

CU Buffs basketball hires Billups (Rodney)

Chauncey's brother to serve as director of operations for Boyle's program

By Ryan Thorburn Camera Sports Writer
Boulder Daily Camera

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There is a Billups back on the court at the Coors Events Center.

Rodney Billups, the younger brother of former Colorado star and current Denver Nuggets point guard Chauncey Billups, was hired as the final member of the new staff by Buffs head coach Tad Boyle on Monday.

"Chauncey is super excited," Billups said. "He and I talked about it several times during the application process about how much I would learn. During my career as a player we shared a lot of things, but this is one thing he never got to do."

Billups' official title at CU is director of basketball operations. Unofficially, the George Washington High School and University of Denver graduate will be someone on the coaching staff the young Buffs can really relate to and/or lean on.

"There will be a number of things on the business side I will be accountable for," Billups said. "But one thing I liked about this opportunity is to come in and mentor the guys, not only on the court but off the court. I think the experiences I had when I was in school and what I did after school can help them."

Billups was a standout point guard at DU from 2001-05. He averaged averaged 10.2 points, 6.4 assists and 3.2 rebounds during his senior season to lead the Pioneers to a 20-win season and an NIT berth.

After playing overseas in Latvia and Finland for two years, the Denver native returned home and managed Chauncey's investments, endorsements and other business affairs.

"I'm happy to be back on the basketball court," said Billups, who graduated from DU with a degree in business management. "I've always wanted to be a Buff. I wanted to play here."

Ricardo Patton, who coached Chauncey at CU, didn't have a scholarship for Rodney. But he did have enough respect for him to avoid DU while Billups was there.

"Didn't get a chance (to play CU)," Billups said. "We were too good at DU and had too much to gain by beating CU, so they didn't play us."

Billups was in junior high school when Chauncey had the Buffs on the national map during his collegiate career from 1995-97.

"His sophomore year the atmosphere was exciting they started getting fans and national notoriety. They almost beat Kansas. Hopefully, we can get back to that level," Billups said. "Last year in particular they were one or two guys away from being a good team. And with the recruiting (Jeff) Bzdelik did and the guys we're recruiting now, I think that can happen."

Bzdelik had spoken to the younger Billups about becoming a part of CU basketball before he left for Wake Forest. Boyle kept the lines of communication open and added one of the biggest names in Buff basketball history to the staff.

"Rodney's a Colorado guy; loves Colorado basketball and that means a lot to me," Boyle said. "He's a tremendous mentor and role model to the players we have in our program, as well as the group of players that we are bringing into the program in the coming years. Rodney's a bright, young coach who has a tremendous future in this business. He'll have an opportunity to learn from the ground up with this staff."

Boyle retained assistant Tom Abatemarco and hired Mike Rohn (formerly Texas A&M's director of operations) and Jean Prioleau (formerly an assistant at TCU) last month.

"He's very approachable and his personality is great," Billups said of Boyle. "He has a great basketball mind and he's a Colorado guy. That speaks volumes for me. We can relate to the same things."

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Boyle hires Rodney Billups to CU hoops staff

By Tom Kensler
The Denver Post

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Rodney Billups, right, runs through drills with some 8th graders at a basketball camp at South High School in March. (Kathryn Scott Osler, The Denver Post)

New Colorado men's basketball coach Tad Boyle completed his staff on Monday with a familiar name, at least a familiar last name.

Rodney Billups, younger brother of CU legend and current Nugget Chauncey Billups, was hired as director of basketball operations.

A successful player like his famous sibling, Rodney Billups played basketball for the University of Denver, averaging 10.2 points, 6.4 assists and 3.2 rebounds as a senior in 2004-05. He earned third-team all-Sun Belt Conference mention that season after topping the league in assists.

"I always wanted to be a Buff, ever since I saw the love and respect that everybody in Boulder showed Chauncey," Rodney Billups said.

"Chauncey is stoked about this. He

[Blog: All Things Buffs](#)



The Post's Tom Kensler posts analysis, notes and minutiae on this blog devoted to CU athletics.

wants to coach one day. Maybe I'll hire him."

Following his college days, Rodney played professional basketball in Latvia and Finland.

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After retiring as a player, he worked for Chauncey as a personal manager and helped coordinate the family's investments company.

"Rodney's a Colorado guy; loves Colorado basketball, and that's important to me," Boyle said. "Rodney's a bright, young coach who has a tremendous future in this business. He'll have an opportunity to learn from the ground up with this staff."

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All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post

JUNE 7, 2010, 6:28 PM

CU hire Billups wants to make name for himself

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

If you're a Colorado fan, you've got to love the hire by new CU men's basketball coach Tad Boyle of Rodney Billups.

Yes, Rodney Billups is the younger brother of THE LEGEND. That opens doors and can be a big hit with prospective recruits.

But here's why methinks it's an even better hire by Boyle. Rodney is so darn confident in himself. That has to add to the synergy of the program.

"I believe Coach Boyle would have hired me even if my last name wasn't Billups," Rodney told me during a phone interview. "He said he wanted me to know that he hired me on the basis of my experience in basketball and the skills I can bring to the staff. I believe him."

A former point guard at the University of Denver, Rodney Billups said he had spoken to then CU coach Jeff Bzdelik about joining his staff. But then Bzdelik bolted for Wake Forest, and Billups wondered if he would get another opportunity to come to the school he cheered for as a kid.

Then Boyle called.

"I'd never met coach Boyle before that," Rodney said. "But right from the beginning, I knew there was something special about him."

Apparently, the feeling was mutual.

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