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CU's career scoring leader close to realizing NBA dream

Nuggets.com Q&A: Cory Higgins

By Cole Mickelson, Special to Nuggets.com, 6-2-11

Not Chauncey Billups. Not David Harrison. Not Donnie Boyce.

No player has scored more points at the University of Colorado than Cory Higgins.

Higgins, a sociology major who tied Richard Roby's career scoring record (2,001 points) at CU, hopes his college success will translate into an opportunity to play in the NBA. He was one of six prospects who worked out at the Nuggets at the Pepsi Center on Thursday.

As Higgins prepares for the June 23 NBA Draft, he can seek the counsel of his father Rod Higgins, who played 13 seasons in the NBA and is now general manager of the Charlotte Bobcats.

"I couldn't be more proud of the young man, as a son and as a basketball player," Rod Higgins said via e-mail. "The thrill of watching him go through the predraft process is exciting to watch."

His father is not Cory's only NBA connection; his godfather is Michael Jordan.

After his workout, Cory Higgins took a few minutes to answer some questions for nuggets.com.

Q: Since the college season ended, what has been your typical daily schedule in preparing for the NBA Draft?

A: Just working out, working out, and more working out, basically. Since the season ended, I took about four days off and then just worked out with our coaches there in Boulder until I graduated. Now I'm in Vegas working out every day with other players getting ready for the draft. That's pretty much my day-to-day.

Q: To what extent has Chauncey Billups been helping you, Alec Burks, and other players out in Las Vegas?

A: He was there a couple of days. Chauncey's great; he always has words of advice, words of wisdom. His input is always valued.

Q: Having spent four years in Boulder, what do you know about the Nuggets and the city of Denver?

A: I just know that they are crazy about their sports. They are real passionate about their Nuggets, so if I was to land here that would be amazing.

Q: What advice has your father given you on preparing for the NBA Draft?

A: The biggest thing he's telling me is to just keep working, that's all you can do. Everybody is going to have an opinion about you. All you can do is keep working and if you do that, then it will be fine.

Q: When he gives you that advice do you think he is telling you that as an ex-player, as a GM, or as your dad?

A: I think it's a little bit of all three rolled into one. He always has my best interest in mind, but at the same time he's always going to be honest and real about it.

Q: Do you feel having your father as a GM has been an advantage in preparing for the NBA Draft?

A: I think so. He really gets my head on straight and makes me be realistic about things and about my future. I think that's the biggest thing is helping me keep my head on straight.

Q: Have you received any advice from your godfather, His Airness, in preparation of the NBA Draft?

A: He talks to my dad a lot about it, but I'll probably be seeing him when I go work out in Charlotte. I'm sure he'll have some things to say.

Q: What do you think your strengths are?

A: I think my IQ is one of my greatest strengths. Also I'm versatile and can play two positions and guard two positions, more importantly. I think that is the biggest value I have in trying to make an NBA team.

Q: Do you feel you played point guard enough at CU to prepare yourself to play the point at the next level?

A: Yes, I think that was a start and I think that it's not a position that I can't learn how to play. I think if I just work at it, I'll be fine.

Q: Which NBA player, past or present, would you compare your game to?

A: Right now, I think the guard from San Antonio, George Hill. I think I can relate to him because he always makes the easy play. I like Brandon Roy and his midrange game.

Q: What are you trying to show the Nuggets and other teams in your workouts and interviews? **A:** I want to show them I can guard, and I think I came out here and did that today. Also make plays, and I think I did a decent job of doing that as well. Those are the main two things about playing the point guard position, being able to keep other point guards out of the paint and make plays.



Courtesy of the University of Colorado



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Colorado's Cory Higgins has pre-draft workout with Nuggets

By Ryan Casey
The Denver Post

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Cory Higgins' quest to join his father in the NBA rolled through Denver this morning.

Higgins, a four-year starter at Colorado, joined five other prospects at the Pepsi Center during the Nuggets' second day of draft workouts. He's a potential late second-round prospect for the June 23 NBA draft.

"Everyone's journey to the NBA is different, so I'm just going to take my journey how it is," said Higgins, who left CU tied as the school's all-time scoring leader.

The 6-foot-5 guard averaged 16.1 points and 2.5 assists during his senior season, which included CU's run to the NIT Final Four. Higgins has heard the criticism — namely, that he needs to work on his skills as a point guard — but, Higgins said, he enjoys the criticism.

"When they don't say anything to you, they really don't care about you," Higgins said. "There's nothing that I haven't heard before, so I'm just working on everything that they keep telling me to get better at."

Higgins has already worked out with New Jersey

and Detroit and will make stops in Los Angeles and Milwaukee before the draft.

He's also scheduled to work out in Charlotte, where his father, former NBA player Rod Higgins, is the general manager of the Bobcats.

"It'll be different, but it won't be any different than any of the other workouts," Higgins said of auditioning for his father's team.

"He'll give me a few inside tips," he added, cracking a smile, "but I'll keep them to myself."

The Nuggets, who own the No. 22 pick of the first round, also worked out Stanford's Jeremy Green, Washington's Justin Holiday, Hofstra's Charles Jenkins, Georgia's Travis Leslie and UAB's Jamarr Sanders. Jenkins and Leslie are likely mid-to-late first round picks, while Holiday could go late in the second round.

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CU's Higgins works out for Nuggets

Guard has yet to attend pre-draft session with his dad's team in Charlotte

Camera staff report
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 06/02/2011 11:28:06 PM MDT

DENVER -- Former Buff Cory Higgins didn't have to travel very far from his alma mater to work out for an NBA team on Thursday.

Higgins was one of six prospects to showcase their skills at the Pepsi Center during the Nuggets' second day of pre-draft workouts.

The player who tied Richard Roby for most points scored in a career at CU (2,001 points) is a potential late second-round pick.

The NBA draft is June 23. Denver holds selection No. 22 in the first round.

Also working out for Denver on Thursday were Stanford's Jeremy Green, Washington's Justin Holiday, Hofstra's Charles Jenkins, Georgia's Travis Leslie and UAB's Jamarr Sanders. Jenkins and Leslie might go in the mid-to-late first round, while Holiday is a potential second-round pick.

Higgins, 6-foot-5, averaged 16.1 points and 2.5 assists per game this past season in which the Buffs made a run to the NIT semifinals.

He has already worked out with New Jersey and Detroit and has other trips planned to Los Angeles, Milwaukee and Charlotte, where his father, former NBA player Rod Higgins, is the general manager.

"The biggest thing he's telling me is to just keep working, that's all you can do," Cory Higgins said of his father on Nuggets.com. "Everybody is going to have an opinion about you. All you can do is keep working and if you do that, then it will be fine."

Higgins has also worked out in Las Vegas with former teammate Alec Burks and former Nugget and Buff point guard Chauncey Billups.

Higgins has been working on improving his point guard skills in hopes of playing in the NBA.

"Chauncey's great," Higgins said. "He always has words of advice, words of wisdom. His input is always valued."

Higgins holds several CU records, including made free throws (570), games played (132), most starts (131) and double-digit scoring games (107). He is the only player in CU history with at least 2,000 points, 500 rebounds (547), 300 assists (320) and 150 steals (192).

Spears waived

Former Buff Brittany Spears was waived by the Phoenix Mercury on Tuesday.

The all-time leading scorer was drafted by Phoenix with the 19th pick in the WNBA draft in April.

Spears was the fourth Buff ever drafted by the league in its 15-year history, and was one of five players in the Big 12 this year to be drafted.

The WNBA season begins today.

Spears can try to get signed on by another WNBA team or go overseas to play professional basketball.

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