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SPORTS BRIEF

by Paul Pet
Staff Reporter

NFL

■The NFL draft took place on April 23 with Utah's Alex Smith going as the overall pick. As expected, the San Francisco 49ers chose University of Tennessee quarterback Aaron Rodgers as their first selection.

The top five draft picks follow: San Francisco drafted Smith, Miami drafted Ronnie Brown (Auburn), Cleveland drafted Braylon Edwards (Michigan), Chicago drafted Cedric Benson (Rutgers) and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers drafted Carnell Williams (RB - Auburn).

Projected to be a top pick, Rodgers fell down in the draft until he was finally picked by the Green Bay Packers on the 24th overall pick in the first round.

Although Oklahoma players drafted, quarterback Heisman winner Jason Stewart was not among them. Sooner, who finished Heisman voting this year, was expected to be a late pick but his two major knicks proved to be too much for White will now sign with an agency.

NBA

■The NBA playoffs began last weekend, as the Eastern Conference will battle for the championship until early June. While the playoff picture has been set, while the final spot came down to the last minute, both New Jersey and Cleveland are vying for the Eastern Conference. LeBron James' Cavaliers were unable to clinch after the season finale, while the Celtics secured the pick.

■The top seeded Miami Heat bulldozed the Nets in the first game, defeating New York 98-78. In a game that O'Neal graded himself in terms of health, he had 22 and 11 rebounds in 30 minutes.

■The seventh seeded Denver Nuggets upset the Seattle SuperSonics in the San Antonio Spurs in the first of their series. The Nuggets posted the best home record in the NBA at 38-3, while the Spurs won 93-87.

■The Phoenix Suns, who defeated the Los Angeles Grizzlies 114-103 in the first playoff game at home, led the Suns to 22 points and 13 rebounds. Quentin Richardson scored 32 points, setting a franchise record for most points in a game. Phoenix set an NBA record of 32 shooting from beyond the arc during the season.

MLB

■Seattle Mariners' pitcher Felix Hernandez threw eight shutout innings en route to a 9-1 victory over the Cleveland Indians. Tim Lincecum's 130th victory as a Mariner, tying him with Johnson for the franchise record.

NCAA Men's Basketball

■Sean May, Raymond Felton and Marvin Williams were all named to the NBA draft, as the Tarheels all declared for the draft. UNC also lost senior forward Willie Miller, Jackie McLean and Melvin Scott. The returning leading scorer was forward David Noel, who averaged 3.9 points per game this year, point guard Thomas.

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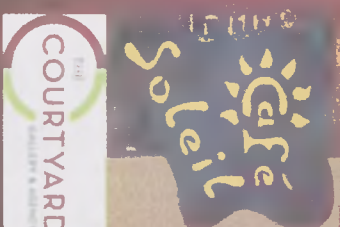


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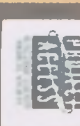
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