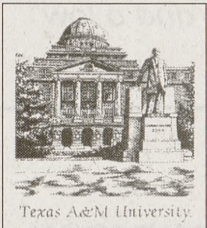


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PUBLIC MEETINGS

Local Rail Economic Feasibility and Location Study

Wed., June 28	Thurs., June 29
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 305 Wellborn Road	Bryan Public Library 201 East 26 th Street

Meeting Schedules are the same at all locations:

- 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. - Open House
- 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. - Presentation
- 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. - Public Comments

You are encouraged to attend and show your support of the relocation of the railroad that separates the Main Campus and the West Campus.

Conducted by the Bryan/College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization in cooperation with the Cities of Bryan and College Station, Brazos County, Texas A&M University and Union Pacific Railroad.

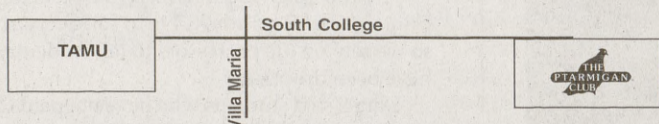
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Teams, players prepare for draft

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kenyon Martin sat in the corner of a hotel conference room Tuesday, choosing his words carefully as he spoke about the right leg he broke three months ago.

"I'm walking around. I could shoot a little if I chose to," Martin said. "I could probably do what I want — no matter what the doctors say."

But the doctors are telling Martin to sit tight, and he has barely picked up a basketball since breaking his fibula in a Conference USA tournament game. And if Martin, a power forward from Cincinnati, is selected first overall in the NBA draft, some team will be making a leap of faith that Martin's fractured fibula is structurally sound.

That huge piece of uncertainty was a major factor for the Nets as the hours ticked down toward the draft. New Jersey owns the No. 1 pick, and new team president Rod Thorn spent the better part of Tuesday trying to figure out whether to keep the pick or trade it. The Orlando Magic were among the teams making a strong push to acquire the pick.

"Last night at 12:15 I got a call from a coach who made a very interesting offer. We've gotten one more today that's never been on the table before. I expect more offers," Thorn said. "I've seen a couple of things that have made me sit back and think."

Lots and lots of other trade rumors were floating around the league, and the consensus was that there should be a significant reshuffling of the decks before the last of the 58 draft picks are made Wednesday night.

Orlando holds picks No. 5, 10 and 13, making the Magic the first team ever to have three lottery picks in a single draft. Orlando also has about \$16 million in salary cap room and would like to clear about \$3 million more in order to make an unfettered run at two high-profile free agents.

But in order to clear that much room, the Magic

would need to trade Derek Strong and two of the picks. And that is why all eyes were on Thorn and Orlando general manager John Gabriel to see if they would pull off a swap that would severely impact the draft plans of other teams.

The Chicago Bulls also were trying to clear extra cap room by trading Hersey Hawkins and his \$4.5 million salary.

If no trades are made, the top of the draft is expected to go like this: Martin to the Nets, LSU's Stormie Swift to Vancouver, Iowa State's Marcus Fizer to the Los Angeles Clippers and high school star Darius Miles to the Bulls.

After that, the next four picks belong to Orlando, Atlanta, Chicago and Cleveland. The players expected to go in that range include two centers, Texas' Chris Mihm and Minnesota's Joel Przybilla, along with Fresno State guard Courtney Alexander and Florida forward Mike Miller.

Beyond that, there is an interesting array of point guards, power forwards and Eurocenters and a shortage of pure shooters.

Most active of all the 29 teams will be the Bulls, who have stockpiled draft picks and salary cap room. This will be one of the most important days in the post-dynasty rebuilding being undertaken by owner Jerry Reinsdorf

and general manager Jerry Krause, and Chicago has plenty of options with three first-round picks (Nos. 4, 7 and 24) and three consecutive picks in the second round (Nos. 32-34).

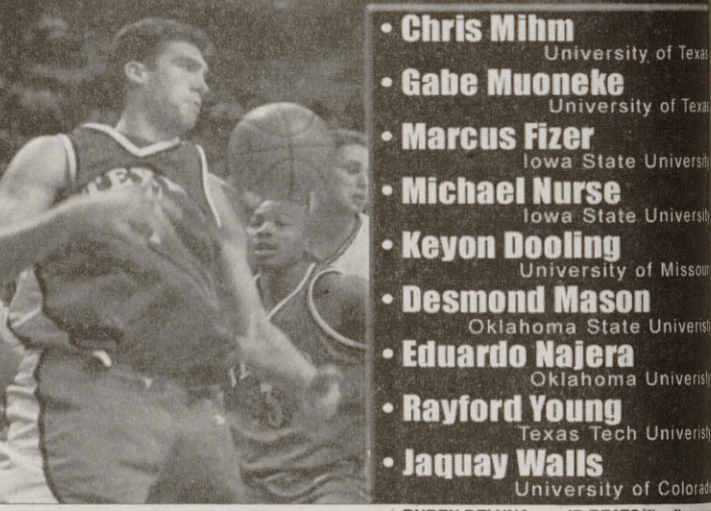
"We've got a bunch of options with trades and draft choices," Krause said Tuesday. "We're listening, and the party's just getting started. The NBA draft is traditionally a late-night party. We've been doing a lot of talking, and I'm sure we'll be here tonight."

Most of the top players met with the media Tuesday afternoon, and all of them had heard the multitude of rumors.

Martin was well aware of the talk about a Magic-Nets trade that would send him to Orlando, although

See DRAFT on Page 1

BIG 12 HOPEFULS



- Chris Mihm
University of Texas
- Gabe Muoneke
University of Texas
- Marcus Fizer
Iowa State University
- Michael Nurse
Iowa State University
- Keyon Dooling
University of Missouri
- Desmond Mason
Oklahoma State University
- Eduardo Najera
Oklahoma University
- Rayford Young
Texas Tech University
- Jaquay Walls
University of Colorado

RUBEN DELUNA and JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Sports in Brief

Former Student enters U.S. Open

Former Texas A&M All-American golfer Jamie Hullett has qualified for the 2000 U.S. Women's Open.

Hullett scored a 76 to tie for eighth place at the sectional qualifier June 15 in Hinsdale, Ill., earning one of nine qualifying berths at stake that day.

While at A&M, Hullett earned second-team All-American honors in 1997 and won the Southwest Conference co-championship as a freshman in 1995. Hullett also helped the Aggies win the 1998 Big 12 Championship and is currently No. 2 in career-scoring average at A&M. In addition to her achievements at A&M, Hullett also won the 1997 Southern Amateur and Broadmoor Invitational. After leaving A&M, she joined the LPGA Tour, where she has played for the last two seasons.

The 2000 U.S. Women's Open will be held at the Merit Club in Libertyville, Ill., July 20-23.

Monday Night Live

Miller not appropriate broadcaster for NFL

How do networks salvage a sinking ship of a show? They bring in someone whom no one expected to see.

ABC has done just that by hiring former "Saturday Night Live" veteran Dennis Miller to become an announcer for Monday Night Football.

Housecleaning started in March when ABC brought back the show's original producer, Don Ohlmeyer.

Ohlmeyer's first step was to fire Boomer Esiason, who everyone must admit was boring. His next step was to fire Lesley Visser, who did a great job as an on-the-field reporter. Visser has been replaced by former ESPN reporter Melissa Stark.

The only thing left was to hire replacements for the booth, and the theory seems to be: Forget people who have experience — find a funny guy to cause controversy.

ABC got its wish when comedian Dennis Miller came on board. Although ABC maintains that Miller will not do X's and O's and will not just be there for comedy relief, his presence makes "Monday Night Football" less credible than ever.

This will be Miller's first venture into the world of sports. The fact that he has never called a football game, much less any game, before is reason enough to

toss his application into the trash. Now spectators will be subjected to a poor attempt at sports broadcasting, foul jokes.

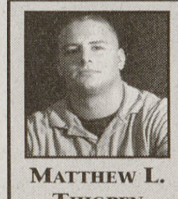
Getting to play on Monday Night Football was a great honor. Teams looked forward to playing in front of the entire country and showcasing their abilities. Now it seems that few fans care to watch unless their favorite team is involved.

What else has been killing the ratings of "Monday Night Football"? Professional wrestling pinned the show in the ratings, showing ABC has lost its appeal with the younger generation.

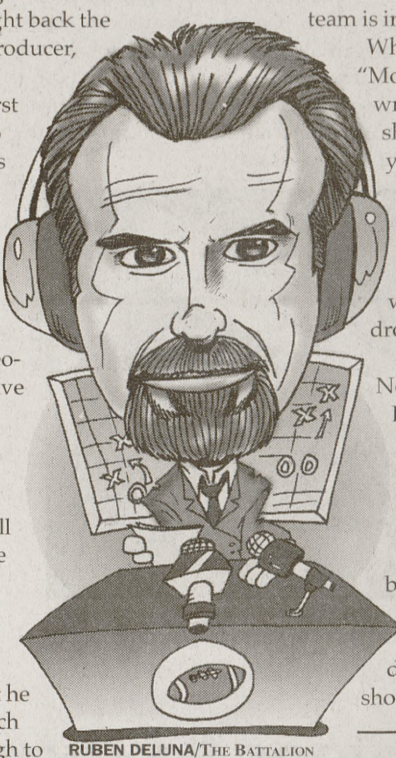
Exactly how bad are "Monday Night Football's" ratings? In 1994, with the crew of Frank Gifford, Dan Dierdorf and Al Michaels, the Nielsen ratings were 17.8. Last season, the ratings dropped to 13.7, a record low for the show. Who did Miller beat out for the job? None other than talk show host Rush Limbaugh. Miller is clearly a better choice than a political demigod, so he gets the job. But someone in the field of sports journalism would have been a better choice.

What about Tom Jackson, who has been on ESPN's "NFL Countdown" for years? Sterling Sharpe would have done a great job as well. If ABC wants diversity, it could try outspoken sports show host Jim Rome from Fox Sports. At

See MILLER on Page 1



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THE BATTALION

Beverly Mireles, Editor in Chief

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