

# Stern says players were within rights

By Tim Reynolds  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NBA commissioner David Stern congratulated LeBron James on his decision. He just wishes it came without "The Decision."

Speaking from Las Vegas, where the league's owners met Monday, Stern said he would have advised James to tell the Cleveland Cavaliers of his choice to leave for the Miami Heat much earlier than when it actually took place — and that the two-time MVP shouldn't have made the announcement in a made-for-TV special.

"The advice that he received on this was poor," Stern said.

James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh all decided last week to play together in Miami, working out

six-year deals after talking with each other at times throughout the free-agent process. Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said Sunday he wanted the NBA to examine how all three joined the same team.

But in the Monday meeting of the league's Board of Governors, no formal complaints were levied, Stern said.

Players who have negotiated for the right to be free agents at some point in their career are totally entitled to their rights to seek employment with any other team, Stern said. "That's something we agreed to. That's our system."

Stern said James was entitled to make his move to South Florida, and that Stern did not neces-

sarily approve of the way James' decision became public, he also took exception with Cleveland owner Dan Gilbert's reaction to the move.

Gilbert released a sharp-tongued statement and called James's decision "narcissistic" and "cowardly behavior."

Later, Gilbert told The Associated Press in a phone interview that he felt James quit on the Cavs during the playoffs the past two years, and that he "has gotten a free pass."

Those remarks weren't free. Stern said he was fining the Cavaliers \$100,000 for those words.

He also congratulated Miami for its free-agent approach.

"Miami did a pretty good job of clearing out cap space and putting together a plan," Stern said.



Chris Bosh, Dwyane Wade and LeBron James celebrate with fans Friday. J. Pat Carter/Associated Press

# Heat, Twolves finalize trade

By Jon Krawczynski  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MINNEAPOLIS — Michael Beasley's off-the-court issues were well-documented. So were his on-the-court talents.

In the end, Minnesota Timberwolves president David Kahn felt the latter far outweighed the former.

The Timberwolves and Heat completed their trade Monday, sending Beasley north to Minnesota for two second-round picks and cash considerations.

"We had to do this," Kahn said Monday night in a conference call from Las Vegas, where the Timberwolves are playing in the summer league. "It was made to be done. We had no choice."

The Heat made the move to clear cap room to pursue Dwyane Wade and bring in Chris Bosh and LeBron James. The Heat get Minnesota's second-round picks in 2011 and 2012.

Beasley was a much-celebrated No. 2 overall selection in 2004, getting edged out by former Rose for the top spot in the draft after a brilliant freshman season at Kansas State. But he never seemed to be completely comfortable playing in the shadow of Wade in Miami during a two-year stint that was marred by two rocky off-seasons, first when he was kicked out of the NBA rookie symposium and then for rulebreaking, then last summer when he received substantial abuse treatment in Houston.

Kahn said the Timberwolves had plenty of homegrown talent to make sure they were bringing in the right kind of player.

into the locker room that would be devoid of veteran players, but he also stressed how Kahn performs that kind of diligence for any player he signs, not just one with a troubled past.

"The thing that some people miss in this," Kahn said, "is we are all so concerned about just into this kind of thing for anybody, but we do the things that he does. We do things with in his situation. He really has still got a lot of things to be an impact player."

Kahn said he had two very good options for the Heat president's position in a state-summer league. "We had to do this," Kahn said. "It was made to be done. We had no choice."

Beasley's production in the summer league was "nothing to write home about," Kahn said. "He's a good player, but he's not a star. He's a good player, but he's not a star. He's a good player, but he's not a star."

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Zac Fuesser delivers a pitch in Monday night's win. Steph Witt/Colegion

# Curry

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as a 'slugger' hitting a bomb over the right field fence in the bottom of the seventh inning.

"I got up 2-0 and [the pitcher] had me feelin' fastball and I just connected with it," Curry said. "I didn't even feel it come off the bat."

On a night where seven Spikes had seven players with multiple hits and the team finished with 20, Curry shined the brightest in the cleanup spot where runs are expected to be made. Curry said that his college experience in the fourth spot helped him stay relaxed in the batter's box and wait for the right pitches.

"You definitely get pitched to differently because everyone knows you're supposed to drive in runs," Curry said.

"I think it helped me tonight because I saw a lot of first pitch breaking balls and I saw that in college so it's really nothing different."

Curry laughed and deflected some credit onto a bat that he used last summer when he was playing for the Texas Collegiate league.

"I hit a few runs there so I thought I'd bring it out tonight to see if I could get a little more bat speed," Curry said. "Now they can't say nothin' about it anymore."

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# Spikes

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give up just two runs on six hits Monday night.

Zac Fuesser, who had been coming out of the bullpen since the start of the season, got his first start as a Spike. He went four innings, giving up four hits and just the one run in the first inning. He struck out four and walked just one before Mitch Fieneman entered in the fifth and threw two shutout innings.

Jhonathan Ramos and Sandobal Septimo pitched a shutout inning each and Jason Townsend pitched the ninth, giving up one run.

State College will go for the sweep of Vermont at noon today when Spikes starting pitcher Tyler Waldron takes the mound looking for his first professional win. Curry said if the team brings the same energy it did Monday night into today's game, it should bode well for the Spikes.

"Just like coach says, we enjoy the win but by midnight it's a new day," outfielder Adalberto Santos said.

"Tomorrow they're going to be hungry. Just like anybody who loses you want to come back the next day and play harder. So we've got to be ready and play harder than them."

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# Ortiz wins Home Run Derby

By Greg Beacham  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ANAHEIM, Calif. — David Ortiz believes his power swing is all the way back. After a big finish in the Home Run Derby, Boston's

beloved slugger has a trophy to prove it.

Big Papi won his first derby title Monday night, hitting 11 homers in the final round to beat Florida's Hanley Ramirez at Angel Stadium.

Ortiz hit 21 homers in the first two rounds of his fourth derby before holding off Ramirez to emerge from a field missing most of baseball's top power hitters.

"I just kind of used the experience," Ortiz said.

# O-Line

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center with Lou Eliades moving from guard to right tackle. At left guard, Wisniewski said the "position battle" between DeOnze Thomas and Matt Troutman.

For now, Wisniewski said the line will practice two-to-three times per week in Hubert of M. They'll finish the team's workout.

"We got a bunch of cool O-line top guys," Wisniewski said.

"It's a little hot in the summer but you get better together."

With a still-to-be-determined first-year starter under center, quarterbacks coach Jay Paterno said it will be crucial the line protects the pocket, especially when the Lions head to Tuscaloosa on Sept. 11.

"I don't think you can ever have a good football team unless you're at least solid on your offensive line," Paterno said. "It's gonna be very important. Really we're gonna find out... week two, week three, we're gonna play one of the better D-lines in the country."

Barham has played all three positions on the offensive line, but he says his favorite is tackle. He expects to play there on the left side this fall, and to prepare for the demands of the position, he has been working specifically on ladder and tire drills.

"I'm gonna have more fun at tackle than I did at center or guard, just because I played there in high school," he said. "I've been working my butt off all summer so I feel confident about it."

Wisniewski is equally confident and added the sooner the line is set, the better. He pointed to the line men from the 2008 season, who knew their roles heading in, saying, "It definitely helps to not only have experience at your position but to have experience with the guy you're playing next to."

Unfortunately, Wisniewski said, it isn't always so clear.

"Our philosophy as a team is we want to get our best five O-linemen out there," he said. "And to do that, sometimes you've gotta move people around."

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