

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



1. Milwaukee Bucks

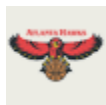
C Andrew Bogut

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.



AP A lack of an inside game has 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 13th 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, 2nd 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 off-season? 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

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.



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.