

Webber ends up with NBA's Golden State

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — Orlando helped Golden State get taller and tougher. In return, the Magic received the perfect complement to Shaquille O'Neal and a chance to be one of the superteams of the future.

Orlando made Chris Webber, Michigan's 6-foot-9 forward, the first player chosen in the NBA draft Wednesday night. And after the Warriors took Memphis State do-it-all guard Anfernee Hardaway two picks later, the teams swapped the players.

In between, Philadelphia filled its tall order with 7-6 Shawn Bradley.

Golden State, desperate to add rebounding and defensive help to a small, potent lineup, threw in three first-round draft choices, with the first to be exercised no earlier than 1996.

It was the first draft-day deal ever involving the league's No. 1 pick and the first time the top choice has been dealt at all since Cleveland acquired the pick from Philadelphia in 1986.

"These are both great players. We would be happy with either one," said Dick DeVoss, Orlando's director of player personnel. "But when you put one together with three other players, that's a fantastic value. We just insured our future."

Webber and Hardaway both wanted to play for the Magic.

"Nothing against Golden State, but I'm looking forward to playing with Shaq," said Hardaway, a fine passer and outside shooter who can play point guard, shooting guard and small forward. "I think we're going to be a dominating team. Me and Shaq will play well together. We really complement each other."

Webber appeared clearly disappointed when first told about the trade. But it didn't take long for him to get philosophical.

"Maybe I wasn't the right thing for them," he said. "This is still a great thrill, to be the number one player in the draft."

Asked if he was upset, Webber said:

"This is a dream come true. Don't take away my dream come true."

As costly as the trade was for Golden State, coach Don Nelson was thrilled.

"The beauty of the trade was that we didn't have to lose any players," he said. "We did have to give a lot. Three first-round picks is a lot to give for anybody, but we think it was well worth it."

"This has been in the works off and on for well over a month. We continued to communicate on a daily basis and it was culminated a few minutes before the draft began."

The move also had financial repercussions, especially for Orlando. The Magic are going to struggle signing their draft picks as it is. Adding the No. 1 choice for the second straight year might have been impossible.

O'Neal signed a seven-year, \$40 million contract after Orlando drafted him first last year. Christian Laettner, picked third by Minnesota a year ago, signed a six-year, \$21.6 million deal.

Wrestlers sue to compete

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Drake University wrestlers, charging discrimination, have sued the school, demanding reinstatement of their sport.

The suit, filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Des Moines, said wrestlers are being treated unfairly because they're being denied a chance to compete and obtain scholarships.

Attorney Lawrence Marcucci, who is representing the wrestlers, said they are seeking no monetary damages, only reinstatement of a program the school dropped in March.

"Wrestling programs are caught in a vice between rising costs and Title IX," Marcucci said Wednesday.

FOOTBALL

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\$30 million net on a two-team playoff, \$60 million for a four-team series and about \$102 million for a playoff system involving eight teams.

Many presidents are worried a playoff would conflict with their stated philosophy of decreasing commercialism in athletics.

"Nothing would be done unless that had been thoroughly discussed and it was concluded by members of the commission that would not be the case," Young said.

In other business, the commission voted to sponsor legislation at the January convention adopting several recommendations by a special cost-cutting committee and issued a position paper for a task force that is preparing possible legislation to increase funding for women's sports in pursuit of gender equity.

'There is no plan to put an action item on the agenda. On the other hand, there was no feeling that it's not something we ought to continue to examine, to take a look at.'

— UCLA chancellor Charles Young

The presidents did not act on cost-cutting committee's recommendation to limit I-A football participation to 105 athletes, including walk-ons. Presently, I-A schools can have 88 players on scholarship and an unlimited number

of walk-ons, something of great importance to programs such as Nebraska.

The cost-cutting committee's recommendation to make 105 the maximum may be sponsored by the NCAA Council, which meets later this month.

"We expect the Council will probably bring forward legislation we can support," said Gregory O'Brien of New Orleans University, the commission chairman.

Cost-cutting recommendations the commission will sponsor include:

- reducing preseason practice for fall sports.
- reducing preseason orientation for freshmen athletes.
- reducing recruiting contacts in football and basketball.

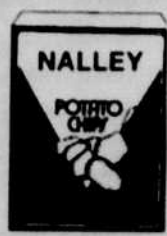
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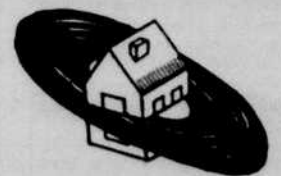
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