

Family ties a 'bonus' for Robersons

Arielle, Andre expected to make impact on CU hardwood

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The Roberson family already figured to register as many appearances as any other on Sox Walseth Court in the winters to come.

If Lisa Roberson has her way, the family might end up dominating Coors Events Center attendance as well.

"My mom's dead-set on moving (to Colorado)," Arielle Roberson, a freshman on the CU Buffaloes women's basketball team, said of her mother on media day this week. "It'd be nice getting some home-cooked meals now and then."

With a senior in high school back in San Antonio, the Roberson clan might not be moving to Boulder this season. But there's no doubt sports are a family affair, and CU hoops might find that the Robersons are its first family if Arielle and big brother Andre live up the excitement surrounding both over the next few years.

Andre is a 6-foot-7 forward who endeared himself to Buffs fans last season with his rebounding and athleticism. Arielle, a 6-1 forward, followed her brother to Boulder over an offer from North Carolina State among others.

"I wanted her to come here a lot," Andre said. "It's cool. I've got to watch out, peek over my shoulder a little bit. But it's good."

Andre and Arielle are hardly the first in their family to excel in college.

Their father, John, played at New Mexico State in the late 1980s and professionally overseas for 12 years. Lisa played volleyball at New Mexico State. Older sister Ashlee played hoops at Texas Tech. Older sister Amber is a senior on the Texas Longhorns volleyball team. And you can be sure younger siblings Anthony (17), Aaliyah (7) and Arianna (5) are all just as involved. Anthony, Andre said, plays basketball too, but might go the prep school route before college.

"We were very competitive," Andre said of the driveway games back home. "Nobody likes losing much, so every time somebody would lose you'd get a rematch. So it was like continuous."

For a while during the recruiting process, CU women's head coach Linda Lappe joked Wednesday that she wasn't sure having Arielle's older brother around would help given the general aspects of sibling rivalry between any brother and sister.

But Arielle said she knew people at most of the colleges she was considering, and tried to make her decision apart from the fact that Andre was at CU -- though she admitted having him on campus is now a "bonus."

"I think what helped us have a foot in the door with her was that the fact that he was here," Lappe said. "From there, I think she learned that this was the best place for her."

And Andre, it turns out, might have ended up being more valuable than Lappe expected.

"I talk to the (women's) coaches all the time," Andre said. "They're great people, and I think they're great coaches, too. So I thought that was a great fit for her."

"She can pretty much come here and play right away and help the team out."

For those who have watched Andre, the brother and sister said CU fans will notice plenty of similarities between the two.

With 15 pounds of muscle added in the offseason, men's coach Tad Boyle touted Roberson as a matchup problem for foes. Guard him with a big man, and Roberson can blow by to the basket. Guard him with a smaller player, and Roberson

will beat him inside.

"I don't jump as high as Andre, but I try," Arielle said. "I feel like I'm more of an attacker than he is, but he's getting there. We're very similar."

Arielle, who has been hampered by a mysterious back injury that trainers haven't yet been able to pin-point, has missed about half of preseason practices so far and is day-to-day as far as a return. When healthy, though, she's a player that can be versatile for Lappe on both ends of the floor as well as a talented rebounder.

"She pretty much does everything I do," Andre said.

As alike as they are on the court, CU senior forward Julie Seabrook said the brother-sister duo have brought the men's and women's teams in general closer together, because they're always trying to hang out together.

"I watch over him," Arielle said. "It's both ways I guess. It's just like high school all over again, but it's a good thing."

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