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Draft choices could aid NBA expansion teams

United Press International
HOUSTON — Future NBA expansion teams may be allowed to build their initial rosters with top college draft choices instead of with NBA substitutes, the president of an existing team said Wednesday.

"It is one of the possibilities," Houston Rockets President Ray Patterson said. "It is extremely important for the (expansion) franchise to be able to compete competitively with the other clubs in order that they might develop a stable franchise."

During the recent NBA all-star break, the league's expansion committee heard proposals from seven cities. The leading contenders to obtain a franchise for the 1980-81 sea-

son appeared to be Dallas and Minneapolis-St. Paul.

In past expansions, existing teams froze their top seven or eight players while the new teams chose from the remaining substitutes.

"That did not seem to work as rapidly as it should," Patterson said.

"Therefore, it is thought in some quarters that preference should be given to expansion clubs in the upcoming college draft so they might have a built in attraction. It would help them draw good crowds on the road, too."

"One way to do it," Patterson said, "would be to allow a new club to take the first two draft choices. In the case of two clubs, maybe one could take the Nos. 1 and 3 choices;

the other could take 2 and 4."

He said there had been no official discussion of stocking expansion clubs at the Detroit meetings earlier this week.

"It would be worked out by the expansion committee and presented to the Board (of Governors)," Patterson said.

If Dallas does get a franchise, Patterson can be expected to push for a realignment featuring Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, New Orleans and possibly Kansas City in the same division.

"It would be excellent. San Antonio has helped create an interest in professional basketball. Dallas would too. We have our best crowds when San Antonio comes here."

Finals to be televised

United Press International
DALLAS — The Southwest Conference announced Wednesday the championship game of its post-season basketball tournament, to be played on the evening of March 3 in Houston, would be televised.

The nine SWC faculty representatives agreed Wednesday to accept a bid made by Metro Communications of Washington D.C., the producer of five prime time Southwest Conference telecasts this year.

SWC officials said the game would be blacked out within a 75-mile radius of Houston and that tipoff of the contest would be at 8:10 p.m. CST. Any stations outside that blackout area are eligible to contract with Metro Communications and pick up the telecast.

Conference officials have been criticized for not televising portions of the tournament the past two years, but they have said that no worthwhile bid had been received until Metro Communications made the offer that was accepted Wednesday.

All three sessions of the tournament, played in the 15,330-seat Summit Arena, were sold out last year and sellouts are expected again for all three sessions this year.

At the same time, conference officials said the Texas-Texas

Tech game scheduled for Feb. 24 in Austin would be televised. Tipoff of that game will be at 1:40 p.m. CST to accommodate the telecast. In addition, the three first-round tournament games set for Feb. 24 will be televised.

The SWC post-season tournament was inaugurated in 1976 and the event was played in Dallas last year the semifinals and finals were televised.

But after the tournament moved to Houston in 1977 home television was available.

The Houston portion of the tournament begins on Thursday, March 1 with a doubleheader beginning at 7 p.m. The place finisher in the regular season will be in action along with the winners of the three first-round games played on Feb. 24.

On Friday, March 2, the winners from the previous night return to play the first second-place finishers in the conference race. That doubleheader will also start at 7 p.m. On Friday night meet San Antonio and an automatic invitation to the NCAA tournament.

The SWC tournament will move next year to the Summit Arena in San Antonio.

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Aggie notes

Netters defeat TJC

The Texas A&M women's tennis team opened its spring season with a victory over Tyler Junior College Wednesday at the Aggies' new varsity courts. The Aggies beat the Apaches 8-1.

Singles winners for Texas A&M included: Kathleen Sisson over Teri Neutze 6-4, 6-1; Maylyn Hooton over Terrisa Cargill 6-3, 6-0; Pam Hill over Janet Kniffen 6-3, 6-2; Susan Schilling over Rachel Howell 6-1, 4-6, 6-3; Ferol Hinkle over Margaret Womack 6-1, 6-4; Mary

Guerra over Sherri Sumner 6-4. In doubles, Hooton and Kniffen beat Kniffen and Howell 6-1, 6-0. Womack and Summitt beat Neutze and Cargill 6-2, 6-1, and Alexis Helley 6-2, 6-1.

The Aggies host Lamar on Feb. 1:30 p.m. and LSU Saturday, 5:15 p.m.

The Aggie Ladies basketball team lost to Lamar in Beaumont Tuesday night 69-58. Julia Gled led the Aggies with 10 points. They are 22-13 for the season. They host No. 2 Texas Monday, 5:15 p.m.

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