

Spurs looking for guard

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs would love to find a solid backup guard in Wednesday's NBA draft.

But with only the 49th overall pick, Spurs coach Larry Brown says the team will do well to find any player who can make it in the league.

"There are some guys that we like, but whether they're good enough to make the team or not I don't know," Brown said. "When you get to draft in the second round, or late in the first round, it's a crap-shoot."

The Spurs had a first-round, 23rd overall pick but traded it along with center Mark McNamara last year to the Orlando Magic in exchange for forward Sidney Green.

As draft day arrived, San Antonio, Philadelphia, Detroit, Phoenix, Portland and the Los Angeles Lakers had no first-round selections.

Spurs officials have said they would like to find help for starting point guard Rod Strickland, who averaged 13.8 points, 8 assists and 3.8 rebounds during the 1990-91 season.

Too often last season, Spurs officials said, the team relied solely on Strickland for fast-break plays.

Bob Bass, the team's vice president of basketball operations, said probably the only players still available at the 49th spot will be guards. But even then, it is questionable whether they will be of NBA caliber.

Byington excels in Brewers' organization

By John R. Martin
The Battalion

El Paso Diablo third baseman John Byington is known to Milwaukee Brewer fans as a promising prospect playing double A baseball. However, to most Aggies, he is known for his game-winning heroics.

At Texas A&M, Byington is legendary for his game-winning homeruns against the University of Texas.

"I'm kind of humbled by the whole experience," he said. "It (the third game) was in front of a national audience with the series tied (1-1)."

"There were two outs and I hit the ball real well. I was guessing for the right pitch, I got it and I drove it."

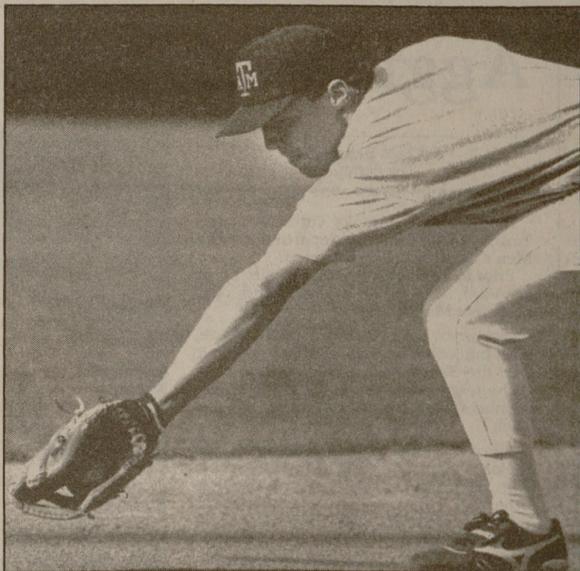
The winning hit was Byington's third ninth-inning homer, and his second game winner in a row. In the second game of the series, he hit a grand-slam to give A&M the victory.

The 1989 Aggie Baseball team had the best record in the country with a 58-7 mark. They were ranked number one in the nation, and won the Southwest Conference tournament and championship.

The Aggies never lost back to back games in the '89 season until the Regionals at Olsen field. The team needed one win against Louisiana State University to advance to the College World Series, but lost two games in a row.

"We got the jinx off of Texas, but we still did not make it to the world series," Byington said. "Losing to LSU hurt. We were the best team in the country. I can't figure out why we lost."

"I just want to thank the fans, because when we played at home,



John Byington, former Texas A&M baseball standout at third base, now plays for the Milwaukee Brewers' AA minor league team in El Paso.

we knew we were going to win," he said. "I know I speak for the guys when I say we wish we could have made it all the way for the fans."

When the 1989 season ended, Byington foregoed his senior season to enter the draft early, and was selected in the third round by the Milwaukee Brewers. He signed with the team and was assigned to the single A ballclub in Beloit.

"The Brewers are a fair and honest organization, very straight forward and old fashion," Byington said. "They believe in taking time and developing talent. The Brewers are not going to give you any-

thing — you have to earn it. "They've given me a great chance this year by assigning me to play in AA El Paso," he said. "I was in lower A last year, and most players go from low to high A before they go to AA."

In his first night of ball at El Paso, Byington went two for three, both hits being home runs.

"It has been my biggest night in pro ball so far," he said.

However, the homeruns did create a little embarrassment for Byington. It is a tradition in El Paso for the player to pass the hat for donations after every home run.

"It's not my nature," he said. "But it is a tradition, and I'm complaining about people giving me money."

Only about five percent of the drafted ever get to play in major league baseball, and those who make it to the show usually do so last a year or two.

"I think I have decent chance making it, but I'm still a little away," said Byington. "I'm not like Chuck (Knobloch of Minnesota Twins) who got there in a hurry."

By late June, Byington was hitting .305 with five homers and runs batted in at El Paso. He is ranked 13th in the Texas League batting, but only seventh on his own team.

"There are some real good players on this team," he said. "We're a lot like the 1989 A&M team, except we use wooden bats and play ball."

Despite his love for baseball, Byington said there is no doubt professional baseball is work. "At A&M, you have the adrenaline of the crowd pumping you up," he said. "In pro ball, you have to get yourself up."

"It is definitely a job, day to day everynight for 140 games," Byington said. "But, it is a great way to make a living."

During the off season, Byington will continue to finish his degree and get ready for spring training next year. He is currently planning to get married this October to his fiancée, A&M graduate Kim Walters.

"Going to A&M has been one of the greater experiences of my life. I love the people, and the town. Byington said. "A&M is a great school and going there was a great decision."

"A&M is where I would want my kids to go to school."

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Tyson, Ruddock cool war of words before rematch

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mike Tyson and Donovan "Razor" Ruddock were on their best behavior Tuesday in their first meeting since their raucous televised news conference in May.

"I'm sorry Razor that I called you bad names," Tyson said when asked if he felt repentant about remarks he made about Ruddock, whom he will fight in a rematch Friday night at The Mirage.

On May 2, Tyson, who was in Las Vegas, told Ruddock, who was in New York, "I'll make you my girlfriend."

Tyson also called Ruddock a transvestite and said, "You're sweet. I can't wait for you to kiss me with those big lips of yours."

"Mike Tyson is Mike Tyson," Ruddock said at Tuesday's news conference. "He can say what he wants. I don't pay attention to that."

He did, however, in May. After Tyson's "girlfriend" remark, Ruddock had said, "I think he's trying to get brave enough to come out of the closet."

Ruddock also called the former heavyweight champion a moron and an ignorant little kid.

Tyson was a 5-1 favorite to win the rematch, which was made because of the controversial ending of the first fight. Tyson won when referee Richard Steele stopped the fight at 2:22 of the seventh round with Ruddock still on his feet. Most observers thought Steele acted too hastily.

Tyson complimented Ruddock, although grudgingly. "He's a better fighter than Douglas," said Tyson, who lost

the title on a shocking 10th-round knockout by James "Buster" Douglas on Feb. 11, 1990.

"No doubt, he's a good fighter," Tyson continued. Then he added, "I'm the best."

"I beat him before, I'll beat him again. He's going to get knocked out."

"A lot of people are making plans, but there are always upsets," Ruddock said of his underdog role.

He also said, "If I lose, it doesn't bother me."

Asked why he took a rematch with Tyson rather than take another route to a title bid against Evander Holyfield, Ruddock said, "I've got nothing better to do."

Of course, a victory would send the 27-year-old Ruddock into a title match in the fall.

Should the 24-year-old Tyson win, his next opponent will not necessarily be Holyfield.

Don King, Tyson's promoter, and Dan Duva, Holyfield's promoter, have been waging a war of words and accusing each other of not wanting the fight.

It is possible that Tyson's next opponent could be 42-year-old George Foreman, the former champion who came out of his April 18 fight against Holyfield as a winner, even though Holyfield took a 12-round unanimous decision.

In another title fight, Azumah Nelson of Ghana, the World Boxing Council super featherweight champion, will meet Jeff Fenech of Australia.

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