

Sports

'87 NBA draft doesn't make the grade

By Ed Bodde
Assistant Sports Editor

The 1987 NBA draft definitely won't go down as the deepest or strongest of recent years. Only Navy center David Robinson could be labeled as a "can't miss" prospect, and fans won't see him on the hardwood for at least two years.

Therefore, it should come as no surprise that of the three pro basketball franchises in Texas, the San Antonio Spurs are the clear winner in the draft. They're probably the only winner.

The Houston Rockets didn't even own a No. 1 pick, while the Mavericks, needing a center, chose guards in the first two rounds.

Here's a report card of each team's draft:

San Antonio — The Spurs, in desperate need of a center, couldn't resist taking the highly-touted Robinson. The best center prospect since

Analysis

Patrick Ewing must serve two years in the Navy before he's eligible to play. If the Spurs can't sign the seven-footer, they will undoubtedly be asking a high price for his rights — something like two established players and a top draft choice would be about right. Somehow, I think the Spurs would rather have Robinson to themselves.

The trade of veteran Artis Gilmore may open the way for second-round pick Greg Anderson of Houston. The 6'11" Anderson may see a lot of playing time if the Spurs don't trade for another center. And although he's got some potential, most experts agree Anderson is probably a few years away from making any solid contributions.

The Spurs, already owning a talented backcourt, may have found a sleeper in Temple guard Nate Blackwell. GRADE — A-

Houston — The Rockets, who seem destined to go throughout the rest of recorded time without a point guard, used their second-round pick

on Purdue's Doug Lee. Doug Who? Lee, a former Aggie, could fill the Rockets' need at the off-guard position if he can consistently bury his jump shot. Still, one has to wonder how the Rockets decided on the obscure Lee, when Oklahoma's Tim McCalister and Alabama's Terry Coner were available.

McCalister averaged 20 points per game for the Sooners while Coner led the Southeastern Conference in assists for three consecutive years. Lee averaged just 10 points each game at Purdue. The remaining choices are less known than Lee, and all of them will be hard-pressed to make the team.

It seems the only way the Rockets will come up with a quality point guard in the foreseeable future is some kind of deal involving Ralph Sampson. Unfortunately for the Rockets, Sampson's value may have slipped over the last two years. And the idea of a top-flight point guard dishing off assists to Akeem Olatunwo may just make some teams

think twice. GRADE — D.

Dallas — The Mavericks' loss to the Seattle SuperSonics in the first round of the playoffs exposed two weaknesses — a lack of speed, and the lack of a credible big man who can score. So what does Dallas do? The organization picked two incredibly slow guards, Jim Farmer of Alabama and Steve Alford from Indiana. Both are dead-eye shooters, but the Mavericks already have Mark Aguirre, Derek Harper and Brad Davis. Could it be the Mavericks are ready to part with the talented, but volatile Aguirre? If so, the Mavericks will probably look to get an inside scorer.

Both Farmer and Alford should make the team backing up Harper and Davis. Either one could eventually push Davis for the starting spot. The key for both players will be their ability to handle quicker and faster guards one-on-one. Alford will also have to prove he can get off his shot without the use of a screen. GRADE — C.

Wimbledon rains dampen action

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Defending champion Martina Navratilova beat the rain and Japan's Etsuko Inoue to become the first player to reach the third round and the only player to finish a match Thursday at Wimbledon.

With a backlog of almost two days' worth of singles matches, 44 players had yet to complete the first round. Even Navratilova, who has spent less than 1½ hours of playing time in the tournament, said the weather was affecting her style.

"I don't think I rushed to get the match over with, but I did rush in between the points," she said after eliminating Inoue 6-1, 6-2.

The two actually played 41 minutes, but there was a 3½-hour delay after the fifth game of the first set as rain continued to disrupt the grass-court championships.

Only one other match was started under the cloudy skies. On Centre Court, Italy's Paolo Cane led second-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, the world's top-ranked player, 6-3, 5-5.

Alan Mills, the tournament referee, said that if the inclement weather continues, there was the possibility some events could be "changed or canceled. But he emphasized that the tournament, which saw all of Monday's play rained out and a curtailed schedule on Tuesday, is "not that desperate... at this point in time."

"I am so lucky to have been able to finish my match," said Navratilova, who is seeking a record-equaling eighth Wimbledon singles crown

and her first title of 1987, the worst thing is to be stopped in the middle."

She took nine minutes more than she needed to complete her first-round opponent West Germany's Claudia Pichler Wednesday. But Inoue proved to be a more problematic opponent than the German teenager.

"At the beginning I was serving hard first and second serves," Navratilova said. "I started serving some double faults which I figured she would be able to break her after she let a little off the serve."

When the two returned to Centre Court following the rain delay, Navratilova began right where she left off, breaking Inoue's serve to go up 5-1. She then held it close out the first set after 41 minutes of play.

Two more service breaks in the first and third games, gave Navratilova a 3-0 lead in the second set, which she built to 4-0 by breaking love, including her third ace in a match.

Then Inoue finally broke Navratilova's serve. But it was too late as Navratilova served out the match.

In the Lendl-Cane match, Lendl, ranked 40th in the world, in the fourth game to take a 1-0 lead in the first set, and he clinched the 29-minute set by crushing a lob. The two were on serve in the second set, Cane saving two points at 4-5, when rain halted

Adams threatens to move Oilers unless Astrodome gets improved

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Oilers owner Bud Adams is serious about moving his NFL team if improvements aren't made on the Astrodome, a judge and Astrodome officials said Thursday.

Adams, who has owned the team since 1960, confirmed he will inspect facilities at Jacksonville, Fla., including the seldom-used 81,000-seat Gator Bowl, this weekend.

The Oilers have played home games in the 50,000-seat Astrodome since 1968, but in recent years Adams has campaigned for more seating capacity and new artificial surface.

Harris County Judge John Lindsay said officials hope to ask voters to decide in November if \$40 million can be spent on adding 10,000 to 15,000 seats and another \$6 million to concrete the Dome floor and replace the artificial turf.

"If we don't put the seats in, I think they are going to be gone at some point in time," Lindsay said.

The Astrodome is owned by Harris County and operated by the Houston Sports Association. HSA President Robert Harter said he agrees with Adams' contention that improvements are needed.

"They (Oilers) are in a disadvantageous situation in that they are playing in the smallest stadium in the NFL," Harter said. "I think the Oilers are serious."

"There are other cities with op-

portunities for them to take a look at, Jacksonville being one, and I personally don't blame them for seeing what their options are," he said.

The original Astro Turf was replaced in 1978 and has worn thin in recent seasons.

"Some say it's too soft and some say it's too hard, but everybody agrees it's the worst in the NFL and

"It's no secret that the city of Jacksonville has been pursuing an NFL franchise for some time. They made a very impressive presentation at the owner's meeting in Maui this spring."

— Bud Adams

really needs to be replaced," Harter said.

The Oilers will be the fourth National Football League team to visit Jacksonville this year. City officials have been actively seeking an NFL team, the *Florida Times-Union* reported.

Officials from St. Louis, Buffalo and Atlanta have visited recently. Falcon officials were the only ones to make a formal visit.

Confirming a report in the *Times-*

Union, Adams said he would pay a courtesy visit to the city because he would be in the state on other business.

"It's no secret that the city of Jacksonville has been pursuing an NFL franchise for some time," Adams said. "They made a very impressive presentation at the owner's meeting in Maui this spring."

"Many of the NFL owners have had a standing invitation to visit Jacksonville for quite awhile. I have politely declined their past invitations because my travels have not taken me to the Florida area."

Adams said he would be in Florida this weekend as chairman of the board of the National Sigma Chi Fraternity Foundation and planned to visit with city officials at that time.

"Since I will be in the area, (General Manager) Ladd Herzog and I will stop in Jacksonville to see their stadium and generally just give them the courtesy of saying what they have to say," Adams said.

The Oilers are in their last year of their lease agreement with the Astrodome, operated by the HSA, which also operates the Houston Astros.

Under their current agreement, the Oilers pay 11.2 percent of their gross ticket sales for each game as rent.

They receive no revenue from 55 private suites at the stadium and no parking or concession revenue.

Padres get 4-1 victory over Astros

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A bloop single by Carmelo Martinez that Houston second baseman Bill Doran lost in the sun led to two runs in a four-run sixth inning Thursday as San Diego beat the Astros 4-1.

Martinez's popup would have been the third out in the inning and would have sent the game into the seventh with the score 1-1.

All four runs were scored after Houston starter Mike Scott, 9-4, retired the first two batters.

San Diego left-hander Dave Dravecky, 3-6, who pitched 6½ innings, allowed one run on four hits. Dravecky was relieved with runners on first and second in the seventh by Lance McCullers, who pitched the final 2½ innings for his ninth save.

Dravecky allowed only a fourth-inning, two-out homer by rookie Chuck Jackson, the first of his major-league career, which glanced off the right-field foul pole.

Scott carried that lead and a two-hitter into the sixth when he walked Stanley Jefferson with two out. Jefferson stole second and scored on a single to center by Tim Flannery.

Tony Gwynn reached first on an infield single that bounced high off home plate, putting runners on first and second, setting the stage for Martinez's game-winning hit.

Martinez hit what appeared to be a routine pop fly just beyond second base, but Doran lost the ball in the sun as Flannery scored. Gwynn continued around and was safe when catcher Ronn Reynolds juggled the throw from rightfielder Kevin Bass.

Scott walked John Kruk intentionally and then Kevin Mitchell singled to left, scoring pinch-runner Shane Mack with the final run.

The victory was just the Padres' fifth in 14 decisions against Scott in his career. He was 4-1 against San Diego in 1986.

The Padres, who have the worst record in the major leagues at 24-49, have won nine of 12 games.

Gooden glad about results of spring training drug test

NEW YORK (AP) — Dwight Gooden, speaking publicly about his use of cocaine for the first time, said he was grateful when he tested positively for drugs during spring training.

"In a way, I'm glad I got caught," the New York Met pitcher said. "I might have ended up like Len Bias."

Bias, the Maryland basketball All American, died a year ago after using cocaine at a party to celebrate his selection by the Boston Celtics in the NBA draft.

In interviews with the *New York Post* and *New York Newsday*, which appeared Thursday, Gooden said he began using cocaine in 1984 but that he had never used it during the baseball season.

"I was never hooked," he said. "I was never a junkie. I always used it in the off-season... never during the season." He admitted, however, that his use of the drug had increased from once a month to once a week last winter.

"I know some people think I was a junkie, but I never had a problem with it. I did coke the way someone might have a drink with dinner. Go to a party or a club and it'd be there. But once it was gone, I never craved more. I let it go."

Gooden was National League rookie of the year in 1984 when he won 17 games, and won the Cy Young award when he went 24-4 in 1985. His production fell to 17-6 last year as the Mets won the world championship.

During last season, rumors of drug use reached the club from Commissioner Peter Ueberroth's office and Mets Manager Davey Johnson confronted the pitcher with them. Gooden denied the allegations and agreed to testing this year after

signing a \$1.5 million contract.

Gooden said he was concerned about submitting to the test because he thought the cocaine system would not show up until he had used cocaine two days before being arrested by Tampa police traffic dispute last December drug tests at that time were negative.

"I thought I'd be OK in training, too," he said. "I thought I would get caught."

Gooden said he used cocaine days before the Mets tested him. He was shocked when the came back positive. As a result, Gooden was ordered to a drug rehabilitation program. He spent 28 days in a New York and alcohol treatment center.

"The hardest part was telling my parents. I went home that night, 'Pull up a chair, I have bad news.' My mom was good to me. She said, 'Maybe this is the best.' But my dad... he couldn't believe it."

"Why did I do it? Because I was stupid. My friends said, 'Here and I didn't have the strength to go on.'"

Of his stay at the Smithers treatment clinic, he said he was going in. "I knew I didn't belong there," he said. "It was a good program but the only thing I got out of it was learning about myself in a scary place. There were guys on heroin, crack, PCP, amphetamines, alcohol... just about anything you could think of."

"I learned a lot in that clinic. I cried a lot there. I cried a lot when I went to bed at night."

After leaving Smithers, Gooden spent another month at the Mets' Tidewater farm club and rejoined the Mets earlier this

Lewis, A&M's Heard easily qualify for 200 at USA-Mobil outdoor track and field meet

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Carl Lewis began his quest for a "triple" in the USA-Mobil Outdoor Track and Field Championships by breezing to victory in a heat of the men's 200-meter dash and qualifying for the long jump final Thursday.

Lewis, who won it in 1983, is trying to win the event again this year.

The sprinters expected to give Lewis his toughest competition in the 200, Kirk Baptiste, the Olympic silver medalist, and Floyd Heard, the NCAA champion from Texas A&M, finished 1-2, respectively, in their heat. Each was clocked in 20.18.

Heats in the 100 were to be held later Thursday. The semifinals and final of the 200 will be contested Friday, as will the long jump final. The semifinals and final of the 100 are

scheduled for Saturday.

Four years ago, after completing the triple, Lewis won gold medals in the 100, long jump and 400-meter relay in the inaugural World Championships at Helsinki, Finland. This year, provided he makes the U.S. team in all three events in which he is entered in this meet, he plans to compete in four events — including the relay — in the World Championships at Rome.

That would be similar to the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, in which he won four gold medals.

In the long jump trials, Lewis, unbeaten in 49 meets since 1981, took only one jump, leaping 26 feet, 11½ inches, an automatic qualifier for the final.

In the 200 heat, Lewis stayed with the field until about 70 meters remained, then burst in front and raced easily to the finish line, clocking 20.22 seconds.

Calvin Smith, the world record-holder in the 100 and the 1983 world champion in the 200, finished second to Lewis in 20.33, one-hundredth of a second ahead of 1976 Olympian Dwayne Evans.

In the women's 200 heats, Florence Griffith, the 1984 Olympic silver medalist, recorded the fastest time, 22.35.

Evelyn Ashford, the Olympic gold medalist, took her heat in 22.55, and Gwen Torrence, the NCAA champion from Georgia, captured the other heat in 22.79.

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