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JUNE 19, 1986



A long but finally a good day for Jones

Three years after transferring from Georgetown University, Jones is headed back home. The Washington Bullets made the 6-6½ Jones the 21st selection in the 1986 National Basketball Association draft Tuesday.

When he left the Georgetown program in 1983, Jones cited hometown pressure as one of the main reasons.

"But this will be a different kind of pressure now," a relieved Jones said shortly after learning of his selection and watching the draft as the Sports Connection health club with a

crowd of Rebels fans and coaches. "I've finally made it to the big time. I've fulfilled a childhood dream of mine."

UNLV teammate John Flowers was chosen in the sixth round by the Sacramento Kings. The 6-10 center was the 126th pick overall.

Surprising selections in the middle of the first round pushed Jones back perhaps as many as six positions.

Following the draft, Denver Nuggets officials confirmed they would have picked Jones either 16th or 18th if St. Joseph's guard Maurice Martin was not available.



Jones to Bullets

However, the Chicago Bulls selected center Brad Sellers (thought to be a second-rounder) on the ninth pick, which changed the entire complexion of the draft as far as guards were concerned.

Had the Bulls selected a guard as expected, Martin likely would have been chosen before Denver's turn and the Nuggets then would have selected Jones.

"I would have loved to have gone to Denver," Jones said of playing for Coach Doug Moe and his free-wheeling offense.

But the surprises didn't end there.

Sacramento, which also had shown an interest in A.J., passed him up on the 17th selection, as did Atlanta on the 19th and Houston on the 20th. All three teams had expressed a need for a shooting guard.

Instead, the Kings picked Harold Pressey of Villanova, the Hawks chose Billy Thompson of Louisville and Alabama's Buck Johnson went to the Rockets. All three are forwards.

The Hawks later filled their guard vacancy when they acquired Mike McGee and the rights to forward Ken Barlow from the Los Angeles Lakers in exchange for the

rights to Thompson and second-round pick Ron Kellogg.

"I thought I would go much earlier than I did," said Jones, who averaged 18.0 points, 5.5 rebounds and 3.6 assists his senior season. "I was just listening for my name, that's all. I was getting very nervous. I was sweating. My deodorant is worn out. I thought that I'd end up going in the second round."

But the soft-spoken Jones never said he was disappointed. "I've achieved what I've wanted to do," he said.

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Curt Flood-Orlando Cepeda at Sahara

The Las Vegas Baseball Card Expo scheduled in the Sahara Space Center for June 27-29 the appearances of Curt Flood and Orlando Cepeda have been changed. Flood will now be on hand Friday as opposed to Saturday and Cepeda will be in Las Vegas on Sunday and not Friday as originally scheduled.

Therefore during the Expo

Curt Flood will be in on Friday, Fergie Jenkins on Saturday and Jenkins, Blue Moon Odom and Orlando Cepeda on Sunday.

Brinley Pool Delayed

The City of Las Vegas announced that there is a delay in opening Brinley Pool, 2480 Maverick, because of renovation of the school shower and restroom facilities. The pool will open on Saturday, June 21.

Caesars "Triple Hitter" Boxing

Ireland's Barry McGuigan (29-1, 24 KOs) will make his American debut as champion as he defends his WBA featherweight title against Argentina's Fernando Sosa (42-3-3, 15 KOs). Thomas "Hitman" Hearns (41-2, 35 KOs) will be challenged by former IBF junior middleweight titlist Mark Medal (24-2, 20 KOs), will battle Robbie Sims (26-4-1, 19 KOs) in a 12-round middleweight title eliminator.

All three bouts will be shown on close circuit and pay-per-view television. Training sessions in the Caesars Palace Sports Pavilion will be open to the public in the 5-10 days prior to the event.

Time: First bout at approximately 5 p.m. PDT. First televised bout (McGuigan) at approximately 6 p.m. Main bout at approximately 8 p.m.

Place: Caesars Palace outdoor stadium (15,000 seats).

Tickets: \$400, \$300, \$200, \$100, \$50; all seats reserved. For tickets and information, please call (702) 731-7865 or (800) 634-6698 (outside Nevada, within the U.S.)

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