

BLACK COLLEGE NOTEBOOK

Lakers may have a place for Ralph Tally

By DAVID BULLA
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The National Basketball Association draft, held last week in New York, was frankly a bit puzzling for black college basketball fans.

Ralph Tally, the NCAA Division II and black college Player of the Year, was the next-to-last black college player taken. Yes, it was conceivable that Jamie Waller, the 6-foot-4 Virginia Union forward who is capable of leaping tall buildings, could go before Tally. But nobody else in black college basketball was even in the same league with Tally, who led Norfolk State to a quarterfinal berth in the Division

player taken by the world champions after St. John's Willie Glass in the third round. Also credit General Manager Jerry West, who personally scouted Tally, for being shrewd enough to take a chance on him when some scouts grew cold after the Spartan's horrible shooting slump in the CIAA Tournament.

By all accounts, Tally is the best guard to come out of the CIAA since Earl "the Pearl" Monroe of Winston-Salem State was drafted by Baltimore in 1967. Furthermore, there's no precedent for a Norfolk State player going higher than the fourth round anyway. Bobby Dandridge was taken in the fourth round by

Chamberlain also had three teammates taken, including catcher Franklin Harris by the Chicago White Sox, first baseman Wade Floyd by Toronto and right-handed pitcher Howard Farmer by Montreal.

The White Sox and New York Yankees were the only clubs to take two black college players. The White Sox second black college draftee was shortstop Lawrence Smith of Bethune-Cookman. The Yankees tabbed Howard University shortstop Brent McCoy and Grambling State outfielder Gerald Williams.

Outfielder Glenn Abraham, a teammate of McCoy's at

Alabama State.

Jackson State returns 14 starters, but will have to replace defensive end Leon Seals (drafted by Buffalo) and offense linemen James Harvey and Darrell Hall

• Bulldog Promotion: South Carolina State has promoted Orrick Dixon to the post of defensive coordinator. Dixon, an Alcorn State alumnus, was the Bulldogs' defensive line coach last year

• All-America Team: North Carolina A&T quarterback Alan Hooker and Howard tailback Harvey Reed head the list of black college players named to *The Sporting News'* Division I-AA all-America team.

Others named to the team are Jackson State's Kevin Dent, Houston Hoover, Lewis Tillman and Andre Lloyd; Delaware State's Terrance Hoover, Robert Presbury and Lybrant Robinson; Southern University's Gerald Perry, Michael Ball and Rugus Porter; Morgan State's William Foye and Vernon Beard; Mississippi Valley State's Paul Jones; South Carolina State's Dwayne Harper; Alabama State's Robert Baxter; Texas Southern's Kenneth Munson; Howard's Eric Moore, and Prairie View A&M's Victor Pegrum.



Portland Bound

Jackson State's Lester Fonville was one of the big surprises of the NBA draft. The 7-foot, 245 pound center will be headed to the Portland Trailblazers after being picked early in the second round (photo by J.D.Schwalm).

II national championships.

But because the NBA is a big man's league, two black college centers went before Tally, including Jackson State's Lester Fonville and Alabama State's Rueben Holmes.

The 7-foot, 245-pound Fonville was the surprise pick of the draft. Taken by Portland in the second round, he was the 29th selection overall. Incidentally, Waller, taken by New Jersey, also went in the second round, but not until the 48th pick overall.

Still, give the Trail Blazers credit for taking a chance on Fonville, whose development was about as slow as journeyman Chuck Nevitt's. But Fonville was much improved as a senior and could become a legitimate backup in the NBA.

Holmes, meanwhile, taken in the fourth round by Utah and was the 84th selection overall.

Don't shed any tears for the 6-1 Tally, who has a decent shot at making the Lakers as a reserve guard. Tally, who averaged 28.5 points per game as a senior, will have to beat out the likes of Wes Matthews and Adrian Branch. Remember he was the second

Milwaukee in 1969 and David Pope went to Utah in the sixth in '84.

The only other player taken from the black colleges was Hampton's Rowan Gomes, chosen by Denver in the seventh round. Gomes did not even make the all-CIAA team, but the 6-10 center did average 10 rebounds.

There were several notable oversights, including WSSU's Alexander Hooper, St. Augustine's Randall Mounts, NSU's Barry Mitchell and Elizabeth City State's Tim McDaniels.

Hooper told the *Chronicle* that he still hopes to get a free-agent tryout. He also said European ball is a possibility.

Baseball Banter

•Draft Report: While basketball dominated the new recently, the annual free-agent baseball draft was conducted last month and several black college players were drafted.

The highest choice was Wes Chamberlain of Jackson State. The outfielder was taken by the Pittsburgh Pirates in the fourth

round. Howard, was taken by the San Francisco Giants

• Jaguar Prospects: Banking on its excellent showing in the NCAA Regionals, Southern University signed a pair of big-city ballplayers in pitcher Grady Davidson of Detroit and infielder Bernard Williams of Atlanta. Davidson, who missed most of his senior season, three five no-hitters as a junior for Martin Luther King High. Williams batted .538 with nine home runs and 46 runs in only 25 games for Lakeside High School.

Yardstick Yarns

• Tigers Tabbed: Jackson State is the preseason football favorite in the Southwestern Athletic Conference, according to a vote of the league's sports information directors.

JSU, the defending champion, edged Grambling State in the voting 82-80. Southern University was picked to finish third, followed by Alcorn State, Mississippi Valley State, Texas Southern, Prairie View A&M and

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