulder for the fourth time in 13 months and will miss the rest of the season.

Perry reinjured the shoulder Sunday while diving for a line drive off the bat of Philadelphia Phillies pinch-hitter Jim Adduci in the seventh inning of the Phillies' 4-3 victory over Atlanta.

He was removed from the game immediately, and team spokesman Jim Schultz said after the game that Perry would have surgery on the shoulder later this week in Atlanta.

Dr. Joe Chandler, the team physician, said rehabilitation would take three or four months and Perry could lose some range of motion in his arm. He bats and throws left-handed.

"It was worse than any of the others," Chandler said of Sunday's injury. "He came as close as you can to completely dislocating it."

Perry was examined by physicians last week and was expected to go on the disabled list then, but he decided to play despite the knowledge that the shoulder could give out at any time.

"It was unlikely that he was going to make it through the season," Chandler said.

Perry, who was among the National League leaders last year with a .300 batting average, was hitting .252 with four homers and 20 runs batted in this season. He had already spent some time on the disabled list because of the shoulder.

Braves Manager Russ Nixon said Tommy Gregg, normally an outfielder, would be given more chances to play first base with Perry out. Gregg was to be relegated to a bench role because of the recent acquisition of Oddibe McDowell in a trade with Cleveland.

The Braves, with three days off for the All-Star break, did not announce a roster move Sunday to replace Perry.

McRae inducted into Royals HOF

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) -- Hal McRae, who helped define the designated hitter position, and pitcher Dennis Leonard were inducted Saturday night into the Kansas City Royals' Hall of Fame.

McRae, who declined a tryout as Royals' manager in the last 36 games of the 1987 season, was not present. The .293 lifetime hitter, now working as a hitting instructor in the minor league system of the Pittsburgh Pirates, retired after 1987. He had said earlier that his absence did not indicate he was angry at anyone in the organization.

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