

## NBA draft goes as expected

**United Press International**  
NEW YORK — The Houston Rockets drew up blueprints for their skyscraper frontline Tuesday by selecting center Akeem Olajuwon of the University of Houston as the top choice in the NBA draft.

In making the anticipated pick, the Rockets assured themselves one of the league's most promising front courts next season.

Announcement of Olajuwon's selection was made by NBA commissioner David Stern before a crowd of some 3,000 at Madison Square Garden's Felt Forum.

Making the No. 1 choice has become somewhat routine for the Rockets. Last year they chose 7-foot-4 Ralph Sampson, who went on to become Rookie of the Year. Now the twin towers will be teamed, with Sampson shifting to forward and Olajuwon, a 7-foot, 250-pounder from Nigeria, patrolling in the pivot.

"Now I know I'm going to Houston," said Olajuwon, dressed in formal black and a red bowtie. "I am very happy and confident in knowing I'm going to be playing with Ralph."

"I have not talked to Ralph about playing together. I am the luckiest player in the world. I want to play in Houston and I'm going to. Playing in the NBA will give me the opportunity to play my game. In college they play zone — the NBA is wide open."

Olajuwon, one of the nine under-graduates in the draft, powered the Cougars to the Final Four in each of his three years. Last year he was perhaps college basketball's dominant figure, leading the nation in rebounding, field goal percentage and blocked shots.

The first seven picks held to form. Portland chose second and took Sam Bowie of Kentucky, the 7-1 center who missed two seasons with a fractured leg. Chicago, unable to find a quality center, selected All-America swingman Michael Jordan of North Carolina, the Player of the Year. And Dallas, also searching for pivot strength, named Sam Perkins, North Carolina's All-America forward.

Philadelphia, which had three first-round picks, took Charles Barkley, Auburn's beefy forward, with the fifth pick. Washington then named Melvin Turpin before unloading the Kentucky center in a three-way trade with Cleveland and Seattle. San Antonio followed with Alvin Robertson, a cat-quick guard from Arkansas. The Clippers then stirred the waters a bit with the unexpectedly high selection of Louisville guard Lancaster Gordon.

In the rest of the first round, it was: Kansas City — center Otis Thorpe of Providence; Philadelphia — guard Leon Wood of Fullerton State; Atlanta — center Kevin Willis of Michigan State; Cleveland — center-forward Tim McCormick of Michigan, who was subsequently traded; Phoenix — guard Jay Humphries of Colorado; Clippers — forward Michael Cage of San Diego State.

Dallas — guard Terence Stansbury of Temple; Utah — guard John Stockton of Gonzaga; New Jersey — forward Jeff Turner of Vanderbilt; Indiana — guard Vern Fleming of Georgia; Portland — forward Bernard Thompson of Fresno State; Detroit — forward Tony Campbell of Ohio State; Milwaukee — forward Kenny Fields of UCLA; Philadelphia — guard Tom Sewell of Lamar, also sent away in a trade; Los Angeles — center Earl Jones of District of Columbia; and Boston — forward Michael Young of Houston.

Denver, Golden State, Seattle and New York did not select in the first round.

In the three-way deal, the Bullets acquired guard Gus Williams and forward Cliff Robinson. The Cavaliers wound up with Turpin and the SuperSonics obtained guard Ricky Sobers and McCormick. The 76ers sent the rights of Sewell to Washington for a 1988 first-round choice.

"The key to the first round was Lancaster Gordon going to San Diego and Utah, with the 16th pick, taking John Stockton," said NBA scouting director Marty Blake. "That opened things up."



**Akeem Olajuwon (#35), the NBA's and Houston Rockets' No. 1 draft pick, skies above the rim during a game with Texas A&M in the 1983-84 season. Olajuwon will join with Ralph Sampson to give Houston a "skyscraper frontline."**

Blake dismissed the notion that the draft was thin on talent.

"The quality is there," he said. "Teams like Philadelphia, Milwaukee, Boston and Los Angeles wound up better than they were at a quarter after 12 (when the draft began). You have six super players in the early picks. Players who are going to be All-Stars."

The draft was especially important to the 76ers, ordinarily not in such an admirable position in the first round.

With an eye toward the eventual retirement of Julius Erving and Bobby Jones, they acquired in Barkley an agile 275-pounder who can play beside Moses Malone.

## Red hot San Diego blanks Houston 2-0 on Show's 2-hitter

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HOUSTON — Eric Show pitched a two-hitter and Carmelo Martinez drove in the winning run to lead the San Diego Padres to a 2-0 victory Tuesday night over the Houston Astros.

Show walked one and struck out four en route to his first shutout of the year.

The Padres took the lead in the second inning off Astro loser Bob Knepper. Graig Nettles led off with a single and advanced to third on a base hit by Terry Kennedy. Martinez followed with a double to score Nettles.

In the fifth, Show led off with a single, advanced to second on Alan Wiggins' sacrifice, went to third on single and scored on a Steve Garvey sacrifice fly.

Gwynn, who entered the game batting .371 to lead the league, improved his mark to .378 with three hits.

Other games in the National League: Chicago 4, Pittsburgh 3; Atlanta 11, San Francisco 6; Philadelphia 6, New York 4; Montreal 6, St. Louis 3; Cincinnati 10, Los Angeles 4.

Rick Sutcliffe won his first start for Chicago Tuesday night and helped the Cubs snap a four game losing streak with a 4-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Keith Moreland tripled in a run in the first and doubled in another in the third off Pirate loser John Tudor.

Sutcliffe, recently obtained in a trade with the Cleveland Indians, allowed five hits, walked three and struck out nine.

At Atlanta, rookie Brad Komminsk smacked his first career grand slam to pace the Braves. Atlanta reliever Rick Camp, the second of four pitchers, tossed 5 2-3 innings to pick up the victory and improve to 3-0, and Jeff Cornell dropped to 0-2.

At New York, Juan Samuel drove in three runs and left-hander Jerry Koosman, 7-6, allowed only four hits over seven innings leading the Phillies. Ed Lynch, 7-2, took the loss.

At Montreal, Tim Wallach and Jim Wohlford drove in two runs apiece to help the Expos to their fourth straight victory. The Expos jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the 5th inning.

Other American League scores: Milwaukee 6, Toronto 5; Detroit 7, New York 6; Baltimore 9, Boston 7.

At Milwaukee, Jim Sundberg singled home the winning run with two out and the bases loaded in the ninth inning Tuesday night.

With the score tied 5-5, Jim Gantner led off the ninth with a single off Jimmy Key, 2-4, for his third hit of the game and advanced to third on a double by Robin Yount, who also collected three hits.

After Ted Simmons walked to load the bases, Dennis Lamp relieved and Sundberg hit a 3-1 pitch into left field for his game-winning hit.

At Detroit, Rusty Kuntz's two-run single highlighted a four-run eighth inning leading the Tigers. Reliever Aurelio Lopez, 6-0, got the win. Yankee starter Ron Guidry, 5-5, took the loss.

At Boston, Eddie Murray drove in six runs, four on a grand slam, and the Orioles scored eight runs in the last two innings to make a winner of Bill Swaggerty, 2-1. Tippy Martinez notched his ninth save. Bob Stanley, 1-6, took the loss.

At Minneapolis, George Vukovich had three hits, including a home run, to pace the Indians' 14-hit attack.

In later games, Kansas City was at Oakland, Texas was at California, and Chicago was at Seattle.



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