

# NBA Rockets acquire Chris Paul from Clippers

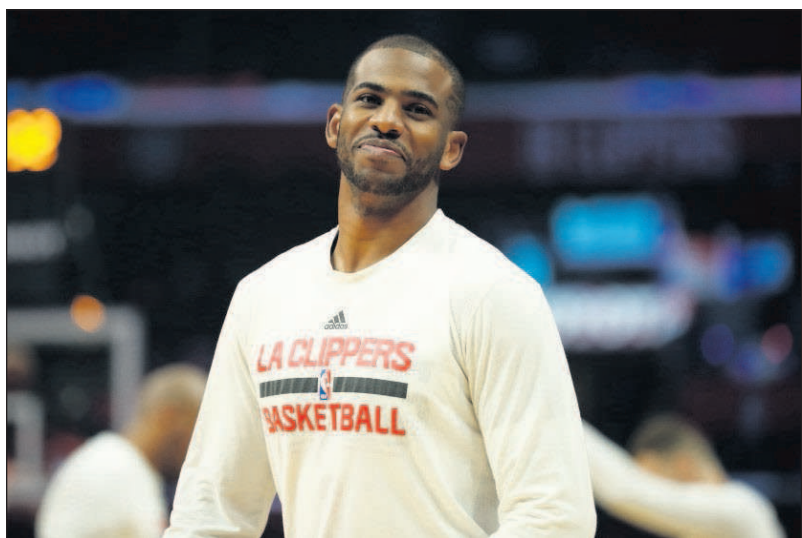
By KRISTIE RIEKEN  
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Chris Paul is heading to Houston to join James Harden, giving the Rockets two All-Stars in the backcourt to lead their chase for a championship.

In the NBA's second blockbuster trade in less than a week, the Rockets acquired Paul from the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday in exchange for Patrick Beverley, Lou Williams, Sam Dekker, Montrezl Harrell, Darrun Hilliard, DeAndre Liggins, Kyle Wiltjer, a protected first-round pick next year and cash considerations. The Rockets acquired Hilliard from Detroit and Liggins from Dallas for cash considerations before adding them to the deal.

"It's a weapons race in the NBA and you're either in the weapons race or on the sidelines," Houston general manager Daryl Morey said. "We felt like with James Harden in his prime and Chris Paul in his prime this gives us a real shot to chase the juggernaut teams that are out there. This puts us right there with them."

Both the Clippers and Houston will look far different next season than they did in again falling short in the playoffs. The roster overhauls came five days after Minnesota sent three players to Chicago for All-Star Jimmy Butler to kick things off with NBA free agency opening Saturday.



AP Photo/Ryan Kang, File

In this March 20, 2017, file photo, Los Angeles Clippers guard Chris Paul warms up before the team's NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks, in Los Angeles.

The 32-year-old Paul will be playing for his third team after opting in for the last year of his contract so the Clippers could work on a deal.

Morey wanted to get this deal done early so Paul could help Harden woo free agents to Houston.

"Now that we have James and Chris I think people are going to look in free agency and say: 'Hey I can make this money there but maybe for close to the money but not quite as much I'm going to come to Houston and try to win a ring,'" he said. "So that's a big

difference walking in with that kind of a situation."

Paul is a nine-time All-Star who has averaged 18.7 points, 9.9 assists, 4.4 rebounds and 2.3 steals over his 12-year career, though he has been dogged with criticism in recent years for failing to help the Clippers get out of the second round of the playoffs. Los Angeles reached the postseason in each of Paul's six seasons with the team, but the Clippers were eliminated in the first round three times and in the Western Conference semifinals three other times.

# MARINERS: Hernandez allows three runs, strikes out five

Continued from 1B

for his seventh save. Along with the rally in the ninth, the Phillies got the second career home run from Ty Kelly and an RBI groundout from Odubel Herrera in the third inning off Felix Hernandez.

"Pinto was the key to that game. He gave us three strong innings, kept the game close and really pitched well for a young kid," Philadelphia manager Pete Mackanin said.

Seattle appeared fine after Robinson Cano's 14th home run of the season snapped a 3-all tie. Seattle also got solo homers from Kyle Seager and Danny Valencia, and an RBI single by Nelson Cruz all coming off Philadelphia starter Mark Leiter Jr.

But the Mariners were unable to add on to the lead. Knapp said his approach changed once the balk by Diaz got Perkins to second base.



Philadelphia's Tommy Joseph (19) is greeted at the dugout after his solo home run in the ninth inning of Wednesday's game in Seattle.

AP Photo/Ted S. Warren

"I knew he was going to challenge me. He has a really good fastball. I was just making sure I battled and put the ball in play," Knapp said.

## KING FELIX

The ninth-inning troubles cost Hernandez a second straight victory

since coming off the disabled list. Hernandez was not overpowering in his second start after missing nearly two months with shoulder inflammation. But Hernandez limited the damage to just one inning when the Phillies had four consecutive hits helping lead to all three runs.

In Houston, Paul joins a team that was eliminated by the San Antonio Spurs in the conference semifinals. With Harden's move to point guard last season, Paul's role will probably be a bit different than it has been in Los Angeles.

But he will add another scoring dimension in replacing Beverley in the starting lineup. Beverley received NBA defensive first team honors last week, but averaged just 9.3 points in his five seasons with the Rockets.

Williams, the 2014-15 NBA Sixth Man of the Year, was traded to the Rockets from the Los Angeles Lakers in February. He averaged 14.9 points and three rebounds in 23 games for Houston.

Dekker, the 18th pick in the 2015 draft, missed all but three games as a rookie because of back surgery. The small forward was healthy this season and appeared in 77 games and averaged 6.3 points and 3.6 rebounds. Harrell, a second-round pick in 2015, averaged 6.9 points and 2.9 rebounds in two seasons in Houston. Wiltjer spent most of his rookie season last year in the D-league after going undrafted out of Gonzaga.

Houston also acquired Ryan Kelly from Atlanta and Tim Quarterman from Portland for cash considerations and Shawn Long from Philadelphia for a future second-round pick and cash considerations.

# LITTLE LEAGUE:

Continued from 1B

Deminev threw two shutout innings with five strikeouts to start the game, and Luke Breshears finished the final two and allowed two hits and three runs.

Triangle's three hits came off the bats of Gauge Rubeer, Peyton McLouth and Joel Contreras, with Reuber, Kyren Miller and Tyler Berry scoring each of the three runs.

TRI	003	0	-	R	H	E
PND	786	X	-	3	24	1

2B — Keefer Breshears, Clayton Cooley, Easton Corey, Andrew Deminev, Payton Lambert, Jack Lueallen (PND). HR — Easton Corey 2, Dylan Gomez.

**10/11 LEVEL**  
**BAKER 13, PENDLETON 3** — The Pendleton 10/11-year-old all-stars suffered its first loss of the District 3 tournament, falling to Baker 13-3 on Wednesday. in Enterprise.

Baker pounded Pendleton for 14 hits on its 13 runs, while Pendleton could manage just six hits. Gavin Lunny and Kylar Moutray combined for four of those hits, with Moutray hitting a pair of doubles, while Levi Herman and Nolan Enright each tallying a hit.

Pendleton will now play Hermiston today at 2 p.m., with the winner moving on to the championship game. Pendleton won the first meeting of the tournament 14-2 on Monday.

PND	012	00	-	R	H	E
BAK	220	45	-	3	14	2

2B — Nolan Enright, Kylar Moutray 2 (PND).

**HERMISTON 12, WALLOWA 1** — The Hermiston all-stars held off elimination in a big way, beating Wallowa 12-1 to advance in the bracket at the District 3 tournament on Wednesday in Enterprise.

No details were available. Hermiston will play Pendleton today at 2 p.m., with the winner moving on to the championship game.

**9/10 LEVEL**  
**PENDLETON 18, BAKER 4** — The Pendleton all-stars advanced to the District 3 championship game with a big win over Baker 18-4 on Wednesday morning in Enterprise.

Kaden Moore led Pendleton's offense going 3 for 4 with three runs scored and four RBI. Connor Cook, Tugg McGuinn, Evan Lehnart, Jacob Neistadt, Art Hill and Anson Dressler each contributed two hits apiece in the game.

Neistadt started on the mound and struck out four and gave up four runs in two innings. Lehnart and Cook finished the last two and combined to allow two hits.

Pendleton plays on Friday at 2 p.m. with opponent TBD.

PND	918	0	-	R	H	E
BAK	040 <td>0</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td>	0	-	4	5	1

2B — Connor Cook, Art Hill, Jaydon Hoffert, Evan Lehnert, Jacob Neistadt (PND). 3B — Evan Lehnert (PND).

# SMYLY: Surgery set for July 6, recovery time 12-15 months

Continued from 1B

team," Seattle manager Scott Servais said. "He did everything he could do to try and get back with us, the treatments and procedures and whatnot to figure it out."

Smyly had been on the disabled list since opening day with a flexor strain in his left arm, an diagnosed in spring training one outing after he pitched for the United States during the World Baseball Classic.

Smyly had been rehabbing in the hopes of returning after the All-Star break but Servais said Smyly came out of his last 25-pitch simulated game last weekend not feeling great and additional exams revealed the need for surgery.

The operation is scheduled for July 6 and will be performed by Dr. James Andrews. Recovery time is typically 12 to 15 months.

"Everybody was excited

about getting him back but that's obviously not going to happen," Servais said. "I don't want to say, 'woe is us,' or the 'sky is falling.' It is what it is and we've dealt with a lot of things this year and we'll deal with this one."

Smyly's setback only adds to Seattle's long list of injuries with its starting rotation. Felix Hernandez just returned after nearly two months on the disabled

list. Hisashi Iwakuma has no timetable for his potential return from shoulder inflammation. James Paxton missed three weeks with a forearm strain and Yovani Gallardo was demoted to the bullpen.

Seattle has used 13 different starting pitchers and Smyly was not one of them.

"I guess it creates some clarity on where we're going to get through the rest

of the year, the guys we've got and how important they are," Servais said.

Smyly was acquired in January in a multi-team deal. Seattle acquired outfielder Mallex Smith from Atlanta then packaged him in a deal with Tampa Bay the same day to land Smyly.

Smyly, 28, will be entering his final season of arbitration in 2018 and can become a free agent heading into the 2019 season.

## SCOREBOARD

### Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	42	34	553	—
Boston	43	35	551	—
Tampa Bay	41	39	513	3
Baltimore	38	39	494	4½
Toronto	37	40	481	5½
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	41	36	532	—
Minnesota	40	36	526	½
Kansas City	38	38	500	2½
Detroit	34	43	442	7
Chicago	33	44	429	8
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	53	26	671	—
Los Angeles	42	40	512	12½
Texas	39	39	500	13½
Seattle	39	41	488	14½
Oakland	35	43	449	17½
Wednesday's Games				
Philadelphia 5, Seattle 4				
Pittsburgh 6, Tampa Bay 2				
Toronto 4, Baltimore 0				
Cleveland 5, Texas 3				
Thursday's Games				
Philadelphia 5, Seattle 4				
Pittsburgh 6, Tampa Bay 2				
Toronto 4, Baltimore 0				
Cleveland 5, Texas 3				
Kansas City 8, Detroit 2				
Minnesota 4, Boston 1				
N.Y. Yankees 12, Chicago White Sox 3				
Houston 11, Oakland 8				
L.A. Angels 3, L.A. Dodgers 2				
Friday's Games				
Cashner 3-6 at Cleveland (Kluber 6-2), 9:10 a.m.				
Kansas City (Junis 2-1) at Detroit (Fulmer 6-6), 10:10 a.m.				
Oakland (Gossett 1-2) at Houston (Peacock 4-1), 11:10 a.m.				
Tampa Bay (Archer 6-4) at Pittsburgh (Taillon 3-2), 4:05 p.m.				
Baltimore (Jimenez 2-3) at Toronto (Happ 2-4), 4:07 p.m.				
Minnesota (Gibson 4-5) at Boston (Price 2-2), 4:10 p.m.				
N.Y. Yankees (Cessa 0-2) at Chicago White Sox (Shields 1-1), 5:10 p.m.				
L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 11-2) at L.A. Angels (Ramirez 7-5), 7:07 p.m.				
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Washington	47	31	603	—
Atlanta	37	40	480	9½
Miami	35	41	461	11
New York	35	42	455	11½
Philadelphia	26	51	338	20½
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	41	39	513	—
Chicago	39	39	500	1
St. Louis	31	41	467	3½
Pittsburgh	36	42	462	4

Cincinnati	33	44	429	6½
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	52	28	650	—
Arizona	50	28	641	1
Colorado	47	34	580	5½
San Diego	32	46	410	19
San Francisco	30	51	370	22½
Wednesday's Games				
Philadelphia 5, Seattle 4				
San Francisco 5, Colorado 3				
Pittsburgh 6, Tampa Bay 2				
Washington 8, Chicago Cubs 4				
Cincinnati 4, Milwaukee 3				
N.Y. Mets 8, Miami 0				
St. Louis 4, Arizona 3				
L.A. Angels 3, L.A. Dodgers 2				
San Diego 7, Atlanta 4				
Thursday's Games				
St. Louis (Lynn 5-5) at Arizona (Corbin 6-7), 12:40 p.m.				
Chicago Cubs (Lester 5-4) at Washington (Ross 4-3), 1:05 p.m.				
Tampa Bay (Archer 6-4) at Pittsburgh (Taillon 3-2), 4:05 p.m.				
Milwaukee (Nelson 5-4) at Cincinnati (Bailey 0-1), 4:10 p.m.				
N.Y. Mets (Lugo 2-1) at Miami (Urena 6-2), 4:10 p.m.				
Atlanta (Garcia 2-5) at San Diego (Lamett 2-2), 6:10 p.m.				
L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 11-2) at L.A. Angels (Ramirez 7-5), 7:07 p.m.				
MLB				
Northwest League				
North				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Tri-City	10	4	714	—
Vancouver	9	5	643	1
Everett	7	7	500	3
Spokane	4	10	286	6
South				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Eugene	9	5	643	—
Boise	7	7	500	2
Hillsboro	6	8	428	3
Salem-Keizer	4	10	286	5
Wednesday's Games				
Boise 8, Salem-Keizer 3				
Spokane 6, Tri-City 1				
Eugene 8, Hillsboro 3				
Everett 7, Vancouver 5				
Thursday's Games				
Spokane at Boise, 6:15 p.m.				
Eugene at Vancouver, 7:05 p.m.				
Everett at Hillsboro, 7:05 p.m.				
Salem-Keizer at Tri-City, 7:15 p.m.				
Basketball				
WNBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Washington	9	5	643	—
Washington	7	5	583	1

Indiana	7	7	500	2		
Connecticut	6	7	462	2½		
Atlanta	5	6	455	2½		
Chicago	3	11	214	6		
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
W	L	Pct	GB			
Minnesota	11	1	917	—		
Los Angeles	10	3	769	1½		
Phoenix	7	5	583	4		
Dallas	8	8	500	5		
Seattle	6	7	462	5½		
San Antonio	0	14	000	12		
Wednesday's Games						
Indiana 82, Chicago 75						
Thursday's Games						
New York at Washington, 4 p.m.						
Seattle at Connecticut, 5 p.m. (ESPN2)						
Soccer						
MLS						
EASTERN CONFERENCE						
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Toronto FC	10	2	5	35	30	15
Chicago	10	3	4	34	31	17
NYC FC	9	5	3	30	31	20
Orlando City	7	6	5	26	20	26
Columbus	8	9	1	25	29	30
Atl. United FC 7	3	24	33	23	25	
New York	7	8	2	23	17	
New England 5	7	5	20	27	25	
Philadelphia 5	7	4	19	21	20	
Montreal	4	6	18	24	26	
D.C. United 5	9	3	18	12	25	
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Sporting K.C.	8	4	6	30	22	12
FC Dallas	6	3	7	25	23	15
Houston	7	6	4	25	25	25
Portland	7	7	4	25	31	28
San Jose	6	6	5	23	18	21
Los Angeles	6	6	4	22	24	24
Vancouver	6	6	3	21	21	21
Seattle	5	7	6	21	22	27
Minn. United 5	9	3	18	24	38	
Real Salt Lake 5	9	2	17	17	37	
Colorado	5	10	1	16	15	23
NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.						
Thursday's Game						
Minnesota United at New York City FC, 4:30 p.m.						
Friday's Game						
Orlando City at Real Salt Lake, 6:30 p.m.						
Saturday, July 1						
D.C. United at Montreal, 4 p.m.			</			