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Former Spur seeks medical help for kidney infection

Agent rebuts worries about Elliott

The Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — The Houston Rockets balked at a deal for Detroit forward Sean Elliott because of a kidney infection the Piston developed last summer, Elliott's agent said Monday.

Houston had 48 hours to cancel Friday's deal that sent Robert Horry and Matt Bullard to the Pistons.

The Rockets did so on Sunday because team doctors weren't convinced Elliott's condition was acceptable, agent Burt Kinerk said.

Elliott, a 6-foot-8 forward, was in Tucson, Ariz., on Monday seeking more medical help with the cooperation of the Pistons, club spokesman Matt Dobek said.

He didn't know how long Elliott would be out beyond Monday night's game with Atlanta. Elliott remains on the active roster.

Elliott's agent, Burt Kinerk, said the infection isn't career threatening.

"This condition has responded to treatment, and it is much better now than when he first arrived in Detroit," Kinerk said. "No doctor has ever told Sean that this condition does or will prevent him from playing in the NBA at all-star level."

Dobek declined to answer other questions.

Billy McKinney, the Pistons' director of player personnel, on Monday said in a statement that Elliott is in good health.

"As a result of examination and treatments conducted by the

to him by the Detroit team physician and specialists selected them."

He said Monday night's game was the first Elliott ever missed because of the condition. He missed his last four games with the Pistons because of pneumonia.

Team personnel said Elliott was evaluated by a Kentucky specialist within the next 48 hours, Dobek said. If he is unable to get him the specialist, he will be again tested by Pistons' doctors, he said.

Bullard said trade procedures were confusing.

"It's just a crazy world and a crazy business,"

Horry said after returning to Houston. "You get traded from here and get traded to Detroit. I think you're going to be a Piston," said Bullard, wearing a Pistons hat and carrying a Detroit bag.

"It's really hard to figure out what's going on."

"Obviously, you can't go back to a team that trades you. It feels the same. Actions speak louder than words."

Horry and Bullard were with the Pistons on Saturday when they lost at home to the Nets 107-100, but neither player was allowed to suit up.

"No doctor has ever told Sean that this condition does or will prevent him from playing in the NBA,"

— Burt Kinerk
 Sean Elliott's agent,
 discussing the Piston's kidney infection

Detroit Pistons' medical staff, we are comfortable with Sean Elliott's medical condition," McKinney said. "While the situation does cause slight concern, we believe his ability to perform will not be affected."

Kinerk said Elliott was diagnosed in June with a kidney infection while still with San Antonio. He was traded to Detroit for Dennis Rodman with the Pistons' full knowledge of the kidney trouble, Kinerk said.

"Sean passed the physical necessary for the trade to Detroit," Kinerk said. "He has followed the course of treatment recommended

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Due: Friday, February 11, 1994
 The Association of Former Students

Toledo

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University of Missouri.

"First of all, I'm excited to have the opportunity to go back to the Pac-10," Toledo said. "That is where my parents and my wife's parents live. It is a chance to go home, to go back to my roots."

Toledo returns to the Pac-10, where he was known for his wide-open passing style.

Toledo was assistant head coach and quarterbacks coach at the University of Oregon from 1983 to 1988.

Toledo takes the place of

Homer Smith, who left to coach at the University of Alabama. UCLA went to the 1994 Rose Bowl, losing to Wisconsin.

Slocum fired Toledo two days after the Aggies lost to Notre Dame in the 1994 Mobil Cotton Bowl to finish the season on 10-2.

Toledo's offense scored an A&M record 404 points.

During Toledo's five-year tenure at A&M, the Aggies set offensive records three times.



Toledo

The Aggie offense had received criticism for its ineffectiveness passing as A&M emphasized rushing and defense.

"We were asked to basically be a power running football team," Toledo said when he was dismissed from the A&M coaching staff. "I did what I was asked to do."

"I thought we did a good job."

Toledo was born in San Jose, Calif. and was a second-team All-American quarterback at San Francisco State in 1968.

He was a high school football coach for six years in California before becoming the University of Southern California's second coach in 1976.

Rules

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sion and Austin newscasts.

Because I was released from duty at 4:30 p.m., I missed the men's game. But that didn't stop me from flicking through the television in search of some news about the Aggies.

"In a game marred by a brawl between Tech fans and the Aggies," the reporter said. "Texas A&M's Chuck Henderson poured in two free throws in the closing seconds to keep the Aggies in first place."

Doing my best Arsenio Hall impression, I wildly cheered for my buds. I could never do that as a reporter. But the fight really upset me. Heck, I took it personally.

For all of you who don't know these Aggies, let me share some insights.

These are some level-headed guys, not guys who would look for trouble like that.

They probably wouldn't consider me a close friend, but I have developed a professional relationship that has given me the chance to dwell into their lives away from the court.

These guys have their priorities in order. Last week, while I interviewed forward Tony McGinnis, Dave Edwards and

Joe Wilbert came by and, in a matter of seconds, we were all laughing.

Although they all have a great sense of humor, that is not their greatest personalities trait.

These guys play ball, not for future professional contracts, but for their siblings, parents and anybody who might be touched by their successes.

McGinnis, Wilbert and Edwards have served as mentors to select groups of children. Whether in Bryan, Alabama or New York, they are not afraid to be role models - heck they search for the opportunities.

Because family is important to McGinnis and Edwards, who are roommates, they share the phone calls received by each other's parents.

And Wilbert's commitment to his troubled former high school coach has led him to play as a tribute to his coach.

Those Idiots in Lubbock picked the wrong guys to mess with.

These Aggies are family. "We are Family" would be an appropriate theme song at the Holler House. And, like most good sons would, some Aggies defended their coach.

Wilbert has replaced Julio Cesar Chavez as my favorite athlete. Well, he'll have to share that honor with Lady Aggie point guard Lisa Branch.

Branch is another class act who resides at the Holler House. She knows I was cheering for her and the rest of the Aggies to knock off Tech.

"What do you mean you aren't covering our game?" Branch asked me last week. "You always cover our games."

I assured her that I would be cheering for the Lady Aggies.

"Hey, at least I'll be able to cheer for you guys," I told her. "You know that at press row can't cheer for A&M."

She just smiled. But her smile was nothing compared to the one on my face on Sunday.

On Saturday, my Guard buddies laughed at me when I said A&M would beat Tech, and on Sunday it was my turn.

My Buddies idiotically on Saturday morning: "You're dumb, Ortiz, how do you expect A&M to beat the No. 4 team in the nation? The Lady Aggies will fall and fall big."

Me smiling on Sunday: "Whoop! What did you just say? Now do you believe in our basketball teams are awesome?"

Oh well, from now on I will just be a normal sports writer watching every game from the front row, eating free food at the media room and being a witness to history. Only they could rescind the cheering in the press box" rule.

Be An



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