

The Battalion Sports

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NBA draft time

Aggies' Woods expects second-round selection

by Frank L. Christlieb
Sports Editor

Many NBA scouts have dubbed this year's college draft as a guard-dominated, undergraduate-dominated collection of basketball players from around the nation. In that respect, Texas A&M's Rudy Woods stands to be outnumbered, since he's a center and he recently completed his fourth year of eligibility.

But Woods, still fighting a battle against critics who have

spent the past four years analyzing the trials and tribulations of "the star who never was," says he's confident about his chances of being selected early in the draft. The summer draft opened this morning at 11 CDT at Madison Square Garden's Felt Forum in New York.

"I feel that I'll go no lower than the second round, and that I'll go high in that round," Woods said Monday.

Some professional scouts

have said that an NBA team might "take a chance" on Woods, drafting him because of his tremendous potential. Woods, however, disregards those assessments.

"They're really taking a chance on everyone in the draft, so I look at (those comments) constructively," the 6-10 former Bryan High School all-America said. "If I don't make it, I'm not going to go off and shoot myself. I'll just have to wait and see what

happens."

Woods said he's been contacted by the Chicago Bulls, Phoenix Suns, Cleveland Cavaliers, Houston Rockets, San Antonio Spurs and Dallas Mavericks. Woods has participated in pre-draft camps at Chicago and Phoenix, and has investigated a semi-pro league in Italy as well.

Aggie coach Shelby Metcalf said he sees excellent professional potential in Woods, who

averaged 13.9, 11, 8.1 and 11 points a game during his four seasons at Texas A&M.

"He could do it," Metcalf said of Woods' prospects of being drafted early. "He's got talent. I hope for his sake that he goes high and gets an opportunity to prove himself."

Woods, who played in only 13 games during the 1980-81 season before being declared scholastically ineligible, holds Texas A&M records for blocked shots, and finished his career as the third leading rebounder in the school's history. Forwards Vernon Smith and Rynn Wright, who completed their eligibility during the 1980-81 season, are No. 1 and No. 2 on the rebounding charts, while Woods holds down the No. 6 spot on the all-time scoring list.

Woods won two Southwest Conference field goal percentage titles during his Texas A&M career, shooting 62 percent during his freshman year and averaging 59 percent during the following season.

During recent NBA drafts, several Texas A&M players have been picked within the first three rounds. In 1981, the Philadelphia 76ers chose Smith in the second round and Wright in the eighth round. The expansion-team Dallas Mavericks selected guard David Britton in the third round of the 1980 draft following the Aggies' Southwest Conference championship season.

Smith and Wright, however, were cut by Philadelphia before the start of the regular season, with Smith being the last player released from the squad. The Mavericks did likewise with Britton prior to the season.

Tar Heel star most logical to be Worthy No. 1 pick

United Press International
NEW YORK — In the grand tradition of the rich getting richer, the Los Angeles Lakers open today's NBA college draft.

While all signs point toward the selection of forward James Worthy of North Carolina, the NBA champions insisted protecting the identity of the No. 1 choice.

"We just don't know who

we're going to take," owner Jerry Buss said. "I have my selection, but (General Manager) Jerry West and (President) Bill Sharman also have their choices."

The 10-round draft, open to the public, begins at noon EDT at Madison Square Garden's Felt Forum. And while many of the top selections will attend, Worthy is not among them.

Tuesday afternoon, he flew from North Carolina to Los Angeles. The Lakers and Clippers, who pick second, requested the 6-foot-9 all-America be on the West Coast should they draft him.

"He's one of the very best ever to come out of North Carolina," West said. "And with the guys that school has produced, that says enough right there."

Although the Lakers have an abundance of strength, they are concerned over the knee injury to power forward Mitch Kupchak.

If Worthy goes to the Lakers, San Diego may follow with forward Dominique Wilkins of Georgia. Dubbed the "Human Highlight Film" for his rim-shaking moves, Wilkins is one of the most electric players to enter the pros in some years.

Utah has the third choice and Terry Cummings of DePaul figures to be the choice. He can play power forward or center and take control underneath.

Worthy, Wilkins and Cummings are undergraduates and highlight the infusion of the draft's young blood. As many as nine of the 12 players who declared early eligibility for the NBA could go in the first round.

Following Utah, the rest of the round is: Dallas, Kansas City, New York, Chicago, Indiana, Detroit, Atlanta, Portland, Cleveland, New Jersey, Golden State, Phoenix, Houston, Kansas City, Detroit, Denver, Milwaukee, New Jersey, Philadelphia and Boston.

Those with two choices each in the first round are Kansas City (5, 17), Detroit (9, 18) and New Jersey (13, 21). San Antonio and Washington make their opening choice in the second round and Seattle must wait until the third.

"The anticipation is great, a lot of teams can help themselves," New Jersey Nets' Coach Larry Brown said. "You hope you know about the players before you draft them."

Fullback Smith makes decision; signs with A&M

Fullback George Smith of Coffee County High School in Douglas, Ga., signed a football scholarship with Texas A&M University Monday.

Smith, who in February signed a national letter of intent to attend the University of Georgia, two weeks ago gained the right to consider another school after Georgia dropped his scholarship in the midst of apparent recruiting violations.

A 6-3, 230-pound all-America who was named player of the year in Georgia, Smith had been recruited heavily by Texas A&M's Jackie Sherrill and offensive assistant George Pugh before deciding upon Georgia near the end of the recruiting campaign in February. Smith, with a 4.6 time in the 40-yard dash, rushed for 1,600 yards as a senior at Coffee County.

Besides earning all-state, all-district and all-region honors, Smith qualified for the "Super 11" team in Georgia and the "Super 24" team, which covers Georgia and Florida. Smith, who saw playing time at defensive tackle, tight end, linebacker and strong safety during his high school career, has been rated by a national recruiting magazine as one of the top 15 players in the nation.



staff photo by Peter Rocha

Lining up the putt

Fourteen-year-old Blaine Dykes, a participant in the first-ever Texas A&M All-Sports Camp, eyes the line between the ball and the cup during a practice session on the Texas A&M golf course Monday afternoon. Dykes, from Nederland, and about 185 other campers from around the state will wrap up three weeks of sports when the camp ends Saturday.

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