

End of an era Larry King 'hangs up his suspenders'



LOS ANGELES, Calif.---Larry King has called it quits.

In an internal memo late Tuesday, CNN President Johnathan Klein informed staffers that the 76-year-old talk show host would announce his decision to descend the primetime show, "Larry King Live," that same evening. He also called King "a giant in the industry for as long as most of us can remember" and "a beloved member of the CNN family."

"I'm looking forward to a future, to what my next chapter will bring," King said in a message to fans via Twitter. "For now, it's time to hang up my suspenders."

Finalize Bullock divorce from James

AUSTIN, Texas--- The divorce between Sandra Bullock and Jesse James was finalized Monday in an Austin, Texas court. The Oscar-winning actress filed to end the marriage in April after reports surfaced that James had been unfaithful.

The couple have been in the headlines since tabloid reports of James' infidelity broke in March. James, 41, admitted to cheating on Bullock, 45, and later said he "took "a pretty amazing life and marriage" and "threw it away."

The two separated after Bullock won the Best Actress Academy Award in March for her portrayal of Lee Anne Touhy, the tough-minded Memphis socialite who takes in a homeless Michael Oher in "The Blind Side."

Bullock and "Monster Garage" star met in 2003 and married two years later. It was the first marriage for the actress, who became a devoted stepmother to James' children, Sunny, 6, Jesse Jr., 12, and Chandler, 15.

Bullock did not thank her husband at the Academy Awards, instead dedicating her acceptance speech to mothers and parents everywhere. The couple walked hand-in-hand down Oscar's red carpet, celebrated together at the parties afterward and were photographed outside a Long Beach, Calif. burger joint the next day.

Details of the settlement were sealed by the

King said he will do occasional specials for CNN. He reached his 25th anniversary this month and is credited for holding a Guinness Book of World Records citation for hosting the longest-running show on the same network in the same time slot.

Despite all his accomplishments, speculation had been building in recent months about King's departure. In May, King hit a 20-year-low by averaging 725,000 viewers in the 9 p.m. (Eastern time) hour, according to Nielsen Media Research.

His marital problems also made headlines in April 2010 when King and wife Shawn Southwick, 50, announced their plans to divorce. A month later, the couple reunited.

Klein's memo also included mention of King's family issues. "He wants to take some time for himself and his family. So he will end his run on his own terms, sometime this fall," Klein wrote.

King has conducted some 50,000 interviews during a 53-year broadcasting career.

The network has not confirmed recent reports of its interest in Piers Morgan, a British journalist known in the U.S. for his reality TV appearances on NBC's "Celebrity Apprentice" and "America's Got Talent." Other names rumored include "CBS Evening News" anchor Katie Couric and "American Idol" host Ryan Seacrest.

CNN last week announced it had signed disgraced former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer and Washington Post columnist Kathleen Parker to replace Campbell Brown's ailing 7 p.m. lead-in to King.



court, but Bullock's initial filing cited "discord or conflict of personalities" as grounds for divorce. The divorce petition did not refer to the son she adopted, Louis Bardo Bullock, an infant born in New Orleans in January.

Prince Harry pitches for charity



NEW YORK-- Britain's Prince Harry gave fans a royal treat Saturday when he threw the ceremonial pitch before the Mets played the Minnesota Twins Saturday.

The 25-year-old prince looked nervous as he walked out in front of 40,000 fans to throw the ball. He was wearing a blue Mets cap and a white T-shirt with "walking with the wounded" written on the front. The Mets had made him a pinstriped jersey with "Wales" and the number 22 on the back.

Harry made a hard, accurate throw that was a little high, forcing catcher Rod Barajas to stand up to make the catch. When asked how he felt before making his way to the pitcher's mound he replied, "Don't ask," then joked, "Can I have a

practice first?"

Harry was joined at the Mets' Citi Field stadium by two British officers who lost limbs during operations in Afghanistan, Lt. Guy Disney and Captain Kate Philp. They are working with ABF The Soldiers' Charity, formerly Britain's Army Benevolent Fund, to see if there are any lessons that can be learned from the U.S. for improving the welfare of UK servicemen and women.

Earlier, the prince was praised by a wounded U.S. Marine after the pair met at a reception on the former aircraft carrier USS Intrepid. Cpl. Aaron Mankin commended Harry for his efforts to forge greater links between British and American organizations helping injured soldiers, sailors and airmen.

On Sunday, Harry fell off his horse while participating in a sporting event he is more familiar with: a polo match. The third annual Veuve Clicquot Polo Classic on Governors Island in New York, benefited American Friends of Sentebale, the U.S. arm of the global charity co-founded by Harry.

Harry, a Lt. in the British Army, served in Afghanistan in 2008 as a battlefield air controller until a media leak cut his time short. Harry is third in line to the British throne.

Yao Ming returning to Houston Rockets

HOUSTON, Texas--Houston Rockets center Yao Ming is returning to the Houston Rockets after sitting out last season following reconstructive foot surgery.

The 7-foot-6 center activated his \$17.7 million option for next season, the last year of his five-year contract. Yao said he wanted to see how the injury healed before making a decision.

"To miss one year is a long time," Yao said. "I've never been in this situation before and I'm getting as much information as I can about my foot to see what's best for me and the Rockets. I decided a couple of days ago, and there's no organization better than the Rockets now."

If he had turned down the player option, Yao would have become an unrestricted free agent Thursday.

Yao and general manager Daryl Morey would not say if the two sides are working on an extension beyond next season. The Rockets selected Yao with the No. 1 overall pick in the 2002 draft and signed him to a five-year extension in 2005.



Troubles again for NFL players Benson and Vick



Cedric Benson

Two National Football League players were on the hot seat once again.

Cincinnati Bengals running back Cedric Benson was arrested and charged with a misdemeanor assault, stemming from an incident at a bar almost a month ago.

And on Friday, Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick's dog-fighting friend, Quanis Phillips, was shot outside a Virginia Beach nightclub just moments after he was told to leave the club where Vick was celebrating his 30th birthday.

Benson's incident occurred in the entertainment district in Austin, Texas. An altercation took place between Benson and another customer at the bar. An employee broke up the melee, but Benson pushed and shoved as he was escorted out. According to the employee, Benson punched him in the face once outside the bar.

Benson had a different version of the story, but his attorney did not offer up his account. If convicted, he could face up to a year in prison and \$4,000 fine. Benson may also have to face a



Michael Vick

possible suspension by the NFL.

League investigating Vick shooting

According to witnesses, Phillips, who was a co-defendant in Vick's federal dogfighting case, became disgruntled and threw the birthday cake in Vick's face once he and his brother noticed Phillips crashed the party.

Larry Woodard, an attorney from Vick's dog-fighting case, said the quarterback was not at the Guadalajara nightclub when the shooting took place at 2 a.m. Virginia Beach police said Phillips was taken to Sentara Virginia Beach Hospital where his injuries were not considered life-threatening.

It is unclear whether Phillips, who was sentenced to 21 months in prison for his involvement in the dog-fighting operation, was invited to the party. Vick's parole agreement indicates that he must not associate with a convicted felon unless authorized by his probation officer. Vick had an 18-month federal prison sentence for his role in the dog-fighting ring.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said the league is investigating the shooting.

Blackhawks trade Versteeg to Maple Leafs



CHICAGO-- The Blackhawks continued to trim their payroll with the trade Wednesday of another key member of their championship team.

Winger Kris Versteeg, 24, was traded to the Toronto Maple Leafs for three young forwards. Versteeg appeared in 170 regular-season games over parts of the last three seasons with the Hawks, collecting 57 assists, 101 points and 96 penalty minutes.

Versteeg, who has two years and \$6 million remaining on his three-year contract he signed last July, added six goals and eight assists during the run for the NHL title.

The Hawks acquired forwards Viktor Stalberg, Philippe Paradis and Christopher DiDomenico. Stalberg, 24, led Leafs rookies with nine goals and finished with 14 points in 40 regular-season games. Paradis and DiDomenico were prospects in the Toronto system.