



# COLORADO BUFFALOES

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**Andre Roberson is the second CU player to get drafted since 2011 (Alec Burks).**

Photo Courtesy: © Joe Camporeale | 2013 Jun 27



## Brooks: Roberson Taken In First Round Of NBA Draft

Release: 06/27/2013 Courtesy: B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

BOULDER – Andre Roberson's decision to leave the Colorado basketball program a year early for the 2013 NBA Draft was widely questioned, but on Thursday night his choice appeared sound.

Projected as a second-round selection by most NBA analysts, Roberson was a surprise first-round pick by Minnesota at No. 26. The 6-7 forward then was dealt to Oklahoma City, which traded up to land Roberson via deals with Memphis, Houston, Minnesota and Golden State.

A sample of Roberson's April positioning among the Top 100 draft prospects: *ESPN.com* – 54th overall; *CBSSports.com* – 54th overall; *DraftExpress.com* – 57th overall; *HoopsWorld.com* – 57th overall.

When Roberson's name was called by out-going NBA Commissioner David Stern, CU coach Tad Boyle texted this message to Roberson: "What the hell do I know? Congratulations."

Roberson, who finished the 2012-13 season as the nation's No. 2 rebounder, was in Brooklyn with his family for the draft. He became the fourth Buffs basketball player taken in the first round since 1997 and the eighth overall to go in the first round. CU has had 32 men's basketball players drafted.

Preceding Roberson as CU first-rounders since '97 were Chauncey Billups, No. 3 in '97 by Boston; David

Harrison, No. 29 in 2004 by Indiana; and Alec Burks, No. 12 in 2011 by Utah.

Since the NBA lottery first began in 1985, Burks (2009-2011) and Billups (1995-97) are the school's only two lottery picks. Billups and Burks were both sophomores when they declared for the NBA Draft.

Boyle had supported whatever decision Roberson and family would make concerning Roberson's future, but he wanted the decision made wisely. Said Boyle at a season wrap-up media conference in April: "At the end of the day, there are no guarantees – unless you're a first-round draft pick."

Ironically, Roberson was – and Thursday night Boyle was ecstatic.

"It absolutely surprises me, but I'm so proud of him," Boyle said. In addition to the guaranteed first-round money Roberson will collect, Boyle called Roberson's first-round selection "good for our program and our fans – everyone wins."

After making his decision to leave school and declare himself eligible for the draft, Roberson returned to his family's home in San Antonio and laid low. He declined most pre-draft interview requests, including those from *CUBuffs.com*. Boyle said Roberson was focused on preparing for the draft.

"It's been so quiet and Andre wanted it that way," Boyle said. "He went back to San Antonio and worked hard. I did say on the record that (Roberson's NBA value) would be rebounding and defense – and if somebody appreciates that, then he's your guy."

Roberson left CU with most of the school's rebounding records within his reach. Had he stayed, he likely would have put some of those marks out of reach for any future Buff.

Odds heavily favored Roberson becoming CU's top career rebounder in the first game of what would have been his senior year; he needed 10 rebounds, which would have given him 1,055 – one more than Stephane Pelle (1999-03) – with the remainder of his final season ahead of him.

Nonetheless, in three seasons Roberson left an indelible mark. He was the only CU player with 1,000 points (1,012) and rebounds (1,045), 150 blocks (150) and steals (164), and 100 assists (119). He also was the first Buffs player to lead the team in rebounding, blocked shots and steals for three consecutive seasons.

At the team's annual post-season banquet, Roberson was presented the Stephane Pelle Rebounding Award and earned the Best Defensive Player Award as voted by his teammates. He also was selected as the Pac-12 Conference's Defensive Player of The Year and was a first-team all-conference pick.

In the Buffs' school-record third consecutive 20-win season (21-12, 10-8 Pac-12 Conference), Roberson became the first CU player in 22 years to average a double-double (10.9 ppg, 11.2 rpg) in consecutive years. He finished second nationally in rebounding and he leaves CU with a career average just shy of a double-double – 9.6 points, 10.0 rebounds.

Roberson joins a young Oklahoma City team featuring Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook. The Thunder finished 60-22 last season and had the Northwest Division's best record.. But minus the injured Westbrook (knee), OKC was eliminated from the playoffs by Memphis.

With their first first-round selection (No. 12) Thursday night, the Thunder selected 7-0 Pittsburgh center Steven Adams.

#### **COLORADO PLAYERS DRAFTED PROFESSIONALLY**

**\*Scott Wedman**, No. 2 overall Memphis/ABA, 1974

**Chauncey Billups**, No. 3 overall Boston/NBA, 1997

**\*Scott Wedman**, No. 6 overall KC-Omaha/NBA, 1974

**\*Cliff Meely**, No. 7 overall San Diego Clippers/NBA, 1971

**Alec Burks**, No. 12 overall Utah Jazz/NBA, 2011

**Jay Humphries**, No. 13 overall Phoenix/NBA, 1984

**Shaun Vandiver**, No. 25 overall Golden State/NBA, 1991

**Pat Frink**, No. 27 overall Cincinnati/NBA, 1968

**David Harrison**, No. 29 overall Indiana/NBA, 2004  
**Jim Davis**, No. 29 overall Detroit/NBA), 1964  
**Ken Charlton**, No. 32 overall Cincinnati/NBA, 1963  
**\*Jim Creighton**, No. 39 overall Seattle/NBA, 1972  
**Donnie Boyce**, No. 42 overall Atlanta/NBA, 1995  
**Jaquay Walls**, No. 56, Indiana/NBA, 2000  
**Alex Stivrins**, No. 75, Seattle/NBA, 1985  
**Chuck Williams**, No. 77, Philadelphia/NBA, 1968  
**Chuck Gardner**, No. 81, Baltimore/NBA, 1966  
**Joe Cooper**, No. 96, New Jersey/NBA, 1981  
**Wilky Gilmore**, No. 98, St. Louis/NBA, 1962  
**Dave Logan**, No. 139, Kansas City/NBA, 1976  
**JoJo Hunter**, No. 146, Milwaukee/NBA, 1981  
**Lee Haven**, No. 146, Portland/NBA, 1974  
**Rob Gonzalez**, No. 147, Detroit/NBA, 1983  
**Larry Vaculik**, No. 168, Denver/NBA, 1978  
**Jacques Tuz**, No. 173, San Diego/NBA, 1982  
**Emmett Lewis**, No. 181, Denver/NBA, 1979  
**Brian Johnson**, No. 212, Phoenix/NBA, 1981

#### Other Selections

**Tom Harrold**, fourth pick, Fort Wayne/NBA, 1955  
**Burdette Haldorson**, fifth pick, Milwaukee/NBA, 1955  
**Charlie Mock**, ninth pick, Fort Wayne/NBA, 1955  
**Wayne Tucker**, ninth pick, Tri-Cities/NBA, 1951  
**Robert Doll**, St. Louis/NBA, 1946

#### ABA

**\*Cliff Meely**, first round pick, Denver Nuggets, 1971  
**\*Jim Creighton**, additional round choice of Dallas, 1972  
\*-drafted by both the NBA and ABA in the same year

#### Round Breakdown (34)

1st Round: 7  
2nd Round: 2  
3rd: 2  
4th: 2  
5th: 2  
6th: 2  
7th: 1  
8th: 2  
9th: 5  
14th: 1  
23rd: 1

Other NBA draft picks: 4

#### NBA Team Breakdown (31)

Detroit (2)/Fort Wayne (2): 4  
Sacramento/Cincinnati (2)/Kansas City (1)/KC-Omaha (1): 4  
Atlanta (1)/Tri-Cities (1): 2  
Denver: 2  
L.A. Clippers/San Diego (2): 2  
Indiana: 2  
Milwaukee: 2  
Phoenix: 2  
St. Louis: 2

Seattle: 2  
Boston: 1  
Golden State: 1  
New Jersey: 1  
Philadelphia: 1  
Portland: 1  
Utah: 1  
Washington/Baltimore: 1

**ABA (3)**

Memphis: 1  
Dallas: 1  
Denver: 1

**Contact: BG.Brooks@Colorado.EDU**

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## Former CU Buffs star Roberson selected in first round of NBA draft

By Brian Howell, Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

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When Andre Roberson announced in April he would skip his senior season at Colorado and enter the NBA Draft, some thought he was crazy.

Several mock drafts projected him to be a second-round pick. Others had him going undrafted.

On Thursday night, no outside opinions or mock drafts mattered. Roberson wound up going earlier than expected when the Minnesota Timberwolves selected him late in the first round, 26th overall.

Roberson and his family were in attendance at the draft in Brooklyn and Roberson had the opportunity to go on stage following his selection and shake hands with outgoing NBA commissioner David Stern.

Roberson was later traded to the Golden State Warriors and then dealt to the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Regardless of his destination, it was huge for Roberson to go in the first round, because it means he will get a guaranteed contract. Second rounders are not assured of a guaranteed deal.

A 6-foot-7 forward, Roberson is the second Buff drafted in the past three years, joining Alec Burks, who was the No. 12 pick, by the Utah Jazz, in 2011. He is just the seventh CU player selected since the NBA reduced the draft to two rounds in 1989.

About an hour after he was picked, Roberson tweeted, "Wanted to thank CU for the best 3 years of my life! Most importantly the CUint and the community as we helped build it back up. #ForeverBuff"

Roberson became a fan favorite in Boulder and provided plenty of memorable moments in a CU jersey, helping the Buffs to 69 wins in his three seasons.

Last season as a junior, Roberson was named the Pac-12 Conference Defensive Player of the Year. He averaged 10.9 points and 11.2 rebounds per game for the Buffs (21-12), helping them to reach the first round of the NCAA Tournament for the second year in a row. He ranked second nationally in rebounds per game last year after ranking third in 2011-12 (11.1 per game).

During his three seasons in Boulder, Roberson scored 1,012 points and pulled down 1,045 rebounds -- just nine shy of the program record, held by Stephane Pelle (1,054 from 1999-03).

Although he came up short of Pelle's record, Roberson is the only player in CU history to accumulate at least 1,000 points, 1,000 rebounds, 150 blocks (150), 150 steals (164) and 100 assists (119). Roberson is also the only player in CU history to lead the team in rebounds, steals

and blocks three years in a row.

In Oklahoma City, Roberson will join one of the elite teams in the NBA. Led by Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook, the Thunder had the best record in the Western Conference this past season and played in the 2012 NBA Finals.

Although many pundits believe Roberson is limited offensively, his exceptional skills in rebounding and defense have been considered top notch. ESPN analysts Jay Bilas and Chad Ford said this week that rebounding is a skill that translates to the NBA better than other skills, which made Roberson a talent many teams wanted.

"All the statistical analysis says he should be a really good NBA player," Ford said.

## **Notable**

Roberson is the eighth CU player in history to be taken in the first round of the NBA draft. ... This is the first time CU has had two players drafted in a three-year span since Donnie Boyce (1995) and Chauncey Billups (1997). ... Roberson is just the fourth player in CU history to leave early for the NBA, along with Billups, David Harrison (2004) and Burks. All four went in the first round.

*Follow Brian on Twitter:*

*@BrianHowell33.*

## **CU Buffs' Andre Roberson headed to OKC Thunder via trade after being picked No. 26 in NBA draft; CSU Rams' Colton Iverson picked 53rd, bound for Celtics after trade**

*By Caitlin Swieca The Denver Post The Denver Post*

*Posted:*

DenverPost.com

Former Colorado forward Andre Roberson was selected with the No. 26 pick in the NBA draft by the Minnesota Timberwolves on Thursday night, and he ended up going to the Oklahoma City Thunder. He was drafted by Minnesota, which held the No. 26 pick but was choosing for Golden State, which then traded him to the Thunder.

Roberson, the reigning Pac-12 defensive player of the year, was chosen higher than many experts had predicted.

Colorado coach Tad Boyle said the pick was a "win-win situation" for Roberson and the CU program.

"He's a high-level rebounder, one of the best in the country, if not the best," Boyle said by phone Thursday. "He's a big-time defender. He can guard multiple positions. Those things translate pretty well from college to the professional game."

Roberson tweeted "Thunder Up!" late in the evening, but didn't talk with the media as the trades continued to unfold.

During the craziness of the second round, Colorado State 7-foot center Colton Iverson was taken with the 53rd pick, which Indiana traded to Boston for cash. Iverson will be part of a Celtics team that made a big trade Thursday. The Celtics and Nets agreed to a blockbuster trade that would send Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce to Brooklyn for Kris Humphries, Gerald Wallace, Tornike Shengelia, Reggie Evans, Keith Bogans and three first-round picks scattered over the next five years. The deal has to be approved by the NBA and can't be finalized before July 10.

Last month, Roberson's father, John, told The Denver Post that his son chose to leave CU a year early because he didn't think that Boyle and his staff were developing Andre's NBA game enough, particularly on the offensive side.

But Boyle said he was in contact with his former player. "I texted Andre today and wished him luck tonight, and he hit me back," Boyle said. "We've had a good relationship."

Roberson did not return phone calls to The Denver Post or to the CU athletic department.

In his junior season at Colorado, Roberson ranked second nationally in rebounding with 11.2 per game and averaged 10.9 points per game.

Roberson finished his three-year career at CU with 1,012 points and 1,045 rebounds and was the only player in CU history to finish his career with 1,000 points and rebounds, 150 blocks and steals, and 100 assists. He became the eighth CU player selected in the first round, but joins Chauncey Billups, David Harrison and Alec Burks since 1997.

Iverson spent just one season at CSU after transferring from Minnesota, but he led the Rams with 14.2 points per game and 9.8 rebounds. He blocked a team-high 25 shots.

Although many questioned Roberson's decision to leave CU, advanced analysis boosted his value. A statistical model run by ESPN analyst Kevin Pelton ranked Roberson as the No. 3 player in the draft class.

*Caitlin Swieca: 303-954-1297 or cswieca@denverpost.com*

## Wolves choose Roberson 26th overall

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI AP Basketball Writer News Fuze

Posted:

MercuryNews.com

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MINNEAPOLIS—The Minnesota Timberwolves have taken Colorado forward Andre Roberson with the 26th overall pick for the Golden State Warriors, who then traded him to Oklahoma City.

A person with knowledge of the situation tells The Associated Press that the Wolves sold their third pick of the first round to Golden State. The Warriors then traded Roberson to the Thunder for a package including the 29th overall pick. The person spoke on condition anonymity because the deal has not been announced.

Roberson averaged 10.9 points and 11.2 rebounds per game for the Buffaloes last season. The 6-foot-7 Roberson shot 51.6 percent from the field and will give the Thunder some depth in the frontcourt behind starting power forward Serge Ibaka.

The Timberwolves also received a future second-round pick in the deal.

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## Thunder Rumbblings (/blogs/thunder-rumbblings)

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### Taking a closer look at Thunder draft pick Andre Roberson

Published: June 28, 2013 by **Anthony Slater**

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(/photo/pid/2145902)

Andre Roberson can dunk. We've already established that.  
(<http://newsok.com/thunder-draft-pick-andre-roberston-with-an-impressive-dunk-highlight-reel/article/3857116>)

But what else is there to know about the Thunder's 26th overall pick, a relative mystery man projected to go somewhere in the second round before Sam Presti surprisingly plucked him late in the first.

I talked with former *Boulder Camera* CU beat writer Ryan Thorburn, who covered all of Roberson's games the past three years. He had plenty of informative stuff on the 6-foot-7 rebounding machine who won Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year last season.

#### Q: Was Roberson a big-time prospect coming in?

"No, he was actually Tad Boyle's first recruit ever at CU. Tad was hired in April of 2010 and Andre was still available and he hired him in that late spring recruiting period. So not that highly regarded in the recruiting world."

#### So he was basically an unknown when he got to campus?

"Yeah, he was an unknown. Boyle inherited that team that had Alec Burks, who was first round two years ago (Utah Jazz) and Cory Higgins, who played in the NBA and some other older players, but Andre came in and was the sixth man right away and actually led the team in steals and rebounding and blocks. You could tell he had a



by **Anthony Slater**  
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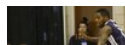
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NEXT STORY

special knack for rebounding. He was immediately the team's best rebounder and one of the best in the Big 12 (his freshman year was CU's last in the Big 12). He was a strong league at the time."



By the time Roberson was a sophomore, was it kind of his team?

"Yeah, he became more of a team leader, although they still had Carlton Brown and Nate Tomlinson as the vocal leaders. Andre is very quiet and unassuming. He did his best to be a vocal leader last year, but he's more of a lead by example type of player."

Sounds like he's soft-spoken off the court, which would fit the Thunder way. Describe his personality.

Yeah, he really is soft-spoken.

How about quote-wise?

He's very accommodating, doesn't have a lot of great quotes. Soft-spoken and has some cliches. He's not a brash guy, but occasionally for big games he'll give you a good quote if he's fired up.

He left a year early. From what I read, it sounds like it was a surprise up there.

"He's really good friends with Alec Burks, who left early and went in the lottery. So I'm not sure how much that played into it. But Andre really rolled the dice on himself. No one I know really thought it was a great decision, so for him to be a first round pick and show everyone that he made the right decision, that's really a great story."

Did you see him projected this high anywhere you looked?

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Larry Bird: 1 reel pad for Memphis at Oklahoma City

MEM	18	32	14	24	88
OKC	23	15	24	22	84

Boxscore | Recap Refresh: Off | On

DIVISION STANDINGS

Division Standings

NBA Northwest	W/L
Oklahoma City	
(http://newsok.sportsdirectinc.com/basketball/nba-teams.aspx?team=404316.html)	60-22
Denver	
(http://newsok.sportsdirectinc.com/basketball/nba-teams.aspx?team=404065.html)	57-25
Utah	
(http://newsok.sportsdirectinc.com/basketball/nba-teams.aspx?team=404031.html)	43-39
Portland	
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Minnesota	
(http://newsok.sportsdirectinc.com/basketball/nba-teams.aspx?team=403995.html)	31-51
Full Standings	
(http://newsok.sportsdirectinc.com/basketball/nba-standings.aspx?standings.html&hf=off)	

OKC THUNDER TEAM LEADERS

Team Leaders

Points	K. Durant (http://newsok.sportsdirectinc.com/basketball/players.aspx?player=732680.html)
Assists	R. Westbrook (http://newsok.sportsdirectinc.com/basketball/players.aspx?player=733294.html)
Rebounds	K. Durant (http://newsok.sportsdirectinc.com/basketball/players.aspx?player=732680.html)
Field Goal %	S. Ibaka (http://newsok.sportsdirectinc.com/basketball/players.aspx?player=739855.html)
Steals	R. Westbrook (http://newsok.sportsdirectinc.com/basketball/players.aspx?player=733294.html)
Blocks	S. Ibaka (http://newsok.sportsdirectinc.com/basketball/players.aspx?player=739855.html)
Player Stats	(http://newsok.sportsdirectinc.com/basketball/nba-teams.aspx?team=404316.html)   Full Roster (http://newsok.sportsdirectinc.com/basketball/nba-players.aspx?roster=404316.html)

OKC THUNDER OFFENSIVE STATS

Offense

	Record	Rank
Points/G	105.7	3
Field Goal %	48.1	2
3-Point %	37.7	3
Free Throw %	82.8	1
Rebounds/G	43.6	6

OKC THUNDER DEFENSIVE STATS

Defense