

Howell blog: Boyle's CU Buffs wrap up productive summer

By Brian Howell, Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

The Colorado men's basketball team finished up summer team workouts on Tuesday morning. Per NCAA rules, the Buffaloes were allowed to spend two hours per week together as a team.

While it's not a great deal of time together, head coach Tad Boyle said the Buffs had a productive summer. They won't get together as a team until school starts in August.

"We got a lot of work done," Boyle said. "Come back in August, we'll go back to square one, but I think our freshmen understand what we want a little bit more now than they did before. You're not going to jump into season mode during the summer time, and I'm not sure you want to. But you want to get their feet wet and you want to get your returning players focused on getting better, what they need to get better at, and I think we did that."

Full practices for the 2013-14 season don't get started until October and the season does not start until November, yet Boyle said he already has the itch to get going.

"I did not have a July attitude; I was ready to go," Boyle said. "I've got to dial it back a little bit as a coach, because our players are in the summer mode, but when I get on the floor I'm not in the summer mode. It's because I'm so excited about our team."

CU went 21-12 last season and reached the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive season. The Buffs are widely regarded as a preseason Top 25 team for next season.

Boyle talking about George King

I wasn't able to get in touch with Boyle before my story about freshman George King ran today, but here's what Boyle had to say about the 6-foot-5 guard/forward today:

"George is a guy that can play the wing position for us. He's a multiple-position guy, which we like, both offensively and defensively. We basically looked at our 2014 wing recruiting list and compared all those guys to George. What it means is we won't probably sign a wing in 2014. He was better than most. His skill set is good.

"The thing I really like about George, he's a terrific young man from a terrific family. His dad is a military guy, his mom is active military. He's a guy that has grown up with discipline in his life and knows what hard work means and he's not afraid of it."

Men's basketball: CU Buffs' George King ready for some seasoning

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

Posted:

Buffzone.com

George King realizes that he's not the complete player he hopes to one day become, and therefore, he won't try to rush things during his freshman year with the Colorado men's basketball team.

"I think of it like cooking meat," the 6-foot-5 guard/forward from San Antonio said. "You can't rush it or it's not going to be good. You've got to let it develop, sit in the oven, let it marinate. That's how I think of it."

For the record, King likes his steak medium well, with "a little bit of pink."

Should King's game develop the way his steak does, the Buffaloes and their fans will be in for a treat.

King was the last member of CU's freshman class for 2013, signing his letter of intent in May. He impressed CU head coach Tad Boyle during the Mile High Classic tournament in Denver in late April.

At the time that the tournament started, CU didn't have a scholarship to give. But, on the final day of the tournament, April 28, CU junior Andre Roberson announced that he was skipping his senior year to enter the NBA Draft. That opened up a scholarship spot, CU made an offer and King jumped on it.

Up to that point, King had verbally committed to Northern Colorado, but his exceptional play during his senior year turned some heads with bigger schools, including Colorado State, Gonzaga, Marquette and Texas A&M.

King was the San Antonio Express-News player of the year after averaging 17.1 points, 11.3 rebounds, 1.9 steals and 1.6 blocks for Brennan High School. His team went 39-3 and reached the state semifinals.

With those numbers, it's odd that he didn't get signed earlier, but it wasn't until his senior year that he really shined.

"I'm a little bit of a late bloomer, but you know, better late than never," he said.

At CU, King could play a variety of roles. At 6-5, he can play shooting guard or small forward. Boyle has said that King, "can rebound, block shots, shoot and defend."

That's a pretty good combination, and it should allow King to fit right in with his teammates.

"They really like my versatility," he said of CU's coaches. "I'm not the only guy on this team that's versatile. We're definitely going to use that to our advantage. A lot of the guys ... we can play a lot

of different positions and defend a lot of different positions, as well."

King may have been a late bloomer, in terms of opening the eyes of college recruits, but he got an early start in the game. He said he started playing when he was three or four years old.

"My dad (George) played a little bit," King said. "He kind of put the ball in my hand a little bit and I took it from there."

He said he played a lot of sports, but "basketball fit me best.

"That's the best thing about it: you can go anywhere. You don't really need a rim. You can go out there and just dribble and you're working on you game."

So far, King has put a lot of work into his game, and that work is now paying off.

"Basketball has taken me places I've never been before," he said. "Hopefully I can continue on my career after CU."

Of course, he's not looking too far ahead. Like his medium-well steak, King will need some time to develop before he's a finished product.

"My time will come, I'm sure," he said. "You definitely cannot rush anything."

Follow Brian on Twitter: @BrianHowell33.