

Celtics' Ainge Says He's Not Trying To Trade Rondo

BY JIMMY GOLEN
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Boston Celtics general manager Danny Ainge understands why other teams keep calling to see if he will trade Rajon Rondo.

The Celtics traded away coach Doc Rivers to the Los Angeles Clippers for a first-round draft pick. And a deal to send the team's biggest stars, Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett, to the Brooklyn Nets for a package including three more No. 1 picks is just waiting for the NBA signing period to begin.

"Maybe the assumption is that we'll give away any of our players," Ainge said on

Monday, listing not just Rondo but Jeff Green, Courtney Lee, Brandon Bass, Jared Sullinger and first-round draft pick Kelly Olynyk as players who have attracted interest. "There's been calls for all those guys. And maybe the assumption is we are just changing everybody, but we're not."

"We're starting to get younger."

Speaking at the news conference to introduce Olynyk and second-round pick Colton Iverson, Ainge said he was not interested in stripping the Celtics down as much as building with younger players and draft choices. A key part of that is Rondo, he said.

But other GMs don't seem to believe him.

So, the calls continue. "The calls are coming in," Ainge said, "the calls have not been going out."

Ainge said he was in no rush to hire a coach, and he repeated — definitely — that he would not take the job himself. But asked for a similar pronouncement to put the end to Rondo trade talks, Ainge said, "I always listen to calls and listen to what ideas are, but we have no intentions of moving Rajon."

NBA free agency began on Monday, and it was a quiet day for the Celtics, who aren't likely to be active in the open market. While other teams were showing up on

the doorstep of free agents at 12:01 a.m., Ainge said the Celtics don't have the cap room to add a free agent this summer — or the interest.

"Free agency right now is not a priority for us," Ainge said. "We have too many players. We have logjams ... I think our job is to try to clean that up through the summer."

Ainge traded up twice in the draft to grab a pair of 7-footers in Thursday's draft, sending two second-round draft picks to Dallas to move up three spots and take Olynyk from Gonzaga and then buying the 53rd overall pick from Indiana and taking

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STEVE BABINEAU/FOR BOSTON CELTICS PUBLIC RELATIONS
New Boston Celtic Colton Iverson, standing, talks to youth at the Mildred Teen Center during an event that also doubled as the team's introduction of its draft-day acquisitions. Iverson, a Yankton native, was drafted by the Pacers with the 53rd pick and was picked up by Boston in a draft night trade.

Headed West



Keely Bertram of Elk Point-Jefferson, middle, drives to the basket between Dell Rapids defenders Julia Rice, left, and McKenzie Rinehart during their girls' basketball game this past December. Bertram has verbally committed to attending NCAA Division II Black Hills State University and playing basketball for the Yellow Jackets.

EPJ's Bertram Commits To Black Hills State

BY JEREMY HOECK
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Elk Point-Jefferson multi-sport stand-out Keely Bertram, who will be a senior this fall, plans to play basketball at NCAA Division II Black Hills State.

Bertram, a 5-foot-9 second team Class A All-State guard, verbally committed to the Yellow Jackets during an unofficial visit last Saturday, she said Monday.

"I had it in my mind that I might (commit), but I hadn't seen the campus or the town yet. But when I got out there, I fell in love with Spearfish," she said. "It's so much different than Elk Point; so much more to do out there."

Black Hills State also boasts a 98 percent job placement for Elementary Education majors, which Bertram plans to pursue.

Bertram averaged 17.4 points, 7.7 rebounds, 3.6 steals and 2 assists per game last season for EPJ. She has also been a member of the volleyball and track teams during her prep career. The Huskies have found success in recent years in volleyball, but Bertram said basketball was her main passion.

"I've become more of a shooter in high school," she said. "When I got to that point, I was the athletic person who could play anywhere, but I had to learn how to create space, get myself open and help my teammates."

Though she said she had no official offers, Bertram had received interest from various regional schools. Ultimately, though, she wanted to venture west.

Black Hills State, coached by Mark Nore, competes in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) and is still transitioning to the D-II level.

"They're in a really good conference, with a lot of really good teams in there," Bertram said. "They were pretty young last year, but I think they'll be pretty good next season."

Bertram will officially sign her National Letter of Intent this fall.

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

Yankton's Iverson Introduced As Member Of Celtics

FROM P&D STAFF REPORTS

BOSTON — Colton Iverson, the 7-foot center from Yankton, took center stage Monday in Massachusetts to be formally introduced as a member of the Boston Celtics.

Iverson, who will wear No. 37 with the Celtics (a first in team history), was selected in the second round with the 53rd overall pick of last Thursday's NBA Draft. He was acquired by Boston in a cash transaction with the Indiana Pacers.

The 24-year-old Iverson spent two seasons at Colorado State after transferring from Minnesota, where he played for three seasons. His career caught the eye of the Celtics long before his CSU days, according to team officials.

"Colton is a kid who we watched since his freshman year of college at Minnesota, and we loved his intensity since day one," Boston general manager Danny Ainge said Monday.

"(We) identified him as someone we needed to keep a real close eye on."

Iverson was introduced Monday alongside new teammate Kelly Olynyk, a 7-footer from Gonzaga, who was drafted in the first round.

"I don't see Kelly as a go-to guy in the NBA, but a guy that compliments the rest of the guys on the team and makes them all better," Ainge said.

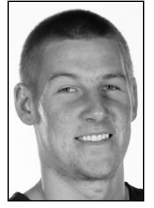
As part of the news conference, the team unveiled a new Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation renovated educational space, including a new technology lab and teen center.

In an interview with the Celtics website, Iverson recalled draft night as hectic — he was not announced until around 11 p.m.

"I just wanted to collapse," he said. "I put in so much hard work. Hearing my name called, I wanted to relax a little bit and take it all in."

What goals does he have planned?

"To do everything I can; do all the little things," Iverson said. "I know I'm not going to come in and score 20 points a game. I just want to set screens, get people open, rebound, play defense — things that don't show up on a stat sheet, but do everything I can to help the team win."



Iverson

Cuddyer Runs Hitting Streak To Rockies-Record 27 Games



CHUCK MYERS/MCT

Colorado Rockies right fielder Michael Cuddyer (3) hits a solo home run against the Washington Nationals in the second inning at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C., Sunday, June 23. Cuddyer has recorded hits in a team-record 27 games and has reached base in a team-record 46 games.

BY PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writer

DENVER (AP) — Michael Cuddyer's scruffy beard keeps sprouting more and more gray. It's becoming quite scratchy, too.

The Colorado Rockies outfielder wants so badly to take a razor to the whiskers, but that will just have to wait.

For the moment, he doesn't want to change anything since he's in such a groove at the plate.

With his single in the eighth on Sunday, Cuddyer extended his hitting streak to a team-record 27 games. It's the longest same-season streak in the majors since Atlanta's Dan Uggla hit in 33 straight two years ago.

Even more, Cuddyer has

reached base safely in a franchise-best 46 consecutive contests. The last time he failed to get on base through a hit, walk or being plunked by a pitch was April 21, back when there was still a chill in the air.

Since then, there's really been no chilling his bat. Ask Cuddyer the reason for his recent scorching success at the plate, though, and he will just shrug.

"It's one day at a time, one at-bat at a time, one pitch at a time," said the 34-year-old Cuddyer, who will try to extend his streak on Tuesday when the Rockies host the Los Angeles Dodgers in a three-game series.

That simple? "Yep," he said. "Look, you're getting your homework, you're getting your work in. You're not going up there

blind, like you do in a little league game. You still have to put your work in to hit these guys."

"But this is definitely fun." Before the season, first-year manager Walt Weiss didn't know all that much about Cuddyer. It hasn't taken him long to appreciate his slugger's patient approach in the batter's box.

"He's a very smart hitter," Weiss said. "He's very good at thinking along with the pitcher."

Especially now, in the midst of this streak. Cuddyer is hitting .372 during the stretch, bumping his average to .344, which is quite a bit higher than his career mark (.271).

"This is a good feeling," said Cuddyer, who broke hitting coach and former Rockies

standout Dante Bichette's team-best hitting streak of 23 games. "Anytime you can put your name in any type of record book for a good thing is a good thing."

Like many baseball players, Cuddyer is all about routine. He arrives at the ball park about the same time each day, goes through the same pregame rituals. A typical game day for Cuddyer starts with a quick bite to eat inside the clubhouse (but not necessarily the same meal).

After a visit to the hot tub, he heads for the cages to smack about 40 baseballs off a hitting tee in various positions of the strike zone.

Then it's even more hitting as he goes through round after

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Baseball: Vermillion, Tabor Cruise To Big Wins In American Legion Action

Vermillion's Collin Bertram struck out seven over seven innings and the Post 1 offense pounded out 16 hits in a 13-0 victory over Yankton in American Legion baseball action on Monday.

Peter Haught had a double and two singles, and Tanner Settles had two hits and four RBI to lead Vermillion. Tanner Anderson tripled and singled, Colins Olson doubled and singled, and Jayce Huska and Bertram each had two hits for Post 1. Chayse Meierkort added a double in the win.

Austin Johnson doubled, and Mitch Mueller and Jordan Lightner added hits for Yankton.

Bertram allowed just three hits and walked none in the complete game seven-in-

ning victory. Lane Sawatzke took the loss.

Vermillion, 20-7, hosts Beresford today (Tuesday). Yankton travels to Mitchell on Friday.

Tabor 28, Dakota Valley 6

NORTH SIOUX CITY — Tabor pounded out 17 hits, including four batters with three hits each, as they rolled past Dakota Valley 28-6 in American Legion baseball action on Monday.

Kodi Larson had a pair of three-run home runs and Mike Kocer had a triple and two singles to lead Tabor. Blase Vanecek, Alec Weber and Scott Wieseler added three hits each in the win.

Wieseler pitched six innings for the victory, striking out five.

Tabor hosts Parkston tonight (Tuesday) at 7:30 p.m.

VFW Teener Yankton Black Sox 10, Bon Homme 4

TABOR — The Yankton Black Sox downed Bon Homme 10-4 in a single nine-inning VFW Teener baseball action on Monday.

Sheldon Gant went 2-5 with a double and two RBI to lead Yankton. Levi Schmidt also had two hits. Mason Townsend doubled, and Hunter Ryan and Colin Muth each had run-scoring singles

in the win.

Bradey Sorenson pitched the final four innings in relief to pick up the win.

Bob Tereshinski Classic

The Yankton Reds went 3-1 to place second in the Bob Tereshinski Classic VFW Teener baseball tournament, which concluded on Sunday at Yankton's Riverside Field.

The Sioux Falls Renegades won the tournament. The Reds are off until Saturday, when they host Mitchell.

REDS 11, HARRISBURG 8: Nate Eichacker went 2-3 with four RBI, and Carter Peterson went 2-3 with two RBI as the Reds completed the tournament with a victory on Sunday. Miles Carda had a hit and three runs scored. Garrett Tennant had a hit, a run scored and a RBI. Tanner Fitzgerald added a hit and two RBI. Pe-

terson picked up the win, going the distance.

S.C. SADERS 10, REDS 5: Miles Carda had three hits and scored a run as the Reds took their lone setback of the tournament. Trey Bakke went 2-2 with two RBI and a run scored. Garrett Tennant also went 2-2. Nate Eichacker added a hit and a run scored. Caid Kozletzky took the loss.

REDS 13, RENNER 3: Carter Peterson went 2-2 with two RBI and Caid Kozletzky went 2-3 with two runs scored as the Reds rolled past Renner Post 307 to conclude Saturday play. Trey Bakke had two runs scored and a RBI, and Nate Eichacker had a hit and two RBI in the victory. Kellen Franzen went the distance for the win.

REDS 17, VERMILLION 9: Caid Kozletzky went 2-3 with four RBI and a run scored as the Reds opened with a victory. Nate Eichacker went 2-2 with two runs scored, a walk and a RBI. Miles Carda added a hit, a run scored and two runs scored. Carter Peterson picked up the win.

Amateur

Lesterville 6, Irene 5

LESTERVILLE — The Lesterville Broncs scored in the bottom of the ninth to rally to a 6-5 victory over Irene in South Central League amateur baseball action Sunday night.

Lesterville led 5-3 after eight innings, but the Cardinals tied the game in the top of the ninth.

Mike Pavel had three hits, including a home run and a double, to lead Lesterville. Zach Johnson also had three hits. Ian Powell added a home run in the win.

Mike King and Ben Sees each had two hits for Irene.

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