

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

MLB All-Stars reserves and pitchers to be selected today

After fan voting decided the 16 position starters on Monday, the reserves and pitchers will be selected by the two managers and league presidents today. Atlanta Braves manager Bobby Cox and Cleveland Indians manager Mike Hargrove — managers of the defending league champions — will select the remaining members of their team to be announced today. Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Mike Piazza and Seattle Mariners outfielder Ken Griffey head the list of starters named Monday for the 67th annual All-Star Game at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia.

Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda released from hospital

Los Angeles Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda, who underwent an angioplasty last Wednesday to clear a blockage in a coronary artery, was released from Centinela Hospital Medical Center at 3 p.m. EDT Monday. Asked about reports he could return to the Dodgers' dugout as early as Thursday, the 68-year-old Lasorda said, "Hoping and being are two different things. I wish I were back now. I'm going to follow the doctors' orders."

Lakers, Hornets agree to swap Divac and Bryant

The Los Angeles Lakers, who are expected to be the primary contenders for Orlando Magic free agent center Shaquille O'Neal, agreed Monday to send center Vlade Divac to the Charlotte Hornets for Kobe Bryant, the 13th overall pick in last week's draft.

Dream Team III opens practice in Chicago

Dream Team III, expected to win another easy gold medal at the Olympics later this month, began facing their toughest challenge — playing against each other — when it opened practice Monday in Chicago. The Dream Team is training at the Solheim Center on the campus of the Moody Bible Institute through Friday before beginning a five-game exhibition slate. Unlike in 1992, when the team scrimmaged against a group of college all-stars, this year's team will not face any outside competition prior to its exhibition schedule.

Golden State signs first-round pick Todd Fuller to contract

The Golden State Warriors, Monday, signed center Todd Fuller, the 11th pick in last week's draft, to a three-year contract.

Celtics hire K.C. Jones as assistant coach; promote Johnson

The Boston Celtics, Monday, hired former coach K.C. Jones as an assistant to head coach M.L. Carr and promoted Dennis Johnson to the first assistant position. Jones was an assistant coach from 1978-83 before taking over as coach for the 1983-84 season. Jones compiled a 308-102 record in five seasons, winning two NBA Championships.

OREGON GETS SPLIT AT NORTHWEST SHOOTOUT

BY ERIC NOON

When you put together a team of all-stars, sometimes they tend to play as individuals, and fail to gel as a team in their limited time at play. That was the case for some of the best basketball players in the state, as Oregon went head-to-head with the best from Washington in the third annual Northwest Shootout at the Chiles Center last Sunday.

In the girls' game, which matches the best graduated players in representing states, Oregon was minus 6-5. Jenny Mowe from Powers and struggled on the boards as the pride of Washington out-rebounded Oregon 64-39 in route to a 72-62 victory.

tory.

The estimated 1,750 fans saw a sloppy game by the Oregon squad, but a late rally led by Lauren Cooper of Crescent Valley got Oregon within four, 60-64 with less than three minutes remaining. The 21 point lead was all but erased as the Oregon team fell to the defensive pressure of the Washington squad. Sarah Green, from Benson, who averaged 24.5 during the season to lead the state, struggled to find her shot and only scored three points. Green, who will attend University of Portland this fall, will undoubtedly see better games in the future at Chiles Center. Cooper, the 4A player of the year, led

the Oregon squad with 14 points as the Oregon comeback fell short.

In the boys game, Washington came out solid and fired up as the underdog, outplaying Oregon who struggled to get into rhythm. A little overconfidence and lack of execution resulted in a 50-40 half-time lead by Washington.

Led by University of Washington recruit Quincy Wilder, Washington took the talent-laden Oregon squad to task by defensively pressuring the ball early and using unselfish ball-movement to convert easy shots. Wilder, Seattle Post-Intelligence's player of the year, had three spectacular dunks to bring the 2,500 fans

to ohs and ahhs in the first half, and finished with 18 points. Four years of bragging rights went to Wilder's soon to be teammate Thalo Green, from South Salem.

Green and Mike McShane, also from South Salem, also led Oregon on a 33-7 run in the second half as Oregon erased a 15-point lead and never looked back. The dynamic-duo, which led South Salem to the state title, came up big for the Oregon boys. McShane just took control of the game at one point and scored seven of his ten points in 42 seconds, as Oregon took its first lead of the game. Green was solid in the middle once again and finished with 18 points, 10 rebounds and another MVP trophy.

McShane added 10 assists to his ten points and some flat out spectacular plays to hand Oregon the momentum and the game 95-83.

Oregon had balanced scoring from there down, as everybody seemed to step up their game behind the duo from the South. For the fans, this is the last chance to see these young men and women play before they take the next step to college.

They are some of the best players on the west coast and the games were very entertaining. Look for a home and home double-header in the future as the coach for the Washington squad thought he smelled a little too much home cooking by the local refs.

SAMPRAS AND GRAF ADVANCE AT WIMBLEDON

Top seeds Pete Sampras of the United States and Steffi Graf of Germany made quick work of their opponents today at the \$9.76 million Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London. Sampras, the three-time defending champion, rolled into the quarterfinals by storming past number 16 Cedric Pioline of France, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 in just 98 minutes. Graf continued her quest toward a seventh Wimbledon title by breezing past sixth seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-2, in a rematch of their 1993 final to gain a berth in the semifinals.

REYNOLDS AND BASEBALL TONIGHT A GOOD COMBINATION

During his 12-year Major League career, spent mostly with the Seattle Mariners, Harold Reynolds made the All-Star team twice and won three American League Gold Glove Awards.

These days, the 35-year-old Reynolds can be seen playing the role of studio analyst on ESPN's Baseball Tonight. While the former second baseman looks ready to turn a double play or advance a baserunner on the hit-and-run, he's instead applying his through knowledge and instinctive feel for the game in a different but increasingly successful way. Reynolds acknowledges the transition from the playing field to the studio as challenging, but enjoyable. He even invokes a certain well-known baseball sage in describing a career shift that is easier said than done.

"I know I'm going to sound like Yogi Berra," Reynolds said. "But the biggest difference between playing and broadcasting is that I've had to use my mind more than I anticipated. As a player, I

had only a few seconds to field the ball and throw it. I didn't have to explain why I did it. I just did it. As an analyst, I have only a few seconds to tell people not only what happened, but why it happened. I've definitely been challenged. This experience has really stretched me."

As Baseball Tonight viewers are coming to learn, however, Reynolds responds well to challenges. His nimble mind, unforced delivery and comfortable presence mesh nicely with the program's hosts—Chris Berman, Karl Ravech and Gary Miller.

Reynolds, a former number one draft pick in 1980, credits his smooth transition to the entire Baseball Tonight staff, but doffs his cap to the program's coordinating producer, Jeff Schneider.

It was Schneider who auditioned Reynolds for Base Tonight earlier this winter. Reynolds finished his Major League career in 1994 with the California Angels, but still harbored hopes of playing again after a frustrating 1995 that saw him injured and in the minors.



Baseball tonight analyst Harold Reynolds (left); alongside host Chris Berman

KIDS CAN PLAY TOO

They are only 18 years old, barely driving and only recently eligible to vote. They cannot buy alcoholic products. But make no mistake about it — Kobe Bryant and Jermaine O'Neal are first-round picks and think they're ready to play in the NBA.

Bryant was selected 13th by the Charlotte Hornets. After completing a four-year career at Lower Merion High School in Pennsylvania, Kobe, along with his father Joe "Jelly Bean" Bryant, made the decision to enter the NBA Draft.

"I think it is very important for every individual to do what is best for himself," said Bryant. "In this situation, I had the family backing me up, 110 percent. I had the moral support."

Bryant entered the draft because he wanted to, not because he would have had to sit out a year due to academic problems. Bryant received his high school diploma and also scored 1,080 on his Scholastic Aptitude Test. Joe, who played for eight seasons in the NBA and was an assistant coach at La Salle, gave his blessing to his son, who wound up being the sixth player to be drafted without going to college.

"At the same time, I am going to get my academics, my education, and that is very important for young kids to understand. I had said to myself that if I have the option to skip college and go straight to the NBA, I would. This is a great challenge to myself."

Does Bryant have the skills? Apparently the Hornets thought so. He had a stellar four-year career at Lower Merion, scoring 2,883 points in his four years. That's more than Wilt Chamberlain scored. He averaged 30.8 points, 12.0 rebounds, 6.5 assists, 4.0 steals and 3.8 blocked shots per game in his senior season, leading Lower Merion to the Class AAAA state title.

It's the second season in a row a high school graduate was taken in the first round. Kevin Garnett went to the Minnesota Timberwolves last season. But that's where the similarities end. Garnett was a power forward, able to come in and step in right away. Bryant is a shooting guard, hoping to be the

first shooting guard to survive the transition from high school to the pros.

A shooting guard has to make decisions, not like a forward who just usually turns and shoots. But in addition to learning the NBA game, Bryant has to learn the NBA. The road trips, the hotels, the grind of an 82-game schedule.

Joe Bryant resigned his post at La Salle to help Kobe make the transition. You could almost argue Kobe is ahead of the game because Joe has lived the NBA life and Kobe should know what goes on. So maybe that part, which has been labeled a risk by some, had been diminished.

Then there's O'Neal, who like Garnett, did not meet the academic requirements to attend college. O'Neal is very talented and went four picks later, where the Portland Trail Blazers tabbed him with the 17th overall pick.

The 6-foot-11 center has scouts drooling with his raw talent, though there is some immaturity in his game. O'Neal averaged 5.2 blocks per game his senior season at Eau Claire High School in South Carolina and averaged 22.4 points and 12.2 rebounds as well.

But can O'Neal adjust to the NBA? Can he live the life and do it as well as Garnett did last season? At 226 pounds, O'Neal will obviously need to add some weight to survive the physical rigors of the NBA.

With O'Neal as an 18-year-old rookie and Arvydas Sabonis as a 31-year-old second-year player, one can say the Blazers have one of the more unique front lines in the NBA. But that's if O'Neal lives up to his billing. He may not be related to Shaquille, but Jermaine O'Neal hopes to be as good.

Top 10 NBA Picks For 1996-97

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS

Allen Iverson, G, Georgetown (1)

TORONTO RAPTORS

Marcus Camby, F, Massachusetts (2)

VANCOUVER GRIZZLIES

Shareef Abdul-Rahim, F, California (3)

MILWAUKEE BUCKS

Stephon Marbury, G, Georgia Tech (4)

MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES

Ray Allen, G, Connecticut, (5)

BOSTON CELTICS

Antoine Walker, F, Kentucky (6)

LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS

Lorenzen Wright, C-F, Memphis (7)

NEW JERSEY NETS

Kerry Kittles, G, Villanova (8)

DALLAS MAVERICKS

Samaki Walker, F, Louisville (9)

INDIANA PACERS

Erick Dampier, C, Mississippi State (10)

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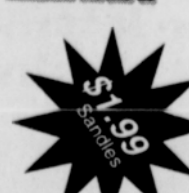
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