76ers Pick Bristow

Bristow was the third player drafted in the second round and was the fourth selection of the lowly Philadelphia 76ers, who won only nine games all year and then lost Coach Kevin Loughery to the New York Nets Monday.

The 76ers, who tried to stop the draft because of a dispute with Seattle over the contract of John Brisker, drafted first and picked Illinois State guard Doug Collins.

Collins was originally traded to Chicago for center Clifford Ray and guard Bob Weiss, but that trade was nullified when Ray did not pass a physical test. The 6-9 Ray had knee surgery this year.

Philadelphia also got a bonus pick in the first round and drafted guard Raymond Lewis of Los Angeles State, a sophomore who has declared himself a hardship case. The 76ers' first pick in the second round was Washington U. guard Lou Nelson.

Bristow was then picked on a Portland draft which had been obtained by the 76ers.

"I've just talked with my agent (Norm Blass) and he told me that for negotiation purposes, I'm all right," Bristow said.

"I would like to have been picked in the first round, but I understand what happened."

Bristow said Blass had explained to him that two hardship cases (Lewis and Houston's Dwight Jones) and St. John's redshirt Mel Davis were picked in the first round, "and nobody expected Swen Nater to go in the first round. (Nater is the UCLA backup center who starred in the recent Pizza Hut game). I don't feel that bad about it."

Bristow said he would now wait and see.

"Now the negotiations will start. That's what I got an agent for. I'll wait to see what the ABA does, and I'll wait to hear from Philadelphia."

"I'd like to play in the NBA. Right now, you could say I'm leaning toward the NBA, but that doesn't mean I've ruled out the ABA. I was the first forward picked by Philadelphia, but of course I'm going to a loser. I hope I'd have a good chance to start if I was playing with the 76ers."

Then, signifying all of the wheeling and dealing done by the NBA Tuesday, Bristow said, "You never know, I might be traded in the next 10 minutes."

Duke guard Gary Melchionni also was picked in the second round, going to Phoenix. Maryland's Jim O'Brien was selected in the third round by Cleveland, using the Portland draft choice obtained in the trade.

Richmond's Aaron Stewart, who has another year of eligibility, was selected in the fourth round by Baltimore, while North Carolina guard George Karl was taken in the fourth round by New York.

South Carolina's 7-foot center, Danny Traylor, was taken by Baltimore in the fifth round, while Furman's Roy Simpson went in the fifth round to Chicago.

Joe Cafferky, N.C. State guard, was a sixth round pick of Boston. Maryland's Bob Bodell and Furman's Ross Hunt were chosen on the 10th and final round.