

Warriors get No. 1 pick in draft

SECAUCUS, N.J. (AP) — The Golden State Warriors, who lost two coaches in a turbulent season in which they sent Chris Webber packing, opened the off-season on the right foot Sunday by getting the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft.

The Warriors, with the fifth worst record in the league, had a 9.4 percent chance of winning the first selection in the weighted system that gives the worst teams the best chance at the top picks.

However, the Warriors overcame the odds for the June 28 draft in Toronto in which the first four players might be underclassmen — big men Joe Smith of Maryland, Antonio McDyess of Alabama, Rasheed Wallace of North Carolina and teammate Jerry Stachhouse, a swingman.

The Los Angeles Clippers, the league's worst team, will get the No. 2 choice.

Philadelphia, which had the fourth worst record, won the No. 3 pick. Washington, which had the second worst record, dropped to No. 4 and Minneso-

ta, the third worst club, drew the No. 5 pick.

Expansion teams Vancouver and Toronto will get the sixth and seventh picks, with the order to be decided after the NBA Finals.

The eighth through 13th picks went in the order the teams finished the regular season. Detroit received the eighth selection and will be followed by New Jersey, Miami, Milwaukee, Dallas and Sacramento.

Had Detroit gotten lower than No. 8, San Antonio would have had the right to swap with the Pistons, something commissioner David Stern noted. He turned to new Pistons coach Doug Collins shortly after the position was announced and said: "Feeling better."

Dave Twardzk, the Warriors' new general manager, also was feeling better. Just days after hiring Rick Adelman as his new coach, he now has the top pick.

"Now our homework starts," Twardzik said. "We have to figure out who we want."

Twardzik said no one player in the deep draft stands out, but

the Warriors do need a big man, which means Smith might be the No. 1 pick.

The Warriors went 26-56 last season in a year in which Don Nelson resigned and was replaced on an interim basis by Bob Lanier. The season was also marked by a multi-player trade that sent Webber to Washington for Tom Gugliotta and three first-round draft picks. Gugliotta was eventually traded to Minnesota.

Clippers coach Bill Fitch wasn't overly disappointed having the second pick.

"The No. 1 thing about this draft is there are four or five guys who will get a lot of consideration," said Fitch, whose team had 17 wins last season.

"If you asked all of the people up here and took a consensus vote, I doubt that you would get one or two players that would stand out."

Milwaukee had the No. 1 pick last season and took Glenn Robinson. Dallas selected Jason Kidd with the second pick and Detroit followed with Grant Hill.

Kidd and Hill shared the rookie of the year award.

Flyers win, top Rangers in overtime

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Eric Desjardins scored the winner 7:03 into overtime, his second goal of the game, as the Philadelphia Flyers beat the New York Rangers 5-4 Sunday in the opener of their playoff series.

Desjardins, whose other goal in the third period put the Flyers ahead 4-3, beat Rangers goaltender Mike Richter with a 30-foot shot through a screen.

The Flyers' other three goals were scored by John LeClair, his first career playoff hat trick, while Pat Verbeek scored twice for the Rangers.

Game 2 of the best-of-7 Eastern Conference semi-final series is Monday night.

Verbeek's second goal of the game, which came with 19.1 seconds left in the third period, sent the

game into overtime. Amid a tangle of players in front of Flyers goalie Ron Hextall, he shoveled a short backhand into the top corner.

Trailing 3-1, the Flyers came back to take the lead with the game's first three even-strength goals.

Desjardins put Philadelphia ahead 4-3 at 15:11 of the third period after Richter's clearing pass along the boards was stopped by Mikael Renberg. He passed to a streaking Desjardins, whose 25-foot shot beat Richter between the pads.

LeClair tied the game at 12:50 of the third period. Eric Lindros controlled a loose puck behind the Rangers' net, then slid a behind-the-back pass to a charging LeClair, who snapped a short shot past Richter.



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