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OKC Thunder: Andre Roberson does the little things well

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Small forward out of Colorado excels on defense and on the glass.

By Darnell Mayberry (<http://www.newsok.com/darnell-mayberry>) Published: July 9, 2013

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Oklahoma City Thunder's Andre Roberson, center, tries to make a shot between Detroit Pistons' Peyton Siva (34) and Kartavious Caldwell-Pope, right, during an NBA summer league basketball game, Tuesday, July 9, 2013, in Orlando, Fla. (AP Photo/John Raoux) ORG XMIT: DOA113

ORLANDO, Fla. — Andre Roberson has been one of the most impressive players on the Thunder's summer league team.

And he's scored only 12 points in three games.

Yet it's quickly become evident down here in Orlando why Oklahoma City traded up three spots in the draft to get Roberson, the 6-foot-7 small forward out of Colorado.

He does the little things, all the dirty work others perhaps don't care to do. In this setting, it's easy to see how those things fit on a Thunder roster that already has an All-Star duo in Russell Westbrook and Kevin Durant.

"A lot of people focus on just scoring, scoring, scoring," Roberson said. "But I feel like there's other elements of the game that help a team win as well. And having two great scorers on the Oklahoma City Thunder, I feel like I don't need to provide that right now."

Roberson makes up for lack of scoring in two ways: defense and rebounding.

He's pulled down a team-high 21 rebounds in three games, including 10 (on the offensive end) in the Thunder's 79-78 win over Detroit on Tuesday. He has 10 rebounds in his first eight minutes.

"Certain guys have a nose for the ball, and he does," said Thunder coach Rex Kalamian. "Andre knows how to find the basketball."



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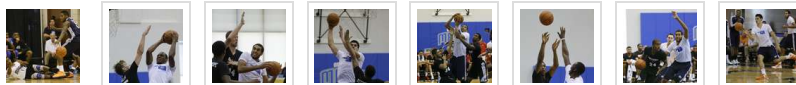
In his junior season, Roberson ranked second in the country in rebounding with an 11.3 average. He finished with more rebounds than points in 17 of the 33 games he played before leaving early to enter the NBA Draft.

"I've always been a great rebounder growing up, ever since high school," Roberson said. "So it's great to kind of have that tool in my bag."

Roberson's size, athleticism and 6-foot-11 wingspan give him the attributes to be a great rebounder. But he complements those traits with exceptional timing and much-needed relentlessness.

He pulled down 20 rebounds on two occasions last season, once against Fresno State and again against Stanford. In those games, he had 17 points against the Bulldogs and just 12 against the Cardinal.

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