

The Boston Globe

Ex-Eagle Dudley a 1st Round Pick

Bobcats pick BC star No. 1

By Daniel Malloy, Globe Correspondent | June 29, 2007



Former Boston College forward Jared Dudley held a party at a club in downtown San Diego with a couple of hundred family members and friends last night, but even the partygoers weren't expecting what came out of commissioner David Stern's mouth when he announced the 22nd pick in the NBA draft.

The Charlotte Bobcats selected Dudley, stunning both him and the crowd.

"We were shocked," said Dudley, who was generally considered a second-round candidate. "My agent told me two picks before Charlotte came up. I thought they weren't interested in me. It's just a real happy, real emotional time."

Dudley joins a team entering its fourth year of existence that has never made the playoffs, but he is excited about the challenge.

"I'm ready to go right in," Dudley said. "I think the opportunity to play is right there. It's a young team on the rise."

The surroundings will be familiar to Dudley, as the team has an Atlantic Coast Conference -- well, North Carolina -- motif. Former Tar Heel Michael Jordan is part owner, and the Bobcats have ex-UNC players Raymond Felton, Sean May, and Jeff McInnis on the roster.

Dudley fits the mold of a typical NBA small forward, though he played power forward at BC.

The ACC Player of the Year averaged 19.0 points and 8.3 rebounds as a senior, showing an improved outside game while leading the Eagles to a 21-12 record, ending with a loss to eventual Final Four participant Georgetown in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.