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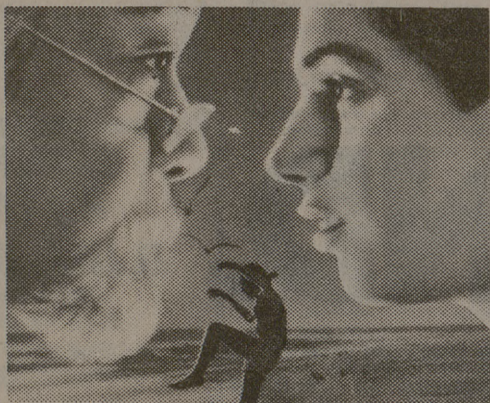
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**Celts steal  
Houston's  
Young**

United Press International

BOSTON — Michael Young, the Boston Celtics' top pick, said Tuesday he wasn't surprised that he was drafted late, despite being highly rated.

"I know that on the day of the draft anything can happen," said Young, who played at the University of Houston. "I really wasn't disappointed at all."

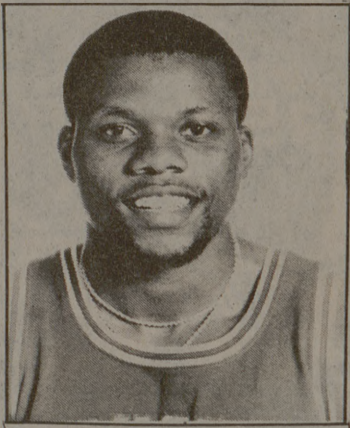
He said that after the first 18 selections had been made, he hoped no team would choose him before the Celtics, who had the 24th pick.

Young said Houston played a running game similar to Boston's fast-breaking style, and that should help him.

"I think I'll fit in with this ballclub well," he said.

Young arrived in Boston from New York for a brief news conference Tuesday evening.

Young said the Philadelphia 76ers



Michael Young

and San Diego-Los Angeles Clippers had expressed interest in him, and told him they hoped to draft him.

Sixers coach Billy Cunningham had flown to Houston to talk with the 6-foot-7, 200-pound Young, who played forward and some guard in college.

Young's agent, Bob Woolf, said he expected Philadelphia to take Young with either its 10th or 22nd picks in the first round.

Asked why he thought Young did not go earlier in the draft, Woolf said, "I don't know. He just slipped through. He's not a head case or anything like that. It was just Celtic luck."

"There was no indication that Michael would last until 24. He is the steal of that whole draft, there's no doubt," said Woolf. "I think if you had asked 500 basketball writers before the draft, none would have said Michael would be picked that low."

The agent promised, "He'll make this Boston club. He can shoot like hell."

Young said he would rather be chosen by the world champion Celtics, a team he may not be able to make, than another weaker team.

"I look on it more as a challenge," he said. "I'll come in and do everything to try and keep the great tradition going here."

Young was the Cougars' leading scorer last season, averaging 19.8 points per game. He was a third-team All-American choice by UPI.

A four-year starter for Houston, Young is only the fourth player in the history of the Southwest Conference to score more than 2,000 points, finishing with 2,043.

**Olympic hopeful selected by Spurs**

United Press International

SAN ANTONIO — Former University of Arkansas guard Alvin Robertson hopes he can approach the success two other ex-Razorback backcourt stars have achieved in the National Basketball Association.

Robertson, a 6-3 product of Barberton, Ohio, was chosen in the first round of Tuesday's NBA draft by the San Antonio Spurs. He will join a third ex-Razorback guard, Ron Brewer, on the San Antonio roster.

Robertson spent Tuesday at the Olympic basketball trials at Bloomington, Ind., where he is one of 16 finalists for the 12-man United States roster in the Los Angeles Olympics. He mentioned former Arkansas stars Darrell Walker, an All-Rookie selection in 1984 for the New York Knicks, and all-NBA guard Sidney Moncrief of the Milwaukee Bucks when asked for his reaction to the selection.

**TANK McNAMARA®**



by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds

**Rockets grab Akeem  
to no one's surprise**

United Press International

HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets didn't surprise anyone Tuesday by using their second consecutive top pick in the annual NBA draft to claim Akeem Olajuwon from the University of Houston.

The Rockets won a coin flip for the second year in a row to gain the rights to the NBA's first round selection. In 1983, the Rockets chose the NBA rookie of the year, Ralph Sampson.

Olajuwon accepted a Rockets' jersey with No. 34 on it from Tracy Thomas, daughter of team owner Charlie Thomas.

The 7-foot center, who helped the Houston Cougars to three straight appearances in the NCAA Final Four, said he was very happy to be staying in Houston.

Thomas and General Manager Ray Patterson have said negotiations would begin immediately with Olajuwon, whose agents are rumored to be asking for a four-year contract worth \$1.5 million a year.

Sampson's base salary is about \$800,000 a year.

Coach Bill Fitch said he did not believe there would be any problems signing Olajuwon.

"I'm not worried about signing Akeem. If Akeem didn't want to play here and money was the only question, there might be a problem. I don't think there will be," Fitch said.

But Fitch said there were limits to the Rockets' pocketbook when negotiating with Olajuwon.

"The toughest job for a general manager is signing something that is meaningful for the player and the team," he said.

Fitch said his concerns now were blending the talents of Olajuwon, projected to play center for the Rockets, and Sampson, who will probably move to power forward.

"Now we're talking about something that is my problem," he said at a news conference at The Summit.

"I believe both can be in the lineup at the same time. I don't think either can have the impact in the

NBA individually that they can be playing together," he said.

"If Ralph had had Akeem to play with in his rookie year, I think he would have had an even greater season."

The Rockets did not select anyone in the draft until the second pick in the third round, having traded the second-round pick to New Jersey for forward James Bailey.

Apparently, Houston felt Olajuwon was all the center it would need, taking four forwards and three guards with its remaining picks. The Rockets did not have selections in the second or third rounds.

The Rockets took forwards Peterson, of Minnesota, and Wil Jackson, of Centenary, in the third and fourth rounds, respectively. They then turned to the guards, picking New Hampshire's Al McClain in the fifth round and Long Beach State's Joedy Gardner in the sixth.

**Mavs hope Perkins and  
Stansbury will fill holes**

United Press International

DALLAS — Heading into the NBA draft, the Dallas Mavericks felt they had three big holes to fill. With their first-round picks it appears they went directly to those needs.

Dallas, coming off its best season and an NBA playoff berth, tabbed North Carolina's Sam Perkins as the fourth overall selection in the draft and then made Temple guard Terence Stansbury the No. 15 pick.

"As you may know, we tried very hard to get the No. 5 or No. 6 picks, too," Maverick General Manager Norm Sonju said after announcing that his team had taken Perkins.

"We felt we needed a shooting guard, power forward or center."

You can read that last "or" as an "and." The most obvious weakness Dallas had last year was the lack of a dominant rebounder. Perkins is expected to take up some of that slack but not all.

"We felt very strongly that he was the finest player we could chose," Sonju said. "He can play both forward and center but I think probably he'd be considered a forward with us, although he is better than the centers we have now."

Dallas Coach Dick Motta later

hinted that Perkins, who turned 23 last week and currently is in Bloomington, Ind., working out as the U.S. Olympic team center, would be in the middle for the Mavericks.

"I don't know about being the missing link down there," Perkins said of his selection by Dallas. "But I think I can play either center or forward. I just have to go down there and do whatever Coach Motta tells me."

"There had been a lot of speculation that Dallas would pick me, but I kept an open mind about it," Perkins told the Dallas media via telephone hookup. "I've heard that (Olympic Coach Bobby Knight and Coach Motta are similar in some respects, so I'm looking forward to playing in Dallas."

"He has the wingspan of a kid 7-7 tall," said Motta. "I think he'll start next year. He'll be our best shot blocker, and I'd hate to have to compete against him for a starting job."

Perkins, an All-America each of the past two seasons, averaged 15.9 points a game while at North Carolina. But the Mavericks will need more rebounds than points out of Perkins.

"Obviously, he's a great player,"

said Maverick guard Rolando Blackman. "We need a player who can come in right away and help us."

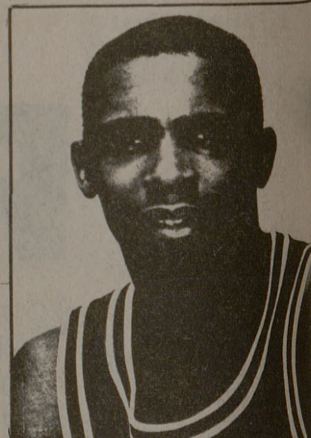
Dallas forward Mark Aguirre said Perkins will be an improvement on the Mavericks won't be a power forward in the front line.

"We'll still hurt in the middle," Aguirre said. "We still won't be a great rebounding team, but this helps."

With the cream of the center crop going even before Dallas' first pick, the Mavericks need the other way when their second first-round choice came up. In Stansbury, they got a career 48 percent field goal shooter who is slated right away as backup for Blackman, the team's shooting guard.

Stansbury's best season at Temple was his junior year when he averaged 24.6 points a game. The 170-pound guard finished his collegiate career with a 15.7 scoring average.

"I feel quite confident that he found a capable reserve for Rolando," Motta said. "Terence is the kind of player we can bring along behind Rolando. We handle him like we did Dennis Harper."



Alvin Robertson

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