

Flagg likely top pick in NBA Draft

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Cooper Flagg and his Duke teammates were together celebrating a victory over North Carolina the night of Feb. 1 when one of them saw the news that had rocked the basketball world.

The Dallas Mavericks were trading Luka Doncic to the Los Angeles Lakers.

“We just all started going crazy,” Flagg said Tuesday. “It was such a shock. Like, it was craziness.”

Now Flagg is set to take Doncic’s place as the franchise superstar in Dallas.

Flagg is expected to be selected by the Mavericks with the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft on Wednesday night after a sensational one-season stopover with the Blue



After playing one season at Duke, forward Cooper Flagg is expected to be taken by the Dallas Mavericks as the No. 1 pick Wednesday night in the NBA Draft. (AP PHOTO/BRYNN ANDERSON, FILE)

Devils.

Everybody but Flagg seems certain he is the Mavs’ man — “I haven’t had that conversation at all,” he insisted — and there’s really no reason for the team to look otherwise. Flagg was the consensus college

player of the year, only the fourth freshman to win the Wooden Award after averaging 19.2 points and 7.5 rebounds while leading Duke to the Final Four.

A little more than a month later, the Mavericks turned just a 1.8%

chance into a lottery victory, giving them the right to pick first for the second time in franchise history. They brought Flagg in for what he felt was a good workout that lasted more than an hour, though he said they never said he would be their pick.

He’s surely one of the few who might believe there’s reason to wait until Commissioner Adam Silver announces the selection at Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

“I mean, my whole family is in Dallas and they’re stoked to be able to go to Mavs games and watch Cooper. He’s part of the family,” said UConn forward Liam McNeeley, Flagg’s teammate at Montverde Academy in Montverde, Florida.

Flagg’s selection would return the NBA draft to the way it was for so long, with a one-and-done college player

starting it. A freshman went first for 13 straight years from 2010-22 before the last two No. 1 picks, Victor Wembanyama and Zaccharie Risacher, were both from France.

The No. 2 pick could be Wembanyama’s teammate, as the Spurs are set to draft at No. 2. Philadelphia, Charlotte and Utah round out the top five, with NBA champion Oklahoma City holding two first-round selections and the Brooklyn Nets owning four.

It’s already been a busy NBA offseason, with Kevin Durant and Jrue Holiday being traded. It’s unlikely the Mavericks would consider trading the rights to Flagg, especially not after the uproar from their fans when they dealt away the beloved Doncic.

The No. 3 pick in 2018 from Slovenia led the

Mavericks to the 2024 NBA Finals and had become a perennial All-Star and MVP candidate. Flagg said he’s not concerned about the pressure that would come with stepping into Doncic’s shoes.

“I wouldn’t look at anything as pressure,” Flagg said. “I think me going into whatever situation I go into, I’m just going to try to be myself all the time and I’m going push myself to be better and better every single day and make the most out of every day. I’m not worried about living up to certain players’ expectations or things like that.”

Flagg has already shown he isn’t afraid of a challenge. He could have still been in high school last season, but decided to reclassify so he could enter college, and subsequently the NBA, a year earlier.

Thunder, fans celebrate championship

By **CLIFF BRUNT**
AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Jalen Ross couldn’t stop smiling after attending the Oklahoma City Thunder’s championship parade.

The 19-year-old Ross was among thousands of Oklahoma City’s unwavering fans who finally got to celebrate an NBA championship after their team suffered through several close calls and heart-breaking moments the past two decades.

The Oklahoma City Thunder defeated the Indiana Pacers on Sunday to clinch the title. On Tuesday, Finals MVP Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, All-Star Jalen Williams and their teammates joyfully greeted their adoring fans, who lined the downtown streets despite 90-degree heat.

Ross said it was well worth it.

“It’s crazy,” he said. “From the days of wearing my KD (Kevin Durant) jersey every day, to crying when he left, having the Russell Westbrook Fathead in the living room during the playoffs, and all the Thunder playoff shirts, programs, hats hanging up on my wall to this day — it’s crazy to think about. But we did it.”

The parade route ended at Scissortail Park, where Mayor David Holt declared a



Oklahoma City Thunder’s NBA basketball championship Tuesday, June 24, 2025, in Oklahoma City. (AP PHOTO/NATE BILLINGS)

city holiday for Clay Bennett, the head of the Thunder’s ownership group, then added days for general manager Sam Presti, coach Mark Daigneault and every player on the roster. The fans cheered loudly for each announcement.

“I just feel like they really represent us as Oklahomans and put us — the whole state and the whole city — on their backs,” said Chris Willert, a 15-year-old fan from nearby Norman.

Oklahoma City first hosted an NBA team during the 2005-06 season, when the New Orleans Hornets temporarily relocated after Hurricane Katrina. Oklahoma City’s fans fell in love with the team and a young point guard named Chris Paul who would be named rookie of the year.

The Seattle SuperSonics relocated to Oklahoma City in time for the 2008-09 season, and fans feverishly supported the team, despite its early struggles. The Thunder became contenders with young stars Durant, Westbrook and James Harden.

Even with all that talent, they couldn’t break through. They lost to the Miami Heat in the NBA Finals in 2012, and Harden left for Houston. A possible run in 2013 was derailed when Westbrook was injured during the playoffs. The 2015-16 team led the Golden State Warriors 3-1 in the Western Conference finals before losing the series in seven games.

Durant left to join the Warriors after that season, ending

that version of the Thunder. Westbrook was the league MVP in 2017 and averaged a triple-double for three straight seasons, but the Thunder never got out of the first round those years.

But after rebuilding with its new set of superstars, finally, Oklahoma City has its moment. Daniel Sweet, a longtime fan and pastor at Calvary Church in Norman, said it’s about resilience, loyalty and community.

“To see this team rise and win, bringing a title to Oklahoma City — it feels like all of us just won something bigger than a trophy,” Sweet said. “It’s our story now. This team embodies what every family and community wants to be. Tough, passionate, and together no matter what.”

Pacers’ Haliburton: ‘I’d do it again’

By **MICHAEL MAROT**
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Tyrese Haliburton has no regrets about trying to lead the Indiana Pacers to the franchise’s first NBA title, even though his decision to play hurt ended in agony when he tore his right Achilles tendon early in Game 7.

Monday’s announcement of the injury — confirmed by Haliburton in a social media post — casts a pall on Haliburton’s historic postseason run, which included a litany of incredible plays, buzzer-beating winners and

occasionally unprecedented stat lines.

“Honestly, right now, torn Achilles and all, I don’t regret it,” Haliburton, who played Games 6 and 7 of the finals with a strained calf, said on social media. “I’d do it again, and again after that, to fight for this city and my brothers. For the chance to do something special.”

It was just the second finals appearance for the Pacers, and it came as a surprise given that Indiana began the season with a 10-15 record. Getting back there might take some time now that the two-time

All Star point guard could miss all of next season.

Haliburton’s surgery to repair the tendon was performed Monday by Dr. Martin O’Malley at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York, the Pacers said.

Coach Rick Carlisle believes that when Haliburton heals he will be every bit as good — whenever that may be.

“He will be back,” Carlisle said following Sunday night’s 103-91 loss at Oklahoma City. “I don’t have any medical information about what’s what, what may or may not have happened. But he’ll

be back in time, and I believe he’ll make a full recovery.”

The Pacers wouldn’t have made it so far without Haliburton helping to orchestrate three incredible playoff rallies from seven points down in the final 50 seconds of regulation.

But after scoring nine points, all on 3-pointers, in the first seven minutes of the biggest game in franchise history, Haliburton crashed to the floor and that was it.

The Pacers lost their leader and fell short in their title chase — again.

LEGALS

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CRAWFORD COUNTY, KANSAS CIVIL DEPARTMENT

Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc.

Plaintiff,

vs.

Shanett Jones, Jane Doe, John Doe, Kathleen P. Gronau aka Kathleen F. Gronau nka Kathleen F. Terral, and United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, et al.,

Defendants

Case No. CRP-2025-CV-000109

Court No.

Title to Real Estate Involved

Pursuant to K.S.A. §60

NOTICE OF SUIT

STATE OF KANSAS to the above named Defendants and The Unknown Heirs, executors, devisees, trustees, creditors, and assigns of any deceased defendants; the unknown spouses of any defendants; the unknown officers, successors, trustees, creditors and assigns of any defendants that are existing, dissolved or dormant corporations; the unknown executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of any defendants that are or were partners or in partnership; and the unknown guardians, conservators and trustees of any defendants that are minors or are under any legal disability and all other person who are or may be concerned:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Crawford County, Kansas by Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc., praying to foreclose a mortgage on the following described real estate:

ALL THAT PART OF THE NORTH ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY (170) FEET OF LOT NUMBER SIX (6) IN BLOCK NUMBER ONE (1) IN HIGGIE’S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF GIRARD, CRAWFORD COUNTY, KANSAS, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, LYING NORTH OF HOWARD STREET AS SAID STREET IS NOW OPENED OVER AND ACROSS SAID LOT. Parcel ID No. 019-136-13-0-30-01-007.00-0. Commonly known as 700 N Summit St., Girard, KS 66743 (“the Property”) MS 223534

and all those defendants who have not otherwise been served are required to plead to the Petition on or before July 29, 2025 in the District Court of Crawford County, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the request of plaintiff.

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC

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MS 223534.447941 KJFC

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.