

Sam's Final Mock NBA Draft

Written by {ga=samamico}

Tuesday, June 23 2009 7:00 PM -

The deeper Sam Amico delves into the 2009 NBA Draft, and the more he talks to people who are even more deeply involved than he is, the more he realizes no one really knows anything. At least, if they do know something they sure aren't telling him. And if they do tell him, they usually sound like they're guessing. And guess what? That's what the draft is all about. It's one gigantic guess. So here's Sam's. And he has the Cavs tabbing a North Carolina Tarheel at #30.



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Eight years ago I [wrote a book](#) about how NBA teams try to build through the draft and free agency in the summer. I conducted extensive interviews with former NBA general managers such as Pete Babcock and Carroll Dawson. They all said pretty much the same thing -- that mock drafts were for players, agents and especially, fans. General managers and other members of NBA scouting departments put little stock in them, as it's typically one big smokescreen.

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But readers love them. And that's what I'm here for -- readers. So without further ado, here is my final mock draft of 2009. All I ask is that you don't get too worked up over it. After all, it's clear that no one really knows too much.

FIRST ROUND

- 1. L.A. Clippers:** Blake Griffin, F, Oklahoma
- 2. Memphis:** Hasheem Thabeet, C, Connecticut
- 3. Oklahoma City:** James Harden, G, Arizona State
- 4. Sacramento:** Ricky Rubio, G, Spain
- 5. Washington:** Tyreke Evans, G, Memphis
- 6. Minnesota:** Stephen Curry, G, Davidson
- 7. Golden State:** Jordan Hill, F, Arizona
- 8. New York:** Jonny Flynn, G, Syracuse
- 9. Toronto:** DeMar DeRozan, G/F, USC

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- 10. Milwaukee:** Jrue Holiday, G, UCLA

- 11. New Jersey:** Terrence Williams, F, Louisville

- 12. Charlotte:** Gerald Henderson, G/F, Duke

- 13. Indiana:** Tyler Hansbrough, F, North Carolina

- 14. Phoenix:** Ty Lawson, G, North Carolina

- 15. Detroit:** DeJuan Blair, F, Pittsburgh

- 16. Chicago:** James Johnson, F, Wake Forest

- 17. Philadelphia:** Brandon Jennings, G, U.S./Italy

- 18. Minnesota:** B.J. Mullens, C, Ohio State

- 19. Atlanta:** Darren Collison, G, UCLA

- 20. Utah:** Earl Clark, F, Louisville

- 21. New Orleans:** Marcus Thornton, G, LSU

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22. Dallas: Eric Maynor, G, Va. Commonwealth

23. Sacramento: Sam Young, F, Pittsburgh

24. Portland: Austin Daye, F, Gonzaga

25. Oklahoma City: Chase Budinger, SG, Arizona

26. Chicago: DeJuan Summers, F, Georgetown

27. Memphis: Omri Casspi, F, Israel

28. Minnesota: Jonas Jerebko, F, Sweden

29. L.A. Lakers: Jeff Teague, G, Wake Forest

30. Cleveland: Wayne Ellington, G, North Carolina

SECOND ROUND

31. Sacramento: Patrick Mills, G, St. Mary's

32. Washington: Taj Gibson, F/C, USC

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- 33. Portland:** Toney Douglas, G, Florida State

- 34. Denver:** Jermaine Taylor, G, Central Florida

- 35. Detroit:** Jeff Pendergraph, F/C, Arizona Stat

- 36. Memphis:** Rodrigue Beaubois, G, France

- 37. San Antonio:** Josh Heytvelt, F, Gonzaga

- 38. Portland:** Nick Calathes, G, Florida

- 39. Detroit:** Danny Green, G/F, North Carolina

- 40. Charlotte:** DeMarre Carroll, F, Missouri

- 41. Milwaukee:** Lester Hudson, G, Tenn.-Martin

- 42. L.A. Lakers:** Jon Brockman, F, Washington

- 43. Miami:** Paul Harris, F, Syracuse

- 44. Detroit:** Ahmad Nivins, PF, St. Joseph's

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45. Minnesota: Dionte Christmas, G/F, Temple

46. Cleveland: Jack McClinton, G, Miami

47. Minnesota: Victor Claver, G, Spain

48. Phoenix: Garret Siler, F/C, Augusta State

49. Atlanta: Slava Kravstov, C, Ukraine

50. Utah: Goran Sutton, F/C, Michigan State

51. San Antonio: Nando De Colo, G, France

52. Indiana: Jodie Meeks, G, Kentucky

53. San Antonio: Josh Okognon, F, Cal State Fullerton

54. Charlotte: Chris Johnson, C, LSU

55. Portland: Henk Norel, F, Netherlands

56. Portland: A.J. Price, G, Connecticut

57. Phoenix: Tywain McKee, G, Coppin State

58. Boston: Alade Aminu, F, Georgia Tech

59. L.A. Lakers: Alex Barnett, G, Dartmouth

60. Miami: Sergio Llull, G, Spain

Sam Amico is the editor of Pro Basketball News and is a regular contributor for Sportstime Ohio and TheClevelandFan.com. He can be reached at amico@probasketballnews.com.