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Yankton's Own Now A Pro



P&D FILE PHOTO Colton Iverson, center back, gathers with a group of Yankton residents who took a bus to Fort Collins, Colo., to watch Iverson, a Yankton native, and the Colorado State Rams play against UNLV back in January. Iverson was selected Thursday night by Indiana during the second round of the NBA Draft, and was later acquired by the Boston Celtics.

Former Buck Iverson Joins Celtics

BY JEREMY HOECK jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

day after he became a professional basketball player, Colton Iverson was still a bit in awe. The Yankton native and standout center from Colorado State was se-

lected by Indiana in the second round — the 53rd overall pick — of Thursday night's NBA Draft, and was later acquired by the Boston Celtics.

Has the idea of being an NBA player set in yet?

"Not really," Iverson said Friday af-ternoon from his family home. "Sitting there watching it, every pick, you're like, 'Maybe, maybe, maybe.' You just have to sit there anxiously waiting, but it happened, and it was a great feeling.'



True Blue Send-Off

sible; that I had the potential, but it wasn't going to come easy," Iverson said. "I had to work hard. I feel like I definitely put in the work, and I'm only going to keep working harder to get better."

Pausing to look at his phone, he added, "Now that it's here, what more can you ask for? You're playing basketball for a living. Iverson, who earned first team All-

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BY JEREMY HOECK

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The state of Massachusetts, of all places, now serves as the epicenter of professional basketball players from Yankton High School.

First was Chad Nelson, resident of Edgartown, Mass. Now comes Colton Iverson to the Boston Celtics.

Nelson, a 1974 YHS graduate, was selected not once but twice in the NBA Draft while at Drake University. The 6-foot-11 center was drafted by the New Orleans Jazz in 1978 and by the Atlanta Hawks in 1979.

His selection the second time marked the last time a Yankton native was drafted until Iverson ended the drought Thursday.

Nelson Recalls Draft Selections

"I figured I could be, but you never know," Nelson said Friday. "The day of the draft, they give you a call, tell you when the camp would be and send you a ticket."

Unlike Iverson's situation where all 60 picks are televised and analysts pore over every detail, Nelson lived in an era where draft prospects have no advance warning – and, in his case, not much hype.

"It wasn't a big deal at the time. You were lucky if you found out before they called

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P&D FILE PHOTO Chad Nelson, a 1974 Yankton High School graduate, is pictured during a basketball season.



Baseball: Post 12 Falls To BV

BRANDON — Brandon Valley handed Yankton Post 12 a 12-2 seven inning loss in American Legion baseball action Friday in Brandon.

Sheldon Gant had two hits and lam Walter drove in two runs for

went 4-4 and Lance Heine homered as Wynot handed the Yankton Tappers their fourth straight loss, 8-5, in South Central League amateur action Thursday night in Wynot.

The Expos (9-2) scored three runs

who turns 24 today (Saturday) — has waited his entire career for a chance to prove himself to NBA

teams, he said. "I knew it was pos-

More than just the

Yankton (7-12), while Mitch Gullikson and Andrew Hummel both added one hit.

Gant took the loss after pitching five innings.

Yankton returns home to host Vermillion on Monday night at Riverside Field.

Juniors: Yankton 7-4, South Sioux City 6-7

Yankton and South Sioux City split a junior legion baseball doubleheader on Thursday at Riverside Field. The host team won the opener 7-6 and SSC took game two 7-4.

In the first game, Yankton scored two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning on a sacrifice fly by Mitch Mueller to win. Jordan Lightner homered and drove in two runs, while Adam Walter had two RBI. Colton Diefenderfer, Landon Withrow and Ben Cameron all singled.

Greg Hauer started and pitched four innings, giving way to Mueller in relief.

In the second game, Walter drove in two runs, Withrow had one RBI, and Lightner, Diefenderfer and Levi Stevens all singled.

Diefenderfer took the loss.

Amateurs Wynot 8, Yankton 5 WYNOŤ, Neb. — Chase Rolfes in each of the first two innings and held on for the win. Scott Heimes was 2-4 with a double and Lee Heimes doubled.

Brett Wiebelhaus pitched six innings for the win.

Dave Schmidt hit a three-run homer for the Tappers (6-3), while Ross Heine went 4-4. Julian Cutolo and Tate Bruckner both had two hits, and Nik Davis was 1-4.

Jesse Bailey went the distance on the mound for Yankton. YANKTON (6-3) ... WYNOT (9-2)

Crofton 18, Scotland 2 SCOTLAND — Trevor Arens home-

red to lead the first-place Crofton Bluejays to their 10th consecutive win, 18-2 over Scotland, in South Central League action Thursday.

Rand Thygeson, Aaron Losing, Cody Wilkens and Joe Wiebelhaus all added two hits for Crofton (10-1), which also benefited from eight Scotland errors.

Matt Tramp pitched all seven innings for the win.

For the Highlanders (1-9), Mike Kronaizl doubled and singled, Paul Plante doubled, and Casey Comstock and Joe Kronaizl both singled twice.

On Sunday night, Crofton visits Freeman and Scotland hosts Yankton.

T'Wolves Pick Muhammad Entering NBA Without Dad In Hoops Life

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — For the first 20 years of his life, almost every time Shabazz Muhammad turned around on a basketball court, his father was right there behind him.

Ron Holmes meticulously planned out and cultivated his son's playing career, from Muhammad's very first days in sneakers, through the construction of AAU teams that allowed his son to become one of the most heavily recruited prep stars in the nation and during his one and only season at UCLA.

Now that Muhammad is preparing to make the long-anticipated jump from college to the pros, he is telling his famously involved — and occasionally trouble-making - father to take a seat on the bench. Muhammad said the two had a conversation last month setting new ground rules for their relationship going forward.

"I talk to him now as a dad,"

Muhammad said on Friday after being introduced as one of the Minnesota Timberwolves' two firstround draft picks. "He's not really in my basketball (life) anymore.

"I still love the guy. I talk to him about basketball and life. But he doesn't really come around with basketball anymore. I think that's the appropriate thing to do. It's really helping me out a lot.

When Muhammad arrived at UCLA last year, he was hailed as the next great Bruin in the program's storied history and the sure-fire No. 1 draft pick in 2013. But his stock dipped some, partly due to some offthe-court exploits by his father.

Muhammad had to sit out the first three games of the season and repay \$1,600 in impermissible benefits after the NCAA and UCLA found that Muhammad accepted travel and lodging during three unofficial visits to Duke and North Carolina, travel

arrangements made by his father.

It was also revealed in a Los Angeles Times story in March that Holmes shaved a year off of his son's age when he was young to give Muhammad an advantage against younger competition on the summer AAU circuit and in high school. Muhammad, it was revealed, was actually 20 and not 19.

Holmes also ran into trouble of his own with the law. He served six months' house arrest in 2000 after pleading guilty to using fraudulent bank statements and tax returns to secure mortgages. Earlier in June, Holmes pleaded not guilty to federal bank fraud and conspiracy charges and is again on house arrest.

"There were some slipups with him. We definitely talked about that," Muhammad said. "That's why I loved doing interviews with NBA teams because they said, 'When you look at him, they're like this kid didn't do

anything. He's a good kid.' That's one thing I wanted to reach out to everybody doing the interviews with me.

"My dad is a great guy, but with basketball, we don't really talk about it. He's just being a dad and just helping me out with life now.

New Timberwolves President Flip Saunders had some of those concerns and conversations with Muhammad in the pre-draft process.

"When we sat down and talked to him he owned up to anything in his previous history that he's dealt with," Saunders said. "And a lot of that didn't have to do with him. It had to do with some other people involved. I felt comfortable with that. Not only did he own up to it, I felt he had a little chip on his shoulder because of where everything was at."

Former UCLA coach Ben Howland watched Muhammad deal with the scrutiny that comes with being

such a hyped recruit, and the ensuing adversity with his three-game suspension and the revelation of his true age

"I think he handled adversity extremely well and he had a lot of it," Howland said. "The stuff with the NCAA and not knowing when he was going to be cleared, he stayed positive, worked hard, supported his teammates through the whole process.

Maybe for the first time in his basketball life, Muhammad is facing serious doubts about his abilities on the court. He averaged 17.9 points a game, but even Saunders acknowledged that he had a tendency to coast on occasion during games. His ability to shoot from long range and go to his right also are being questioned, but Muhammad remains confident.

"I love changing people's opinions," he said.