

Money not deciding factor for Wallace's jump to NBA

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Saying he was "not in it for the money," North Carolina's Rasheed Wallace declared himself eligible for the NBA draft Thursday, knowing the decision will make him a millionaire.

With the NBA considering a rookie salary cap, Wallace joined a host of college underclassmen who have decided to forgo their remaining eligibility to cash in on their basketball skills while they still can.

"The salary cap played a part in my decision, but it wasn't dominating," Wallace said during a news conference at his alma mater, Philadelphia's Simon Gratz High School. "I'm not going to sign a contract for 100 million. I'm going to go out and play basketball."

Wallace won't make 100 million dollars next year. He'll have to settle for several million.

A rare combination of size (6-foot-10) and athletic ability, Wallace, who averaged 16.6 points, 8.2 rebounds and 2.7 blocks as a sophomore last year, is expected to be

among the top five players taken in the June 28 draft.

"He can be very good in the NBA right now," said Stan Novak, director of scouting for the Minnesota Timberwolves, who has Wallace rated as the No. 2 draft-eligible prospect. "Eventually, he can be very, very good."

"He could be a star for years," said Philadelphia 76ers coach and general manager John Lucas. "He has a great upside."

One team will pay for that potential. Last year's first pick, Milwaukee's Glenn Robinson, signed a contract that will pay him \$68 million. The fourth player taken, Donyell Marshall, signed a \$42 million deal.

"I know it was a hard decision but I'm ready now and I have to do what I have to do to secure my future," Wallace said. "I'm sad because I'm leaving a phenomenal coach."

That coach, Dean Smith, issued a statement saying he understood why Wallace decided to become the first

sophomore to leave North Carolina for the NBA.

"It is difficult for a young man to turn down a tremendous financial opportunity for him and his family," Smith said.

Some have suggested that pressure from Wallace's mother, Jackie, was behind the decision. She was laid off from a job in North Carolina at the Durham County Social Services Department last month.

"My mother didn't push me," Wallace said. "Nobody pushed me. This was my decision."

"If he was uncontrollable, he wouldn't have gone to North Carolina and he wouldn't have stayed at North Carolina," she said.

Wallace becomes the third underclassman on The Associated Press' first two All-America teams to declare for the draft. The others are Maryland's Joe Smith, who many project will be the first pick in the draft, and Arkansas' Corliss Williamson.

WEDNESDAY TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

AL

■ **MINNESOTA TWINS**—Released Carl Willis, pitcher. Placed Kevin Maas, first baseman, on the 15-day disabled list. Recalled Bernardo Brito, outfielder, and Scott Stahovik, infielder, from Salt Lake of the Pacific Coast League.

NL

■ **ATLANTA BRAVES**—Placed Ryan Klesko, left fielder, on the 15-day disabled list. Recalled Mike Sharperson, infielder, from Richmond of the International League.

NORTHERN LEAGUE

■ **SAINT PAUL SAINTS**—Signed Doug Dasenczo, outfielder.

■ **SIOUX FALLS CANARIES**—Signed Joe Pence, infielder, and Kale Gilmore, outfielder.

PRAIRIE LEAGUE

■ **DAKOTA RATTLERS**—Named David Gilbertson director of promotions. Signed Alex Diaz, third baseman; Mike Casey, outfielder; Jim Larkin, shortstop; and Ray Moon, second

baseball

■ **MINNEAPOLIS LOONS**—Re-signed Jeff Jonkowski, second baseman; Chad Wiesner, pitcher; Darrin Germann, first base coach; and Jenny Mayer, trainer.

TEXAS-LOUISIANA LEAGUE

■ **TEXAS-LOUISIANA LEAGUE**—Named George F. Will commissioner.

■ **ALEXANDRIA ACES**—Signed Shon Wilson, pitcher.

■ **TYLER WILDCATTERS**—Re-signed Pat Woodruff, outfielder, and Derek Dana, catcher.

BASKETBALL

NBA

■ **MIAMI HEAT**—Fired Alvin Gentry coach.

■ **OKLAHOMA CITY CAVALRY**—Named R. Kevin Leonard president and general manager and Jay Davis director of sales and marketing.

U.S. BASKETBALL LEAGUE

■ **FLORIDA SHARKS**—Signed Jay Edwards and Charles Smith, guards, and Louis Rowe,

forward. Waived Mike Evans, guard, and David Degitz, forward.

■ **MEMPHIS FIRE**—Waived Bryant Lancaster, guard, and Ron Hayden, forward. Signed Logan Vander Welden, forward.

FOOTBALL

NFL

■ **ARIZONA CARDINALS**—Signed Bryan Reeves, wide receiver, to a one-year contract.

■ **CLEVELAND BROWNS**—Signed Laifry Webster, defensive tackle, and Marquise Thomas, linebacker.

CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

■ **SHREVEPORT PIRATES**—Signed Robert Jonson, offensive lineman.

■ **TORONTO ARGONAUTS**—Signed John Terry and Tony Tighe, offensive tackles.

■ **AMSTERDAM ADMIRALS**—Placed David Jones, tight end, on injured reserve.

■ **FRANKFURT GALAXY**—Activated Russ McCullough, offensive tackle, from injured reserve.

■ **RHEIN FIRE**—Placed Donald Douglas, defensive back, on injured reserve and Giulio Caravatta, kicker-quarterback, on reserve squad list.

HOCKEY

EAST COAST HOCKEY LEAGUE

■ **BIRMINGHAM BULLS**—Signed Phil Roberto, coach, to a two-year contract.

through the 1996-97 season. Named Scott Myers assistant general manager; Kern Williams office manager; Joe Stroud marketing representative; and Rodney Dalton director of marketing and group sales.

SOCCER

A-LEAGUE

■ **NEW YORK CENTAURS**—Signed Sammy Daoud and Ezekiel Morgan, forwards; Juan Osorio and Lee Tachantref, midfielders; and Davis Vaudrevill, Carlos Llamasa, and Naum Kove, defenders.

National Professional Soccer League

■ **MILWAUKEE WAVE**—Signed Keith Tozer, coach, to a three-year contract.

COLLEGE

■ **COASTAL CAROLINA**—Announced the retirement of John Vrooman, baseball coach, to become director of academic advisement.

■ **EDINBORO**—Promoted Todd Jay, sports information director, to assistant to the vice president for financial operations and administration for athletic compliance and publicity.

■ **FRANCIS MARION**—Named Frank Moore women's basketball coach.

■ **GARDNER-WEBB**—Named Eddie McCurley women's basketball coach.

■ **MICHIGAN**—Announced the resignation of Gary Moeller, football coach.

■ **QUINNIPAC**—Named Tricia Sacca women's basketball coach.

■ **ROSE-HULMAN**—Named Wanda Schwartz women's basketball coach and associate athletic director.

■ **UNLV**—Named Jim Gemma interim sports information director.

■ **WEST VIRGINIA**—Named Jerry Holmes secondary coach.

Oregon Daily Emerald

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