



Phone home, Elliot; rookie ends holdout

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — First-round draft pick Sean Elliott ended his holdout from the San Antonio Spurs Thursday and signed a five-year contract reportedly worth \$9 million.

"I'm excited to get it all over with. I know it's gone on for a little while," said Elliott, the No. 3 draft choice in the NBA draft. "I knew all along that I'd be a Spur, and I didn't worry about it."

The team did not announce terms of the agreement, signed just before an afternoon news conference. But sources said the 6-foot-8 forward from Arizona would receive \$1.8 million a year, or \$9 million over five years.

"The speculation has been extremely accurate," said Bob Woolf of Boston, Elliott's attorney who negotiated the deal.

Elliott was scheduled to join the Spurs in a scrimmage Thursday night. Although he has made publicity appearances and attended team meetings, Elliott has not worked out with the team.

"I think I have a lot of catching up to do," Elliott said. "I just think I have to learn the system and get the plays down."

Elliott signed in time for the Spurs' preseason opener Saturday against Milwaukee in San Antonio.

"It's like I get one day of practice, then I get thrown out there. But I'm

not going to worry about it," he said.

Asked if Elliott would play against Milwaukee, Coach Larry Brown laughed, "Yes. Until his tongue hangs out."

Brown, second-year coach of the team that now includes Elliott, center David Robinson, guard Maurice Cheeks and forward Terry Cummings, said he's glad Elliott will be taking part in training camp and playing preseason games.

"The young kids need to be there for those exhibition games. They need to see how the pro game is," he said. "The one thing he's going to learn about training camp is it's difficult for everybody — everybody physically suffers."

Elliott holds the Pac-10 scoring record with 2,555 career points. At Arizona, he averaged 22.3 points as a senior. His four-year average was 19.2 points a game.

His \$1.8 million per year is more

than the \$1.6 million per year contract Woolf negotiated for No. 4 draft pick Glen Rice, who signed with the Miami Heat. Woolf had said he was waiting to determine market value before signing Elliott.

Woolf met six hours Wednesday night and Thursday morning with team president Gary Woods and Spurs owner Red McCombs. He said team officials told him that the market in San Antonio was not the same as other NBA cities.

"I'm sympathetic to that. However, I've got to insist on the fair market value," Woolf said.

Elliott attended the Spurs' week-long summer camp for rookies and free agents in late July, but was dressed in street clothes and didn't play. He also modeled the new team uniform when it was unveiled recently and traveled on summer promotional tours.

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Herschel

talked to him about that, but based on everything else they wouldn't put him in there Sunday because he isn't familiar with the blocking schemes and the system," Martin said.

Walker's equipment is being shipped to the Vikings by overnight express, Fowler said.

For Walker, the Cowboys will receive running back Darrin Nelson and Pro Bowl cornerback Carl Lee, two first round draft picks, two second round choices and a third round choice, reports say.

The producer said Walker would be available for comment later today.

On Wednesday night, Lynn predicted any deal would not be concluded soon.

"We're a lot closer today than, say, we were yesterday, and certainly a heck of a lot closer than we were on June first, when all this really started," Lynn told a Minnesota television station.

Lynn said Walker and his wife were not extremely knowledgeable about life in Minnesota.

"They really didn't know anything about this state and like most Americans, think this is Siberia," Lynn said.

Jones said the Vikings were the only team the Cowboys were talking trade with.

Walker's agents were reported to be asking a renegotiated contract if he leaves the Cowboys. Walker is making \$1 million a season and his contract expires in 1990.

In pass-oriented offense of new coach Johnson, Walker has carried only 69 times for 202 yards this year, a 2.9 average. He has scored only touchdowns and his longest run has been just 20 yards.

Walker complained that he wasn't getting the ball enough as the Cowboys skidded to the winless start, worst for the club since 1960.

Last year, Walker rushed for 1,514 yards on 361 carries and caught 53 passes for 505 yards. Walker also became only the 10th player in NFL history to gain more than 2,000 yards from scrimmage in a season.

Johnson has denied Walker doesn't fit into his system.

"Yes, he fits into our system and I'd like to have a back who can block like Herschel Walker, run the football like Herschel Walker and catch the football like Herschel Walker," Johnson said.

Walker, 28, came to the Cowboys in 1986 after the United States Football League folded. Dallas spent a fifth-round draft pick to get the rights to sign him.

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Game

the Cougars' pass-happy attack.

"It's going to be fun for us," A&M inside linebacker Jeroy Robinson said. "We get a chance to go out and play."

"It's going to be like streetball."

To give the defense a chance, the Aggie offense must hold onto the ball and allow the defense to rest. This means that Darren Lewis and Robert Wilson must have a big day running the ball.

"Last year, we had 450 yards of offense, Darren had over 200 yards himself just running the ball," Slocum said. "It gave our defense a chance to rest. Their style of offense will wear you out in a hurry."

Last year, Lewis had two second-half touchdowns and a total of 201 yards rushing on 40 carries.

This year, the A&M offense has struggled but the Aggies have shown that when the passing and running games are working, Slocum's new offensive scheme is lethal.

However, Houston is riding high and reckless.

"When you've got an offense that can produce 60 points a game, you can afford to take all kinds of chances," Slocum said.

Houston's defense have allowed opponents only 2.8 yards a carry this season. They have intercepted 14 passes and recovered 10 fumbles to lead the SWC in turnover margins with 4.0 a game.

Pardee is a little wary of predicting their anticipated big win for the Cougars.

"We're not worried about running up the score," Pardee said. "I just want to get out of Kyle Field with a win."

Getting out of Kyle Field with a win is something the Cougars have been unable to do since 1979.

"The pressure mounts on a team like that to keep performing," Slocum said.

The Cougars enter the game with a nine-game winning streak that dates back to Oct. 22, 1988. They have won their last ten road games.

No matter what happens Saturday at Kyle Field, one thing is certain. The A&M-Houston game is sure to be an offensive extravaganza.

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