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nuggets

## Roby looks ready to accept NBA reality

By Chris Dempsey  
The Denver Post

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(Andy Cross, The Denver Post )

LAS VEGAS — Richard Roby is still long and lean. And he still makes scoring look easy.

But increasingly, the journey is chipping away at him. For many who watched the 6-foot-6 Roby when he starred at Colorado, breaking the Buffaloes' career scoring record in the process, the NBA seemed a given.

What Roby has come to find out is getting to the NBA is anything but. For him, it's been a long and winding road with seemingly no end. This is his third shot at it since graduating from CU in 2008, and it might very well be his last. Roby is ready to ditch the old "try, try again" adage and is fine with settling into a full-time basketball career overseas.

"I think I want to give it one hard push," Roby said. "One

hard push, and if I don't make it, then I can just say I gave it my all and make a living overseas. I have no problem being overseas. I have my family. I'm good. Maybe one more year after this. Maybe. I want to enjoy my summers when I come back. It's a quick turnaround going from over there to over here."

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He chuckled about the summers. But, yeah, he would like them back.

So far, they have been long on disappointment and short on rest. And none have gotten him to his ultimate goal. This one has a longshot look to it as well.

And yet Roby is not unlike so many former college stars who have taken time to adjust their game to a completely different style of play. He had the ball in his hands most of the time at CU. The offense ran through him. The NBA is asking him to be a bit player — and thrive. Very few can.

"It's tough," Nuggets assistant coach John Welch said. "In some ways, that's what made Arron Afflalo so good for us last year. His job was to stand in the corner, and if it comes to you four times you've got to make two of them. It is very tough."

Roby is averaging 11.5 points after two summer-league games. He shot well in the Nuggets' first game but struggled from the field in the second game, going just 2-of-9 from the field Saturday in Denver's 92-74 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

"I have to knock down open shots, make the right decisions while I'm out there, continue to work on my defense," Roby said. "Close-out defense is probably the hardest thing to do. I have to improve on that."

Roby played in Israel each of the last two years, reporting lukewarm results.

"It was OK," he said. "It was up and down out there. But I learned a lot."

He's continuing to soak in as much as he can with the Nuggets. Summer-league games showcase a player not just for his team, but for every team present.

"It's a great setting," said Nuggets assistant coach Chad Iske. "You're going to have representatives from all 30 teams here watching. The wing position is a very hard position."

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Sometimes that takes talented guys like Richard a while. Hopefully he figures it out.

"I think everybody has been really impressed with him so far. I think it's just a maturing process for most guys when they don't get that initial luck of getting into the league right away. There's so many guys that have the talent to make it if they just figure out what kind of role they need to play."

Roby has pinpointed his role to becoming a guy that is a specialist at something — anything that's not scoring — while working on his defense.

"In the NBA they are looking for a guy that can do one thing really well," Roby said. "When I was at Colorado I did a lot of things good, but I didn't particularly do one thing well. I thought I did well at scoring, but a lot of teams have scorers already, so they want you to come in and play defense. So I just want to show I can play defense and all of that.

"I feel good out there. I'm still getting comfortable, still getting adjusted from the overseas game to this game. And more on the defensive end, trying to be in the right positions and just trying to learn while I'm out there and trying to listen to my coaches."

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July 11, 2010

## Youngsters turn out in force for annual Jeremy Bloom football camp in Loveland

*By Carl McCutchen  
Loveland Connection*

One can't blame 12-year-old Brady Bowman for dropping a pass Saturday at the Jeremy Bloom Youth Football Camp at the Loveland Sports Park.

He might have been in the perfect position with his hands up and ready to go, but his nerves took over, forcing the ball to bounce off his fingertips.

It was something he couldn't help, especially since the one throwing him the ball just happened to be Jeremy Bloom, someone Bowman highly admired.

"I really like working with Jeremy," Bowman said.

Saturday marked the third time Bloom has hosted the camp in Loveland, but the first time Bowman was able to attend.

And even though the temperatures were fairly hot and the camp was coming to a close, Bowman was certainly happy to be at the camp.

"I have been to a lot of football camps, but this is one of the best," he said. "I just love football and then I heard about this and it seemed really cool because I like Jeremy Bloom. I used to watch him on TV and stuff, and my dad told me about him."

Bowman wasn't alone.

Nearly 300 other excited athletes felt the same way as they made their way through nine stations Saturday, testing a different set of skills at each station.

Each station focused on different positions as well, with the young athletes getting a chance to be receivers, defensive backs and running backs.

It was an opportunity six-year-old Tanner Prebish was thoroughly enjoying as he slalomed between some cones during a running backs drill.

"I like the running," he said.

Prebish, who was also attending his first Bloom camp, wasn't ready for the day to end. He wanted to work on some more drills, but there just wasn't enough time. Still, he couldn't help but smile.

"I thought it was going to be fun and it is," he said.

Even the parents found themselves enjoying the camp.

They had a chance to peruse some of the sponsors' tents in the parking lot, but many parents found themselves pacing the sidelines in coach-like fashion, keeping a keen eye on their athlete and yelling tips when they got a chance.

"This teaches them the fundamentals of football which is important," said Mike Dorsey, who brought his nine-year-old son, Tyson, to the camp. "It teaches them how to be competitive and teamwork at the same time. It's a great opportunity for them to learn a lot about the sport and teamwork and all that good stuff."

Teamwork wasn't the only skill the camp was offering, though.

Thomas Smith, a former University of Northern Colorado football player and Colorado Ice player, who was coaching a station, said the camp aimed at showing kids that going outside to play can still be fun, while also helping them gain a better understanding of football.

"It gets them out here and active. A lot of kids these days don't like to come outside and do anything, so this keeps them active," he said. "A lot of these kids want to play football, or they have football camps coming up, and this helps them enhance their skills. It'll help them in the long run."

For Bloom, this year's camp was still just as exciting as the first year.

He would have liked to have seen more athletes show up – more than 400 preregistered for the event – but he was still enjoying the day helping those on the field.

"It's great to see everybody come together," he said, "the community, the businesses in Loveland, all the kids and these coaches. We're here just to help these kids become better football players, but to also teach them teamwork."

Bloom said he was already looking forward to next year's camp, and hopes to implement a fresh nature to the camp.

"I've got some ideas, too," he said.

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## Jordon Dizon must play 'big' to earn spot with the Lions

Published: Sunday, July 11, 2010, 6:58 AM



**Tom Kowalski**

ALLEN PARK - Whether it was meant to or not, the trading of veteran Ernie Sims sent a chill through Jordon Dizon, another undersized linebacker who was drafted for the Tampa Two scheme.

The 6-0, 232-pound Dizon doesn't fit the Lions' new trend of "bigger, bigger, bigger" and he'll have to compensate for that with consistency and playmaking ability, especially in the passing game. It's interesting that Dizon's name hasn't even been mentioned as a possible replacement for Sims while last year's seventh-round pick - Zack Follett - leap-frogging him on the depth chart.

### JUST THE FACTS

Dizon's status as a former second-round pick doesn't carry much weight because this isn't the regime that drafted him. (It's interesting to note that Dizon, who thought he'd get drafted much later, was on the golf course when the Lions called his name because he never dreamed he'd go in the second round).

Dizon's other issue with the current coaching staff is durability. While he was active for all 16 games, he did get banged up during the season.

There was one game where the coaching staff put in a special package for him to see what he was capable of and Dizon left the game after just a few plays because he got injured. That's the quickest way to a coaching staff's doghouse.

Because the Lions are so weak at linebacker, Dizon still has a decent shot at landing a spot on the 53-man roster, but he's got to show that he can be effective on special teams and that he'll bring something to the table as a nickel linebacker in passing situations.

**Position:** Linebacker  
**School:** Colorado  
**Height/Weight:** 6-0/232  
**Experience:** Third year  
**Age:** 24  
**Contract (years left):** 2

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