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# NBA draft

## Mavs grab 'poor man's Larry Bird, cure center troubles with 7-footen

DALLAS — The Dallas Mavericks picked Washington's Detlef Schrempf, a "poor man's Larry Bird," and then set out to cure their center ills by taking a pair of 7-footers in the NBA draft Tues-

Dallas used two of its three first-round draft choices for Bill Wennington of St. John's and Uwe Blab of Indiana in a move Coach Dick Motta said should give the team the NBA-caliber center it has crayed

center it has craved.

"If one touches and succeeds and carries his position, we can surround him now with quality players," Motta said. "If one of these two fellows can hit, we're coing to have a very nice team." going to have a very nice team."

Depite the longing for a center, which dates back to the fran-

chise's founding five years ago, Motta said the 6-foot-9 Schrempf

was too good to pass up with the eighth pick of the draft.

"Schrempf is the only player we did not interview, which is typical," Motta said. "We didn't think be'd be there." he'd be there."

One attraction of both Schrempf and Blab, both natives of West Germany, is that they began their basketball careers late and are likely to have more room for improvement than U.S.-bred athletes.



"They're on the upside of their potential," he said. "(Schrempf) has a flair for the game. He's a

Schrempf has been called "the poor man's Larry Bird" because of his versatility, passing and scoring ability. Scouts say he can play either forward or guard in

"I'm very excited," Schrempf said by telephone from New York. "Dallas already has some small forwards and big guards, and I guess I'll just fill in where they have some needs. I just hope I can contribute."

Motta said Schrempf, teamed with Mark Aguirre, Sam Perkins and Rolando Blackman, will give the Mayericks four players of all.

the Mavericks four players of all-

"I really believe that if things work out as they should, we'll have four," Motta said.

The missing piece of the puzzle, then, is at center.
Wennington, who is 7 feet tall and 245 pounds, said he thinks

"I feel that I'm capable of doing that," he said. "It doesn' bother me (going to a city hung for an effective center). I like its lot more than going into a team where I'd have to sit on the bend a long time.

Eco TOW

Competing with Blab will in prove both, he said.

'Dallas doesn't have big m right now and I knew that the wanted to fill that void. I think was good (to draft both). I going to be great. In practi when two big men play again each other, they can only impro and make each other better....
"With Detlef, we're real

going to make our presence felt in the NBA and help Dallas come a long way.

Schrempf averaged 15.8 poin per game his senior year at Washington, with a shooting percenage of .558. In three NCAA platoff games, he averaged 23.7 points per game and 8.7 rebounds, and in Olympic competition with the West Company tion with the West German team he averaged 18.8 points and 816 bounds per game. He was the only Pac-10 player

to rank in the top 10 in four dif ferent categories — scoring, rebounding, assists and field god

## Rockets go for guards with picks, take Tulsa star to fuel backcourt

HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets, looking to beef up their backcourt to complement the "Twin Tower" offense of Ralph Sampson and Akeem Olajuwon, took Tulsa guard Steve Harris as their first choice in Tuesday's NBA college draft.

Harris, à 6-foot-5, 195ounder from Blue Springs, Mo., finished his four years at Tulsa as the school's all-time leading scorer with 2,272 points.

"I'm very happy, very excited about getting the opportunity to play," Harris said. "I didn't have any idea where I would be

Harris was the 19th player selected in the draft, a somewhat uncustomary position for the Rockets, who have had the first choice overall in each of the past two college player drafts.

Two years ago, they picked Sampson out of the University of Virginia, along with Louisville forward Rodney McCray, another early first-round pick. Last year, it was Olajuwon, from the



University of Houston, who NBAGI Rockets General Manager Ray

Patterson said Harris was the man he was after this year. "He's a terrific player, a good shooter," Patterson said.

Harris said he had never been to Houston and never played against any of the Rocket players in their collegiate days. He said, however, that he was familiar with the team.

Harris, who carries the nick-name "Silk" because of his smooth play, also is a strong de-fensive player, winding up his college career as Tulsa's all-time leader in steals with 271.

He had a rough start at Tulsa, breaking his jaw in his first exhibition game as a freshman, then But he still scored 311 points in his first year, a school record for freshmen. He also set a school re cord for points by a sophomore, 574, and broke the all-time school record as a junior.

His 23.6 points per game this past season was second in the Missouri Valley Conference to Witchita State's Xavier McDanid 3800 per hour Ted Friend. 845 Seattle's first-round choice and the fourth player picked overall.

The Rockets, who had no see ond round pick, also announced Tuesday the signing of four-year University of Houston starter Mark that Young, who was the Boston day. No exprising the characteristic form of the characteristic form of the characteristic form. No exprising the characteristic form of the characteristic form Celtics' top draft choice last year.

Patterson said the Rockets and Young had agreed on a two-year pact. Young was cut by the Celiio and played most of last season with the Detroit Spirits of the Southwood off Continental Basketball Associa 68,000. \$4,475.

Young will join former collegiate teammates Olajuwon and Larry Micheaux on the Rockets.

#### Spurs trade Banks for higher pick pull unexpected name from hat

SAN ANTONIO - The San Antonio Spurs on Tuesday drew a name out of the NBA draft hat no one expected — small forward Alfredrick Hughes of Loyola.

The Spurs, who finished 41-41 last season, picked up the 6-5 Hughes at the No. 14 spot in the first round of the NBA draft.

The choice was set up after the Spurs made a last minute Gene Banks trade to Chicago for 6-10 forward Steve Johnson and the

No. 29 choice overall in the draft. The Spurs drew Mike Brittain, a 7-0 center from South Carolina, at No. 29, then selected forward Tyrone Corbin, 6-6, of DePaul at the No. 35 draft position in the

second round. Hughes, the second best scorer in the NCAA his senior year, 'scores in bunches. He's a proven scorer," said Spurs coach Cotton Fitzsimmons

"He could come off the bench and score for you. He plays very physical and does get his share of rebounds," Fitzsimmons said.

Hughes, in a conference call to reporters at Spurs headquarters, said he was "very surprised" the



Spurs picked him.

They're going to need some scoring out of me," he said. "I want to be in a situation where I

can help out on the team."
Hughes, said Spurs General
Manager Bob Bass, "could give us that big time score. He's got a bull-type body like Calvin Natt (Denver Nuggets)."

The Spurs scouted Hughes at the Aloha Classic for first-round draft possibilities.

"We got high on him but we dropped off until we got Steve Johnson," Bass said.

Hughes, who had been playing at guard at Loyola, averaged 24.3 points per game and 8.2 rebounds

He will be playing at small forward if he makes the team, Bass

Johnson, who Bass called an adequate scorer and rebounder,

was on Fitzsimmons' team at Kansas City before he was traded to Chicago last year. The King drafted him at No. 7 in the first round of the 1981 draft.

He averaged 10 points a game and allowers to rehund he had a game.

and almost six rebounds last sea son with the Bulls.

"Our size up front has completely changed," Bass said, add ing that more changes would be made on the team in the future.

Bass praised Banks, who are aged 9.5 points per game and 54 rebounds.

'He was a vital part of our run ning game and probably one of the best offensive rebounders in franchise history," he said. Bass described Brittain as the

best shot blocker at the Aloha

"He's a project. But he's a gu we can come in with and build around," he said.

Bass scotched speculation the Spurs drafted Hughes to set up another trade.

'We have no interest in trading Hughes," he said. "We've taken the approach we're not going 10 let anyone take our players."