

After weeks of wrangling, I've finalized my mock NBA Draft, which represents how I think things will go down this Wednesday night. The Cavs have three picks. #25, #42, and #55. My prognostications have a player that I am very high on falling to the Cavs with their first selection. A guy I feel can help this team this year. In the second round, there figures to be a host of intriguing names still on the board, including a couple guys that fill big needs for the Cavaliers.



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1. Toronto – PF LaMarcus Aldridge, Texas

The most gifted and NBA ready big man in the draft, and also the only of the elite big men that can play the 5 on both ends of the court. He's friends with Chris Bosh, and along with Charlie Villanueva, will give the Raptors one of the best young frontcourts in all of basketball. The chances are still good the Raptors will deal this pick, potentially in exchange for #3 and Brevin Knight, where they would take Andrea Bargnani.

2. Chicago – PF Tyrus Thomas, LSU

Simply put, Thomas has the best upside in the draft if you can wait a couple years for his offense to catch up with his defense. Like Emeka Okafor a couple of years ago, should contend for NBA All-Defense honors as a rookie. Absolutely frightening length, explosiveness, and athleticism, and I feel a star in the making.

3. Charlotte – SF Adam Morrison, Gonzaga

He may not be Larry Bird, but Morrison seems like a lock to be an 18-20 point a game scorer in

the NBA. Morrison is one of the best mid range scorers college basketball has seen in some time, and is relentless at creating shots for himself, both with and without the ball. Morrison will fit in well with Felton, Wallace, and Okafor ... creating one of the best young cores in the NBA for Michael Jordan.

4.□ Portland – SG Brandon Roy, Washington

Not even the Jail Blazers could screw this one up. I love Roy's game. He can handle the ball, create his own shot, has good range, and defends all types of players well. A pretty complete combo guard that appears destined to be a helluva NBA player, and one of the safest picks of this draft.

5.□ Atlanta – SF

Andrea Bargnani, Italy

It's still possible the Raptors take Bargnani #1, as new Raptor GM Bryan Colangelo has long been infatuated with his game. If he's

still here at #5, it's hard to see the big man deprived Hawks passing on him. Bargnani has constantly been compared to Dirk Nowitzki, and has that kind of upside offensively.

6.□ Minnesota – PG Randy Foye, Villanova

**With Marcus Banks
a free agent, and
no one of worth**

behind him, the T-Wolves figure to take either Foye or Marcus Williams off the board here at #6. Foye is a lethal scorer that often gets compared to Ben Gordon, but

make no mistake
... Foye is a much
better floor general
and distributor than
Gordon.

7.□ Boston – PG

Marcus Williams, UConn

The best passer
and true point
guard in the

draft, Williams seems like a perfect fit for the Celtics at #7 who have a host of scorers, but no reliable point man. Williams

isn't a great
scorer, but has
good size, and is
lethal in
transition.

8. □ Houston – SF Rudy Gay, UConn

Each year one

mega-talented
player falls to
this spot in the
draft, and this
year it's Gay ...
who the
Rockets will be

ecstatic about
taking at #8.
Gay could go
as high as #3,
and is a very
athletic small
forward that

can shoot, and
also plays
incredible wing
defense. Long
thought of as a
potential #1
pick, Gay

struggled in the
NCAA

Tournament,
but still figures
to be a great
pro in the mold
of a more

offensively
gifted
Tayshaun
Prince.

9. □ Golden State – SF Rodney Carney, Memphis

The Warriors
need a big
man, but will
pass on
O'Bryant,
Sene, and

Armstrong
here to nab
the talented
swingman
from
Memphis.

Carney is one of the drafts' top athletes, and has an NBA ready body. A

physical freak
that could be
an all-star for
many years if
he learns to
play smarter

and shore up
his game
defensively.

10. □ Seattle

– PF

Shelden

Williams,

Duke

There are
rumors the
Hawks love
Williams
and will take
him five, but

I think he
ends up
falling to the
Sonics at
#10. Seattle
loves to

draft readied
products,
and
Williams is
capable of
probably

stepping in
and starting
immediately
at the next
level in the
porous

Sonic frontcourt.

11.0

**Orlando –
SG Ronnie
Brewer,
Arkansas**

With
Jameer
Nelson at
the point,
and Dwight

Howard
down low
... the
Magic will
likely look

to take a
swingman
off the
board here,
and Brewer

and Redick
are the
most likely
targets.

Brewer cut

from the
same cloth
as Brandon
Roy, a very
complete

combo

guard.

Brewer is

one year

younger,

and not
quite as
polished.

**12.0 New
Orleans/O
klahoma
City – C
Patrick**

O' Bryant, Bradley

O'Bryant
is a
naturally
gifted
seven

footer who
saw his
stock rise
dramatical
ly during

Bradley's NCAA Tournament run. The

Hornets
need a
center,
and while
raw,

O'Bryant
should
eventually
be part of
a nice

young

core in

New

Orleans/O

klahoma

City along
side Chris
Paul and
David
West.

13.0

Philadelphia – PG

Mardy

Collins,

Temple

Whether

or not
Iverson
stays or
goes, the

Sixers
need a
point
guard.

Collins is
local, and
despite
not being

an elite
scorer at
Temple,
projects

to be a
great
NBA
player

thanks to
his size
(6'6),
strength,

defense,
work
ethic, and
basketball

1 IQ. A
backcourt
of
Iverson,

Iguodala,
and
Collins
would

create all
kinds of
matchup
problems

for Sixer
foes.

14.0

Utah –

SG J.J.

Redick,

Duke

Redick is
one of
the best
pure

shooters

the draft

has seen

in some

time,
with an
incredibl
y quick

release.

His

defense

and

ability to
put the
ball on
the floor

and get
to the rim
and the
free

throw

line

(where

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shoots

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90%)

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improved
greatly
over the
last

couple of
years.

15.0

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Oklaho

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– PF
Cedric
Simmon

s, NC State

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college.

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16.0

Chicag

o – SG

Thabo

Sefolas

ha, Italy

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Bulls
love to
roll the

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and the

Swiss-b

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Sefolas

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been

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draft

boards

ever

since a

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last
year. A

smart,
long,
athletic
shootin

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Howard

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who will

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Bulls

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17.0

Indiana

– PG

Rajon

Rondo,

Kentuc

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the
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point
guard,
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Rondo
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