

# Utah Jazz draft Ex-CU Buff Alec Burks

## Guard taken 12th to end up a lottery pick

**By Ryan Thorburn** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 06/23/2011 06:57:18 PM MDT

Alec Burks doesn't need 140 characters to describe the journey.

Wheels up. ... Milwaukee. ... Tired. ... Sacramento. ... Airport life. ... Charlotte. ... Dummy tired. ... Phoenix. ... Thankful for another day.

These are some of the simple messages the former Colorado guard sent via Twitter to keep his followers up to date with the journey from Colorado to the NBA.

After finishing the spring semester at CU in May, Burks worked out for seven different teams.

The Utah Jazz, the last team Burks auditioned for, selected the 6-foot-6 shooting guard with the No. 12 pick.

Hoops dream realized.

"It was exciting," Burks said during a teleconference from the the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. not long after shaking NBA commissioner David Stern's hand and posing for photos in a new three-piece suit and Jazz cap. "I'm glad they picked me."

A lot of draftniks predicted Jimmer Fredette and the Jazz would make beautiful music together, but the BYU star was taken by Milwaukee at No. 10 -- the frequently forecasted landing spot for Burks -- and then traded to Sacramento.

"I don't really believe in the mock drafts," Burks said. "They don't really know what's going to happen. I'm just glad to be in the lottery."

Burks, who doesn't turn 20 until next month, agonized over the decision whether to remain in college or turn professional throughout a dazzling sophomore season in Boulder. Now the ex-Buff will get to play in Pac-12 country anyway.

CU and the University of Utah officially join the new conference on July 1.

"I went to school in Boulder, Colorado, so it's the same thing," Burks said. "I'm looking forward to playing in Salt Lake City."

The Jazz also took Enes Kanter of Turkey with the No. 3 overall pick.

As expected, Duke point guard Kyrie Irving was drafted No. 1 by Cleveland, and Arizona forward Derrick Williams went No. 2 to Minnesota. Texas' Tristan Thompson, the Big 12 Freshman of the Year, surprised many draft gurus by going No. 4 to Cleveland.

Toronto took Jonas Valanciunas (center, Lithuania) with the fifth pick, Washington grabbed Jan Vesely (forward, Serbia) with the sixth pick, and Sacramento selected Bismack Biyombo (forward, Congo) for Charlotte with the seventh pick.

After the run on foreign imports, three big names from the NCAA Tournament -- Kentucky point guard Brandon Knight (No. 8 Detroit), UConn point guard Kemba Walker (No. 9 Charlotte) and Fredette were removed from the board.

And when Golden State decided to go with Washington State shooting guard Klay Thompson at No. 10, suddenly Burks' goal of being a lottery pick (top 14) appeared to be slipping away.

But Burks had a good feeling about the Jazz and new head coach Tyrone Corbin during the recent workout.

"It was great. They were cool and laid back. They gave me positive feedback. So I feel like it is a great organization," Burks said. "(Corbin) just wanted us to work hard, and if you work hard, he is cool with that. And I respect that."

Burks is now officially a peer of CU legend Chauncey Billups, the No. 3 pick in the 1997 draft.

"He's like a mentor to me," Burks said of Billups, currently a member of the New York Knicks. "He just told me to enjoy the process and that you're making your dream come true, which is always a great thing."

Burks is the first CU player to be drafted in the first round since David Harrison was selected by Indiana with the 29th overall pick in 2004.

A typical salary for a player drafted 12th is about \$1.736 million and jumps to \$1.866 million in the second year.

"There's no question he has an NBA game," ESPN draft analyst Jay Bilas said during the broadcast. "He's talented, he's versatile and he's a rangy athlete with a very good skill level. ... He always feels like he doesn't get the due that he deserves and he plays like he has something to prove. I think that's a good thing."

CU head coach Tad Boyle believes having a CU player taken early in the NBA Draft will help the program land the next Alec Burks.

"I'm proud of Alec. This is something we can use as a positive as we move forward in our recruiting efforts and talking about kids' dreams," Boyle said at Burks' press conference announcing his decision to leave the Buffs for the draft.

"Part of coming to this campus is following your dreams, whether you're a basketball player or if you're a chemical engineer, or a pre-med major. Alec's dream was to play in the NBA. He has realized that at Colorado. That's something we can sell when we go out into homes and talk about future Buffs."

Cory Higgins, CU's all-time leading scorer, was not picked in the two-round draft.

[Close Window](#)[Send To Printer](#)

# Goucher second at U.S. championships

## Former Buff earns spot at worlds

Associated Press  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 06/24/2011 12:03:33 AM MDT

EUGENE, Ore. -- Former Buff Kara Goucher is getting back into the swing of things nine months after giving birth to her son.

Goucher finished second to Shalane Flanagan in the 10,000-meter run Thursday night in the U.S. championships, earning a spot at worlds later this summer.

She's also come to a realization in her career: Maybe the marathon isn't her strong suit right now. So good in the 10,000, Goucher might just focus on that for the time being. She finished fifth at the Boston Marathon earlier this spring.

"I love the marathon, but I feel like I'm hitting my head against the wall there," Goucher said. "I miss the 10K. I miss kicking. I miss that excitement. I want to take this summer and do that. No pressure."

As she made the trek around the stadium, Goucher was closely accompanied by her husband, distance runner Adam Goucher, who was carrying their son, Colt.

Steadily, Kara Goucher is beginning to feel more like herself.

"I keep thinking I feel like myself, but then another four weeks go by and I'm like, 'This is what it's like,' Goucher said. "I'm really hard on myself: I wish I'd have done better in Boston, wish I would've been more prepared tonight."

Flanagan turned in a strong performance, holding off Goucher by nearly 17 seconds. Jennifer Rhines was third.

"I wanted to run aggressively tonight," Flanagan said. "I've been running somewhat conservative in my opening track races. Tonight, I just wanted to come out and run hard and see who wanted to play at my pace."

## U.S. Championships

### Eugene, Ore.

### All race distances in meters

#### MEN

#### 10,000

#### Final

1, Galen Rupp, Nike, 28:38.17. 2, Matt Tegenkamp, Oregon TC Elite, 28:39.97. 3, Scott Bauhs, adidas, 28:40.51. 4, Robert Curtis, Reebok, 28:42.50. 5, Tim Nelson, Oregon TC Elite, 28:43.41. 6, Ryan Vail, Brooks, 28:45.60. 7, Aaron Bruan, McMillan Elite/adidas, 28:48.31. 8, James Strang, unattached, 28:49.28. 9, Bobby Mack, unattached, 28:51.99. 10, Scott Smith, McMillan Elite/adidas, 28:53.13. 11, David Jankowski, ZAP Fitness Reebok, 28:53.63. 12, Chrisopher Landry, unattached, 28:54.94. 13, Jorge Torres, Reebok, 28:55.74. 14, Nick Arcniaga, McMillan Elite/adidas, 28:57.64. 15, Abdi Abdirahman, Nike, 28:57.79. 16, Luke Puskedra, Oregon, 29:02.12. 17, Patrick Smyth, Nike, 29:05.90. 18, Charlie Serrano, Run Racing TC, 29:15.20. 19, Jason Hartmann, Nike, 29:15.91. 20, Sergio Reyes, Asics Aggie, Running Club, 29:17.65. Stephen Haas, New Balance, DNF. Brian olinger, Reebok, DNF. Chris Solinsky, Oregon TC Elite, DNS.

#### Hammer

**Final**

1, Kibwe Johnson, Nike, 263 feet, 6 inches. 2, Michael Mai, U.S. Army, 245-0. 3, Matthew Dibuono, Shore Athletic Club, 239-8. 4, A.G. Kruger, Nike, 239-6. 5, Andrew Loftin, unattached, 237-6.

**Discus****Final**

1, Jarred Rome, Nike, 209-11. 2, Jason Young, Nike, 209-4. 3, Lance Brooks, unattached, 208-1. 4, Russ Winger, Asics, 207-11. 5, Ian Waltz, New York Athletic Club, 206-9. 6, Casey Malone, Nike, 203-4.

**Triple jump****Final**

1, Christian Taylor, Florida, 57-4 3/4. 2, William Claye, Florida, 56-1. 3, Walter Davis, unattached, 55-10 1/4. 4, Chris Carter, Houston, 55-3 3/4. 5, Zedric Thomas, LSU, 55-2 3/4. 5, Nkosinza Balumbu, unattached, 55-1/4.

**WOMEN****10,000****Final**

1, Shalene Flanagan, Oregon TC Elite, 30:59.97. 2, Kara Goucher, Oregon TC Elite, 31:16.65. 3, Jennifer Rhines, adidas, 31:30.37. 4, Desiree Davila, Hansons-Brooks Distance Project, 31:37.14. 5, Magdalena Levy Boulet, Saucony, 31:48.58. 6, Amy Begley, Nike, 32:34.75. 7, Anne Bersagel, New Balance Silicon Valley, 32:54.08. 8, Cassandra Slade, Boulder Running Company/adidas, 32:55.98. 9, Sarah Porter, unattached, 32:57.15. 10, Allison Grace Morgan, ZAP Fitness Reebok, 32:57.57. 11, Emily Brown, Team USA Minnesota/Asics, 33:00.74. 12, Danielle Stack, Iowa State, 33:04.17. 13, Katherine Newberry, New York Athletic Club, 33:05.31. 14, Kathryn Matthews, Boston U., 33:11.00. 15, Addie Bracy, Carrboro Athletics Club, 33:13.75. 16, Nicole Feest, Boulder Running Company/adidas, 33:15.70. 17, Tara Erdmann, unattached, 33:17.54. 18, Stephanie Marcy, Stanford, 33:18.18. 19, Bridget Lyons, Georgia, 33:24.95. 20, Alisha Williams, Boulder Running Club/adidas, 33:32.59. 21, Liz Costello, Tennessee, 33:52.55. 22, Jeannette Faber, Boston AA, 33:52.95. 23, Kim Ruck, Clemson, 33:54.64. 24, Kristina Vegh, Sun Elite, 34:05.64. 25, Kara Millhouse, Penn State, 34:22.20. 26, Zoila Gomez, unattached, 34:24.77. Megan Hogan, Team USA Minnesota/Asics, DNF. Rachel Booth, New Balance Silicon Valley, DNF.

**Shot put****Final**

1, Michelle Carter, Nike, 65 feet, 2 inches. 2, Jillian Camarena-Williams, New York Athletic Club, 65-1 1/2. 3, Sarah Stevens-Walker, Shore Athletic Club, 59-5 1/2.

[Close Window](#)
[Send To Printer](#)

# denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

nba draft

## CU Buffs star Alec Burks goes to Utah Jazz as 12th overall pick

By Chris Dempsey  
The Denver Post

Posted: 06/24/2011 01:00:00 AM MDT

Alec Burks finally had a chance to exhale. His draft journey was over.

"I'm just glad to be in the NBA," Burks said Thursday night after being drafted by Utah with the No. 12 overall pick. "I'm glad to go to a great organization like the Utah Jazz."

Three years after Burks didn't draw the interest of most major colleges, the former University of Colorado guard became a coveted NBA commodity.

Decked out in the kind of suit he said he would wear, charcoal on black, Burks is now a centerpiece of the Jazz reclamation project along with Turkish center Enes Kanter, who the team selected with the fourth pick overall.

"It was great," he said of the Jazz. "They were cool and laid-back. They gave me positive feedback. So I feel like it is a great organization."

Burks' rise to stardom started in his freshman season at Colorado, where he was recruited by then-coach Jeff Bzdelik. After Bzdelik left for Wake Forest, Burks struggled with the decision to stay with the Buffs or join the Indiana

Hoosiers, where CU assistant coach Steve McClain landed.

New CU coach Tad Boyle persuaded Burks to stay, and he flourished in the up-tempo system, averaging 20.5 points and 6.5 rebounds during his sophomore season as the Buffs advanced to the National Invitation Tournament semifinals.

In Utah, Burks will play for coach Tyrone Corbin, who took over for a legend — Jerry Sloan — midway through last season. The Jazz traded star guard Deron Williams and are expected to lose other fixtures such as Andrei Kirilenko.

The biggest, and really only knock, on Burks is his 3-point shooting, which he insists will not be a problem in the future. He said on a conference call, "In college I made the big 3s when I needed to."

While working out in Las Vegas, Burks expanded on the subject in an interview with The Denver Post.

"I feel like if I just keep working on it, it will get better every day," Burks said. "It's not difficult at all. Everybody at Colorado knows I get to the rack a lot, so I didn't really have to shoot the 3, so I'm just proving to people that I can shoot it when I have to."

Send flowers  
for any occasion

Bouquets  
from \$19.99<sup>+s/h</sup>

ProFlowers<sup>®</sup>

Offer ONLY available at:  
[proflowers.com/happy](http://proflowers.com/happy)  
or call 1.877.804.1133



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

# denverpost.com

THE DENVER POST

But he said he has no doubt he'll be useful as he grows into his role with the Jazz.

"I score for myself and make plays for others," Burks said. "I'm going to work hard."

Asked what he specifically brings to the Jazz, he said: "With my athleticism and the way I handle the ball, I just feel like there aren't a lot of people that can stay in front of me. Versatility, hard work, I'll do anything I need to do for the team to win."

*Chris Dempsey: 303-954-1279 or [cdempsey@denverpost.com](mailto:cdempsey@denverpost.com)*



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

**Switch today!**

**1-888-778-0985**

NO  
EQUIPMENT  
TO BUY!  
NO STARTUP  
COSTS!

Offer ends 2/29/11. Credit card required (except in MA & PA). New approved customers only. (w/fee required). \$39.95 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™**

# Utah Jazz draft Enes Kanter and Alec Burks

[Recommend](#)

0

[Story Comments](#)
[Share](#)
**Updated:** 6/23 11:40 pm | **Published:** 6/23 5:26 pm

 Reported by: [Emerson Lotzia](#)

 Contributor: [Dana Greene](#)


SALT LAKE CITY (ABC 4 Sports) - The Utah Jazz selected center Enes Kanter with the third overall pick of the first round and guard Alec Burks with the 12th overall selection in the 2011 NBA Draft held Thursday night at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J.

During the 2010-11 season, Kanter, although ineligible to play, attended classes and practiced with the University of Kentucky. The 6-11, 259-pound native of Turkey scored 34 points at the 2010 Nike Hoops Summit for the World Team, breaking the individual record of 33 points previously set by Dirk Nowitzki.

In 2009, Kanter was selected to play for the Turkish U18 National Team and was named the tournament's MVP after averaging 18.4 points, 16.4 rebounds and 1.8 blocks in 28.4 minutes. Ranked as a five-star talent by both Rivals.com and Scout.com, he won a bronze medal at the European Championships in the U16 division in 2008. Kanter was named Best Player and Best Center at the 2009 European Championships.

Burks finished his sophomore campaign at Colorado averaging 20.5 points, 6.5 rebounds and 2.9 assists. The 6-6, 193-pound guard owns the school's third all-time highest scoring average with 19.0 points per game. He set the Colorado freshman (512) and sophomore (779) scoring records and shot 50-plus percent from the field in 39 games. In his first season with the Buffaloes, Burks was named 2010 Big 12 Freshman of the Year the first Colorado recipient ever, after shooting .538 percent from the field.

Prior to joining Colorado, Burks averaged 23.0 points, 6.8 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 1.6 steals during his senior season at Grandview High School in Grandville, Mo. He was named 2009 Gatorade Player of the Year for the state of Missouri after leading the Bulldogs to a 29-2 record during his senior season. He was also selected to participate in the Missouri-Kansas All-Star game.

The 2011 NBA Draft marks the first time the Jazz has had [two](#) lottery picks in the same draft. Kanter is the second Kentucky product to be drafted by the Jazz, following Scott Padgett (28th overall in the 1999 draft). Burks will join Jay Humphries as the only two former Colorado players to appear for the Jazz, and is the first to be drafted by Utah.

This is the second straight year that the Jazz acquired a future draft pick via trade that became a top-10 selection. The Jazz acquired this year's No. 3 pick from New Jersey in a February 23, 2011 trade that also brought to Utah forward Derrick Favors (3rd overall pick in the 2010 NBA Draft), and guard Devin Harris, as well as an additional future first-round pick from the Nets (Golden State's).

The 2011 Draft marked the third time the Jazz has selected third overall, the first since Utah selected Deron Williams in the 2005 NBA Draft with a pick acquired from Portland.

Copyright 2011 Newport Television LLC All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

[Recommend](#)

0

[Story Comments](#)
[Share](#)



# The Salt Lake Tribune

---

## Utah Jazz's Alec Burks finds freedom at No. 12

By Brian T. Smith

The Salt Lake Tribune

Published: June 23, 2011 10:05PM

Updated: June 24, 2011 12:34AM

Newark, N.J. • Alec Burks sees his life as a journey.

Next stop: Salt Lake City.

Burks was selected by the Jazz with the No. 12 overall pick in the 2011 NBA Draft on Thursday at the Prudential Center.

The former Colorado guard grew up near Kansas City in Grandview, Mo. Tough town with tough kids, Burks said.

"There's a lot of things. But it made me a better person," Burks, 19, said.

After two years with the Buffaloes and a month of grueling pre-draft workouts, the 6-foot-6, 195-pound Burks has finally found freedom.

"It's been great but a grind at the same time," Burks said. "It's been a long month of June it seemed like. But I just worked hard. It's been a blessing. I'm just glad I finally know who I'm playing for."

The Jazz's belief in Burks solidified Monday after he ran through a strong workout against Washington State's Klay Thompson (No. 11, Golden State). Burks exited the session extremely confident, knowing that he had performed well enough to earn lottery consideration.

As Utah explored its options Thursday at No. 12, Burks' name continued to cut through the chatter. He's an athletic slashing guard who averaged 20.5 points and 6.5 rebounds last season for Colorado. And he gives the Jazz the big-small combo they aimed for after acquiring center Enes Kanter at No. 3. Burks knows that his outside shot must improve. And he must add muscle weight while competing against Utah veterans such as Raja Bell and C.J. Miles for playing time.



Colorado's Alec Burks, who was selected by the Utah Jazz with the 12th pick during the NBA basketball draft, touches his Jazz cap on Thursday, June 23, 2011, in Newark, N.J. (AP Photo/Bill Kostroun)



But all that belongs to the future. Thursday night and an NBA lottery pick belonged to Burks.

"I'm crazy hyped," Burks said. "I got so much excitement. I finally realized my dream, so it's a great thing."

bsmith@sltrib.com Twitter: @tribjazzfacebook.com/tribjazz

—

Alec Burks file

Pick • No. 12

Position • Guard

Vitals • 6-foot-6, 195 pounds

Age • 19

College • Colorado

2010-11 stats • 20.5 points, 6.5 rebounds, 2.9 assists, 46.9 FG, 29.2 3-pt, 82.5 FT

Upside • Burks is the slashing guard the Jazz lacked last season. He can get to basket and finish, and his driving ability should help open the perimeter and take pressure off Utah's big men.

Downside • Shooting 29.2 percent behind a college 3-point line isn't encouraging. Burks' long-range shot is a work in progress, and he openly acknowledges it.

---

© 2011 The Salt Lake Tribune



---

Posted on Thu, Jun. 23, 2011

## Jazz takes Alec Burks with 12th pick

By BLAIR KERKHOFF  
The Kansas City Star

Utah Jazz coach Tyrone Corbin likes Alec Burks as a shooting guard.

And a small forward, and point guard.

"He is that versatile," Corbin said. "He can play the two, some one at times, and he can play three if we go small."

The Jazz made Colorado's Burks, who played at Grandview High, its second selection in the first round, No. 12 overall. Utah picked Enes Kanter, who was enrolled at Kentucky but didn't play last season, third overall.

Corbin's assessment fits Burks' attitude.

"I'll do anything I need to do for my team to win," Burks said.

Burks worked out for the Jazz and believed when it was Utah's turn he'd hear his name.

"I had a great workout," Burks said. "I showed my complete game and an improved jump shot. The way I saw the picks going, I felt there was a chance the Jazz were going to pick me."

Corbin said he felt fortunate Burks remained available at No. 12. Most projections had Burks going anywhere from ninth to 19th, and many had Utah looking at San Diego State forward Kawhi Leonard.

"We had Alec rated higher," Corbin said. "When we got to 12, I was happy we had the opportunity to draft him."

The Jazz liked what it saw of Burks on film. He averaged 20.5 points, 6.5 rebounds and 2.9 assists as a 6-foot-6 sophomore, leading the Buffaloes to the NIT semifinals, the program's first postseason appearance since 2006.

But it was what Burks did when he wasn't scoring that impressed Corbin.

"He makes really good passes off the dribble," Corbin said. "He sees the floor well, sees guys going to the basket. His basketball IQ is really high."

Apparently the recruiting IQ of schools closest to Burks wasn't so high. Burks was a late bloomer, adding 4 inches while in high school.

But Kansas didn't recruit him because the Jayhawks were gunning for Xavier Henry. Missouri told Burks at a team camp in Columbia that it would not recruit him.

Kansas State got in on Burks late, too late.

Burks said he used the snubs as motivation and became a force in the Big 12 immediately. Two years ago, in a season that included such freshmen as Henry and Texas' Jordan Hamilton, Burks was the league's top freshman scorer and chosen the Big 12's freshman of the year.

Burks became the first area player since Kansas' Wayne Simien of Leavenworth in 2005 to be drafted in the first round. Burks joins another Grandview High athlete, football star Josh Freeman, as a first-round selection. Freeman, the former Kansas State quarterback, was taken by Tampa Bay with the 17th selection of the 2009 NFL draft.

Thursday's selection also is believed to be something of a first for Kansas City, with a first-round draft choice in each major sport.

In April, Missouri defensive end Aldon Smith, who played at Raytown High, was made the seventh selection in the NFL Draft by the San Francisco 49ers.

Earlier this month, the Royals made Gardner Edgerton High outfielder Bubba Starling the fifth pick. Starling will choose between a baseball contract and a Nebraska football scholarship.

Now, Burks.

The question is, who gets the biggest signing bonus?

In the NBA, salaries are slotted. A salary for a player drafted 12th is about \$1.736 million and jumps to \$1.866 million in the second year.

Last year's No. 7 pick in the NFL draft received a \$12 million signing bonus.

Starling, as a two-sport star, could command a \$5 million to \$7 million bonus.

**KC triple crown**

The Kansas City area can claim one of the top 12 overall picks in three major professional sports drafts this year.

Player	High school	Pick	Team
Aldon Smith	Raytown	7th	49ers (NFL)
Bubba Starling	Gardner Edgerton	5th	Royals (MLB)
Alec Burks	Grandview	12th	Jazz (NBA)

---

© 2011 Kansas City Star and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.kansascity.com>

[Back to web version](#)

Friday, Jun 24, 2011

Posted on Thu, Jun. 23, 2011

## KC area has another high draft pick with Burks

The Kansas City Star

Alec Burks of Grandview made it a trifecta for the Kansas City area on Thursday night.

Burks was chosen 12th in the NBA draft by the Utah Jazz, joining two other high draft picks from the area this year. In April, Raytown's Aldon Smith was taken seventh overall by the San Francisco 49ers in the NFL draft and earlier this month, Gardner Edgerton's Bubba Starling was the fifth overall pick in the Major League Baseball draft by the Royals.

Later in the NBA draft, KU's Morris twins were chosen back-to-back.

In a slight surprise, older brother Markieff was taken first with the 13th pick by the Phoenix Suns. Marcus, who was born seven minutes later, was visibly choked up on TV and later said he'd send his brother "some flowers or fruit" after he was asked about playing apart for the first time in their lives. But fittingly, Marcus was drafted just about seven minutes later when the Houston Rockets selected him with the next pick at No. 14 overall.

Duke's Kyrie Irving was the top overall pick by the Cleveland Cavaliers, who also took Texas' Tristian Thompson at No. 4. He was the first Big 12 player chosen and gave the conference a top-six NBA pick for the sixth consecutive season.

---

© 2011 Kansas City Star and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.kansascity.com>

# Deseret News

## Utah Jazz select Alec Burks with 12th pick

*Published: Thursday, June 23, 2011 9:19 p.m. MDT*

SALT LAKE CITY — No point guard. No trades. No problem.

After months of rumors and projections and speculation over what the Jazz might do with their second lottery pick, Utah general manager Kevin O'Connor walked to the podium at EnergySolutions Arena and announced that former Colorado standout Alec Burks would be coming to Salt Lake City.

And though the people's choice — former BYU star Jimmer Fredette — would already be taken with the No. 10 pick, the Jazz organization and fans seemed content to welcome the athletic two-guard at No. 12.

"We like his versatility," O'Connor said. "I think the key was that we were very comfortable with him. We had a lot of offers to trade and do that kind of stuff. But I think we are very comfortable with him at 12."

Burks was a unanimous Big 12 Conference First Team honoree after averaging 20.5 points and 6.5 rebounds per game for the Buffaloes last season. His game is tailored, he says, after Brandon Roy — a player with deceptive quickness and a slick mid-range game.

An explosive leaper and finisher, Burks is adept at getting to the rim and isn't afraid to get fouled. He shot better than 80 percent from the free-throw line last season. Burks was one of the final players who worked out in Utah before the draft.

"With my athleticism and the way I handle the ball, I just feel like there aren't a lot of people that can stay in front of me," Burks said. "I'm just excited. I'm just glad Utah picked me. I can't wait to get there and work with a great team and a great coaching staff."

If there's a weakness in the shooting guard's game, however, it's that he's not a particularly skilled outside shooter. While he shot better than 50 percent from the field during his collegiate career, he made less than 30 percent of his 3-pointers.

"He's not going to be a knock-down three-point shooter," O'Connor said. "But in this league, when you can't put your hands on somebody, guys who are slashers can get lay-ups and get to the free-throw line. That's what we see in him."

Burks is said to play with a chip on his shoulder after he wasn't highly recruited out of high school, and that attitude could provide an edge to the new-look Jazz.

"That's what drives me to be better," Burks said.

Enes Kanter, Utah's pick at No. 3, and Burks represent a continuation of the youth movement for the Jazz. Kanter turned 19 in May, while Burks won't turn 20 for another month. The two will join Derrick Favors (19) and Gordon Hayward (21) as significant members of Utah's youthful rotation moving forward.

"I think both kids can get better," O'Connor said. "The ceiling is pretty high for both of them. We drafted two 19-year-olds, and I think the key thing is that we added a few more pieces who can grow with what we've got."

Leading up to the draft, it was thought that Utah would pursue one of the top point guards — Kentucky's Brandon Knight, UConn's Kemba Walker or Fredette. When news broke before the draft of a three-team trade between Charlotte, Milwaukee and Sacramento, the Jazz were reportedly making calls in an attempt to move up and presumably take Fredette.

When asked about it, O'Connor characteristically declined to comment. He did, though, say he wasn't surprised when the three top-rated point guards were gone by the time Utah's second pick rolled around.

"To be honest with you, we had Walker, Knight and Fredette rated higher on our board than No. 12," O'Connor said. "We had a lot of offers on the table at 12, but we're very comfortable with how it turned out."

### **New Jazzman Alec Burks**

Hometown: Grandview, MO

2010-11 College Stats: 20.5 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 2.9 apg, .825 ft%, .469 fg%

Bio: Known as a slasher who can get to the rim and score, Burks is universally regarded as "versatile" and "athletic." Well, those are two things that should serve him well in the NBA. Burks dropped a career-high 36 points on Missouri in January and finished his sophomore season with six double-doubles. He was a unanimous Big 12 First Team selection and was the second player from the conference selected in the lottery (Texas' Tristan Thompson was taken at No. 4 by Cleveland).

---

email: [mpayne@desnews.com](mailto:mpayne@desnews.com)

---

© 2011 Deseret News Publishing Company | All rights reserved