

SPORTS

Report says Jordan, Bird have changed minds, will play on Olympic squad

The Associated Press

ATLANTA—Michael Jordan, Larry

Bird and six other NBA players invited to join the U.S. Olympic basketball

team are the latest to have agreed to play, a published report said today.

Patrick Ewing and Magic Johnson agreed earlier to join the team.

Karl Malone and John Stockton of Utah, David Robinson of San Antonio, Charles Barkley of Philadelphia, Chris Mullin of Golden State and Scottie Pippen of Chicago were identified by

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution as others who accepted an invitation.

The newspaper said it learned the names from high-ranking members of the USA Basketball selection committee, who were not identified.

Craig Miller, a media spokesman for USA Basketball, said a list of those who will play will not be released until Sept. 21.

He said the 12-man team will be composed of up to 11 NBA players.

They would not be asked to try out, and a commitment would guarantee a spot on the team, which will be coached by Chuck Daly of the Detroit Pistons.

Johnson said earlier that he had tried unsuccessfully to entice Jordan, a 1984 Olympian, to join the team.

But today's report quoted sources close to Jordan as saying he agreed to participate out of fear that failure to do so would create a public backlash that would hurt his endorsements. He also

cited pressure from several colleagues, the Atlanta newspaper said.

Bird also had not been expected to join the team. After USA Basketball officials announced in September 1989 that pros would be eligible for Olympic play, the veteran forward said he wasn't interested.

But the Atlanta newspaper said he told his agent, Bob Woolf, last week that he would accept the invitation.

A change of uniform for Ewing?

NEW YORK — Will it be the Suns, Lakers, Bullets, Celtics, Warriors or Trail Blazers? Or, will Patrick Ewing spend next season wearing his New York Knicks uniform?

Those are the questions. But nobody seems to be giving any answers.

Ewing, the Knicks' 7-foot all-star center, has not talked with reporters since an arbitrator last month rejected his bid to be declared a free agent.

He did, however, talk last week with the Knicks' new coach, Pat Riley.

Ewing reportedly presented Riley with a list which included Phoenix, Los Angeles, Washington, Boston, Golden State and Portland as places he would like to play.

Meanwhile, Suns general manager Jerry Colangelo confirmed that he had spoken to the Knicks about acquiring Ewing.

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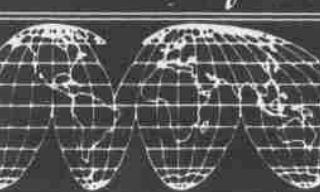
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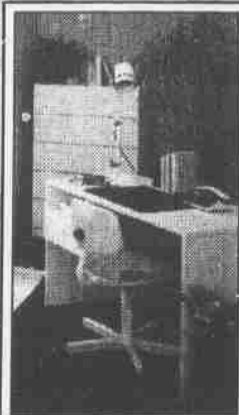
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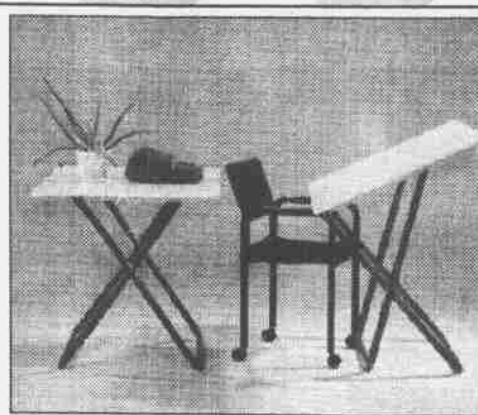


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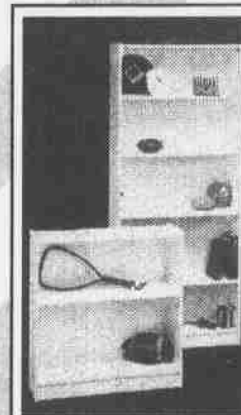


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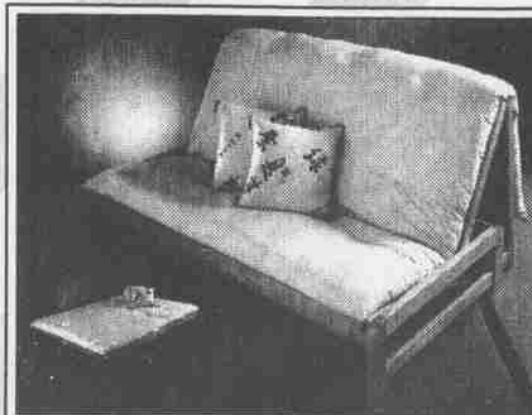


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