

Men's basketball: CU Buffs' Mike Rohn leading way on recruiting trail

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

DailyCamera.com

Whether it's coaching players in practice, working with others on staff to develop game plans or touring the country to find the next great Colorado Buffalo, Mike Rohn comes to work every day for one main reason.

"I like to win," he said.

An assistant coach for the CU men's basketball team, Rohn has helped the Buffs win a lot of games in the past three years. Since he joined head coach Tad Boyle's staff in 2010, CU has gone 69-38 and reached the NCAA Tournament two years in a row.

Just how much longer Rohn remains in Boulder is a mystery. The more the Buffs win, the more attractive their assistant coaches become for other programs looking for head coaches.

"That's what you get into the profession to do," Rohn said of becoming a head coach. "The job coach (Boyle) has done here in the last three years has been incredible. That tends to open up some people's eyes, in terms of who makes the decisions to hire assistant coaches. It's probably more important than anything."

Not that Rohn is eager to leave Boulder. He's got a wife and two daughters and, while he has done it several times throughout a coaching career that has lasted nearly 25 years, it's not exactly easy to uproot a family.

Keep up the work he's doing, though, and offers might come his way soon enough. Boyle recognizes that, which is why he gave Rohn the title of recruiting coordinator last month, in hopes that it could help Rohn get a head job down the road. The new title didn't change Rohn's duties, but it does spotlight Rohn's role in an essential element to CU's success.

All of CU's coaches recruit, but it is Rohn that runs that part of the program.

"It's everything," Rohn said of recruiting. "It's the lifeline of your program. At this level, everybody is a good coach. Some are definitely a little better than others. But, your success is predicated on your ability to recruit good players."

One of the busiest months of the recruiting year is around the corner, and Rohn has been hard at work preparing for it.

"July is wild," he said.

During the summer, tournaments take place all around the country, putting the best players in the nation on display. College coaches have three separate five-day evaluation periods -- July 10-14, July 17-21 and July 24-28.

Per NCAA rules, each team can have just four coaches on staff who travel to see recruits. For CU, that is Boyle, Rohn, Jean Prioleau and Rodney Billups. But, only three of the four are allowed to watch players each day. As recruiting coordinator, Rohn has to plan everybody's schedule, including who travels where and who sits out on each day.

"You're just flying by the seat of your pants from one city to the next and one gym to the next," Rohn said. "We try to be as organized on the front end as possible, which I think we've done a pretty good job of that."

"It's crazy, but it's really an important period of time in terms of evaluating. There's nothing more important in recruiting than being able to evaluate players."

With Rohn leading the way, CU will evaluate players across the country next month as it tries to figure out which players from the Class of 2014, Class of 2015 and even the Class of 2016 will be good fits for the program.

When he's not heading the recruiting process, Rohn works with CU's big guys. It's an ironic role for the 5-foot-8 Rohn, who was a two-time all-conference guard at McPherson College, but he's had success with it.

At CU, Rohn has helped to coach Andre Roberson, who is hoping to be an NBA draft pick on Thursday night, and Josh Scott, who had a great freshman year last season.

Next season, the Buffs will depend a lot on their big guys, including Scott, Xavier Johnson, Wesley Gordon and Ben Mills.

"They know I didn't play the position, but you've got to be able to teach the position," Rohn said.

Rohn can certainly teach the position. Throughout his career, Rohn has proven to be a skilled teacher and recruiter, which is why he was brought to CU in the first place.

Whether his future keeps him in Boulder or leads him elsewhere, Rohn will continue to work with the same goal in mind: to win.

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Analytics giving a big boost to ex-CU forward Andre Roberson's draft stock

Posted By [Christopher Dempsey](#) On June 25, 2013 @ 7:30 pm In [College Basketball](#), [College Sports](#) | [1 Comment](#)



Andre Roberson.

Former Colorado forward Andre Roberson has his fair share of detractors and skeptics questioning his decision to forgo his senior season, leave CU and enter the NBA draft.

But the computers aren't among them.

That's right. Computers. Numbers. Statistical equations.

Analytics.

These love Roberson, according to ESPN draft analyst Chad Ford. And I mean love. Analytics, the stats that have swept through the NBA this season, are expected to be used as an important tool in the draft process, too.

And they are buoying Roberson like few other players in the draft. Without them, he might go undrafted. With them, Ford believes he is a lock to be selected pretty early in the second round – out of the guaranteed money, yes. But a spot is a spot when you're looking to break into the big time, as Roberson is.

"Roberson is one of the most interesting players to me because while his stats don't scream off the page, the advanced analytics guys – and many of these front offices are going in that direction – they absolutely love him as a player," Ford said. "Our own Kevin Pelton, who runs a statistical model, had him ranked the No. 3 player in the draft."

You read that right. Third. Out of every player in the draft.

"So what you're going to see is as soon as we hit the second round, any of those teams that really heavily rely on those models are going to snatch him up," Ford said. "I think I have him going to the Grizzlies, to my good friend John Hollinger who runs that team, at 41 but he could go in the 30s as well. But I can almost guarantee you that guy is going to get drafted

because all of the statistical analysis says he should be a really good NBA player.”

Meanwhile, ex-Colorado State center Colton Iverson is doing his best to hold on to a second round spot, Ford said.

“Iverson is a potential second round pick, in part just because he’s a big body,” Ford said. “And it’s hard to find backup centers with an NBA body in (college). I’m sure he would take offense at this, but sometimes you hear scouts refer to him as ‘five fouls.’ He can go out there and give you five hard fouls and play 10 minutes. That’s how people are evaluating him, but it also gives him a shot at going in the second round.”

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