

CORRECTIONS

The pull-out quote on page 7A of Wednesday's issue of the Emerald should have listed Duncan McDonald as the vice president of public affairs and development. The Emerald regrets the error.

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Stoudamire will be traded soon

The Toronto Raptors are considering offers from six teams for Damon Stoudamire

By Chris Sheridan
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Damon Stoudamire was nearly traded to the Houston Rockets on Wednesday, but the Toronto Raptors decided to reconsider offers that came pouring in from other teams.

The Rockets, Los Angeles Lakers, New York Knicks, Vancouver Grizzlies, Portland Trail Blazers and Orlando Magic were in contention to acquire Stoudamire, according to several league sources who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The proposals were much better than what Houston was offering: Kevin Willis, Mario Elie and a third player — either Brent Price, Matt Maloney or Emanuel Davis — and a No. 1 draft choice in 1998 for Stoudamire, Walt Williams and Zan Tabak.

The Lakers' offer was said to include Nick Van Exel and Elden Campbell. The Knicks offered Chris Mills, Chris Childs and-or Charlie Ward, along with the Raptors' own lottery-protected pick in 1998. New York also offered to pay most of the salaries for the players it would send to Toronto.

The Grizzlies were offering rookie point guard Antonio

Daniels and the Trail Blazers were offering a package including Kenny Anderson.

Nets general manager John Nash said New Jersey had dropped out of contention in its bid to acquire Stoudamire. He denied that Sam Cassell and a draft pick had been offered, but acknowledged talking to the Raptors about obtaining Marcus Camby.

The Trail Blazers' chances were enhanced by the fact that Stoudamire is from Portland — and team owner Paul Allen is a billionaire who could afford to pay Stoudamire's highest asking price after he becomes a free agent next summer.

It was not clear what Orlando was offering. An inquiry by Golden State was rebuffed because Stoudamire would not want to re-sign with the Warriors.

A possible deal between the Raptors and Rockets was reported Wednesday by the Houston Chronicle and Toronto Sun. ESPN reported that the deal would happen Wednesday.

It was the latest in a long line of offers made by the Rockets in the past several days.

It was so close to being done, in fact, that the Raptors were already calling other teams Wednesday morning looking for a point guard to replace Stoudamire.

But Raptors general manager Glen Grunwald slowed the process when he started receiving improved offers.

"Nothing is going to happen today," one of the sources told the AP late in the afternoon.

Stoudamire was in the starting lineup Wednesday night as the Raptors played the Kings. Willis and Maloney were in the Rockets' starting lineup against the Nets.

Stoudamire refused to talk to reporters at the team's morning shootaround in Toronto.

"Nobody wants to lose Damon Stoudamire and Walt Williams, but I have nothing to do with it," coach Darrell Walker said. "I'm going to coach the guys that come here."

Stoudamire, 24, is Toronto's captain and leading scorer at 19.1 points per game. The franchise's first-ever draft choice, the 5-foot-10 guard has voiced frustration during a 6-33 season that included the departure of team president and part owner Isiah Thomas after a failed buyout bid.

Stoudamire is in the last year of a rookie contract that pays him \$1.7 million.

Williams signed a five-year, \$20 million deal with the Raptors after last season. He has been injured much of the season.

"Wherever I'm at I'll make the best of the situation," Williams said at the morning shootaround. "I don't know what's really going on."

Men: Hartenstein, Nelson must dominate inside

Continued from Page 7

This season, Arizona (15-3, 5-0) is outscoring opponents by an average of 18.4 points, 18.2 in conference play.

"They are playing much, much better now than when they won the championship," Kent said. "They are averaging NBA numbers."

So what does Oregon do to give itself a chance?

For starters, limit the effectiveness of guards Mike Bibby (17.4 points per game) and Miles Simon (17.9) and small forward Michael Dickerson (18.3) on the perimeter. That responsibility falls on the shoulders of Oregon guards Mike McShane, Yasir Rosemond, Jamar Curry and even Terik Brown.

"Bibby and Simon are going to be huge match-up problems," Kent said. "We are really going to have to focus on not being broken down 30 feet from the bucket off the dribble. If those guys get into the lane and force our big guys to help, it'll be dunk city for their big guys."

Curry is a proven and capable defender, and Brown has shown improved ability on defense in recent games. But McShane and Rosemond will have to improve their play on defense or risk having Bibby exploit that mismatch.

"If they're shooting jump shots with us right there on them, with extreme shot pressure, and they're still knocking them down, then hey, they're great players," Kent said. "But if they are breaking us down and blowing by us, or we're not getting back in transition, then it's going to be a long night."

Kent said Oregon has an advantage in the post with 6-foot-9, 255-pound Flo Hartenstein and Jonathan Nelson (6-9, 225) going against Bennett Davison (6-8, 208) and A.J. Bramlett (6-11, 222).

"I think we are bigger and stronger," Kent said. "If they have a weakness, it's inside play. Jonathan and Flo have to understand that they have to attack those big guys and get them into foul trouble and make them play a little smaller."

As if the team needs any added incentive to play the defending champs, today is Kent's 48th birthday. What better way to celebrate than to beat the conference's best team on the road to break a 12-year losing streak?

"The only factor it is going to play is that I know I don't want to get beat by 50 on my birthday," Kent joked. "Hopefully, the guys won't want to see their coach lose."

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