No sale: Scottie Pippen home still on market after nearly 8 years

By Paul OwersSun Sentinel

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BA great Scottie Pippen isn't scoring as well in the real estate market.

In September 2007, Pippen listed his 10,000-square-foot Fort Lauderdale mansion for sale at just a hair under \$15 million.

Almost eight years later, Pippen's palace is still available — for the reduced price of \$11.8 million.

The home at 2571 Del Lago Drive, in the ritzy Harbor Beach section of town, has six bedrooms, a spa, water slide, playground, putting green and, yes, a full basketball court.

Homes like this can take a few years to sell because the pool of potential buyers is small.

Still, Pippen's castle has been on the market an exceptionally long time, even taking into account brief periods when the home wasn't actively being marketed, brokers say.

The asking price, which once ballooned to \$16 million, is coming down. But the Hall of Fame forward may have to knock a few million more off the price if he wants to find a buyer, real estate agents say.

"It doesn't take a genius to see that this home is overpriced," said <u>Michael Citron</u>, a Broward County agent who has sold in the Harbor Beach area. "If you can't sell your home in eight years, you're just not able to see the values around you."

Two neighboring homes of roughly the same size traded last year for \$7.45 million and \$8.35 million, property records show. The latter home, 2550 Del Lago Drive, first went on the market in 2008 at a Pippenesque \$16.5 million before finally fetching about half of that, according to the multiple listing service.

Pippen's real estate agent, Coldwell Banker's Gilles Rais, took over the listing last year. He said at the time that he was getting strong interest in the home and expected to quickly field offers.

Reached by phone Thursday, Rais said he was too busy to discuss the listing. Pippen's representatives did not respond to an email requesting an interview.

Pippen won six championships with Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls in the 1990s. In 2000, the 6-foot-8 Pippen bought two lots through a trust for \$1.34 million and built the home in 2004, the year he retired, records show. But while the estate has 215 feet of water frontage, it sits on a canal — not the Intracoastal Waterway.

One agent says the home's Mediterranean facade needs updating. Another thinks the home is

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too customized to Pippen's preferences. Most well-to-do buyers wouldn't be interested in the basketball court, for instance.

Some real estate observers say that Pippen must not be a serious seller or that he overpriced the home on purpose, figuring a buyer would pay more to live in a place owned by a sports celebrity.

But Liz Caldwell, an agent for EWM Realty in Broward, said today's sophisticated homebuyers aren't likely to be star-struck. She seriously doubts name recognition in this case will win out over the all-important price.

"Yeah, it's Scottie Pippen," Caldwell said. "But it's not like he's in the limelight anymore."

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