**2014 NBA Draft Analysis – Danian B. Lyttle June 25, 2014**

 This year’s draft is touted as the best in many years. I’ve commented on the players that I have witnessed playing with my own eyes.

Andrew Wiggins – My #1 pick. A player who fits the NBA style of play. Great in the open court but needs to stay engaged offensively. Needs to stay confident with his jumper and excel defensively.

Jabari Parker – My #2 pick. Polished offensively with a large skill set. His conditioning has been questioned but he has the offensive skills to excel at the NBA level. Needs to defend and rebound.

Aaron Gordon – My # 3 pick. Very raw offensively but has tons of potential due to his athleticism. Wasn’t the main option on his college team so his low scoring average shouldn’t be held against him. I predict he will get some Rookie of the Year votes.

Joel Embid – Even prior to his injury I believe he was overhyped. He is a great shot blocker and clogs the lane but his offense was limited. With a deep draft I would be wary of picking him. With the foot surgery I would stay far away (eg. Nerlens Noel and Greg Ogden).

Julius Randle – Very athletic and active on the boards. I have concerns with his low post game. Needs to be a threat consistently with his jumper to excel at the next level.

Marcus Smart – Great defensively. Solid floor general who knows the games and attacks the paint. Gets others involved and needs to knock down his jumpers and stay consistent from the 3 point line.

Doug McDermott - Leading scorer in college. Has multiple ways to score inside or out. His speed is a concern but I believe he will excel at the next level. His size will help him get his shot off which should prevent him from being the next Jimmer at the NBA level.

Nik Stauskas – One of best shooters in the draft. Can get in the lane and can score in multiple ways. There is concerns about his speed on the perimeter but I think he can be a solid rotation player as he really excels at doing 1 thing. SHOOTING.

James Young – Active big man who needs to work on his offensive game. Staying active in the post on both ends will keep him on the floor and add years to his career. Needs to work on mid-range game.

Shabazz Napier – Great PG at the college level. Can run a team by getting everyone involved and can also score. Will need to stay aggressive by getting in the land and work on slowing down the opposing PGs. Above average mid-range jumper.

Adreian Payne – Multi tool player who can work on the block as well as on the outside. Can be a starter as long as he stays focused on the defensive end.

Tyler Ennis – I believe he may be overated like Embid. Great floor general but lacks on speed and shooting. Needs to be able to stay with opposing PGs to stay on the floor

Mitch McGary – Don’t draft him. Had a decent year 2 years ago prior to the injury. Even without the injury I don’t see him being a factor at the NBA level playing PF or SF. Will fight to stay in the rotation

Patric Young – High energy player lacking a refined offensive game, Play’s with heart, hustle and energy which should enable him to be included in a 8-9 man rotation.

T.J. Warren – “**Sleeper Pick**” if you can score a team will find a spot for you. TJ Warren has a polished offensive game and has multiple ways to score from the foul line down. He should fill up the box score.

Cleanthony Early – “**Sleeper Pick**” like T.J. Warren he has multiple ways to score and size for a SF. He also provides a high level of athleticism.

Glenn Robinson 3rd – “**Sleeper Pick**” has improved and added to his game each year. Can put the ball in the basket and has the size to defend. Low end starter, high end rotation player.

**Players I didn’t see enough of to comment on**

Dante Exum

Gary Harris

Elfrid Payton

Zach Lavine

P.J. Hairston

Rodney Hood

**Raptors Analysis**

**With the 20th pick I would take T.J. Warren or Cleanthony Early as they are both big athletic small forwards who can put the ball in the basket in a variety of ways. I would also consider a backup PG depending on whether or not they plan to resign Vasquez as the backup.**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*UPDATE AFTER THE DRAFT\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

I had Aaron Gordon rated as the 3rd best player in the draft after Wiggins and Parker and he ended up getting drafted 3rd. I didn’t see any boards that had him that high (Nba.com, ESPN, Yahoo sports, CBS Sports, TSN, The Score, Realgm.com, Hoopshype, Cnnsi, etc).

One of my Sleeper Picks was drafted 14th as a lottery pick and none of the above mentioned draft boards had him going as a lottery pick.