Morning Pickup

# Knicks Must Find More Time For Jeremy Tyler

Two years ago the **Knicks** gave a chance to a point guard named **Jeremy Lin** who had previously been cut by two other NBA teams. Linsanity captured the attention and heart of the city until the Knicks failed to match the three-year contract offered to Lin by the **Houston Rockets**.

Last season **Chis Copeland** made the Knicks roster after an impressive run with their summer league team. Copeland showed considerable offensive talent despite irregular playing time under coach **Mike Woodson**. Much like Lin, Copeland's stay in New York would be brief. The Knicks neglected to match the two-year offer that Copeland received from the rival **Indiana Pacers**.

The Knicks have developed an unfortunate habit of uncovering talented young assets, only to let them walk away without receiving any value in return. I fear that history may repeat itself this year in the person of **Jeremy Tyler**. The 6'10," 22-year-old Tyler has given the Knicks energy and athleticism in limited minutes off the bench. The young big has been one of the few bright spots in what has been a terribly disappointing season for New York. Woodson has struggled to find playing time for Tyler who is averaging 4.7 points and 3.4 rebounds in just 10 minutes per game.

With a current record of 20-32, even if the Knicks do manage to rally to earn a playoff spot they will likely get crushed in the first round by either Miami or Indiana. Talented young big men are not easy to find in the NBA. In their remaining 30 games the Knicks need to prioritize getting minutes for Jeremy Tyler to determine if he is going to a part their future going forward. New York cannot let him languish on the bench only sign elsewhere in the offseason like Lin and Copeland before him. If the Knicks ever want to return to contention they must develop low-cost, young assets.

It is time to see if Jeremy Tyler fits that mold.