Philly trades Malone to Washington

HOUSTON (AP) — Nine-time -star center Moses Malone, traded esday by Philadelphia to its Atlan- Division rivals, the Washington llets, said he is happy to leave the ers because he felt stifled by the aching staff.

The 76ers traded the the 6-foot- Malone, 31, and 6-6 forward rry Catledge to Washington for 6- center Jeff Ruland and 6-9 for- rd Cliff Robinson in a deal that s announced hours before the rt of the NBA draft.

"The coaches have been holding e back from playing my game," alone, a three-time Most Valuable ayer, said in Houston, his home. "I ow I could play better than I ayed last year."

"I'm going to love it. It's a great ove. Washington's a great team."

Malone averaged 23.8 points and .8 rebounds last season. An in- red eye socket suffered near the d of the regular season is still heal- g, according to Malone, who ssed the last seven games of the gular season and the playoffs in ich the 76ers were eliminated in e Eastern Conference semifinals the Milwaukee Bucks.

"I think the situation will be much tter in Washington than in Phila- lphia," Malone said, adding that was looking forward to playing th 7-7 Manute Bol in Washington cause "I'll have another center tal- than me."

Malone, who signed a six-year, 3 million contract with 76ers four ars ago, said he had not wanted to y in Philadelphia too long and an- ipated being traded. Philadelphia ficials had expected to have a diffi- lt time reaching a new contract reement with Malone and he said thought finances played a part in e 76ers decision.

"I think they (Philadelphia) made move on the basis of financial oblems," he said.

"I have mixed emotions," Phila- lphia owner Harold Katz said of ading Malone. "He has done a tre- endous job for us. It was a hard de- ion to make. But to get these two uality players we had to do it."

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Mavericks

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have to get bigger," Sund said. "Tarpley is a good shot blocker, an excellent rebounder and a good banger. I think he will help us get better.

"I'm saying we do not have a deal."

The Mavs did make a trade but it involved guard Mark Price of Georgia Tech who was picked at the start of the second round. Price was traded to Cleveland for a second-round pick next year and future considerations.

Dallas took Louisville point guard Milt Wagner also in the second round.

"We feel Milt will make an excellent shooting guard," Sund said.

Tarpley, a bit bewildered by all the trade rumors, said he would be happy to play for the Mavs.

"I've got to improve my upper body strength and I'm going to go to work on it," Tarpley said. "I don't know anything about all the trade talk. I just want to play in the NBA."

Dallas Coach Dick Motta said he was impressed with Tarpley.

"People who are successful in the Big Ten traditionally make the same strides in the NBA," Motta said. "I like him. He has a big body. I hope he causes me a big headache about how many minutes he plays."

Rockets

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in Buck Johnson," Fitch said. "Buck Johnson, I think is a very impressive player. He plays with a great deal of intensity. We've happpy to have him."

Johnson said he believes he can add some depth in the forward position and perhaps do some duty at guard.

"I'm willing to do whatever the management wants me to do — to wait or play right away," Johnson said.

Johnson was a three-time All-Southeastern Conference seletion. Behind his leadership Alabama reached the SEC tournament finals three times, made four straight trips to the NCAA tournament and was 85-43.

Feitl averaged 11.5 points per game and averaged 5.8 rebounds. He was named first team all-Western Athletic Conference in his senior year after leading the Miners in scoring and rebounding. He also had 40 blocks this season.

In his four years with the Miners, the team won four WAC titles.

Feitl could add to the team's towering floor strategy, Fitch said. But Fitch also said Feitl could serve as leverage in a possible trade.

Spurs

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The Spurs, who drafted at No. 10 in the first round after a 35-47 season, picked Eastern Illinois center Kevin Duckworth, 6-11, in the second round. Weiss described Duckworth as "a project" whose weight goes "up and down."

Duckworth topped out at 330 pounds his freshman year, but weighs about 290 now.

"It's a project pick, but we're very excited about it," he said.

The Spurs' veteran 7-2 center, Artis Gilmore, will be 37 by the time the season starts. Although he currently is a free agent, the Spurs have indicated they intend to re-sign him.

Weiss said Dawkins was selected from a group of finalists including John Williams, a 6-9 forward from Louisiana State University, and Dell Curry, a 6-5 guard from Virginia Tech.

Alvin Robertson at 6-4 is the team's big guard and is not a high scorer, Weiss said.

"Dawkins is a smaller guard and can handle the ball and score for us," he said.

NBA Draft

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portedly was being recruited by uisiana State Coach Dale Brown.

Portland owner Larry Weinberg d the Blazers "talked about doing last year, but Atlanta got him. He sn't a surprise to anyone who ows basketball."

But, Weinberg, said, the Blazers n't know if there's any hope of ac- ally seeing Sabonis in a Portland uniform. "If it (getting him out of the USSR) were a lock, he would have been first in the draft," Weinberg said.

Joining Cleveland and Portland with two first-round picks were Washington and Denver.

The Bullets took 6-9 forward John Williams of LSU, the youngest player in the draft at 19, with the 12th pick and guard Anthony Jones of Nevada-Las Vegas No. 21.

Washington had acquired the 21st pick in the trade that saw Malone and Catledge go to the Bullets.

Denver, picking 16th and 18th, tried to bolster its backcourt and front line by taking guard Maurice Martin of St. Joseph's and forward Mark Alarie of Duke.

Other first-rounders included No. 9 Brad Sellers of Ohio State by Chicago, No. 10 Johnny Dawkins of Duke by San Antonio, No. 11 John Salley of Georgia Tech by Detroit, No. 13 Dwayne Washington by New Jersey, No. 15 Dell Curry of Virginia Tech by Utah, No. 17 Harold Pressley of Villanova by Sacramento, No. 19 Thompson by Atlanta, Buck Johnson of Alabama 20th by Houston, No. 22 Scott Skiles of Michigan State by Milwaukee and Barlow of Notre Dame 23rd by the Lakers.

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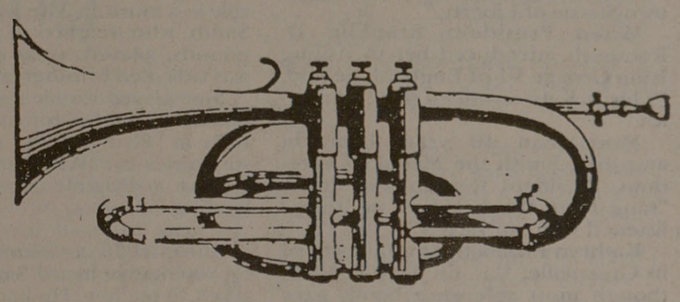

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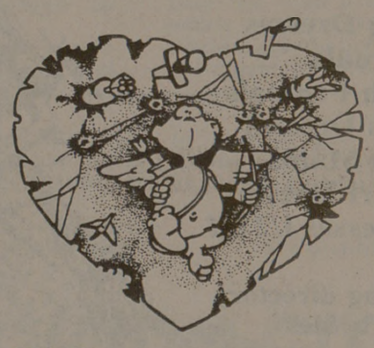

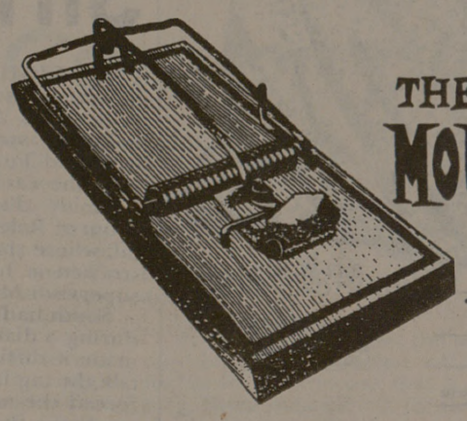

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