

SPECIAL COVERAGE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

PIONEER PRESS POLITICO

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The maverick's turn

To chants of 'USA' and with a vow of change, McCain accepts the nomination, and the last leg of the race to the White House begins.



PIONEER PRESS: BRANDI JADE THOMAS

Republican John McCain is joined onstage by running mate Sarah Palin after accepting the GOP presidential nomination Thursday night at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul.

Anti-war marchers make most of finale

Hundreds arrested downtown as the show goes on inside the Xcel

Pioneer Press

St. Paul's wild week of world-class protests ended Thursday night with a flurry of demonstrations, mass arrests and traffic-stopping events.

But as the final protests of the week wound down Thursday night, St. Paul Police Chief John Harrington sighed with relief.

"I'm glad this is almost over," Harrington said during a mass arrest of about 300 people on the Marion Street bridge over

Interstate 94.

"I would have loved to have people express their First Amendment rights. But there were people who came here to disrupt, not to protest."

He said demonstrators wanted to rattle the Republican National Convention. But even with the sit-down strikes, chanting and a few cases of vandalism and assaults, the show went on inside the Xcel Energy Center.

ANTI-WAR MARCHERS, 4R >



PIONEER PRESS: THOMAS WHISENAND

A protester is arrested with about a dozen other people in a clash Thursday evening at 12th and Cedar streets in St. Paul.

INCOB DAY 4

Pawlenty passed over, but still loyal

Based on his schedule, the governor deduced Aug. 28 he wouldn't be the one. **Page 3R**

Palin frees McCain to court centrists

With her conservative credentials, his judgment is no longer disputed. **Page 5R**

Other 'hockey moms' weigh in on Palin

McCain's running mate gets mixed reviews from her peers at rinkside. **Page 7R**

'Rioters' or peaceful protesters?

Meet some of those arrested for conspiracy to riot and "further terrorism." **Page 10R**

On the floor, in the streets

Check out video and photos of the convention and street protests at twincities.com.

'Change is coming,' McCain tells world

See a wide view of the X floor during the final hour of the convention. **Page 8-9R**



By Bill Salisbury and Rachel E. Stassen-Berger > Pioneer Press

John McCain accepted the Republican nomination for president Thursday night before an animated crowd at the Xcel Energy Center, burnishing his credentials as a reformer while laying out a map for conservative change and drawing contrasts with Barack Obama.

In the biggest speech of his life, McCain used his opening moments to say thanks — to his family, President Bush, his supporters and undecided voters for considering him — and went on to portray the election as a choice between two honorable men with vastly different visions.

"Let there be no doubt, my friends, we're going to win this election. And after we've won, we're going to reach out our hand to any willing patriot, make this government start working for you again, and get this country back on the road to prosperity and peace," he said.

While Obama has tried to claim the mantle of change, McCain made change — albeit of another kind — the centerpiece of his speech.

MCCAIN'S TURN, 13R >

Coming to the campaign trail: The return of the maverick

Look for McCain to reclaim his role as reformer

By Jonathan Martin
Politico

John McCain intends to return to his maverick roots in the suddenly-home stretch of the general election, portraying himself and his unconventional running mate as the real reformers and trying to steal the mantle of change from Barack Obama.

His turbulent convention now over and Labor Day already past, McCain's path to victory in November is found in set-

ting himself apart from his own deeply unpopular party and president in an election where voters are aching for a departure from the status quo, aides say.

It's a task, like many others before them, that McCain intimates say has been made considerably easier with his selection of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin to be his running mate.

By picking an across-the-board conservative, McCain aides argue, they've

THE MAVERICK, 13R >

