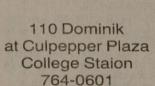


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### Mavs' guard impresses father with composure

will not make anyone's all-rookie team. He will finish this NBA season with a field goal percentage that belies his celebrated touch.

But none of that matters much to Sam Alford. He drove from New Castle, Ind., to watch a recent Dallas Mavericks' homestand and saw his son replace the injured Brad Davis as the team's backup point guard. In two games, in which Steve aver-

aged eight points and 26 minutes, the elder Alford said he was struck by how far his son had come since filling in for Davis the first six games

'That was the big thing," Sam Alford said in a telephone interview after his return to Indiana. "The first of the year, he looked very appre-hensive — a scared kid. He re-minded me of his freshman year in high school, when I brought him up to varsity. But when he played this weekend, he looked like he belonged on the floor."

It is not certain how much longer the former Indiana University star will see extended action, now that Davis' bruised thigh has improved.

The NBA expansion draft is coming in June, and the Mavericks can protect only eight of their 12 players. Dallas can lose only one player, to either Miami or Charlotte. Although there has been speculation that Dallas will keep him and leave former Indiana teammate Uwe Blab unprotected, Alford said he expects to be available to the new teams

While Miami is likely to be more interested in 7-footer Bill Wennington or Davis, Alford is coveted by the Charlotte front office.

Owner George Shinn said re-cently he "would love to have Steve Alford," adding that "we need to build our franchise with quality peo-

Alford said, "I would imagine I'm not going to be protected. Where I'd be is hard to say. My wife (Tanya) and I love Dallas. I obviously don't have any control over things. If I go to an expansion team, I'd play a lot

"But you're going to lose a lot, and I'm not used to that. I'm used to being on a winning team. If I stayed here, I know that when I'm given a chance, I can accomplish things."

In one of the recent games where he played while Davis was hurt, Al-

ford played a season-high 30 min-utes against Utah. He was 1-for-4 from the field, but had four steals, three assists and made all four of his free throws. After the game, in which Blab started for James Donaldson, Alford cracked, "It was just like old times — Uwe and I playing 30 minutes and winning big."

In the next night's rout of Deliver,
Alford scored a season-high 10 "We were always of the
points in 22 minutes. He made four that Steve could play base
any level," Sam Alford so
any level," Sam alford so
have an individ ing his field goal percentage to 37.3

Alford was in the lineup during the understanding of the the Mavericks' 51-16 second-half run. He had a couple of major the understanding of the he does, and who should he can, there's a place your

pass the length of the count Harper for a 3-point play.

It is worth noting that Alford working against the likes of U John Stockton and Denver's Me

Adams, two of the NBA's class guards this season.

This year has been an education of Alford. Not only has he was the team's backcourt stars, but had to work against them regu

in practice.
"Those two guys (Harperand vis) have really done a lot for They worked me, and I'veg of confidence now. I real know what to expect at the

"I was going into the gamen make mistakes, just trying to a Now, after a year, I know l'am It's no big deal. I knew l'out

Alford is signed to a two guaranteed contract worth a to around \$250,000. His father, w also his agent, said the two gan watched Steve play did not sud prove that Steve could play NBA.

time you-have an indiworks as hard as he does, we the understanding of the gar he does, and who shoots the

#### Hassey's three-run homer in 8th leads Oakland to win over Angels

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) - Ron Hassey's three-run homer in the eighth inning gave the Oakland Athletics a 9-8 victory over the California Angels Wednesday.

Hassey's homer came off reliever Donnie Moore, who came out of the bullpen with two men on after the A's scored an unearned run off Stu Cliburn.

Moore struck out Dave Parker and Mark McGwire before facing Hassey, who hit his first homer of

Johnny Ray's bases-loaded single highlighted a five-run, sixth-inning rally that gave the Angels an 8-5

MARINERS 5, WHITE SOX 4

SEATTLE - Henry Cotto's tworun homer keyed a four-run sixth inning as the Seattle Mariners rallied for a 5-4 victory over the Chicago White Sox Wednesday.

Rey Quinones singled off short-

stop Ozzie Guillen's glove and raga singled and Jeff Red in scored on Cotto's first homer of the walk. season, off Chicago starter Rick Horton, 2-

Glenn Wilson then singled and scored on a triple by Mickey Brantley, who came home on Brick Smith's single to give the Mariners a

EXPOS 5, CUBS 1

CHICAGO — Light-hitting Tom Foley singled in the tie-breaking run in the eighth inning and Hubie Brooks hit a three-run homer in the ninth as the Montreal Expos scored a 5-1 victory over the Chicago Cubs.

Andres Galarraga increased his hitting streak to 10 games with three singles and a sixth-inning homer

came in a game delayed for 93 minutes at the start because of rain. With one out in the eighth, Galar-

fifth inning and Jose Lind two-run single in the sixtl Pittsburgh Pirates defeated Louis Cardinals 8-1 V that tied the game 1-1.

The Cubs' fourth loss in a row

their best since they opened 1962, won for the eighth in their last nine games.

Foley, batting .167, single Cubs starter Rick Sutcliffe,

Luis Rivera singled and Raines walked in the ninth to Brooks homered off Cubs rd

Les Lancaster.

Jeff Parrett, 1-0, went sent

nings before giving way to Burke, who pitched two inning his second save.

PIRATES 8, CARDS1

PITTSBURGH - Darne a tie-breaking two-run do

score Galarraga.

