

sports

Astros Take First Pick In Baseball

The Houston Astros will have the first pick in the 1992 Free Agent Amateur Selection Meeting to be held through Wednesday in New York, major league baseball announced.

The selection rotation is determined by the clubs' reverse order of finish in their respective leagues at the close of last season. The National League selects first in even-numbered years, with the leagues alternating selections to form the rotation. A coin toss last month awarded the 27th pick to the Colorado Rockies. The Florida Marlins will pick 28th.

The order of the selection follows. Also noted are selections from the regular rotation that have been assigned as compensation under terms of the Basic Agreement.

1. Houston Astros
2. Cleveland Indians
3. Montreal Expos
4. Baltimore Orioles
5. Cincinnati Reds
6. New York Yankees (second round to Kansas City for signing Danny Tartabull; third round to Oakland for signing Mike Gallego)
7. San Francisco Giants
8. California Angels
9. New York Mets (second round to Pittsburgh for signing Bobby Bonilla; third round to Los Angeles for signing Eddie Murray)
10. Kansas City Royals (second round to California for signing Wally Joyner)
11. Chicago Cubs (second round to Los Angeles for signing Mike Morgan)

NBA Players Featured On Card Series

SkyBox International, Inc., the exclusive licensee of the United States Olympic Committee for trading cards, will release the "U.S. Olympiccard 1992 U.S. Olympic Hopefuls Series to the public on June 15.

Featuring America's Olympic hopefuls for the 1992 Olympic Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain, the 110-card set also includes 10 NBA players on the U.S. Olympic Team.

Last month, SkyBox International announced the signing of basketball great Earvin "Magic" Johnson as its corporate spokesperson. Johnson will be a part of the Hopefuls Series and will be promoting the card line as part of his multi-year agreement with the company.

Autographed cards from past U.S. Olympic Team gold medalists and gold-foil holograms of the U.S. Olympic logo will be randomly packed, and a special U.S. Olympic merchandise card is included as the 11th card in every pack. Suggested retail price for a foil pack is 99 cents. Two checklist cards are included.

"We are excited to be working with the United States Olympic Committee on this first-ever product," stated Scott McCauley, director of marketing for SkyBox. "Interest in these cards is extremely high due to the excitement over the Summer Games."

SkyBox, founded as Impel in 1989, is headquartered in Research Triangle Park. It is the largest producer and distributor of entertainment trading cards in the \$1 billion-plus trading card industry. The company has announced 20 product lines for 1992, including U.S. Olympic cards and cards licensed by the NBA and NFL along with AA and AAA baseball cards under license from MLB. The entertainment lines have included Marvel Universe, Star Trek and Disney Collector Cards.

Feelin' Fit!

With the advent of summer, be sure to compensate for extra dehydration. If exercising outside, ensure for adequate access to liquids as the warmer weather dehydrates the body faster.

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ST. AUG'S ATHLETIC BANQUET—During St. Augustine's College's 1992 Athletic Banquet, Antonio Pettigrew, shown third from left and Elizabeth Peartree, shown sixth from left, were honored as outstanding athletes. They both received the Father Beatty Honor Athletes Awards. These awards were trophies given for excellence in academics and in athletics, for community service, for character, and for participation in campus activities. Shown from left to right are Coaches Harry Freeman, George Williams, Roy Ester, Dr. Robinson, and Regina Hawkins, Women's Track Coach.

Recreational Drownings Increase, Ranks Third In Accidental Deaths

In recent years, drownings have become the third leading cause of accidental deaths in the United States. Drownings occur everywhere—at home, at work, in motor vehicle accidents, as well as in recreational activities according to Whit East of the staff of the YMCA of Greater Winston-Salem.

July is the peak month, accounting for more than 20 percent of all drownings; more than 60 percent of drowning victims are under 25 years of age; nearly 30 percent are teenagers 15 to 19 years of age; males make up nearly 85 percent of the victims; weekends account for more than 40 percent of drownings; and more than 70 percent of all drowning victims didn't know how to swim.

Annual drownings have increased from 6,500 in 1960 to a present level of 9,351 in 1991. To combat this growing death rate by drowning, the National YMCA offers these 12 basic rules for your swimming safety, East said.

1. Never go swimming alone. If you do, there will be no one to help you if you get into trouble.
2. Never go swimming at an unguarded spot. Docks, piers, and river banks are dangerous places to swim.
3. Never dive into strange water. You might hit your head on the bottom or get caught in debris.
4. Don't attempt a water rescue unless you are trained and are a strong swimmer. If you attempt, you are likely to get into trouble.
5. Don't show off in the water. "Showoffs" cause many fatal accidents every year.
6. Cool off before plunging into cold water. Cramps or heart failure may be brought on by sudden changes in body temperature.
7. If you can't swim, stay out of small boats. Never go out in a canoe or rowboat unless you are wearing an approved flotation device.
8. Pay strict attention to warning signals. They are put there for your protection.

9. Race and swim toward shore, not away from it. When swimming, "go out like a lamb and back like a lion."
10. Know your limitations. Don't go beyond your limits just because someone dares you.
11. Don't leave small children around water—even for a minute. Small children don't realize the danger inherent in water.
12. Never mix alcohol and water. Drinking intoxicating beverage and swimming don't mix and often leads to fatal results.

East pointed out that the leading cause of drowning is not knowing how to swim. He stressed the importance of learning to swim and to continue to develop swimming skills for safety and as an exercise that simultaneously increases muscle tone, flexibility, improves posture and coordination, enhances circulation and physical endurance.

Eddie Robinson Still Calls Grambling Shots

BY BARRY COOPER

His 372-132-15 as the football coach at Grambling, yet Eddie Robinson shows no signs of slowing down. If former Grambling quarterback Doug Williams wants to succeed Robinson as rumored, he may have to wait a while.

Robinson says he's got some more coaching to do.

He recently was inducted into the Southwestern Athletic Conference Hall of Fame, but that's just one more in a seemingly endless line of great honors for Robinson, who will be starting his 50th year—that's right, 50—at Grambling this fall.

He's one of the most famous football coaches of all time, ranking right up there with Knute Rockne, Don Shula and Tom Landry.

"I have been truly blessed," Robinson told the Associated Press. "I have lived my life doing what I loved. There are so many moments and so many individuals that really stand out. I'm so proud of the guys I've coached over the years."

Because of integration, Grambling no longer is a national power. There was a time that Grambling could beat any team in the country. Notre Dame? Southern Cal? Texas? Chances are, any of those schools would have had its hands full with any of Robinson's teams in the 1950s and 1960s. But eventually, the big colleges began signing the top black players.

The great running backs and defensive ends who used to sign with Grambling, or Florida A&M or Albany State, wound up casting their lot with UCLA or Michigan or Auburn. It didn't take long for the level of play to drop at Grambling and other black schools. Last year, Grambling was 5-6. In their heyday, the Tigers never lost more than a game or two.

But Robinson maintains he has

no regrets. And the fans who have followed Grambling in the past continue to come out. Even with a losing record last season, Grambling attracted crowds totaling nearly 300,000 for an 11-game schedule. And Robinson keeps sending players to the pros. More than 200 Grambling players have moved on to the NFL.

It's obvious that Robinson is going to continue as Grambling's coach for as long as he feels able. Today, many coaches are seeking fame or fortune. Robinson has never cared much about either.

"People ask me what my record is now, and I can't tell them," Robinson said. "I'd be ashamed to walk around memorizing something like that. I like winning. I think it is important, but the main thing is what we train these young people for as a school. I don't worry about football. I worry about the school part of it. We train these kids to stand up to the competition of life."

Summer Camp For Baseball Set

LAURINBURG—St. Andrews College is sponsoring a week-long baseball camp July 19-24. Day campers may be 8-18 years; resident campers must be between the ages of 10 and 18. The least expensive baseball camp in the Carolinas, it will include individual instructional periods, videotaping and evaluations. Players will benefit from demonstrations, drills, practice sessions, games and a championship game. Awards will be given at the week's end, as well as a tee-shirt to each camper.

A non-refundable application fee of \$25 is due by July 12. Players are also required to present a permission slip from their family doctor.

For more information and to request a brochure, call Gary Swanson at (919) 277-5276.

Nuggets' Owner Bynoe Gains Little Respect

BY BARRY COOPER

You can bet that when Jack Kent Cooke or Jerry Buss walk into a room or an arena, lots of heads turn. Cooke owns the Washington Redskins. Buss owns the Los Angeles Lakers. Like most owners of professional sports teams, they are very powerful men, and attract a lot of attention.

The same cannot be said for Peter Bynoe, who is part-owner of the Denver Nuggets and is the team's managing general partner. The Nuggets are the only major professional sports team partly owned by an African-American, but that apparently hasn't brought Bynoe much respect.

"People come up to me at our home game and hand me their tickets. They think I'm an usher," Bynoe recently told the Chicago Tribune. "It's still not how much you've done, and how famous you are. Being black in America still means having to bear the cross."

Bynoe decided to take on a very large burden when he put together an ownership group to buy the Nuggets in 1990. It has been almost as difficult for him to gain acceptance as it was for Jackie Robinson when he became the first black player to play major league baseball.

Robinson was subjected to racial taunts by the fans and cheap shots by the players. Fortunately, that type of hatred hasn't been aimed at Bynoe. But he has taken his lumps, and they have been large.

The Nuggets were in sad shape when Bynoe bought into the team, and it has taken two years of hard work to begin to turn the club around. Last season, the Nuggets drafted Georgetown center Dikembe Mubombo, who became an instant star.

New general manager Bernie Bickerstaff, who also is black, brought some stability to that position. Bynoe's former partner, Bertram Lee, gave up his active role in the club. Lee, who also is black, suffered much embarrassment after apparently developing cash flow problems. He maintained an expensive apartment in Denver but was evicted for failing to pay the rent.

Through all the missteps, Bynoe has hung tough, refusing to give in to critics who urged him to sell his share of the club. A white man, Robert Wussler, purchased con-

trolling interest of the Nuggets after Bynoe and Lee were unable to raise enough money to complete their purchase. But Bynoe is in charge of the day-to-day operations. He's running the show.

"Some people have been very positive and open-minded about this," Bynoe said, speaking of the media. "On the other hand, there are people who think I'm out of my league. I've gotten criticism the former owners didn't have to deal

It has been difficult for him to gain acceptance like most owners of professional teams. Being Black, he still has a cross to bear.

with. There's a level of antagonism that's higher and not consistent with the past. I've been scrutinized and studied more, and a lot of it has to do with me being black."

Until there are more black owners, chances are Bynoe will continue to come under the close scrutiny he talks about. If Cooke or Buss says something stupid or makes a wrong move, people shrug their shoulders and attribute it to bad luck. If Bynoe messes up, the media are all over him.

Maybe that isn't a fair comparison. Cooke and Buss have led teams to championships. They're among the richest men in America. It's obvious they know what they're doing. Unfortunately for Bynoe, the same isn't being said about him, although he pulled off a major accomplishment by overseeing the construction of the new Comiskey Park in Chicago.

A Harvard Law School graduate from Boston, Bynoe headed up the Illinois Sports Facility Authority, which raised more than \$100 million to build Comiskey.

That accomplishment alone ought to have gained Bynoe acceptance in lots of circles, but it didn't. As the owner of a professional sports team, he is still having to prove himself.

Perhaps one day, reporters will write a feature story about him and not feel obligated to make his race an issue. Chances are only then will Bynoe have gained full acceptance.

"If it happens in my lifetime, it would be a tremendous step forward," he said.

SPORTS LINE

By Dale Dunlap

Who has a higher career batting average against left-handers: Don Mattingly, Wade Boggs or Alvaro Espinoza?

Alvaro Espinoza hits .308 vs. lefties, leaving Boggs (.304) and Mattingly (.302) in his wake. That refreshing tidbit was provided from "The 1992 Elias Baseball Analyst" by Seymour Siwoff, Steve Hirdt, Tom Hirdt and Peter Hirdt. (\$13.95, Simon and Schuster).

Drawn from the Elias Sports Bureau, which provides statistics and information to the major leagues, the book has everything the hardcore baseball fan may want to know—and a lot more he may not.

It contains essays on the major-league teams. The Pittsburgh Pirates' has a fascinating study on the potential breakup of the team's high-priced stars. Going back in history they found three similar teams and showed how they declined over a 10-year period.

After that the book turns to individual batter and pitcher breakdowns. You can find out how Jose Canseco hit against lefties (.250), righties (.271), in home games (.270), in road games (.262), on grass (.257) or turf (.305).

Canseco also is tracked by months of the season and breakdowns on how he hit in late-innings with runners in scoring position—he hit .347.

The best part of the book, though, is the "Loves to Face" and "Hates to Face" section. There you find out that Canseco has no clue against John Habyan (0-for-19), Erik Hanson (0-for-16) and Greg A. Harris (0-for-14).

Portland Looks Forward To Playing In NBA Finals

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (AP)—The Portland Trail Blazers took a road that few teams crossed all season to advance to the NBA finals.

"I don't think anyone thought we could win here with the record they have," Portland coach Rick Adelman said after the Trail Blazers won the Western Conference final 4-2 with a 105-97 victory over Utah on Thursday night.

"It was just a tremendous win for us," Adelman said.

For the Jazz, it was only their fifth loss at the Delta Center in 60 games and their first defeat in nine playoff games at home.

"We didn't want to have to go back to Portland [for Game 7] because we knew they could beat us there," Adelman said. "We went into the fourth quarter knowing it would have to be our best quarter of the year."

It may have been.

The Blazers used a smothering defense to hold Utah offensive mainstay Karl Malone to two points in the final 12 minutes. The Jazz, who shot nearly 53 percent from the field in the first half, made nine of 40 shots in the second half, 22.5 percent.

Clyde Drexler—who along with Jerome Kersey and Terry Porter scored 18 points for the Trail Blazers—looked forward to playing for the NBA crown.

"Every player's dream is to win an NBA championship," Drexler said. "We're playing well right now. We made it to the finals once again, and it's a fantastic feeling."

Utah coach Jerry Sloan said he had "no excuses," just praise for the Trail Blazers.

"Portland is a tough team," Sloan said. "They deserved to win. I thought we played hard... we got beat by a better team. They never let up."

Malone also was gracious in defeat.

"Portland has been there before and it shows," he said. "We have nothing to be ashamed of."

The victory moves Portland into the NBA finals for the second time in three years against the winner of the Chicago-Cleveland series and the defending champion Bulls lead 3-2. The finals begin Wednesday night in Portland if the Cavaliers win and in Chicago if the Bulls win.

The Trail Blazers, despite falling behind 9-0, pulled away in the second half by holding the Jazz to 38 points after halftime.

Malone had 23 points and 19 rebounds for the Jazz, who won one of seven playoff road games while they won their first eight at home. But he scored just two points in the fourth quarter as the Jazz failed to mount a rally.

John Stockton, who missed the second half of Game 5 after being accidentally poked in the eye by Drexler, finished with 15 points and 12 assists. He led the Jazz to a 59-55 halftime lead with 10 points and 109 assists.

Tyronne Corbin had 22 points for Utah, making its first appearance in the conference finals.

Falcons Move Into Early Lead In Track Event

St. Augustine's moved into the lead with 20 points after the first day of the NCAA Division II track and field championships at San Angelo, Texas.

Indianapolis is second with 18 points.

St. Augustine's had three of the top eight in the long jump finals. Jeffrey Clark was fourth at 25'3/4", Mark Mason was fifth at 24'11/4", and Chris Coleman was eighth at 24'4/4".