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Indiana, Purdue prospects could be championship move

If the Boston Celtics are fortunate, the pairing of Purdue All-American guard Carsen Edwards and high school All-American Romeo Langford of Indiana will turn out to be a championship move.

That's what happened in 1972 and 1973, when former Boilermaker and Hoosier greats helped the Indiana Pacers win back-to-back ABA titles. Rick Mount and Billy Keller combined with another one-year IU standout, George McGinnis, to claim the 1972 crown. Mount was traded to the Kentucky Colonels the following year but McGinnis and Keller were key components of the Pacers' third ABA championship team.

Langford was drafted 14th overall by the Celtics, who traded for Edwards after he was selected 33rd by the Philadelphia 76ers. Langford and Edwards, plus Tennessee forward Grant Williams and Tremont Waters of LSU, met the Boston media earlier this week.

Not surprisingly, Edwards was reluctant to talk about himself or his outstanding run in the NCAA tournament that led Purdue within seconds of the Final Four.

"It was cool," Edwards told Marc



KENNY THOMPSON
Sports Columnist

D'Amico of Celtics.com of his dominant tournament scoring, "but I was really just trying to enjoy it all with my teammates."

Langford sounded more like a typical Purdue basketball player when he preferred to discuss defense instead of his ability to

take the ball to the basket. The 6-6 Langford told D'Amico that he believed his length would translate to being able to guard multiple positions in the NBA.

It's an important draft class for the Celtics and president of basketball operations Danny Ainge, who are faced with the possible free agent departures of star guard Kyrie Irving and center Al Horford.

"These guys have the desire to become great, and they'll put in the work, and have the focus to do what it takes to live up to the potential that they have," Ainge said of his draft class.

Assuming Langford and Edwards make the Celtics roster, they will become the fifth Hoosier and sixth Boilermaker, respectively, to wear a Boston uniform. Purdue's Ed Ehlers played for the Celtics from 1947-49, but it would be more than

Kenny Thompson is an award-winning journalist who writes a weekly sports column for Sagamore News Media.

35 years before another Boilermaker would play in the Boston Garden. Jerry Sichting (1985-88) was a key reserve on the 1986 NBA championship team.

Purdue's Jimmy Oliver (1993-94), JaJuan Johnson (2011-12) and E'Twaun Moore (2011-12) had short stays in Boston.

Steve Downing (1973-74) was the first former Indiana star to play for the Celtics, followed by Quinn Buckner (1982-85), Calbert Cheaney (1999-2000) and D.J. White (2013).

Thanks to basketball-reference.com, I was able to determine other Purdue-IU combinations in the NBA.

Arguably the best duo were Terry Dischinger and Walt Bellamy with the Chicago Zephyrs and later, the Detroit Pistons. Dischinger and Bellamy are forever linked as part of the original U.S. Olympic basketball dream team in 1960, starring alongside Oscar Robertson, Jerry West and Jerry Lucas. That team won its games by an average of 42.4 points and was collectively elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2010.

Another Indiana legend, Bobby "Slick" Leonard, was Chicago's player/coach in 1962.

Bellamy would spend three seasons alongside Herm Gilliam with the Atlanta Hawks in the early 1970s. After two years in the military, Dischinger returned to the Detroit Pistons for the 1967-68 season and teamed up with Indiana great Tom Van Arsdale.

Van Arsdale would be paired with another Boilermaker great, Herm Gilliam, on the 1969-70 Cincinnati Royals and the 1974-75 Atlanta Hawks.

Not surprisingly, the Indiana Pacers have had several Purdue-IU teammates on the roster at the same time. When McGinnis returned to Indianapolis toward the end of his career, his teammates included Sichting and IU's Tom Abernethy in 1980-81. Butch Carter took Abernethy's place in 1981-82.

Sichting and Carter remained teammates in 1982-83, and were joined by former Indiana guard Jim Thomas in 1983-84. Sichting and Thomas were also teammates in 1984-85, Sichting's final season in Indianapolis before moving on to the Boston Celtics.

More than 10 years after Purdue fans hoped they would be teammates, Glenn Robinson and Alan Henderson finally played side-by-side with the Hawks in 2002-03.

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Scott invited to America's Team

The Paper

By: Codey Emerson

Sophomore Olivia Scott will have the opportunity this summer to represent North Montgomery as a member of "America's team". Scott has been invited to be part of the team that will travel to the Dominican Republic this summer to do mission work and play in six different softball games.

This past season Scott was named a team captain for the Chargers and played shortstop and catcher. She also plays travel softball for the Impulse 18 and team based out of Lafayette.

"We're really proud of her," said Mom Valerie Scott. "She will get the opportunity to see a whole new world and get to experience things that she doesn't get to experience here in the United States. And having that USA logo across her chest, while wearing the red, white, and blue means a lot to us, and I know it will mean a lot to her."

The team will spend a week in the country and the trip will include a snorkeling excursion, visiting different waterfalls, getting to play against, and mix and mingle with other international teams.

Some of the mission work that Scott and the team will be doing will include "a day in the life". This will see Scott and some of the other players see what a typical day in the life of a Dominican worker is like. The mission work will include going

to a local landfill and working alongside an employee at the landfill sorting it for recyclable materials.

Mike Andrew who is the head coach at Saint Mary's of the Woods College will be coaching this team and is the head of the selection process. Andrews talks what the program looks for when selecting their players.

"I've headed this program for the past eight years," said Andrew. "We just look for players who are great people, come from great families, and want to make a difference. My own daughter has traveled with the team these past few years and, I can't tell the impact it's had on her."

Specifically when talking about Scott, Andrews praised the sophomore on and off the field.

"I'm really looking forward to getting to know her better," he said. "She gets along really well with her teammates, she does everything right on and off the field. This program will allow her to build not only her softball career, but it will allow her to grow as a person"

Scott and the rest of the team will leave for the Dominican Republic on July 29 and return to the country on August 5.

As part of the trip Scott is required to pay for some of travel expenses. Cash or check donations can be mailed to Scott at 8834 E. State Rd 32, Crawfordsville.



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