

Second-Round Picks More Important Than Ever In NBA

BY JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP Basketball Writer

There was a time when second-round draft picks in the NBA held about as much value to some teams as the caps that were given to each player chosen on draft night.

As the new collective bargaining agreement imposes far harsher penalties for exceeding the salary cap, finding cheap, productive players after the first round closes has never been more important.

The NBA draft opens on Thursday night, with most of the interest from fans focused on the top 14 lottery selections. While many might tune out once those are over, the draft will really be just getting started. Finding players who can fit into a team's rotation — either next season or after a year or two of development — has become a priority for cost-conscious franchises that spend the bulk of their money on an All-Star or two at the top of their roster.

"Eventually, the cap is pretty hard,"

new Timberwolves President Flip Saunders said. "You're going to have to have people that are going to be able to fit in. Especially if you have a good team and have two or three guys who are close to max (salary) type players, then you're going to have to find some low-end type guys that fit into (your payroll). That's why the development of some low-round guys can be important."

That trend could be seen all over the NBA playoffs, where teams struck gold players drafted in the second round, or not drafted at all. The Golden State Warriors had Draymond Green and Carl Landry. The Houston Rockets had Omer Asik and Chandler Parsons. The Indiana Pacers had Lance Stephenson and Sam Young. The Memphis Grizzlies had Marc Gasol. They were all players who were drafted in the second round, either by

also

■ The Full NBA Draft Order Can Be Found In Today's Scoreboard. **PAGE 8**

the team they were playing for or a previous team. All players who played crucial minutes for teams making postseason runs.

It was more of the same in the NBA Finals, where Miami had second-rounder Mario Chalmers and undrafted big men Chris Andersen and Udonis Haslem against the San Antonio Spurs, perhaps the NBA's gold standard for finding and developing under-the-radar talent.

Danny Green was a second-round draft pick of the Cavaliers in 2009 and was cut twice by the Spurs before developing into a reliable perimeter shooter who broke the record for 3-pointers made in a finals series. Gary Neal was undrafted and had to go over to Europe before getting a chance with the Spurs' summer league team and solidifying himself as one of the team's first players off the bench.

And Manu Ginobili, of course, has been one of the most successful second-

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Yankton's Iverson Will Learn Fate Tonight

FROM P&D STAFF REPORTS

Yankton native Colton Iverson will learn his professional fate tonight (Thursday) during the NBA Draft.

The two-round draft will be televised by ESPN, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Central tonight from New York City.

Iverson, a 7-foot center and graduate of Colorado State, worked out with 17 NBA teams leading up to the draft.

"Obviously you're never guaranteed anything in this process, you just have to go out and give it your all," he said last week. "Hopefully it all works out, but you can't get too high or too low."

DraftExpress.com, considered one of the top draft resources, projects Iverson to be selected by the Milwaukee Bucks in the second round with pick No. 43.

The *Press & Dakotan* will have coverage of Iverson and the draft in Friday's edition, as well as on Twitter.



Iverson

Wolves Head Into Draft Looking For Shooters

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — While preparing to run a draft room for the first time, new Minnesota Timberwolves President Flip Saunders has said on multiple occasions that the closer the draft gets, the more likely it is that teams fall in love with certain players, even in a down draft.

It appears that player for Saunders is Indiana guard Victor Oladipo.

The Timberwolves enter the draft on Thursday night with two first-round picks and two second-rounders and with a desperate need for perimeter scoring and defense at shooting guard. As a tenacious defender who can score in transition and has shown significant improvement in his outside shooting, Oladipo would seem to fit most of those criteria.

"I just say there are certain guys when you look at them have the 'it' factors," Saunders said recently when asked about Oladipo and Kansas guard Ben McLemore, widely considered the top two shooting guards available. "So when you walk in, you can tell when they're warming up just how they handle themselves and handle the ball and shoot the ball and just how they go about their footwork."

The only problem is that Oladipo is projected to go long before the Wolves get on the clock at No. 9. Saunders has had discussions with several teams in the top five about trading up, with talks centering around Minnesota's two first-round picks, including No. 26, and forward Derrick Williams.

But the asking price may be just too high to get up there to get him.

"Depending on how much you want to give up you can always move up, but usually that price a lot of times gets to be steeper and steeper the closer you get to the draft," Saunders said Monday.

If the Timberwolves can't make a move to get Oladipo and have to stay at No. 9, Georgia's Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Lehigh's C.J. McCollum are considered strong candidates. Indiana big man Cody Zeller is another possibility.

The Timberwolves were the worst 3-point shooting team in the NBA last season, hitting just over 30 percent as a team. Getting All-Star Kevin Love back from a twice-broken right hand and the anticipated re-signing of Chase Budinger figure to help in that regard, but the Wolves are still looking for more reliable perimeter threats along-side point guard Ricky Rubio.

"We need shooting, but we want a multipurpose player," Saunders said. "We don't want a player who's just a shooter, we want a player how can defend, shoot, make plays, get out and run on the open floor, so that's what you're trying to get. There's a few players who have the ability to do that."

They also want a more prototypical shooting guard from a size perspective after using the smaller Luke Ridnour. J.J. Barea and Alexey Shved in that role last season. Oladipo is 6-foot-4, but with a wing span that helps him play bigger. Caldwell-Pope is 6-foot-6, which could give him the edge over the 6-

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By A Finger



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Mitchell first baseman Tyler Houwman dives toward first base to force out Yankton's Greg Hauer during their American Legion junior baseball doubleheader on Wednesday in Yankton. Yankton rallied to win both games, 8-2 and 13-1. The Post 12 junior squad is home again today (Thursday), facing South Sioux City, Neb., in a 5 p.m. doubleheader.



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Yankton Reds third baseman Trey Bakke fields a grounder during Wednesday's first game of a VFW Teener doubleheader against Brookings at Riverside Field. Results were not made available.

Yankton Juniors Sweep Mitchell

The Yankton Post 12 junior Legion baseball squad swept Mitchell on Wednesday at Riverside Field, taking the opener 8-2 before rolling to a 13-1 victory in the nightcap.

In both games, Mitchell scored all of its runs in the first inning.

In the opener, Yankton scored five runs in the bottom of the first to counter Landon Neugebauer's two-run home run in the top of the frame. Yankton also scored five in the bottom of the first in the nightcap.

Ben Cameron had two hits, including a double, and two RBI to lead Yankton in the opener. Adam Walter, Jordan Lightner and Colton Diefenderfer also had hits. Brad Ulmer stole four bases and scored twice, drawing three free passes in the win.

Neugebauer's home run was the lone Mitchell hit off Cameron, who struck out two in the victory. Mitchell Price took the loss.

Walter had three hits and four RBI, and Brady Hale had two doubles, a single and three runs scored to lead Yankton in the nightcap.

Austin Johnson also had three hits for Yankton. Matt Hilson had a pair of hits, Ulmer doubled, and Lightner, Cameron and Wyatt Adam added hits in the win.

Jake Cersosimo and Ben Miller had hits for Mitchell. Johnson picked up the win on the mound, allowing two hits and striking out six in the four-inning contest.

Yankton's juniors squad is home again today (Thurs-

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Probation, No Bowl Ban For Oregon Football

BY JOHN MARSHALL
AP College Football Writer

The NCAA stripped Oregon of a scholarship in each of the next two seasons and placed the program on probation for three years, opting against stiffer penalties like a bowl ban despite issuing a show-cause order against former coach Chip Kelly, who apologized to the school, its fans and it players.

The NCAA's Division I Committee on Infractions released a report on Wednesday that said Kelly failed to monitor the program for its improper involvement with Willie Lyles and his Houston-based recruiting service.

Kelly was hit with an 18-month show-cause order, a sanction that likely will have limited impact now that he's coaching the Philadelphia Eagles.

The program he left behind faces three years of scholarship reductions, starting last year and extending through 2014-15. It also faces reductions in paid visits and evaluation days, but avoided some of the harsher penalties handed down to other programs in recent years.

"Now that the NCAA has concluded their investigation and penalized the University of Oregon and its football program, I want to apologize to the University of Oregon, all of its current and former players and their fans," Kelly said in a statement. "I accept my share of responsibility for the actions that led to the penalties. As I have I stated before, the NCAA investigation and subsequent ruling had no impact on my decision to leave Oregon for Philadelphia. I have also maintained throughout that I had every intention to cooperate with the NCAA's investigation, which I did."

The NCAA had been looking into Oregon's program for more than two years after learning Oregon had paid \$25,000 to Lyles and his recruiting service, Complete Scouting Services.

The NCAA's infractions committee found that Lyles provided cash and free lodging to a prospect, and engaged in impermissible calls and off-campus contact with prospects, their families and high school coaches.

It also said the football

OREGON | PAGE 12

Whicker: Pitching, 'D' Prove Big Silencer For UCLA In Title Run

BY MARK WHICKER

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LOS ANGELES (MCT) — Jackie Robinson Stadium is not a gateway to anything.

To get there, you have to be trying. UCLA geography majors are only admitted into the honors program when they can find JRS on their first try.

And on Wednesday morning, there was a helpful no-left-turn sign on the corner of Sepulveda and Constitution, just to add to the maze.

So when the big bus rumbled up at about 12:30 p.m., the waiting fans knew it wasn't the Red Hat Club seeking directions to the Cracker Barrel.

It was the 2013 College World Series champion UCLA Bruins, who never changed lanes in their solitary march through the month-long tournament.

"They treated us great in Omaha, even though we didn't have a lot of fans," said reliever and Northwood alum Zack Weiss. "There'd be 25,000

in the park, 24,000 rooting for Mississippi State (in the championship round), 900 who didn't care and our 100. But we loved the support we got."

UCLA had no big offensive games. But its silencer worked perfectly.

The Bruins were 10-0 in the three rounds. They gave up 14 runs. In the five Omaha games, they gave up four.

Starting pitchers Adam Plutko, Nick Vander Tuig and Grant Watson had nine quality starts out of 10, and walked 11 batters in their 671/3 innings. Their ERA was 1.07.

That is how you hit .227 in a College World Series and win your school's first national baseball title ever. The fact the Bruins were as precise as the Greenwich chronometer didn't hurt. In nine of 10 games they got down at least one sacrifice bunt. Against LSU they did it four times. They had eight sacrifice flies in the event and only 11 extra-base hits.

"With the way the ballpark played, we had a lot of pluses on our side," Coach John Savage said. "The biggest thing was winning (the super re-

gional) at Cal State Fullerton. No one expected or predicted it. When we did that, our confidence went to another degree."

UCLA had gone to two College World Series before 2010. This was its third in four years. It is because Savage has a way of feeling pitching like few other people in the whole of baseball.

He's had Gerrit Cole and his powerball. He's had Trevor Bauer throwing every pitch that's been invented and a few of his own. He has closer David Berg, who throws from Baja.

He does not use a cookie-cutter but he does have some ingredients that are absolute, and Plutko and Vander Tuig brought them to life.

"The No. 1 thing is fastball command," Weiss said. "Some guys spray the fastball. Coach calls them miss-or-middle guys. They're either wild or right down the middle. Those guys don't pitch here.

"Then he loves the changeup, and we put guys away with hard breaking balls. Adam and Nick just own hitters

with the fastball and let the secondary stuff work off that."

There are others. Savage wants long-haul pitchers: "Don't be a guy who throws 92 in the first and 84 in the fourth."

He wants runners held and grounders fielded. His guys have to pitch backward on occasion, "not be count-predictable."

And he wants preparation. Even at UC Irvine they joked about Savage's tendency to have meetings to discuss the next meeting, but the results are in. A small detail is an oxymoron at UCLA.

"I don't know where he gets all his information," Weiss said. "But before every series, we know what counts the other team runs on, when they hit and run, all that stuff. He calls the pitches, but we all know why he's going with a certain pitch."

In Omaha, Eric Filia talked of how the team took pride in cleaning up the bus. Here, Weiss talked of how

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