

Al Thornton makes quick debut with Warriors

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With some new additions, Warriors coach Keith Smart might have waited until after at least one practice before subbing the player into a game.

With Al Thornton, however, the coach couldn't wait.

"I'm excited about having him," Smart said. "I've always liked his game. I love players who have high energy and are motivated already. I don't have to tell him to get up and play aggressively."

Thornton, 27, reached a buyout agreement with Washington on Tuesday and was signed by the Warriors on Thursday. The 2007 No. 14 overall pick played 2:03 against Boston on Friday after just one shootaround with his new squad.

The excitement comes from the fact that Thornton has the potential to give the Warriors a post-up scorer they desperately need. Smart also envisions playing Thornton (6-foot-8) at the same time as Dorell Wright (6-9) to cause opponents matchup fits on the wings, with Thornton scoring from below the foul line and Wright scoring from beyond the three-point arc.

"He's different from a lot of guys that we have," Smart said. "With our team, unlike some of the teams he has been on before, he's not going to have to hunt for shots. We're going to make sure he gets shots and allow him to do things that fit his skill set."

Thornton was an All-Rookie player and bumped his scoring average past 16 points a game for the Clippers. In 1 1/2 seasons since being traded to Washington, however, his numbers and opportunities have been limited by ankle and finger injuries.

He said Detroit, Toronto and Memphis were the only other teams to show interest in signing him, and playing for the Warriors is a chance to prove the naysayers wrong.

"I like the way the guys play out here, I like the coaching style, and I think both suit my game," Thornton said. "I can post up and I can run the floor, and I'll try to be a defensive presence out there.

"I know I can still do it."

High-tech basketball: The Warriors are one of five franchises - joining Dallas, Houston, Oklahoma City and San Antonio - to have high-tech cameras installed at their arenas in hopes of gaining more advanced metrics.

Speaking at the MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference on Friday, Sandy Weil explained some of the data generated from his cameras, which have three-dimensional capabilities, capture 25 images per second and record everything on the court.

Warriors fans will be interested in what Stats LLC, the camera/data company, found about Monta Ellis: Teammates shoot 60 percent off his passes. That ranks near the top of the league and flies in the face of the perception that he's an inefficient volume scorer.

Warriors co-owner Joe Lacob will serve on a panel with Wyc Grousbeck (Celtics), Ted Leonsis (Capitals/Wizards) and Jeff Moorad (Padres) today. He will discuss the reasons for becoming an owner and the line between business and passion in sports.

Smart money: There was a Harvard group at TD Garden on Friday night, hoping to see inactive Warriors rookie guard Jeremy Lin play. "I remember my first game back in New Orleans," coach Smart said. "A lot of people paid to watch me sit on the bench."

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