

NBA Today

By Xxx XXXXXXX
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Notebook

Bobcats sign third guard

Cory Higgins, Colorado's all-time leading scorer, will fill the Charlotte Bobcats' 15th roster spot.

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Higgins is the son of Bobcats president of basketball operations Rod Higgins. Cory Higgins was recently cut by the Denver Nuggets.

At 6-foot-5, Higgins fills what the Bobcats wanted from a fifth guard: A player with the size and skill set to play either guard spot.

"One of the things I pride myself in is playing either position, and more importantly, being able to guard either position," Higgins said after practice Sunday night.

He acknowledged he expects a little extra scrutiny, playing for a team his father assembled.

"A lot of people are going to think I'm here just because of him," Cory Higgins said. "That's not the case. I worked hard to get here and I'm here to prove to everybody, and the coach staff, that I belong here and I keep this spot."

He finished his four years at Colorado having scored 2,001 points, tying him with Richard Roby for the school record. He ranks sixth all-time among Big 12 scorers.

Around the league

Mavericks raise championship banners: With a tug from Dirk Nowitzki, Jason Kidd, Jason Terry and others, the Dallas Mavericks unveiled their championship banner minutes before opening this season against the team they knocked off in the NBA finals - LeBron James and the Miami Heat.

The ceremony was supposed to have been held Nov. 1, but the lockout pushed it back. So after waiting until their 31st season to become champions for the first time, the Mavericks and their fans waited another 54 days.

"Thirty-one years you waited - 31 years! - to call your team a champion, ladies and gentlemen," Terry said. "A champion!"

Commissioner Stern hears boos: NBA Commissioner David Stern opened his lockout-delayed season by hearing boos from Mavericks fans.

Stern was on the court for the start of the banner-raising ceremony. The jeers came as soon as he started speaking, but he quickly turned them into cheers by offering his congratulations to team owner Mark Cuban.

Cuban's often contentious relationship with Stern could've been as much of a reason for the boos as the lockout,

which pushed the opener from Nov. 1 to Christmas and cut the season by 16 games.

Cuban and Miami's Micky Arison were among five owners who voted against the labor deal. Stern said "it doesn't send any signal whatsoever" that the two owners in the most recent finals were against the agreement.

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