# 2005 NBA Mock Draft #001 --- Wednesday, May 25th, 2005 BY MATTHEW HATFIELD

1. Milwaukee Bucks C Andrew Bogut Utah

The Milwaukee Bucks had a 6.3% chance of winning Tuesday night's lottery, but who cares about percentages? Four years removed from playing the Philadelphia 76ers in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference Finals, Milwaukee will try to get a franchise player to help out free-agent to be Michael Redd. Last time they had the first overall pick was 1994 when they selected Purdue small forward Glenn Robinson, now a member of the San Antonio Spurs. Robinson, a former All-Star, teamed with Ray Allen, veteran point guards Sam Cassell, Terrell Brandon and Gary Payton, and former #1 overall Joe Smith during his tenure there.



Troubled the Milwaukee Bucks for years. Utah's Andrew Bogut - 2004-05 Natl. College Player of the Year - should be the Bucks' first overall pick come June 28th.

2. Atlanta Hawks F Marvin Williams UNC

Even though he possesses more of a perimeter game, Williams, the super Tar Heel freshman that's been labeled as the best potential and upside player in this draft, is tall enough to play the power position. At 6-9, Williams can put the ball on the floor and step out to shoot the longer range shot similar to Rasheed Wallace, who was traded from Portland through Atlanta to Detroit. They'd love to get Bogut and the might. If it doesn't work out that way, don't expect Williams to get in way of Josh Smith, Josh Childress, and Al Harrington.

3. Portland Trail Blazers SF/SG Gerald Green High School At 6-7 200 pounds, this athletic swingman could become an impact player right away for the struggling Blazers. Green, 19, has good raw skills and the ability to start

sooner than most would expect. It wouldn't surprise me to see thing youngster be the best shooting guard for Portland since Clyde Drexler. Not better than Drexler, but he will sell more tickets than past two-guards Isiah Rider, Steve Smith, and Bonzi Wells.

# 4. New Orleans Hornets PG Chris Paul

Wake Forest

Similar to the Bobcats, the Hornets do not desperately need a point guard and may have lost out in the lottery. Dan Dickau and Speedy Claxton are decent point guards, replacing new Warriors floor leader Baron Davis. They are also set at center with Jamaal Magloire and have a good, yet aging power forward in defensive specialist P.J. Brown. Gerald Green is kind of the same player as J.R. Smith, though they'd have to consider him if he is there after pick #3. In the end, it's either Paul or Green.



# 5. Charlotte Bobcats C Martynas Andriuskevicius

I know it's early to start speculating on trades, but I envision the Bobcats trading this choice and the 13<sup>th</sup> overall selection to maybe go up and get Marvin Williams. If not, then point guards Deron Williams (Illinois), Wake Forest's Chris Paul, and Raymond Felton (North Carolina) would be likely candidates. Brevin Knight was right near the top of the assists category all year long, but some wonder how long he will be there.



#### 6. Utah Jazz **PG Deron Williams** Illinois

Their season may have turned out differently had Andrei Kirilenko, 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All Defense, not gotten hurt. Jerry Sloan is returning to coach another season for the Jazz, a team that plays hard every night because of him. Don't expect a Karl Malone or John Stockton type of player to **EVER** walk through the door again. Deron Williams out of Illinois is a good one and I'd be stunned if the Jazz passed on him to take someone else. Following the trade of Carlos Arroyo to Detroit, Utah had to use a platoon of guys, including former Stockton backup Howard Eisley. Carlos Boozer and Mehmet Okur man the paint. Spanish star Fran Vazquez could add some spice to the frontcourt.



### 7. Toronto Raptors PF/C Chris Taft

**Pittsburgh** 

Is Toronto sold on Chris Bosh as a franchise player? Big key if you ask me. Reason why is because the team shipped off Vince Carter to New Jersey midway through the 2004-05 season. Carter was the face of the franchise for years, but no longer gave it his all playing there. Do they try to make a play for a big-time free agent in the offseason? Time will tell. Raptors are one of those teams with plenty of needs to fill.

# 8. New York Knicks

**C** Channing Frye

Arizona

New York's already regretting the trade that sent center Nazr Mohammed to San Antonio in exchange for a declining Malik Rose. Knicks will be awfully disappointed if Taft goes one pick ahead to Toronto. They definitely will be upset if Taft is gone and

Arizona center Channing Frye, who had a very nice season and NCAA tourney, isn't there either. One will be I expect. Taft is my guess if he's there, but if not then Frye becomes the newest player to add to the already \$109 million dollar payroll.

9. Golden State Warriors PF Sean May UNC

Golden State finish the season on a tear: 14-4 in their final 18 regular season games. The addition of Baron Davis to a backcourt that also includes high flyer Jason Richardson, miracle shot man Derek Fisher, and Mikael Pietrus makes them tough to guard behind the circle. Inside, the team wishes they had Erik Dampier back, but it was not worth paying him what he wanted. Troy Murphy has been a sound power forward going after loose balls, Mike Dunleavy has been improving more and more at the three spot, and Adonal Foyle can come off the bench to block a couple shots. They do need a low block scorer and imposing defensive player on the interior. Frye and Taft fit what they want, but neither may be there. Danny Granger could be a trade bit choice.

10. Los Angeles Lakers PG Raymond Felton UNC

Everybody Loves Raymond. Although, lately, not everybody is love with the Lakers. It certainly wasn't a love fest during the team's 2003-04 run to the Finals, which ended in bitter sadness. What they can do is build around Kobe Bryant and talented forward Lamar Odom. It's highly important in my opinion that the team doesn't get rid of savvy passer Luke Walton, an early second round choice of two years ago. This team has too many small forwards to begin with, but please keep Walton. He's not only the son of a Hall-of-Famer, but also a pretty darn good player. Foolish to pass on Felton here, right?

11. Orlando Magic SF Danny Granger New Mexico

Grant Hill was a great success story this past season. Making it to the All-Star was something none of us would ever dreamed of happening prior to this season, but he made it a reality. Orlando's return to the playoffs also looked like a reality, but that came crashing down at the end of the season. Doug Christie didn't nearly give them what they expected in the Cuttino Mobley trade. New Head Coach Brian Hill, once the team's man in charge during their Finals appearance in '94-95, will try to develop a solid chemistry between PG Steve Francis and last year's rookie Dwight Howard. He hopes it'll resemble something similar to Penny Hardaway and Shaquille O'Neal. They need an x-factor at the small forward or two-guard spot. Granger and Martell Webster are two guesses.

12. Los Angeles Clippers PF Fran Vazquez Spain

Finally, the Clippers are starting to put together something despite the loss of Quentin Richardson to Phoenix in the past off-season. Athleticism and toughness are two

things they desire on the inside to go with Elton Brand. Bobby Simmons was a pleasant surprise and named the 2004-05 Most Improved Player of the Year. Simmons is really on the only legit outside shooter they've got. That being said, Fran Vazquez may be too good of a talent to pass up here at #12. Webster makes some sense. Don't know that taking him would please starting two-guard Corey Maggette. A good draft or off-season could put them in position to make a serious playoff push for 2005-06.



#### 13. Charlotte Bobcats SF/SG Martell Webster High School



# 14. Minnesota T-Wolves SG Antoine Wright Texas A&M

How do you go from having the best record in the Western Conference to missing the playoffs? Same way the Lakers went to the Finals four times in five years before missing the playoffs for the first time in ages this season. But there's a difference. LA dealt the most dominant force in the game of basketball today in Shaquille O'Neal. Minnesota has a set team and did not lose any major components from their outstanding 2003-04 squad. Could go backcourt if Sam Cassell and/or Latrell Sprewell do not return. Oklahoma State small forward Joey Graham and NCAA Tournament MVP Sean May are also possibilities.

15. New Jersey Nets	PF Tiago Splitter	Brazil
16. Toronto Raptors	SF Joey Graham	Oklahoma St.
Pacers 17. Indiana Pacers	SG Rashad McCants	UNC
18. Boston Celtics	PF Hakim Warrick	Syracuse
19. Memphis Grizzlies	PG Jarrett Jack	Ga. Tech
20. Denver Nuggets	SG Rudy Fernandez	Spain
21. Phoenix Suns	SF Nemanja Aleksandrov	Serbia

22. Denver Nuggets	SF/SG Julius Hodge	NC State
23. Sacramento Kings	PF Charlie Villanueva	UCONN
24. Houston Rockets	PF Andrey Blatche	High School
25. Seattle Sonics	C Johan Petro	France
26. Detroit Pistons	SF Ersan Ilyasova	Turkey
27. Utah Jazz	C Randolph Morris	Kentucky
28. San Antonio Spurs	SG Marko Tomas	Croatia
29. Miami Heat	PF Wayne Simien	Kansas
30. New York Knicks	PF Ike Diogu	Arizona St.