

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

from the baseline

Higgins endures the pain to be there for CU

By Chris Dempsey
The Denver Post

Posted: 01/27/2011 07:17:49 PM MST

Updated: 01/28/2011 10:54:27 AM MST

The Denver Post's Chris Dempsey provides weekly basketball insights from preps to the pros.

BOULDER — Few players play with as consistently stoic a facial expression as Colorado guard Cory Higgins, who is as even-keel as they come on the basketball court whether things are going well or not.

For a significant portion of the season Higgins would have been justified to sit out a game or two.

Instead, the senior missed none.

The worst in a laundry list of ailments was the bruised kidney. The concussion didn't help matters, though. Neither did a hand injury, a deep thigh bruise or the stitches near the bridge

of his nose. He's still dealing with a shoulder injury, but compared to all Higgins has played through this year, he says he feels the best he has all season.

And as the Buffs look to stop a three-game losing streak, they need as healthy a Higgins as they can get.

"I've felt the best that I have since that first injury happened in preseason," Higgins said. "It's the best I've felt and I really think this is the time to get this team going again and really make a run through the Big 12.

"At the beginning of the season it was real frustrating for me because a bunch of little nagging injuries. I didn't feel 100 percent and I wasn't really playing that well. But now I feel great. I feel that this team is in a good place. I still feel like we're the same team that won those big three games."

His production took a bit of a hit, most notably in the physical category of rebounding. Higgins averaged 5.25 rebounds in the first four contests, and 3.0 in the 17 games since then. It hurts to get banged around when you're already banged up.

"It wasn't an easy thing, but I felt like I battled through it the best that I could," Higgins said. "And I felt like I was still helping the team some way even if it wasn't scoring."

None of this has been lost on his coach.

Advertisement



**DIRECTV has more of what you want
to watch!**

Switch today! 1-888-778-0985



Offer ends 2/9/11. Credit card required (except in MA & PA). New approved customers only (lease required). \$19.95 Handling & Delivery fee may apply. Applicable use tax adjustment may apply on the retail value of the installation. Call for details.

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

"He went through some tough times," CU coach Tad Boyle said. "He had a

Blog: All Things Nuggets



Benjamin Hochman and Chris Dempsey post analysis, notes, minutiae on this blog devoted to the Denver Nuggets.

lot of nicks and scrapes and showed a lot of toughness and heart by playing through those things. He never made excuses. Cory's been, from Day one, he's been a warrior for us."

UNC's biggest fan: Boyle?

After limping out to a 4-7 start, Northern Colorado is currently the hottest team on the Front Range with seven straight wins to boost the Bears to the top of the Big Sky standings going into their game on Saturday at Weber State. It is the program's first year under coach B. J. Hill, and the team has one very big fan — former coach Tad Boyle.

"I see every box score, I know every time they're playing. I follow them closely," Boyle said. "I don't

talk to the players. I talk to coach Hill. I know whose playing well and who isn't. I'm dialed in, because I'm emotionally attached to them. I feel like those are my guys. And even though I'm not around them anymore I feel attached to them. So, I'm more into it than anyone would know."

Boyle is not in the least surprised at the Bears fast start.

"Not at all," Boyle said. "They've got great senior leadership, great coaching staff and they got tough kids, they've got good young ones coming and I'm as excited for their start in conference play as I am anything."

NBA scout's take on: Connecticut G Kemba Walker.

"Second best point guard in the draft. Will benefit from this being

a weak point guard draft overall. Shooting the ball from the outside much better this year. Has been a more efficient overall scorer. Love his ability to pull-up off the bounce and is a nightmare to defend in transition. Sees the court very well and is capable of setting up others. Scoring more this year out of necessity given what is around him. Not afraid to take big shots. His offensive game kind of reminds me of a cross between Aaron Brooks and Ty Lawson.

Advertisement

Get a **FREE** ADT-Monitored Home Security System.*

(With \$99 customer installation and purchase of ADT alarm monitoring services. See important terms and conditions below.)

*\$99.00 Customer Installation Charge. 36-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$35.99 per month (\$1,295.64). Form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account. Offer applies to homeowners only. Local permit fees may be required. Satisfactory credit history required. Certain restrictions apply. Offer valid for new SecurityChoice - An ADT Authorized Dealer customers only and not on purchases from ADT Security Services, Inc. Other rate plans available. Cannot be combined with any other offer. **\$100 VISA® Gift Card Offer: \$100 VISA Gift Card is provided by SecurityChoice and is not sponsored by ADT Security Services. Requires mail-in redemption. Call 1-888-407-2338 for complete restrictions and redemption requirements.

Call Now!

1-877-835-8373

SECURITY CHOICE
ADT Authorized Company



Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST



An NBA scout said Connecticut guard Kemba Walker is shooting the ball much better from the outside this year.
(Jeffrey Phelps, AP)

"I like the fact that he has gotten appreciably better each of his three seasons at UConn. His scoring has jumped from 8.9 his freshman season to 14.6 his sophomore season to 25 this season.

"I like his intangibles. Great body language and carries himself like a leader. His teammates seem to enjoy following him, too, which is important for a point guard.

"Has a tendency to be out of control sometimes going down the lane and still turns the ball over a

little bit too much. Is a shorter point guard, which raises questions about his ability to defend today's bigger NBA point guards like Deron Williams and Derrick Rose. However, he's got good lateral quickness and also good instincts in the passing lanes. I think he'll be okay on defense as he learns the NBA game."

Fredette plays his way into the first round.

You might not believe this now, but coming into the season BYU guard Jimmer Fredette was a fringe first round NBA draft candidate — at best. He mostly didn't resonate at all.

That's all changed now with his unbelievable play during the 2010-11 season that has him atop the NCAA in scoring and his shooting making BYU games all of a sudden must-see TV.

According to an NBA source, his stock is clearly on the rise but it doesn't mean he's risen to lottery pick levels just yet. At this point consider him a low-to-mid first round type of player with plenty of time to rise. But Fredette's ability to score against any player, against any defense, has NBA scouts taking notice big-time now.

Ultimately, his worth will be judged during the NCAA Tournament, where he'll face top players every night for as long as BYU advances. But for a player who started the season as barely a blip on the NBA radar, he's rocketed into the nation's — and NBA's — consciousness.

Advertisement



SAVE up to **64%**
Plus, get
3 FREE Gifts



Special Code: 45069ZWN

To Order: www.OmahaSteaks.com/print71 or call 1-877-605-0496

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

NBA awards watch.

Always a fun exercise, positioning for NBA awards is officially underway. Now that the season is already halfway over and quickly headed to the All-Star break here are my frontrunners to this point in each category.

Coach of the Year: Gregg Popovich, San Antonio. Unbelievable turnaround in San Antonio.

MVP: Derrick Rose, Chicago. Without Rose, the Bulls, now one of NBA's best teams, would barely make the playoffs.

Rookie of the Year: Blake Griffin, L.A. Clippers. This hasn't, and won't change.

Defensive Player of the Year: Andrew Bogut, Milwaukee. No Dwight Howard? Not now.

Most Improved Player: Kevin Love, Minnesota. He was good last year, but is off the charts this season.

Sixth Man of the Year: Jamal Crawford, Atlanta. Twenty points off the bench every night.

Front Range RPIs.

Colorado State, which won on Wednesday over Air Force continues to be in good standing in the RPI. Remains to be seen how the conference will

affect the number as the season progresses, but as long as the Rams keep winning, they should generally be okay.

Colorado has lost three straight and has work to do.

Northern Colorado and Denver don't matter much. Each will have to win its conference tournament to get into the NCAA Tournament.

These are the RPI ratings for each of the Front Range teams coming into this week via RPIratings.com:

52. Colorado State
87. Colorado
110. Air Force
134. Northern Colorado
236. Denver
284. Wyoming

Chris Dempsey: Twitter: [@dempseypost](https://twitter.com/dempseypost) or [@cdempsey@denverpost.com](https://twitter.com/cdempsey).

Advertisement

Get a **FREE** ADT-Monitored Home Security System.*

(With \$99 customer installation and purchase of ADT alarm monitoring services. See important terms and conditions below.)

*\$99.00 Customer Installation Charge. 36-Month Monitoring Agreement required at \$35.99 per month (\$1,295.64). Form of payment must be by credit card or electronic charge to your checking or savings account. Offer applies to homeowners only. Local permit fees may be required. Satisfactory credit history required. Certain restrictions apply. Offer valid for new SecurityChoice - An ADT Authorized Dealer customers only and not on purchases from ADT Security Services, Inc. Other rate plans available. Cannot be combined with any other offer. **\$100 VISA® Gift Card Offer: \$100 VISA Gift Card is provided by SecurityChoice and is not sponsored by ADT Security Services. Requires mail-in redemption. Call 1-888-407-2338 for complete restrictions and redemption requirements.

Call Now!

1-877-835-8373

SECURITY CHOICE
ADT Authorized Company



Print Powered By FormatDynamics™

All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post

JANUARY 28, 2011, 12:40 PM

CU's Roberson has battled Baylor's Jones before

By [TOM KENSLE](#) |  No Comments

[1]

Colorado freshman [Andre Roberson](#) ^[2] is looking forward to Saturday's game against Baylor. (Special To The Denver Post, David Zalubowski)

BOULDER – Baylor's 6-foot-11 freshman forward [Perry Jones III](#) ^[3] was rated a national top-10 recruit last season out of Duncanville High in suburban Dallas. Colorado's freshman forward, San Antonio native [Andre Roberson](#) ^[2], wasn't even recruited by most schools in Texas and didn't sign until early May.

But they share something in common: a battle during their senior year of high school in a prestigious prep tournament at San Antonio.

Colorado (14-7, 3-3 Big 12) plays Saturday at Baylor (13-6, 3-3). Tipoff is at 11:30 a.m., telecast by Altitude.

"Perry will remember me; we became pretty good friends during that tournament," Roberson said this week. "We went head-to-head in a game. Our team (San Antonio Wagner) won by five (points).

"But individually, he won by two points. He scored 17, I got 15."

Recruits that were way more highly regarded than Roberson fared worse than that against Jones, who is averaging 13.9 points and 7.1 rebounds as a college freshman.

Jones was ranked as high as No. 2 nationally (Sporting News) out of high school and earned McDonald's and Parade All-America honors.

"I just went out there and played my game against him," Roberson said. "I'll be pumped up to go against him again."

Perhaps that battle, with Roberson holding his own against the blue-chipper, was a harbinger of what

Roberson would become – one of the surprises of the Big 12. Roberson comes off the bench for the Buffs ranks seventh among Big 12 rebounders (7.095 per game), just ahead of, you guessed it, Jones (7.052) – although both are rounded off at 7.1.

Roberson will have to develop a more consistent jump shot in future years, but he has had his moments offensively, averaging 6.4 points in an average of 21 minutes per game.

"I watched Big 12 basketball all the time growing up," Roberson said. "I saw Baylor a lot. They're long and athletic, and they can jump out the gym."

Baylor did not recruit Roberson.

"I just want to go out there and play hard and show everybody why they should have recruited me," Roberson said. "I like to have a chip on my shoulder. It gets me going. It gives me a little edge to my game."

More from All Things Colorado Sports

- [CU still alive for Willingham's signature](#) ^[4]
- [CU not Dunn with LaceDarius just yet](#) ^[5]
- [Baylor 2-3 zone to challenge Buffs](#) ^[6]

All Things Colorado Sports Recommends

- [Avalanche's Ryan O'Reilly has shoulder injury](#) ^[7] (All Things Colorado Avalanche)
- [Karl is a coach's coach](#) ^[8] (All Things Nuggets)
- [U.S. Chamber's support of Nacchio not a surprise](#) ^[9] (Cover the Spread)



[10]

ARTICLE PRINTED FROM ALL THINGS COLORADO SPORTS

<http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2011/01/28/cus-roberson-has-battled-baylors-jones-before/15580/>

URLs in this post:

[1] Image: http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/files/2011/01/blog_roberson_01282011.jpg

[2] Andre Roberson: <http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/tag/andre-roberson/>

[3] Perry Jones III: <http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/tag/perry-jones-iii/>

[4] CU still alive for Willingham's signature: http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2011/01/28/cu-still-alive-for-willinghams-signature/15586/?source=ARK_sports

[5] CU not Dunn with LaceDarius just yet: http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2011/01/28/cu-not-dunn-with-lacedarius-just-yet/15573/?source=ARK_sports

[6] Baylor 2-3 zone to challenge Buffs: http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2011/01/28/baylor-2-3-zone-to-challenge-buffs/15569/?source=ARK_sports

[7] Avalanche's Ryan O'Reilly has shoulder injury : http://blogs.denverpost.com/avs/2011/01/15/avalanches-oreilly-has-shoulder-injury-only/5844/?source=ARK_sports

[8] Karl is a coach's coach : http://blogs.denverpost.com/nuggets/2009/04/06/karl-is-a-coachs-coach/?source=ARK_sports

[9] U.S. Chamber's support of Nacchio not a surprise : http://blogs.denverpost.com/coverthespread/2009/04/chambers-support-of-nacchio-not-a-surprise/?source=ARK_sports

[10] Image: http://www.arkayne.com/DenverPost/all-things-colorado-sports/?utm_source=Arkayne%20

All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post

JANUARY 28, 2011, 10:36 AM

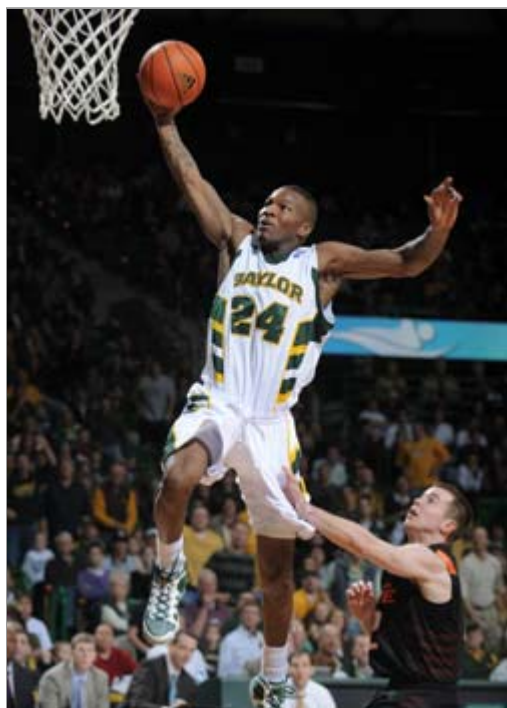
CU not Dunn with LaceDarius just yet

By **TOM KENSLER** |  No Comments

BOULDER – In leading the Big 12 Conference in scoring with 20.8 points per game, Baylor senior guard LaceDarius Dunn has, in some circles, gained the reputation as being mostly a spot-up shooter.

That's unfair and unwarranted, Colorado coaches and players said this week. CU visits Baylor on Saturday (11:30 a.m., Altitude).

Bufs assistant coach Mike Rohn spent the three previous seasons on the staff at Texas A&M, which faced Baylor and Dunn twice a season.



[1]

Baylor's LaceDarius Dunn scores over Oklahoma State's Keiton Page in last Saturday's game in Waco, Texas.

"I know we never viewed him as a spot-up shooter," Rohn said. "He can score in a lot of ways. He can drive it to his right and to his left. He can post up and score. He can get to the foul line. He's got a lot to his game."

Colorado sophomore guard Alec Burks ranks second among Big 12 scorers (all games) at 19.8. Burks scrimmaged against Dunn last summer while both were counselors at a summer camp in California.

"Lace is as good as advertised," Burks said. "He can do a lot of things, but he really can shoot it. That's

what they depend on him for.”

Every team that faces Baylor makes guarding Dunn a focal point of the game plan. CU won't be an exception.

“Dunn is a heck of a player,” CU coach Tad Boyle said. “He has scored a lot of points in his career. He's a challenge. We have to have an awareness of where he is on the floor at all times.”

Long and lanky at 6-feet-4, Dunn scored 23 points against Colorado in last year's lone meeting, a 78-71 Buffs win in Boulder. He hit half of his 10 shots from 3-point range.

More from All Things Colorado Sports

- [CU still alive for Willingham's signature](#) ^[2]
- [Baylor 2-3 zone to challenge Buffs](#) ^[3]
- [CU's Roberson has battled Baylor's Jones before](#) ^[4]

All Things Colorado Sports Recommends

- [Peter Forsberg practices Tuesday with Colorado Avalanche](#) ^[5] (All Things Colorado Avalanche)
- [Stewart avoids arbitration with one-year deal](#) ^[6] (All Things Rockies)
- [Bird will play, Lawson out, Melo dealing with fatigue](#) ^[7] (All Things Nuggets)



[8]

ARTICLE PRINTED FROM ALL THINGS COLORADO SPORTS

<http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2011/01/28/cu-not-dunn-with-lacedarius-just-yet/15573/>

URLs in this post:

- [1] Image: http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/files/2011/01/blogs_dunn_01282011.jpg
- [2] CU still alive for Willingham's signature: http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2011/01/28/cu-still-alive-for-willinghams-signature/15586/?source=ARK_sports
- [3] Baylor 2-3 zone to challenge Buffs: http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2011/01/28/baylor-2-3-zone-to-challenge-buffs/15569/?source=ARK_sports
- [4] CU's Roberson has battled Baylor's Jones before: http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2011/01/28/cus-roberson-has-battled-baylors-jones-before/15580/?source=ARK_sports
- [5] Peter Forsberg practices Tuesday with Colorado Avalanche : http://blogs.denverpost.com/avs/2011/01/25/peter-forsberg-at-avs-practice-day-4/6058/?source=ARK_sports
- [6] Stewart avoids arbitration with one-year deal : http://blogs.denverpost.com/rockies/2011/01/28/stewart-avoids-arbitration-with-one-year-deal/5505/?source=ARK_sports
- [7] Bird will play, Lawson out, Melo dealing with fatigue : http://blogs.denverpost.com/nuggets/2010/03/03/bird-will-play-lawson-out-melo-dealing-with-fatigue/?source=ARK_sports
- [8] Image: http://www.arkayne.com/DenverPost/all-things-colorado-sports/?utm_source=Arkayne%20Plugin&utm_medium=Recommend&utm_campaign=Plugin&coupon=DENVERPOST&arkayne_page=2050642

Click [here](#) to print.

All contents [Copyright 2009 The Denver Post](#) or other copyright holders. All rights reserved. | [Privacy Policy](#) | This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed for any commercial purpose.

All Things Colorado Sports — Blogs — The Denver Post

JANUARY 28, 2011, 7:33 AM

Baylor 2-3 zone to challenge Buffs

By **TOM KENSLE** |  No Comments

[1]

[CU](#) ^[2] [coach Tad Boyle](#) ^[3] is preparing his team, including senior Cory Higgins, to face [Baylor](#) ^[4]'s 2-3 zone. (Kathryn Scott Osler, The Denver Post)

[BOULDER](#) ^[5] – With a lineup that seemingly stretches forever with long-armed players measuring 6-feet-7, 6-10 and 6-11 across the frontcourt, [Baylor](#) ^[4]'s 2-3 zone figures to be a challenge for [Colorado](#) ^[6] in Saturday's 11:30 a.m. (Altitude) game in Waco, Texas.

For one thing, [Big 12](#) ^[7] Conference teams rarely employ the zone as the base defense.

"The one thing that makes it different from most zones is their length," [CU](#) ^[2] [coach Tad Boyle](#) ^[3] said Thursday after practice. "The whole key against the zone is we have to make good decisions. And we have to play inside-out and not just settle for jump shots.

"Most teams that play zone want you to take a quick jump shot. Then we have to offensive rebound, which will be a real challenge with their size and length."

Boyle said he is glad the [Buffs](#) ^[8] faced some zone teams during the preseason. The most talented was future Pac-12 rival [Oregon](#) ^[9] State.

[Colorado](#) ^[6] crushed the Beavers 83-57 on Dec. 4 in [Boulder](#) ^[5]. Often beating [Oregon](#) ^[9] State down the court before the zone could set up, [CU](#) ^[2] shot a sizzling 58.6 percent from the field.

“I think we’re a good zone offense team,” Boyle said. “[Oregon](#) ^[9] State came in here with a 1-3-1. Their guys are long and athletic and we really handled it well.”

More from All Things [Colorado](#) ^[6] Sports

- [Buffs still feeling hangover from loss to KU](#) ^[10]
- [CU not Dunn with LaceDarius just yet](#) ^[11]
- [CSU has succinct scouting report on Utah center](#) ^[12]

All Things [Colorado](#) ^[6] Sports Recommends

- [Nuggets to sign George Karl’s son, Coby](#) ^[13] (All Things Nuggets)
- [Carmelo Anthony to miss tonight’s game at San Antonio](#) ^[14] (All Things Nuggets)
- [Game 3 set to tip off tonight](#) ^[15] (All Things Nuggets)



[16]

ARTICLE PRINTED FROM ALL THINGS COLORADO SPORTS

<http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2011/01/28/baylor-2-3-zone-to-challenge-buffs/15569/>

URLs in this post:

- [1] Image: http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/files/2011/01/BKCCU__KS05520.jpg
- [2] CU: <http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/tag/cu/>
- [3] coach Tad Boyle: <http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/tag/coach-tad-boyle/>
- [4] Baylor: <http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/tag/baylor/>
- [5] BOULDER: <http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/tag/boulder/>
- [6] Colorado: <http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/tag/colorado/>
- [7] Big 12: <http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/tag/big-12/>
- [8] Buffs: <http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/tag/buffs/>
- [9] Oregon: <http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/tag/oregon/>
- [10] Buffs still feeling hangover from loss to KU: http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2011/01/27/buffs-still-feeling-hangover-from-loss-to-ku/15563/?source=ARK_sports
- [11] CU not Dunn with LaceDarius just yet: http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2011/01/28/cu-not-dunn-with-lacedarius-just-yet/15573/?source=ARK_sports
- [12] CSU has succinct scouting report on Utah center: http://blogs.denverpost.com/sports/2011/01/27/csu-has-succinct-scouting-report-on-utah-center/15567/?source=ARK_sports
- [13] Nuggets to sign George Karl’s son, Coby : http://blogs.denverpost.com/nuggets/2010/04/11/nuggets-to-sign-george-karls-son-coby/?source=ARK_sports
- [14] Carmelo Anthony to miss tonight’s game at San Antonio : http://blogs.denverpost.com/nuggets/2010/12/22/carmelo-anthony-to-miss-tonights-game-at-san-antonio/?source=ARK_sports
- [15] Game 3 set to tip off tonight : http://blogs.denverpost.com/nuggets/2007/04/28/game-3-set-to-tip-off-tonight/?source=ARK_sports
- [16] Image: http://www.arkayne.com/DenverPost/all-things-colorado-sports/?utm_source=Arkayne%20Plugin&utm_medium=Recommend&utm_campaign=Plugin&coupon=DENVERPOST&arkayne_page=2050568

Click [here](#) to print.

All contents [Copyright 2009 The Denver Post](#) or other copyright holders. All rights reserved. | [Privacy Policy](#) | This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed for any commercial purpose.