

Texas A&M

# The Battalion Sports

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## No surprise: Rockets pick Ralph Sampson

United Press International  
NEW YORK — Ralph Sampson, setting forth on new basketball frontier after a storied career at the University of Virginia, was selected Tuesday by the Houston Rockets as the No. 1 pick in the college draft.

Hailed as one of the game's most graceful big men, Sampson entered the NBA after having earned the pros since the end of his freshman season. During his stay at Virginia, the 7-foot-4 center was named College Basketball Player of the Year three times and was the cornerstone of the Cavaliers' rise to national prominence. He was arguably the school's most celebrated individual since its founder, Thomas Jefferson.

Sampson, whose play at this stage has been likened to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, can make the delicate shot from the inside and also provide the inside power. He jumps exceptionally well, handles the ball superbly for a player his size and understands the nuances of the game.

Victimized by all sorts of opposing defenses, Sampson did not run up overwhelming statistics, averaging 19.0 points and 17 rebounds a game last year. He was the all-time leader in rebounds and blocked shots at Virginia and the school's third highest scorer in history.

"I've lived through all the eras of basketball — Mikan, Russell, Chamberlain, Jabbar, Walton and Malone," said Marty Blake, the NBA's director of scouting.

### Mavericks pick Vol forward Ellis; Spurs take Notre Dame's Paxson

United Press International  
DALLAS — The Dallas Mavericks, needing help along their front line, made University of Tennessee forward Dale Ellis their first pick in Tuesday's National Basketball Association collegiate draft.

Ellis, 6-7, 205 pounds, averaged 17.5 points per game over his four-year career at Tennessee and led the Volunteers to the NCAA tournament four straight times.

The Mavericks had four picks in the first two rounds of the draft and 12 picks overall. Ellis was the ninth player chosen in the draft.

In its second first-round choice — the No. 11 slot by way of a trade with Cleveland — the Mavericks, as expected, picked Derek Harper, a 6-4 guard from Illinois.

Harper, the third underclassman picked in the draft, was a consensus all-Big Ten choice and averaged 10.9 points per game over his three years at Illinois. Harper has previously announced he would forego his last year of college eligibility.

Mavericks' general manager Norm Sonju

had said the club might go for the best athlete available with its first pick and begin filling its needs with the second first-round choice.

But the Mavericks were able to select Ellis when San Diego used its fourth pick in the first round to take a guard, Arizona State's Byron Scott.

The San Antonio Spurs, needing a backup center to spell Artis Gilmore, found the pickings among big men slim Tuesday and chose Notre Dame guard John Paxson in the first round.

Paxson, 6-2, 185, averaged 17.7 points per game for the Fighting Irish last year and completed his four year career with a 12 point per game average.

San Antonio general manager Bob Bass had hinted the Spurs would take a big forward instead of a guard if any front line players were left by the team's 19th position in the first round, but early draft selections focused almost exclusively on forwards and centers, leaving the Spurs little choice.

panovich will play center or power forward in the NBA.

He averaged more than 18 points and 8 rebounds a game last season and helped make Missouri one of the country's strongest teams as he set school

records for points, rebounds and blocked shots. His value soared since outplaying Sampson in a nationally televised game last season and impressing scouts in postseason play.

The Rockets, with their second pick in the round, added Rodney McCray of Louisville. At 6-7½ and 220 pounds, McCray plays bigger than the numbers indicate. Along with his brother Scooter, he helped

make Louisville a powerhouse. He did not run up exceptional statistics — 11 points and more than 8 rebounds a game last year — but scouts are certain he is capable of starting in the NBA.

Selecting fourth, the San Diego Clippers picked Byron Scott of Arizona State. Scouts feel Scott may be the class guard of the draft. A 6-3 player who

gave up his final year of eligibility, Scott shifted from shooting guard to point guard as a senior but still averaged more than 21 points a game. The leading scorer in Arizona State history, Scott

is considered ready to play offense in the NBA but his defense will need polishing. Blake said Scott has the "potential to be a superstar".

Chicago chose Sidney Green of Nevada-Las Vegas. It took Green some time to get his game in form at UNLV but he finished as the top rebounder in the school's history. He will be shifted from center to power

forward in the pros and could become a real factor in the league. Green averaged 22 points and 12 rebounds as a senior and moves well on the break for a 6-9, 215-pounder.

Following Green, Golden State took forward Russell Cross of Purdue, Utah named forward Thurl Bailey of North Carolina State, Detroit got forward Antoine Carr of Wichita State, Dallas chose forward Dale Ellis of Tennessee, Washington pick-

ed guard Jeff Malone of Mississippi State and Dallas selected guard Derek Harper of Illinois.

New York chose guard Darrell Walker of Arkansas, Kansas City took Whatley, Portland selected forward Clyde Drexler

of Houston, Denver got guard Howard Carter of Louisiana State, Seattle named Missouri

guard Jon Sundvold, Philadelphia chose guard Leo Rautins of Syracuse and Milwaukee took center Randy Breuer of Minnesota.

San Antonio picked guard John Paxson of Notre Dame, Cleveland named forward Roy Hinson of Rutgers, Boston grabbed center Greg Kite of Brigham Young, Washington chose swingman Randy Witt-

man of Indiana, the Pacers named Wiggins and Cleveland closed out the 80-minute opening round with guard Stewart Granger of Villanova.

The Bullets sent Wittman to Atlanta for veteran forward Tom McMillen and the Hawks' second-round pick next year.

## A&M's Riley, Naulls join list of SWC draftees

United Press International  
Eight Southwest Conference players — including Texas A&M's Claude Riley and Tyren Naulls — drew nods through the first five rounds of Tuesday's National Basketball Association draft, with Arkansas guard Darrell Walker the first SWC player

chosen in the annual selection of collegiate talent.

Walker, taken by New York in the first round and the 12th player chosen overall, was the fourth guard selected in the draft.

Houston forward Clyde Drexler, who passed up his final year of college eligibility, joined Walker as the only other Southwest Conference player chosen in the first round.

Drexler, drafted by Portland,

was the first first player chosen from a Texas school and the 14th chosen overall.

Despite the SWC's strong showing in the draft, two Oklahoma members of the Big 8 Conference, Oklahoma State and Oklahoma, had three players each selected in the first five rounds.

Leading the Oklahoma contingent was OSU forward Leroy Combs, chosen by Indiana as the second pick of the second round.

Drexler's teammate at Houston, forward Larry Micheaux, was the only Southwest Conference player chosen in the second round, going to Chicago, which picked fifth. Later in the day, Micheaux was traded to Kansas City.

However, North Texas State University forward Ken Lyons also went in the second round when he was tagged by Philadelphia.

Aggie forward Claude Riley was the only SWC player picked in the third round, when he was tabbed by Philadelphia. Oklaho-

ma forward David Little, who transferred to Norman from Texas Tech in Lubbock, was chosen by Denver in the third round.

Texas Christian's high-scoring duo of Doug Arnold and Darrell Browder went in the fourth round. Browder was the first player picked in the fourth round, going to Houston. Arnold was picked sixth in the round by Utah.

Two Louisiana players, Northwestern Louisiana forward Johnnie Martin and Southwestern Louisiana for-

ward Dan Gay, were fourth round picks. Martin went to Dallas, which picked ninth in the round, and Gay went to Washington, which had the 10th pick.

Texas Southern forward Harry Kelly closed out the list of area players selected in the fourth round when he was taken by Atlanta, which picked 11th.

Two more Oklahoma players, guard Chuck Barnett and center Charles Jones, were drafted in the fifth round. Barnett went to Houston and Jones was picked by Atlanta.

Two Oklahoma State players also went in the fifth round. Guard Matt Clark was taken by Utah and guard Lorenza Andrews went to Kansas City.

Rice forward Ken Austin and Texas A&M guard Tyren Naulls were fifth-round picks and rounded out the list of SWC players tapped in the draft. Austin was chosen by Detroit and Naulls went to New Jersey.

The fifth round also saw Jim Lampley, a center from Arkansas-Little Rock, taken by Dallas, and New Orleans forward Mark Petteway selected by Milwaukee.

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