

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

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REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

'Change is coming'

McCain rips 'partisan rancor,' vows to shake up Washington



Republican presidential candidate John McCain acknowledges the crowd as he begins his speech accepting his party's presidential nomination Thursday at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn. McCain urged fellow Republicans to "Fight for what's right for our country."



FROM MCCAIN'S SPEECH

On role of Americans: "Fight with me. Fight with me. Fight with me. Fight for what's right for our country."

On politics: "We were elected to change Washington, and we let Washington change us."

On taxes: "I will keep taxes low and cut them where I can. My opponent will raise them. I will cut government spending. He will increase it."

On change: "After we've won, we're going to reach out our hand to any willing patriot, make this government start working for you again."

On his image: "I've been called a maverick. Sometimes it's meant as a compliment and sometimes it's not. What it really means is I understand who I work for. I don't work for a party. I don't work for a special interest. I don't work for myself. I work for you."

On Washington: "And let me offer an advance warning to the old, big-spending, do-nothing, me-first, country-second Washington crowd: Change is coming."

By DAVID ESPO and ROBERT FURLOW
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. PAUL, Minn. — John McCain, a POW turned political rebel, vowed Thursday night to vanquish the "constant partisan rancor" that grips Washington as he launched his fall campaign for the White House.

"Fight with me. Fight with me. Fight with me. Fight for what's right for our country," he told thousands of cheering Republicans in a convention crescendo.

McCain made only passing reference to an unpopular President Bush and criticized fellow Republicans as well as Democratic rival Barack Obama in reaching out to independents and swing voters who will pick the next president.

"We were elected to change

Washington, and we let Washington change us," he said of the Republicans who controlled Congress for a dozen years before they were voted out of office in 2006.

As for Obama, McCain said, "I will keep taxes low and cut them where I can. My opponent will raise them. I will cut government spending. He will increase it."

McCain's wife, Cindy, and running mate Sarah Palin and her husband joined him on stage as tens of thousands red, white and blue balloons cascaded from high above the convention floor.

Unlike Obama's speech a week ago, McCain offered no soaring oratory until his speech-ending summons to fight for the country's future.

But his own measured style

TURN TO **MCCAIN**, PAGE A5

New drama, new dynamics in race

ANALYSIS: Palin changes the story line for campaign as it enters final phase

By CHRISTI PARSONS
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

ST. PAUL, Minn. — New characters are on stage. Scripts have been revised with a fall audience in mind.

And now that the back-to-back political conventions are over, the longest-running presidential campaign in memory enters its home stretch — finally — with the promise of new drama.

The dynamics are notably different today from just a couple of weeks ago.

Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as Republican John

McCain's running mate changes the story line significantly, a decided curve for a Democratic team unprepared for the hockey-mom-as-attack-dog scenario.

McCain is signaling a shift in his "we're more experienced" theme by naming a vice presidential candidate who still features the PTA on her resume.

And there's no accounting for how Democratic Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware could shake things up as Barack Obama's recently added sidekick, a smart and quirky character with as

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GOP DIVIDED ON FOREIGN POLICY

McCain advisers weigh confrontation vs. negotiation **A3**

MEDIA DEFEND PALIN COVERAGE

Executives object to accusations of sexist, slanted stories **A3**

OBAMA ENLISTS WOMEN'S AID

Prominent Demos hit campaign trail in response to Palin **A4**

2 U.S. TROOPS DIE IN BLAST

First American combat casualties in Baghdad since Aug. 28 **A11**

If Bush follows the recommendations by the Pentagon's top officials, he would delay any additional buildup in Afghanistan until early next year, when another brigade would be deployed there instead of to Iraq.

That move would cut the number of brigades in Iraq to 14 in February.

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HIGH SCHOOL PREVIEW PREP FOOTBALL KICKS OFF TONIGHT

A look at tonight's top games, including Montgomery's new offense and Analy's new head coach **Sports**
Coverage online at pdpnews.com



COMING SATURDAY THE RACES FOR SUPERVISOR

Sonoma County voting patterns in June reveal a lot about the prospects for November's runoff.

