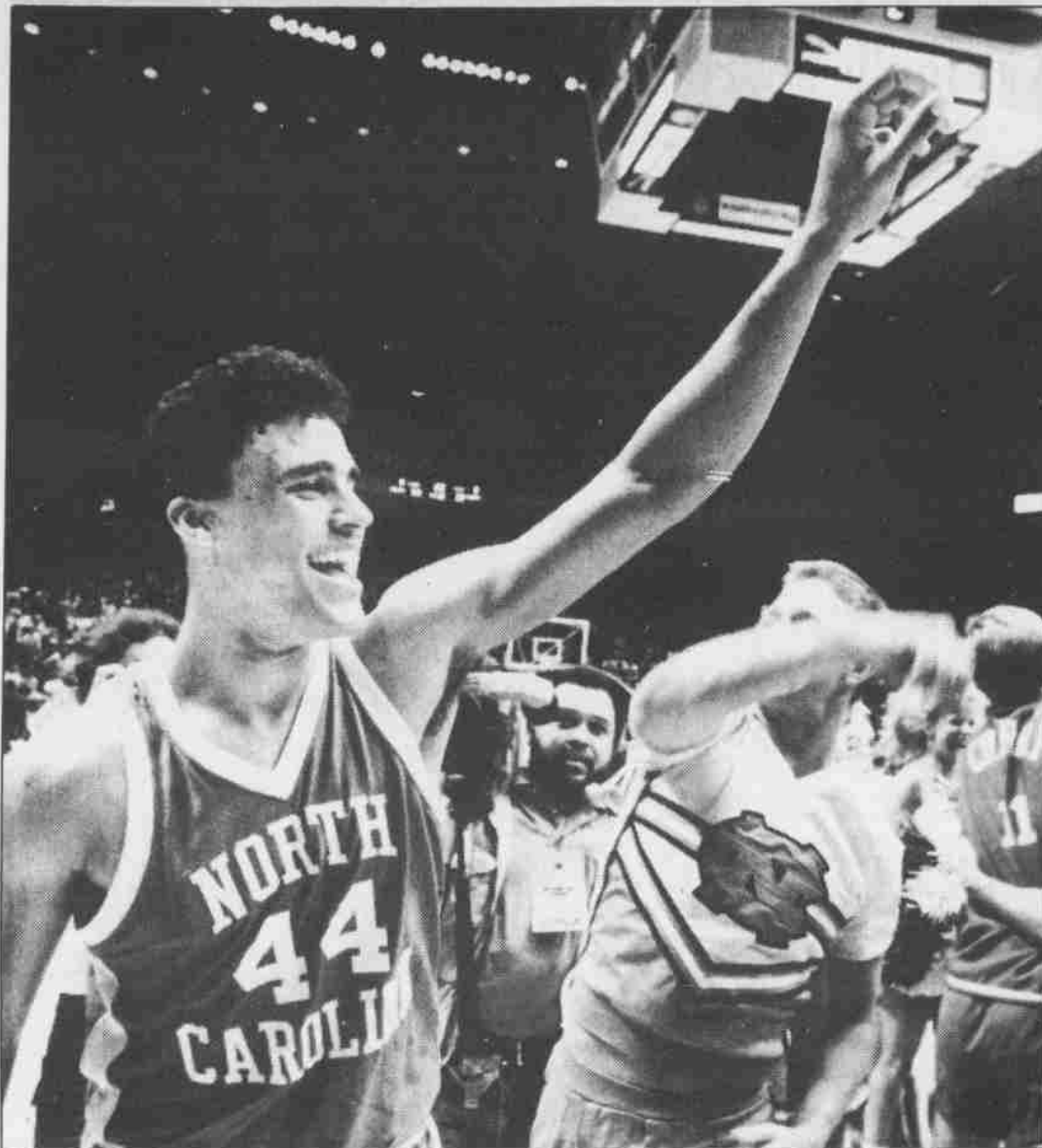


SPORTS



Rick Fox will soon be celebrating victories in Boston Garden after becoming the Celtics' No. 1 pick in the 1991 NBA Draft

Celts outFox NBA in first round; Chilcutt picked No. 27 by Kings

By Doug Hoogervorst
Sports Editor

Bing, bang.
North Carolina's Rick Fox and Pete Chilcutt were swooped up almost simultaneously by talent-hungry teams at the end of the first round of the 1991 NBA draft Wednesday June 26. Both appear to be in situations where they can be of immediate help to their ballclubs.

Fox was selected with the 24th pick by the Boston Celtics; Chilcutt was selected with the 27th pick by the Sacramento Kings.

"I'm happy for Rick," said Dean Smith, the University's men's basketball coach. "I thought he might be picked a little higher. It's amazing to me at what some of these people look for. I don't know (what it is)."

"Fortunately Dave Gavitt and his staff looked at Rick and decided he could help them."

About the 6-foot-10 Chilcutt, Smith said: "He should get a chance. (The Kings) had the worst record in the NBA. That's still no guarantee. I was happy that he was a first-round draft pick."

"I thought Scott (Williams) should have been (a first-rounder) last year. When those two came as freshmen, I would have never guessed that either one would have been a first-round draft pick."

Though both stand ready to aid their

teams now, Fox and Chilcutt were surprise selections, according to hometown newspapers. Boston writers had expected the Celtics to select a bigger forward to help support the frontline.

After being picked, writers figured Fox, a 6-7 small forward, would be useful defensively because of his strength and athletic ability, but they questioned his rebounding and shooting immediately.

"They probably haven't taken the time to look," Smith said. "Just because somebody doesn't rebound for a big average doesn't mean he can't. You have an easier schedule or put Rick as the biggest guy on the court, and he'd have a lot of rebounds."

"Sure, they can question anything they wish, but he's an excellent shooter. Coming out of here, they're all going to get better. I remember James Worthy coming out of here could shoot the 15-footer, but after his third year in the NBA, he came back to come and was a very good shooter. Rick is there now."

With Larry Bird playing more power forward because of injuries, and with the Celtics obviously not happy with Kevin Gamble, Fox, who signed for terms that were not disclosed, has an excellent chance to earn minutes.

Unlike Fox, Chilcutt was not exactly expected to be an NBA first-round choice to begin with. And because the Kings were already forward-rich with Wayman Tisdale, Antoine Carr, Lionel

Simmons and No. 3 draft selection Billy Owens, Chilcutt's name was a surprise to local newspapers, and even Chilcutt.

"I was pretty surprised," said Chilcutt, who also has already signed. "I worked out with six teams. The last one was Charlotte, so if anything, I expected maybe to go with the next pick. It surprised me when (the Kings) did draft me."

Chilcutt earned third-team All-ACC honors in 1990-91 and was scouted as a big man with good mobility and touch and soft hands. He could have an opportunity to play right away.

"(A lot of minutes) is always a possibility when you go to a team that hasn't been doing as well as they want to be," said Chilcutt, who earned postseason all-tournament honors.

"They're definitely going to try to use new people, and if I do indeed play backup center, then I'll probably see a good amount of time, especially as a rookie."

Chilcutt's stock soared at the postseason camps, but it might have been the contributions of Williams, a 1990 free-agent signee with the Chicago Bulls, that opened people's eyes to the value of North Carolina prospects.

"I think a lot of teams thought (Williams) should have been drafted but they didn't want to take a chance with his shoulder," Chilcutt said. "Then he came out and played so well that they had to take a second look."

Dorrance, 2 players will miss NCAAs for World Cup in 1991

By Doug Hoogervorst
Sports Editor

If North Carolina's women's soccer

team wins its sixth consecutive national championship, it will be without head coach Anson Dorrance and players Mia Hamm and Kristine Lilly. Dorrance, Hamm and Lilly will be busy with the U.S. women's national team scheduled to be competing in the first ever Women's World Cup in Guangzhou Province, China, Nov. 16-30.

Dorrance, the head coach of the U.S. team, will coach his Tar Heel squad until Nov. 10 when he will leave for China. What will happen with Hamm and Lilly is still questionable.

The Raleigh News and Observer reported that Dorrance expected Hamm to sit out the 1991 season to train with the national team, while the UNC mentor thought it was more likely Lilly would play the 1991 season with North Carolina before leaving for China. Dorrance added that the decision to play or not to play for UNC in 1991 was up to the players.

Hamm, the 1990 Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year, may redshirt and possibly sit out the fall semester

while training, similar to what former Tar Heel basketball star J.R. Reid did when preparing for the '88 Olympics. Hamm graduated high school in just three years and is a year younger than fellow college juniors. Sitting out a season would put her on the same age level as her classmates.

Dorrance felt Lilly, however, would play the 1991 season with North Carolina. Lilly would simultaneously train with the U.S. national team, which coincidentally has its training camp in Chapel Hill also.

Lilly, who earned national player of the year honors in 1990 from Soccer America and who has been named MVP of the last two NCAA Tournaments, would leave with Dorrance the weekend following the ACC Tournament.

Long-time assistant Bill Palladino will take over as head coach following Dorrance's departure. Dorrance is quoted in the N&O to be leaving with "the athletic department's blessing."

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