



## **Spencer Dinwiddie, Junior, Guard**

### **OPENING STATEMENT**

"It's funny because I wasn't nervous and now I have this goofy smile, I'm nervous. First, I'd like to thank the city of Boulder. This has really become a second home to me and I want to thank the school, CU athletics as a whole. Everybody involved in the program, in the basketball offices. Coach Boyle who believed in me then and still believes in me now. The bonds I've made coming to CU. I met one of my three best friends, Jeremy Adams, who is still my best friend. I became good friends with this man on my right [Coach Tad Boyle]. I mean, it's been great so far. With all that said, I would like to announce that I would like to declare for the 2014 NBA Draft. Beyond that, I'll open it up for questions I guess. I don't know how this works. It's my first time doing it."

### **ON HIS REHAB**

"It's going great. I'm sure a lot of you guys follow me on twitter so you saw "28 weeks." Pretty much first week in August I'll be ready to play full go. That was a big factor in my decision. With the way the injury played out, my family sent me to Houston to meet with a specialist. I had a lot of medial meniscus repair along with my ACL which is why I was on crutches so long. So, initially with an injury like that, it's probably eight to 10 months, which is a lot of recovery. But, with the work they did and thanks to my surgeon, they say I'm crushing it and I'll be ready to play full on, 100% in seven months, no brace. "

### **ON WHAT ENCOURAGED HIM TO ENTER NBA DRAFT**

"I got a lot of intrigue from the league. I think everybody likes what I bring to the table. I do understand that it may not end up being the most glamorous draft night for me. It may end up being something Buff fans look on and aren't happy with but I felt like it was the best thing for me to do in terms of my future. Two of the questions that were pretty much asked are [how are] "his knee and his shooting?" Those are the two things that I think I will be best able to work on with rehab time that is totally dedicated to my knee and just the reps of being a professional."

### **ON HIS INJURY AS A LIABILITY**

"I have first round talent across the board, I have first round talent. Everybody, of course, is going to doubt my knee and so it's hard to get a first round bid with that type of thing. But everyone was clear that they love my talent. Being able to go first week in August and being ready for the season, I don't think it should be looked at on as me being an injured player. It should be looked at as me pre-injury and as a guy who will work hard. You're going to get Spencer Dinwiddie, not Spencer Dinwiddie with a bad knee. I think when people look at it like that, there's not too many people in this draft, I don't care if it's the best draft in recent history, that are better than me."

### **ON WHAT MADE HIS FINAL DECISION**

"[The decision was] very difficult. Like I said, I love everything about this place. I love the coaches, I love the group of guys we have. They're very talented. Weighing the chance to do something special here versus the chance to do something that is more what I would like to do was really tough. I came to the decision this week. I had to factor between what I wanted to do and what's considered best. When I went to go see the specialist in Houston, he compared my recovery a lot to Adrian Peterson. He said if Adrian Peterson is the "Secretariat", then you're "Sea Biscuit." When I heard that he had that confidence in my knee, it helped my confidence, honestly. I already felt that I was going to be alright but he gave me a co-sign like that for one of the greatest running backs of all time. He said he came back in six months and he sees no reason I won't be 110% in seven months. If I'm going to be ready to go August 1<sup>st</sup> full on and I'll be fine, then I feel confident in my ability."

### **ON HIS FONDEST MEMORY AT CU**

"That's tough. My fondest basketball memory still has to be the Pac-12 Tournament, four games in four days. Just the way we came together was great. It was a feeling we haven't really experienced. Even though we probably would have better teams, had we been to the (NCAA) tournament three times in a row and things like that, that concentrated period of time was great. My single best thing would probably be, best friends are hard to come by, you know. I only have three of them. When you have a personality like mine, you don't always make friends, you know when you always say what you feel and sometimes it seems kind of arrogant. Making a best friend is something that is life-long. That off the court is probably my best memory."

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### **ON NEXT YEAR'S TEAM**

"This team is going to another tournament. I don't see anything different really. You talk about everyone coming back. We have the best big man in the conference [Josh Scott], one of the best players 6'1" and under [Askia Booker] in the country coming back. Xavier [Johnson] already has a chance to be very special. He's had some crazy games. I don't think the expectations should be any different. Make the tournament. I don't want to put any pressure on coach. I guess I can't make any guarantees anymore but I think the team is looking up. I saw recruit Dominique Collier in his state championship game. I think he's going to be a great addition and he's going to be someone that's going to come in and compete for sure."

### **ON HIS DRT EXCITEMENT**

"I'm definitely excited. It's one of those things that is bitter sweet, you know. It's the same kind of thing when you leave high school. You love where you're at, but you're excited to go where you're going to go. It's great to accomplish a dream that I've had since I was four or five years old but at the same time, I'm going to miss every part of this place."

### **ON HIS DRAFT NERVES**

"I think to some extent of course you're going to [be nervous] when you don't have your own autonomy but like I said, I think when the focus shifts less from my injury and people are going to be able to check me out and see that it's fine, it's going to shift to who is he as a player. I just don't feel that there are many people in this draft better than me."

### **ON HIS DREAM FOR A PAC-12 CHAMPIONSHIP**

"When I was 17 and I signed, I said I was going to do everything in my power to help get good players here and work hard and win games. One of the other things we always talked about when Coach Boyle was in my living room was winning a Pac-12 Championship. As great as tournament championships are, Coach always says there's something different about winning a conference outright. When I went to Pac-12 media day this year, me and Coach Boyle sat there and said that we view ourselves as the cream of the crop, etc. We got backlash for that but the way the season was playing out, I saw no reason why we weren't going to be right there to win a Pac-12 Championship and everything. Before the season, I had made it clear that I wanted to leave. That was one of the things that I wanted to do before I left, win a Pac-12 Championship, do what me and Coach had envisioned when he came to recruit me and he was selling his vision and what I bought into."

### **ON WHY HE CAME TO COLLEGE**

"Every story I've heard about the NBA D-League, especially if you're getting D-League money, and this is no shot to anyone in the D-League but, I've heard it's not a very fun experience. When you're actually on the team and you get sent down and you're making an NBA paycheck and you get to down there and work on your game and focus on the team. I've heard that it was a decent experience. As far as college, you get an education, there's a different camaraderie with it. It's just a different experience. It's the total experience. The likelihood that I make a best friend or meet a girl that I want to marry or something in the D-League is probably not likely. If you don't have any money, then the women around probably aren't savory and if you do have money, they are probably less savory so. I've heard, I don't know from experience, but I've heard that it wasn't a great experience. That's why I would pick college [over D-Leagues]."

### **ON THE NCAA DRAFT DEADLINE**

"This is why I don't think there should be the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. I think you should let the kids be able to test the waters like they used to be able to. Gathering information is one thing but me being able to have face-to-face conversation really can help a prospect. For somebody in my situation, people are peeking at my knee and my medical records but they don't really know. They don't get to have doctors come in and check me out, hit me with a little scope and see if I reflex. All jokes aside, I don't think there should be this April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. I think you should let prospects really go out and test the waters. You're really not allowed to. You're allowed to go and see what your real pro prospects are from a face to face communication type of perspective."

### **ON HIS TIME IN BOULDER**

"I know coming from LA, there's this [idea] that it's boring [in Colorado]. You have to look past all of that. Boulder is a great place. It's fun. If you're trying to have fun, you're going to have fun. If you're trying to focus on your game, you can be focused on your game. It's got everything you want. It's a great academic institution and Coach Boyle does a great job, as far as everyone in the business and what I see in college basketball. He's going to put you in a position to make plays so there's nothing more you can ask for as a player. You can say, "he's not doing this, he's not giving me this" or whatever but if you can play, and this is to every prospect in the country. If you can play, if you can make plays and you come here and you prove it in practice every day and you bring it and you're willing to play defense, Coach Boyle will put you out there and let you go make plays. If you can do it, he'll let you do it. It's just about whether you can or not. If you don't want to win, we don't want you. If you're about yourself, we don't want you. If you want to be a Buff for life and you think you can win and make plays and Coach offers you a scholarship, you should come."

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**ON CU INCOMING FRESHMAN DOMINIQUE COLLIER**

"I haven't played with him [Dominique Collier]. But I saw him play in the Colorado State Championship and it looks like he has a lot of things in his game. It looks like he's going to bring another ball handler and distributor. It looks like he can shoot a little bit. You know, he looks a little bit small but that's something that [Strength Coach James] Hardy will cure real quick. If you have the work ethic, he'll put some size on you, some strength on you. Like I said, if he can make plays, you guys will know. If he comes to practice and brings it, Coach [Boyle] will put him out there and he will do his thing."

**ON HOW HE IS PREPARING FOR THE DRAFT**

"[I'll focus on] my body in general. I've never been the most flexible guy and I'm trying to work on being more flexible, stronger, faster. I plan on becoming a better athlete, honestly. Coming back from this has given me time to work on my body. There's not much I can do outside of stationary jump shots right now because I'm not allowed to really cut yet. I shoot all the time, just continue to improve my shot. I continue to improve myself as an athlete, get stronger, faster, and jump higher when I come back."

**ON THE ROLE HE WANTS TO PLAY FOR AN NBA TEAM**

"It depends on the team. If the team wants a talented guy to lead their team, I'll do it. If a team wants to bring me in and put me in a situation when I have to learn from a vet, I'll do that. It's really what a team wants at the time. If a team has the confidence to give me the keys to the car, they won't regret it."

**ON THE DRAFT SO FAR**

"Of course I watched it [the draft] but it didn't affect my decision. I think everyone in my position already declared, with the exception of Andrew Harrison. Having everybody in the pool doesn't really bother me. I honestly feel like teams are, of course, going to focus on my knee, but when they get past the injury and see how quickly I'm recovering. I have CU doctors, CU PT, the PT out in Houston, all sign for my knee, it becomes, who is he as a player? I honestly believe that even if you're not talking position, there's not many people better at me in the draft. I understand the star power at the top, but once you move outside that star power and that type of potential, there's not many people who can do what I do."

-COLORADO-