

'Bargain' players sought

NEW YORK (AP) — There was an air of mystery surrounding baseball's re-entry draft Thursday after Ron LeFlore and Tug McGraw, two of the biggest names available in the talent grab bag, were all but ignored by the 26 clubs.

LeFlore, the speedy outfielder who stole 57 bases last season for Montreal Expos, was selected only once — as most a "throwaway" in the 11B round by Chicago White Sox. McGraw, a World Series hero, was not selected at all. Under the rules of the draft, both players become eligible to negotiate with all 26 major league clubs.

Now come the questions. Why would Dave W. Roberts, a utilityman with routine

credentials, be the most popular selection, chosen by 12 teams? Why would journeyman outfielder Jim Dwyer, who has already played for five clubs, be No. 2 on the shopping list, picked by 11 teams? Why would two more familiar names like LeFlore and McGraw be ignored?

Some think it was a case of bargain basement shopping. Teams know Roberts and Dwyer can be had for a price to attract LeFlore and McGraw.

"I was very surprised," said Tom Cashen, director of player personnel for the Yankees, "to see McGraw and LeFlore and McGraw and one of the other players."

"Maybe it's a trend. Players

who indicate they would try for big sums, may not be finally getting to the point where they say, 'This has gone far enough.'"

LIKE CHESS GAME
Marvin Miller's theory is the draft is really a chess game, a battle of wits with clubs waiting each other out.

"I think this was an outgrowth of last year when clubs deliberately hung back as long as a player had one pick or two left, and then they came in when a player is drafted by less than two teams, it is not necessary to draft him or give him an amateur choice if you sign him," the executive director of the Players Association said.

Another intriguing side of the draft comes from the other ex-

treme — the high-priced auction created for the services of slugger Dave Winfield and pitcher Don Sutton. Both were picked by teams — three below the limit allowed. The bidding began immediately.

Five teams — New York Mets, New York Yankees, Atlanta Braves, Pittsburgh Pirates and Cleveland Indians — picked both players in the first two rounds.

The price tags are high. Winfield is said to be thinking \$13 million over 10 years and Sutton is talking about \$2 million over five years.

"I truly think I can sign both of them," said Ted Turner, boss of the Braves. "I've talked to Winfield and Sutton and I find them both genuinely interested in playing for Atlanta."

Frank Cashen, executive vice-president and general manager of the Mets, declared there was no ceiling on how high his team would bid for the Winfield sweepstakes.

The Mets have spent about \$2 million on free agents so far. Their rivals, the Yankees, have doled out about \$15 million and George Steinbrenner is ready to go for more.

"He's outstanding, not only as a ball player but as an individual," said the Yankee owner of Winfield, he's playing it cool.

"I just feel good about my position," said Turner, "the rest is negotiation."

and that it is a winner in a major media centre.

Roberts was one of three players selected by Toronto Blue Jays — all catchers.

Roberts was once Toronto property, although he never played for the club. He was purchased by the Blue Jays in October, 1976, and then was traded back to the Padres four months later for pitcher Jerry...

All-star Darrell Porter of Kansas City Royals, selected seven times, was Toronto's first-round pick. After opting for Roberts in the second round, the Jays chose Jim Essian of Oakland A's in the third.

Montreal drafted just four players, Sutton, Dwyer, and pitchers Ray Burris of the Mets and Bill Castro of Milwaukee Brewers.

Bad game upsets Boston's leaders

By The Canadian Press

That rumbling you hear coming from Boston Garden is not the subway. It's the Bruins' front office about to explode.

After Boston rallied to a 4-1 win over the New York Rangers in Wednesday's 5-5 Thursday night game, Bruins coach Gerry Cheevers and general manager Harry Sinden came down hard on the team.

"It's a sad, sad state of affairs for the Bruins," said Sinden, who watched the Bruins move their record to a commanding 11-1-1 against the worst team in the National Hockey League — the Jets are 1-5. "As far as I'm concerned, it might as well have been lost."

"Here is the worst team in hockey and we, suffering as we are, can't in our own building come out and play a decent five or 10 minutes against them."

"There's no way I can reconcile myself to this team after that," Sinden added ominously. "When do you panic? I don't know. I never saw a team that was one of the three or four best

in the league go to one of the worst overnight?"

CHEEVERS FURVEYED
Cheevers' first season behind the Bruins' bench after starting goal for the team during a 19-year career, also was depressed at the Bruins' effort.

"You've got to get to me," he said. "You've got to get to me with intelligence, you've got to use it."

"All we use is pandemonium and panic. We're just going nowhere if we have to continue to come from behind with a team like Winnipeg. They're (the Bruins) going to have to start digging down more and starting to win."

If the Bruins look at the tapes of the Winnipeg game, they might gasp. The Jets stormed to a 4-1 lead after one period as Kris Manery scored twice. Dave Christian also had a pair of goals, and the Jets assumed a 5-2 margin before Boston stormed back.

Jean Ratelle, returning from a back injury, scored his first two goals of the season for the Bruins, who drew their smallest crowd in 11 years — 8,089.

Philadelphia blasted Edmonton 8-1 and Calgary took Chicago 4-4.

PIVOT POINT
Rick MacLeish had two goals and two assists and Bill Barber scored twice in the Flyers' blowout, which extended their unbeaten string to 14 games (12-0-2).

"How can you beat them?" asked Edmonton goalie Ron Low. "They're (undoubtedly) the soundest team in the league."

"I believe that this team is the hardest working team in the league," said Sinden. "We realize that you have to win as many games as you can at the start of the season because games get a lot tougher in February, in March."

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They yielded only 281 points — 70 fewer than any other Canadian Football League team — in all of last year's 16 regular seasons and three losses.

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Helton is hoping for a game

ESKIMO'S GAME WILL STAY SAME

EDMONTON (CP) — Defensive tackle John Helton of Winnipeg Blue Bombers doesn't expect Edmonton Jets to do anything different in Saturday's Western Football Conference final.

"They'll just come out and play us like they've played all the other teams they've played all year — hard and tough."

The Blue Bombers, Helton said, will respond in the usual fashion.

"We're just going to come out and try to play good hard football and hope that will be enough."

Football, Helton said, is dictated by what someone else will give you and the Eskimos usually give very little.

"I've given them time to throw the ball then usually we win on throwing," Helton said. "If we don't give them time to throw, perhaps they can't combat the good rush that we'll put on them."

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"in which everybody really has to think each and every play as to what we can do to probe this defence or offence or make something happen."

DEMANDS PREPARATION
Wide receiver Joe Poplawski said a team has to be mentally prepared when they play the Eskimos, who are trying to reach the Grey Cup game for the fourth straight year and end the seven-year drought in eight years.

"They're such a tough team," Poplawski says. "Our big thing is to make those mistakes."

Poplawski doesn't expect the Eskimos to be hurt by the absence through injury of wide receiver Brian Kelly and wide receiver Mike Wilson.

"They're the class of the league and they're going to find people to fill in for them."

Edmonton coach Hugh Campbell said "the preparation part of it is over" and it's now a matter of being ready for Saturday's 4 p.m. ZST kickoff.

The Eskimos, Campbell said, will play their normal game. "It would be a mistake to change everything we've been doing at this point."

College shooters aid Philadelphia

By The Associated Press

Andrew Toney and Earl Cureton were both big shots in college last season — Toney at Southeastern and Cureton at University of Detroit.

Philadelphia "fers expected a lot of them this year after taking them high in the National Basketball Association draft. And if their performances Thursday night were any indication, the "fers will get their money's worth."

Toney, a six-foot-three guard, scored a season-high 17 points and Cureton, a 6-9 forward, had 15 as the "fers beat Indiana 130-118.

"The two rookie starters were a little nervous in the first few minutes," said "fers coach Billy Cunningham. "But when they got into the flow of the game, they played real well."

"I think it shows them I have confidence in them and their ability to play the game."

Toney hit nine of 11 shots from the line and scored 19 points as the "fers opened a 61-48 halftime lead. His previous high for a game was 16 points.

"It was a little frustrating sitting on the bench in the early part of the game," said Toney. "I was learning against a lot of different players."

But that really helps to learn while you're watching."

Cureton, starting in place of the injured Danny Hawkins, scored eight points in the final 8½ minutes of the first half. He topped his club in rebounds with 14.

Elsewhere, it was: Cleveland 114 Atlanta 111, and San Antonio 113 San Diego 107.

The "fers, a hot 14-3 so far this season, also got 26 points

from Bobby Jones. Rookie Louis Orr topped Indiana with a season-high 30 points.

Cleveland's 114 Washington 111

Richard Hawkins came off the bench to score 14 second-half points, including a clinching three-point play, to lead Cleveland over Atlanta.

Cleveland's victory snapped an eight-game winning streak, while Atlanta's losing string was extended to nine games.

SOURS 113 Clippers 107
George Gervin scored 35 points and rookie forward Reggie Johnson came off the bench to add a career-high 22, leading San Antonio past San Diego.

The Spurs, who have won all nine of their games against the Clippers since the San Diego franchise was established, took command early, racing to a 60-45 halftime lead.

Sockeyes beat Nor West Caps

Eric Catepole and Shawn Lynes paced Richmond Sockeyes with two goals each in an 8-3 triumph over Nor West Caps in a B.C. Junior Hockey League game Thursday in Richmond.

The only other BCJHL game, Randy Heath scored three goals to lead the visiting Vancouver Blue Hawks to a 6-4 win over Chilliwack Colts.

Also scoring for Sockeyes, who took over second place behind the 13-4 record, were Doug Fomenko, John Carowell, Maurice Jaeger and Jeff Wilkinson.

Rod Slatten, with his 18th marker of the season, Alex Chorley and Grant Harris scored for Nor West, which now has a 4-1-1 record.

The Chilliwack victory improves the Blue Hawks record to 8-10, while the Colts suffered their 15th loss in 17 games.

Prior to the contest, Chilliwack coach Gary Huth resigned, leaving General Manager Orr Litchfield to take over the coaching duties.

Play resumes tonight when Merritt travels to Kelowna, Vernon visits Peniticon and Vancouver plays host to Co-

NFL central division playoffs to be decided

By The Associated Press

After being battered all season long, the National Football Conference's Central Division gets down to deciding who will go to the National Football League playoffs.

All five teams in the NFC Central still have a shot at the division crown after 10 games, as Tampa Bay Buccaneers move into Minnesota against the Vikings on Sunday for the first showdown.

The Buccaneers, the defending division champions, will play all six of their remaining games in the division, including

two each against the Vikings and Detroit Lions.

"This is the season," said Tampa Bay coach John McKay. "We're going to play a six-game season."

Detroit leads the NFC Central with a 6-4 record while Minnesota is 5-5. New Orleans goes to Packers and Tampa Bay both have 5-5 records.

"Everybody is even in our division, literally," said coach Bud Grant, who has coached the division 10 times. "And everybody in our division feels they can win it."

In other National Football League games Sunday, Green Bay meets New York Giants, Baltimore Colts and Chicago at home to Houston Oilers.

Elsewhere, Buffalo is at Cincinnati, Cleveland plays at Pittsburgh, Kansas City travels to San Diego, New York Jets are at Dallas, New Orleans goes to Atlanta, Philadelphia is at Washington, St. Louis is at Dallas, Los Angeles goes to New England and San Francisco is at Miami.

Monday night, Oakland is at Seattle.

HANNI IS INJURED
VIENNA (AP) — Hanni Wenzel of Liechtenstein, winner of two Olympic gold medals in

Alpine skiing at Lake Placid, N.Y., was operated on Thursday for torn ligaments in her left ankle.

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