# **UNITED STATES**

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549	
FORM 8-K	

# CURRENT REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

July 29, 2004

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)

# NOVASTAR FINANCIAL, INC.

 $(Exact\ name\ of\ registrant\ as\ specified\ in\ its\ charter)$ 

Maryland (State or other jurisdiction of

001-13533 (Commission File Number) 74-2830661 (I.R.S. Employer

incorporation or organization)

Identification No.)

8140 Ward Parkway, Suite 300, Kansas City, MO 64114

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(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

(816) 237-7000

(Registrant s telephone number, including area code)

#### INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT

#### Item 7. (c) Exhibit

99.1 Press Release dated July 29, 2004 NovaStar Financial Reports Second-Quarter Earnings Up 18% As Record \$2 Billion in Loan Production Fuels Mortgage Loan Portfolio Growth.

#### Item 12. Results of Operations and Financial Condition

Pursuant to Item 12 of Form 8-K, NovaStar Financial, Inc. is hereby furnishing, as an Exhibit to this current report on Form 8-K, a copy of its earnings release for the second quarter of 2004 publicly released on July 29, 2004.

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#### **SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

DATE: July 29, 2004

NOVASTAR FINANCIAL, INC.

/s/ Rodney E. Schwatken

Rodney E. Schwatken Vice President, Treasurer and Controller

#### **Exhibit Index**

### Exhibit Number

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