

Tuesday, June 6, 1989

McDonald first pick in baseball draft

Texas A&M's Knoblauch, UT's Bryant taken in the first round

NEW YORK (AP) — Ben McDonald began the season by pitching 44 2/3 consecutive scoreless innings. So it was natural he was taken as the top pick in Monday's baseball draft by the Baltimore Orioles.

"It's a big relief," the Louisiana State righthander said after being selected by the O's. "It's been tough on my family and me. It affected the players, the coaches and everybody close to the team."

Baltimore, the first first-place team ever to have the initial pick in the draft, had made its intentions known well in advance.

"I feel good about going to Baltimore," the 6-foot-7 McDonald said. "Everything I know about Baltimore is very positive — a lot of young players, a good pitching staff."

McDonald is 14-3 this season with 194 strikeouts in 148 1/3 innings and a 2.91 ERA.

"The whole organization made this selection," Orioles scouting director John Barr said. "We had the participation of all 28 scouts. Having the first pick was easier because you know you're going to get who you want."

McDonald was one of eight pitchers taken on the first round. Surprisingly, 14 of the players chosen were from colleges.

It was thought that high school

players would fill most of the first round.

Three players were selected from Fresno State.

Outfielder Steve Hoesy went to San Francisco on the 14th pick, shortstop Eddie Zosky was taken by Toronto on the 19th pick and outfielder Tom Goodwin was selected by Los Angeles on the 22nd pick.

Goodwin hit .369 with 61 stolen bases in 63 games and finished his career with 164 steals, fourth on the NCAA's career list.

The Dodgers also picked 15th and took Kiki Jones, a right-hander from Hillsborough High in Tampa, Fla. That's the alma mater of major league pitchers Dwight Gooden and Floyd Youmans.

"If I work hard, get in there and do what I'm supposed to do, I can get there in less than a year," said Jones, who has the same agent as Gooden. "I don't feel any pressure. I want to make a name of my own."

Only the first round is made public, preventing colleges from using the draft lists to recruit high school players.

The entire list will be released in about two weeks, after teams have had a chance to sign their players.

Boise, an independent club in the Northwest League, sent some major-league teams scrambling when it decided to enter the draft. Although independent teams are allowed to

draft, none has done so since Bend took one player in 1970. Boise began selecting in the fourth round, as prescribed by the rules.

"If we sign one player, it's great," Hawks manager Mal Fichman said. "If we sign two, it's wonderful."

Fichman said Boise was just trying to improve from last season, when it went 30-46 and finished third in the league's North Division.

Atlanta used the second pick to take Tyler Houston, a left-handed hitting catcher from Valley High in Las Vegas.

Houston batted .466 in 36 games with 13 homers, 66 RBI in and 50 runs scored.

"We have been high on him since he was a sophomore," Braves general manager Bobby Cox said. "It shouldn't take him long to go to the top of his class in his profession."

Seattle then chose Roger Salkeld, a right-hander from Saugus (Calif.) High. He was 13-1 this season with an 0.51 ERA and 174 strikeouts in 109 1/3 innings. He struck out 404 in 264 innings during his high school career.

Outfielder Jeff Jackson of Simeon High in Chicago went to Philadelphia on the fourth pick. He hit .504 in 35 games this year with 16 homers, 72 RBI and 52 stolen bases.

Texas then took Texas Tech outfielder Donald Harris, who batted

.322 with 10 homers and 44 RBI. St. Louis went next and drafted outfielder Paul Coleman of Frankston (Texas) High. He hit .517 in 24 games with eight homers, 34 RBI and 25 steals.

"We've been looking for a power hitter and we think Coleman is the type," Cardinals scouting director Fred McAlister said. "He's built along the lines of a Bo Jackson."

The Chicago White Sox used the seventh pick for Auburn first baseman Frank Thomas and the Cubs went next and selected outfielder Earl Cunningham of Lancaster (S.C.) High.

California then made it two Abbots in a row, selecting Kyle Abbott, a left-hander from Long Beach State, the only left-handed pitcher in the first round. The Angels took Jim Abbott with the ninth pick last year.

"I tell everybody on the team he's my cousin," Kyle Abbott said with a smile. "Actually, we're not related." Montreal selected catcher Charles Johnson of Westwood High in Fort Pierce, Fla., to complete the first 10.

Scott Bryant, the Texas outfielder with 18 homers, 109 RBI and a .390 average in 69 games, went to Cincinnati on the 20th pick. Chuck Knoblauch, the Texas A&M shortstop, was picked 25th by Minnesota. He hit .364 this season, driving in 64 runs in 63 games.

Lady Aggie softball lands seven recruits

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Texas A&M softball coach Bob Brock has an array of new talent to add to the team roster as the signing of seven recruits for the 1990 season was recently announced.

Brock, who has built the team into a national power in softball said he was excited about this year's signees.

"We set out to recruit seven of the finest players around, and that is exactly what we got," Brock said. "We've added two fine pitchers two solid catchers, two excellent infielders, and an outstanding outfielder."

Brock said that a combination of factors has made this year's recruiting class appealing.

"When you look at their individual statistics, accomplishments, and academic records, it's easy to see why we're excited about this bunch," Brock said. "They definitely are bona fide blue chippers. I'm counting on all of them to help us immediately."

Players recruited include Sharla Cannon, a pitcher who also plays

second base and catcher, from Arlington, Texas; Angie Hughes, pitcher, from Alvin, Texas; Karen Kalhoefer, a shortstop from Kingwood, Texas; Shannon Munger, catcher from Santa Maria, Calif.; Christine Wilfong, third base, from Roseville, Calif.; Dawn Wuthrich, outfielder, from Texas City, Texas; and Missi Young, pitcher from Santa Fe, Texas.

Each of the seven players has extensive experience in summer league softball.

Munger was starting catcher on the California Raiders' national championship teams in the Amateur Softball Association division for players 18 and under.

Hughes, Wuthrich, and Young play for the Alvin Challengers, who finished ninth in last year's ASA national tournament.

Wilfong plays for the Sacramento Blue Darters, Cannon plays for the Fort Worth Shadows and Kalhoefer plays for the Pasadena Illusions.

The Lady Aggies will be making another run at the national championship, which they won under Brock's direction in 1987, and each of the seven recruits is expected to make an immediate impact on the team.

Cannon helped the Shadows to a Texas Amateur Athletic Federation state championship in 1988, hitting a pair of homeruns in the title game to earn Most Valuable Player honors for the tournament. She was a four time all-state selection, with a .431 batting average, 55 RBI and 10 homers last season. As pitcher, her record was 10-1 with an ERA of 0.47.

Hughes played on two district championship teams at Alvin High School, earning all-district honors both years. In addition to playing with the Challengers, she played on the Alvin Streaks and has a .350 batting average.

Kalhoefer lettered in softball each of her four years as a student at

Kingwood High School. She was an all-district selection.

Munger was honored as "Best Defensive Player" on last year's Rightetti High School team by posting a .998 fielding percentage. She is a .325 hitter, and was selected a second team all-league player.

Wilfong was an all-league player who was batting .452 for St. Francis High School.

Earlier this season, she was selected as Most Valuable Player at the Brett Harte Invitational and was also named to the all-tournament Sacramento Easter Tournament team. She batted .462 as a junior, with 16 doubles, 11 triples, and six homeruns.

Wuthrich lettered in softball, batting .389 for Texas City, which has compiled a 78-4 record during her high school career.

Young was 17-1 last season with the Alvin Challengers, with 14 shutouts, six no-hitters and an ERA below 0.50.

Cowboy veterans uneasy as Johnson touts rookies in three-week minicamp

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys' three-week minicamp has left some veterans feeling a bit queasy.

Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson continues to rave about his rookies and free agents and on the last day of the camp, Friday, Johnson unloaded another veteran player.

Reserve middle linebacker Steve DeOssie was traded to the Giants for a middle-round draft pick.

Last month, Johnson waived free safety Michael Downs, a starter for the past eight seasons.

Johnson's main objective in bringing the squad in for an extensive three-week sneak preview of training camp was to evaluate his roster.

Johnson knew he had inherited a 3-13 team from fired coach Tom Landry, but wasn't sure if the talent was as bad as last season's record — the poorest in the NFL.

He found:

- Not enough team speed, especially among the defensive front seven and the wide receivers.
- Concerns at outside linebacker, where the Cowboys lack experience and speed.
- A secondary that is better — and faster — than he expected.
- An encouraging rookie class that could produce three or four starters. Topping that list are quarterback Troy Aikman, fullback Darryl Johnston and defensive tackle Rhondy Weston.
- Players are working hard to improve their physical conditioning.

Johnson also has cut two veteran guards; persuaded aging tackle Randy White to retire and is trying to trade two unhappy veterans, quarterback Steve Pelluer and defensive tackle Kevin Brooks.

"I think experience is so important that I'm looking to have a housecleaning," Johnson said. "I'm not going to upgrade or downgrade any player until we've had full-speed action with the pads on."

Aguirre hoping role reversal will result in championship

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — For the first time in his NBA career, Mark Aguirre is not a dominant scorer. For the first time, he may be a champion.

On Feb. 15, the Dallas Mavericks sent their all-time leading scorer to Detroit for Adrian Dantley, now the 15th top scorer in league history, and a 1991 draft choice.

While Aguirre's numbers are down since the deal, his spirits are up. He'll play in his first NBA Finals starting Tuesday night when the Pistons face the two-time defending champion Los Angeles Lakers.

"The key thing is just playing in the finals," Aguirre said after Monday's practice.

In his previous seven pro seasons, he was a regular visitor to championship series. But he was up in the stands watching others — like his close friends Magic Johnson of Los Angeles and Isiah Thomas of Detroit — battle for the title on the court.

"It wasn't really frustrating," Aguirre said. "It was the fact that you'd beat your head on the wall and say, 'What does our team need to get there?'"

"You figure some day it will be our turn."

His turn came when the Mavericks decided that, despite the 13,930 points he had scored for them, they didn't need him to get to the finals and swapped him for another small forward.

It was a risky trade for Detroit

Dantley had played well in last year's championship series. After Dantley had 25 points and seven rebounds in a fifth game victory that gave the Pistons a 3-2 lead in the best-of-7 series, Detroit coach Chuck Daly said, "Adrian Dantley has been on a roll like I've never seen in his two years here."

Then the Pistons peddled part of the winning combination for a player known for selfishness and scoring and not much else. His reputation changed in Detroit.

He hasn't made waves or his usual number of points. The Pistons are a rich blend of outstanding offensive and defensive ingredients and don't rely on only one or two players.

"Playing in a chemistry situation is more important than scoring points," Aguirre said. "It's kind of crazy to say that I alone can make the Pistons win a world championship."

"The way (Daly) uses me fits into our attack well."

He averaged 24.6 points per game in his career with Dallas. In his 36 regular-season games with Detroit, his average was 15.5. It's only 14.2 in the playoffs after Aguirre averaged 13.7 points in the Eastern Conference finals against Chicago.

In earlier series, the Pistons didn't need as many points. Defense was the key and that's not Aguirre's strength. But the Lakers were the NBA's fifth-highest scoring team and Detroit may need more points from Aguirre.

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