

CU's Andre Roberson delays announcement, still unsure on NBA decision

By Tom Kensler *The Denver Post* *The Denver Post*

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Colorado forward Andre Roberson canceled a Friday morning news conference at which he was scheduled to announce his decision either to return to the Buffaloes for his senior season or leave early for the NBA draft.

CU coach Tad Boyle said Friday morning that Roberson still had yet to make up his mind.

"It's a difficult decision for Andre, a big decision for him," Boyle said. "And he's not at the point where he wants to make that decision. He's just not there yet."

According to the school, there are "currently no plans at this time to reschedule" the news conference, which was set to be aired live on the Pac-12 Network. The deadline is 10 p.m. Sunday for nonseniors to declare for the draft.

"It's a big decision, an emotional decision," Boyle said. "Especially for Andre, when you want something (a professional career) so much and you're also at a place (CU) that is so special to him, you're torn.

"Andre sees the benefits and risks of both, and he's weighing those benefits and risks. At the end of the day, he'll do what's best for him."

A first-team all-Pac-12 selection, Roberson ranked third among the Buffs in scoring for the 2012-13 season as a junior with an average of 10.9 points. CU coaches had hoped Roberson's shooting stroke would become more consistent, but he finished his junior season with career lows of 48 percent from the field, 32.8 percent on 3-pointers and 55.1 percent on free throws.

"I told Andre that he will develop his skills next season; it was just a matter of where he wanted to do that," Boyle said recently.

Rebounding has always been Roberson's forte. Despite being asked to guard perimeter players on occasion, Roberson ranked second nationally and first in the Pac-12 with an average of 11.2 rebounds in 2012-13.

Listed at 210 pounds, Roberson lacks the stereotypical size of a strong rebounder. And few of his rebounds come from blocking out a bigger opponent. A quick jumper, he just finds a way to get to the ball.

Roberson's rebounding instincts have been compared to those of former NBA star Dennis Rodman.

"Andre isn't a big block-out guy," Boyle said during the season. "He's the only guy I've coached, and maybe will coach, that I tell, 'Don't worry about blocking out. Just go get the ball.' "

Boyle has said Roberson did not arrive at Colorado as a proficient one-on-one defensive player. But with hard work, Roberson developed into one of the nation's best, being voted Pac-12 defensive player of the year by the league's coaches. His average of 2.2 steals per game ranked second in the conference.