

NBA Notebook

Written by Yolande Y. Lezine, Sports Editor
Thursday, 12 July 2012 20:38

*There won't be any more "Big 3" in Boston! The "Big 3" of Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce, and Ray Allen won't be playing for Boston Celtics head coach Doc Rivers after Allen, decided to take a pay cut and take his threepoint shooting skills to South Florida.

Allen will join the "Big 3" of the Miami Heat this season. Allen took less money for a chance at winning another NBA Championship. Allen played for the Celtics for five seasons. The reigning NBA Champions could only offer Allen the mini mid-level, worth about \$3 million a year.

*Former Portland Trailblazers point guard Brandon Roy came out of retirement and is returning to the NBA. Roy reached a deal with the Minnesota Timberwolves, which is the place where his career began seven years ago, agreeing to a two-year deal worth id="mce_marker"0.4 million.

The Timberwolves also reached a four-year, \$45 million deal with Nicolas Batum.

*Former Alief Elsik Rams star Rashard Lewis was waived by the New Orleans Hornets. The 14-year veteran was sent by the Washington Wizards in a trade that sent Lewis and the 46th overall pick in this year's NBA draft to New Orleans.

Lewis was entering the final year of a id="mce_marker"18 million, six-year contract, which included a id="mce_marker"3.7 million buyout provision for the last year of the deal.

*The Atlanta Hawks agreed to deal all-star guard Joe Johnson to the Brooklyn Nets for five players and a draft pick.

In a second move, Atlanta sent forward Marvin Williams to the Utah Jazz for guard Devin Harris. The Hawks received guards Anthony Morrow, Jordan Farmar, and DeShawn Stevenson and forwards Jordan Williams and Johan Petro, along with a conditional draft pick Brooklyn received from the Houston Rockets.

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Johnson still had four years and \$90 million left on his contract. New general manager Danny Ferry decided it was time to shed payroll and rebuild. The 31-year old Johnson averaged 18.0 points per game last season, his 11th in the NBA and seventh with Atlanta.

*Oklahoma City Thunder head coach Scott Brooks signed a multiyear contract extension to return as the team's head coach. The deal has been reported to be for four years and more than id="mce_marker"6 million.

Brooks took over the Thunder early in the 2008-09 season and has led the team to the playoffs the past three seasons, including winning the Western Conference Championship in 2011-12.

*Former Utah Jazz and current Brooklyn Nets point guard Deron Williams accepted a five-year contract worth \$98 million. The all-star point guard who grew up in Dallas, Texas, was the top free-agent available during this offseason.

Williams contract agreement came just one day after the Nets reeled in Joe Johnson from the Atlanta Hawks. The Nets are still hoping to land a big man and they still have their sights set on Orlando Magic power forward/ post Dwight Howard.

*Restricted free-agent guard Eric Gordon agreed to a four-year deal worth \$58 million with the Phoenix Suns.

The New Orleans Hornets have the right to match the deal and keep Gordon. Gordon will be looked at to run the team after former point guard Steve Nash went west and signed a deal with Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers.

*The Indiana Pacers and point guard George Hill have agreed to a new deal. Terms weren't disclosed.

Hill averaged 9.6 points and 2.9 assists per game last season.

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*The Los Angeles Clippers have reached a contract agreement with guard Jamal Crawford. Crawford agreed to a four-year deal that will pay him \$25 million, including bonuses.

Also, former Denver Nuggets guard Chauncey Billups received a one-year contract worth up to \$4 million to play with Chris Paul, Blake Griffin and the Los Angeles Clippers.