December 12, 1991

BASkETBAll

Magic Johnson was only joking

when he told sports illustrated

that he tried to “accommodate as

many women” as he could and

.sys “1 respect women to

Interview to

air Wednesday.

Johnson also told CBS Interviewer Connie Chung he has

. effects

the Aida drug AZT. and admitted tennis star Martina Navratilova

was probably right in saying the

public would not have been supportive of her if she had the aids

virus

Johnson announced on

November 7 that be was retiring

from basketball with the Los An.

I meant no harm,

Magic tells women

Lakers because ha had con- son told Chung: ‘We just

virus that talking and I

causes Aids. Since then, the has manner... when you

become . national spokesmen for that, you think ‘ah. be’. just

the disease. with everybody.’ And

Johnson authored a Sports iiustrated not Like that- Not at all...

article with Roy John- When you say

these women, then

after his announcement in which you get into a disrespect for

he said he contracted the virus women

through heterosexuaI, unprotected sex I really respect women. and I just

ad sex, should’ve been protecting myself,

In transcript obtained by the as well as my partner. and I

Associated Press, however, John- didn’t-”

Johnson said“I used a bad

choice of words,” and admitted

spin that he ‘lived, bachelor’s

life at that particular time. And

paying’ the price for n”

Johnson said treatments had produced no ill aide

effects, which can include Nausea and muscle pain.

“I’ve ran tour

he said.. Shortly after

Johnson. announcement,

Navratilova, gay, complained of a double standard In

American .society. She said that

while Johnson was cast as a hero.

people would have said she de

served It If eke had made a similar announcement - and society

would have castigated any heterosexual woman found in such a

situation. (AP)