



NBA

(Continued From Page 14)

immaculate assist-king John Stockton. Watch for intense games. The endurance will play a major role in this series, and if handled correctly, the youth may prevail. Karl Malone may win the battle, but the Sonics could win the war. Seattle is an outside sleeper.

Seattle in 5.

#4 Portland v.s #5 San Antonio-(Season Series Tied 2-2):

What a series. The defending conference champs, trying to prove they're still contenders, and the Spurs trying to prove they're all that!!! After kicking Jerry Tarkanian to the curb, the Spurs were revitalized by new Head Coach John Lucas. San Antonio showed great potential when Lucas arrived. They slipped a notch, but they've gotten over that. Lucas will be able to wake them up and make them realize this is it. Portland has battled injuries constantly and hope to have All-Star Clyde Drexler in the lineup. Terry Porter will have to be able to dial area code 3 at any time during a game. Porter and Rod Strickland must be able to contain Avery Johnson

and Dale Ellis. Then again, the Spurs can retaliate with Sean Elliot and the Admiral, David Robinson. Be careful, I seem to remember Drexler experiencing hamstring trouble during the first round last year. You saw how much it *didn't* bother him.

Spurs in 5.

NBA PLAYOFF TELEVISION SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 29	Sunday, May 2
Charlotte at Boston (TNT) 5 p.m.	Indiana at New York (NBC) 9:30 a.m.
San Antonio at Portland (TNT) 7:30 p.m.	L.A. Lakers at Phoenix (NBC) noon
Friday, April 30	Atlanta at Chicago (NBC) 2:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Chicago (TNT) 5 p.m.	Utah at Seattle (TNT) 6 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix 7:30 p.m.	Monday, May 3
Saturday, May 1	Boston at Charlotte (TNT) 5 p.m.
Charlotte at Boston (NBC) 10 a.m.	Houston at L.A. Clippers (TNT) 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Portland (NBC) 12:30 p.m.	Tuesday, May 4
New Jersey at Cleveland (TNT) 4 p.m.	Chicago at Atlanta (TNT) 5 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Houston (TNT) 6:30 p.m.	Phoenix at L.A. Lakers (TNT) 7:30 p.m.

RIDER WON'T BE ALONE IN THE LOTTERY

By W.G. Ramirez

Former UNLV Runnin' Rebel J.R. Rider may have impressed many scouts during the course of the college basketball season, but there are others that made their marks, including a few underclassmen that are ready to get paid.

First of all, there are seniors Bobby Hurley and Calbert Cheaney to contend with. Cheaney, the recipient of the Player of the Year award, arguably could be the top pick in the draft. Hurley figures to be in the top five. There are still a number of seniors that will be scattered about the draft.

Among the top fivedraft picks though, might be some names of players that didn't put in their full time. Jamal Mashburn began the boarding of the "hardship," while Memphis State All American Anfernee Hardaway joined him. This past Monday Rodney Rogers, former Wake Forest forward, announced that he too will enter the NBA Draft, passing up his senior year.

"I thought it was time to go to the next level," said Rogers, the 6'7" - 235-lb. monster for the Deamon Deacons. Many feel Rogers is a top five pick, regardless of his NCAA Tournament appearance. Some may argue, but Rogers could be an

impact player for an NBA team. The one thing that will have to happen, for Rogers' success, is that he'll need to be drafted to a team that already has a marquee player. Give Rogers any chance at being the key player, too early in his career, and he'll develop an attitude that will last a long time.

Hurley will be an interesting draft choice. Some like him, some don't. He will need to prove that he can successfully run an NBA offense as well as shoot the rock consistently immediately, or he will be considered a disappointment.

Rider, on the other hand, can come to a team that needs a flashy, key player. J.R.'s offensive ability and stunning performance could make any team happy. He is the type of player that can be drafted by a young team, looking for help to complete their backcourt. J.R. will go Top Five.

Other names to watch include: Nick Van Exel, Cincinnati; Acie Earl, Iowa; Rex Walters and Adonis Jordan, Kansas; Thomas Hill, Duke; Allan Houston, Tennessee; Malcom Mackey, Georgia Tech; George Lynch, North Carolina; Evric Gray and Dexter Boney, UNLV; Sam Crawford, New Mexico State; Terry DeHere, Seton Hall; and, Chris Mills, Arizona.

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