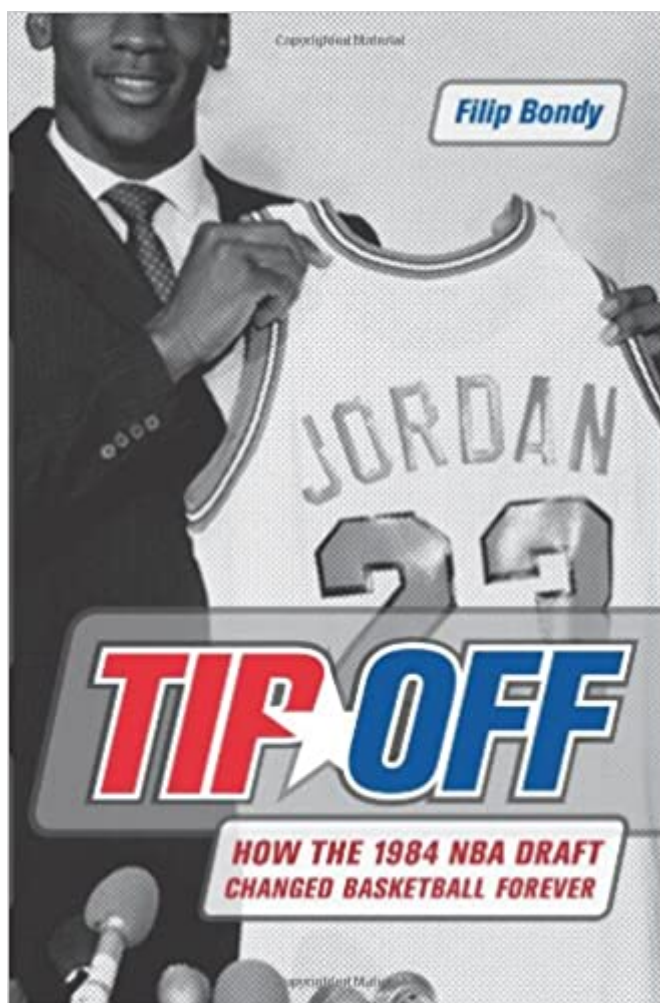


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Tip-Off: How The 1984 NBA Draft Changed Basketball Forever



Synopsis

The 1984 NBA draft is one of the most controversial in NBA history. Teams were losing games very suspiciously during the regular season to enhance their draft position. And who wouldn't, when the draft featured four future members of the Top 50 NBA Players of All Time team-Hakeem Olajuwon, Charles Barkley, John Stockton, and Michael Jordan. But this draft is most often remembered as the one where Michael Jordan slipped to third and was a reason the lottery system was introduced the next year. How could the experts have been so wrong and, even more astoundingly, how could the Portland Trailblazers, who held the second pick, pass on Jordan and choose the injury-prone Sam Bowie? Filip Bondy sets out to answer that question and many more. Talking to general managers, coaches, and players, Bondy provides the entire back story of the draft: trades that were never made; wrong-headed assessments of players like Charles Barkley and John Stockton, and how Bobby Knight, coach of the 1984 U.S. Olympic team, played a major role in advising certain teams about key players.

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. It's not the worst mistake in sports history, but it's among the most famous-with the second pick in the 1984 NBA draft, the Portland Trailblazers selected Sam Bowie instead of several future stars, including Michael Jordan. In this tremendously readable book, Bondy tells the full story of that draft, which most experts consider the best ever. Bondy follows six draftees-Bowie, Jordan, Hakeem Olajuwon, Charles Barkley, Sam Perkins, and John Stockton. With commentary from scouts, general managers, coaches, and the players themselves, Bondy draws a portrait of each

player, from just before the draft to the present day. Bondy perfectly synthesizes exactly why each player landed where he did, examining prevailing draft philosophies, recent roster blunders and the possibility that teams lost on purpose. While not as revelatory as Michael Lewis' *Moneyball* (Bondy's post-mortem of Portland's mistake focuses on familiar themes, particularly the fetishism of height), this book is every bit as enjoyable as the baseball bestseller. Bondy delves deeper into the character of Bowie than anyone has before, revealing a likeable man with terrible luck, and gives the reader a sense of how profoundly Jordan, Barkley and Olajuwon reshaped the league. It may not be transcendent enough to breakthrough with non-basketball fans, but anybody with a cursory interest in the game is in for a treat. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

The 1984 NBA college draft produced Michael Jordan, Akeem Olajuwon, Charles Barkley and John Stockton--all future Hall-of-Famers. Bondy, a New York Daily News columnist, explores the draft and its far-reaching impact with analysis and interviews of the principals--coaches, scouts, and general managers. Rod Thorn, the Chicago Bulls general manager who selected Michael Jordan, reveals that he came close to trading the man who would become the face of the NBA to Houston for a package that included the previous season's rookie of the year, Ralph Sampson. League history would have been a bit different without Chicago's six championships in the 1990s. Bondy also offers a thoughtful portrait of Sam Bowie, the Kentucky center selected by Portland immediately before Jordan. His career was destroyed by injuries, and as a result he's become the poster child for poor draft choices. Also included are profiles of Barkley, Olajuwon, and Stockton as well as some of the next tier of players from the draft. This mother lode of wouldas, couldas, and shouldas will make very entertaining and informative reading for NBA fans. Wes Lukowsky Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Just think how the basketball landscape would have changed had the Houston Rockets traded Ralph Sampson straight up for Michael Jordan! The Bulls would have done it and were waiting for the Rockets to call but Rockets coach Bill Fitch was in love with the twin towers idea. The Sixers had a deal in place to trade the aging Dr. J to the Clippers for Terry Cummings but didn't pull the trigger for fear of fan backlash. Bobby Knight, the dictator that he is, had Michael Jordan in tears during the Olympic tryouts. Charles Barkley showed up at the 1984 Olympic trials not with the goal of making the team, but rather improving his draft status. When the tough Soviet team pulled out of the 1984 games Coach Knight cut Charles Barkley because he didn't care for his personality. But had the

Soviets stayed in the Olympics Barkley wouldn't have been cut because his superb playing ability would have been needed to beat the Soviets. Barkley gained 15 pounds within 24 hours to tip the scales at a Sixers predraft weigh in to scare them away from drafting him. I could go on and on with all the interesting facts brought out in this book. This book is not just about who was drafted when but more about how things fell into place. Teams with awful records playing hard at the end of the season because they had traded away their lottery pick - upsetting the teams that had traded for these picks. Teams with their lottery picks tanking it at the end of the season in order to get the highest pick possible. This tanking led to the weighted ping pong ball draft ordering system in place today. It is amazing how many prior drafts and trades came around to help or haunt teams picking in the 1984 draft. For example, if the Rockets had drafted Clyde Drexler in 1983 instead of Rodney McCray the Blazers would have drafted Michael Jordan in 1984 while the Rockets would have had a dynamic duo of Drexler and Olajuwon. This was an excellent book. I highly recommend it.

Some great stuff in here, especially about Bobby Knight and the 1984 Olympic team tryouts. Really enjoyed some of the back story about Charles Barkley in particular. Sam Bowie's story is also fascinating. He will always be the guy who was drafted after Olajuwon but before Michael Jordan. Just a really good guy who is a piece of basketball history.

What a great read for fans of basketball and the NBA in particular. The book gives readers a background of the players drafted in 1984 that fans might not have known before. Readers will find out how Bobby Knight, the coach of the US basketball Team for the 1984 Olympics cut such great players as Charles Barkley, Karl Malone and John Stockton to give way to players he could control.

This is a really great read about the 1984 NBA draft. It's certainly a narrow subject so wouldn't recommend to anyone who isn't highly interested in the NBA.

Got this for my John Stockton fan boyfriend. We have an inside joke about the 1984 draft and he really enjoyed receiving this.

1984 is considered the best draft year in NBA history. Because the best (out of this planet) basketball player was in this year draft. This book tell the stories behind the draft and more. This is a must read for all NBA fans & specially those MJ fans!

I'm a bit of a basketball junkie and was looking forward to reading this for a few months now. I read it in about 4 days and I'm not sure I learned anything. While some salary numbers and a few other secondary stories were interesting, there are no real revelations in this book and the editing leaves a lot to be desired, as there are numerous spelling errors and downright brain farts. At one point, as the story is talking about the Virginia Cavaliers, the author then calls them Cleveland, who are also known as the Cavaliers. The book is basically player profiles on about six guys as they make their way through college and into the NBA, and then a little further into the future. Just about all of it can be found on Wikipedia. If you are a casual fan that is interested in modern NBA history then I'd turn to Wikipedia first. If you're still yearning for more, maybe try this out.

Great in-depth read regarding the greatest Draft ever for any hardcore NBA fan

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