



THE MODERATOR: We'll start with the Colorado student athletes. Take questions, please.

**Q. Guys, last year you had obviously some good senior leadership that manifested itself in March. Did you guys take that upon yourself to kind of fill those roles this year?**

ANDRE ROBERSON: Definitely feel like we took it upon ourselves. We only had one senior, we had to help each other out. I feel like it started with the juniors and it trickled down to the sophomores and freshmen. So we're in this together. Everybody plays for each other. And that's what we preach every day.

SPENCER DINWIDDIE: We have great senior leadership this year too. I'm sitting next to Sabatino Chen, our lone senior, but our most important leader. And then our leader number two right here, Dre. They just kind of do it by committee. So they lead our team beautifully.

SABATINO CHEN: Yeah, I think these guys said it best. It's just been a collective team effort this year. And that's what we're going to do in the tournament.

**Q. Andre, how does it feel to be back home or close to it, and could you talk about it for a little bit. Tell us about what kinds of friends and family you expect to be in the house.**

ANDRE ROBERSON: It feels great to be back in Texas where I consider home and also close to San Antonio where I'm from.

Definitely I have a lot of friends and family coming to the game. I tried to get as many tickets from coach as I could. Definitely I'll have a lot of support out here, along with our alumni. So it should be a pretty good support.

**Q. Andre, what's your health like? I read stories about you being ill the last couple weeks of the season. What's it like and do you feel like you're ready to go for the game tomorrow?**

ANDRE ROBERSON: Definitely feel like I'm a hundred percent. Ready to go. I'm back to normal. I had a viral illness a couple weeks back. But I feel good, so I should be ready to go.

**Q. Andre, coach said you're going to start out on Brandon Paul. What's the strategy there?**

ANDRE ROBERSON: Try not to give him any breathing room, dictate where he goes, not where he wants to go. Just be aggressive with him. Try not to let him get shots off because he's a dangerous player and he likes the three ball. So we have a great game plan for him and I'll have to execute it.

**Q. Spencer, can you talk about what the Colorado basketball program is and is it one of the better kept secrets in the country as far as its future and how good it could be?**

SABATINO CHEN: I think it's up and coming. We have been doing great things ever since Coach Boyle got there. And I think we're a little under the radar, but each year we get more and more notice.

I think we still have a lot of potential left.

SPENCER DINWIDDIE: I second what he said. When coach was recruiting me he talked about wanting to build Colorado into a perennial Top 25 program and that being his dream job. I think you see the strides that we're making towards that. We have had three straight 20 win seasons. We had postseason play each time. Two of them being NCAA tournaments. We got a great recruiting class, we got an NBA player. And we just are going to continue to try to get better and try to keep playing good basketball.

**Q. You were here last year, you won last year, what do you take from that going forward and does it make you want to advance further this year?**

ANDRE ROBERSON: Definitely we want to advance further this year. Last year I just felt like it was a stepping stone.

We wanted to win the next game. But this year I feel like we can go all the way. Especially with this year being down, what everybody's saying, definitely feel like we can definitely go out there and compete with the best. So we're going to have to just take it to the next game.

SABATINO CHEN: Last year was just great to make the tournament, especially the way we did, winning the Pac-12 tournament. Or else we probably wouldn't have made it.

So this year, with all of our experience I think we want to just build momentum, keep winning the next game and go as far as we can.

SPENCER DINWIDDIE: Yeah, they said pretty much everything. Each team that makes it to this tournament feels they have a shot to win the championship.

Each team takes it game by game. But they just want to win the next game and try and compete and hopefully they win it all. That's what we want to do as well.

**Q. For all three of you, as you've done film study of Illinois what have you seen so far? What kind of challenges do you think they will post and do they remind you of anybody you've seen earlier this season?**

SABATINO CHEN: Biggest thing I noticed is that they play lots of defenses, try to throw you off. Big thing on offense is coach said they average like over 20 3's a game. So they live and die by the three. So if they get hot they can be a really dangerous team.

SPENCER DINWIDDIE: They shoot 24 3's a game. They have two big scorers in Richardson and Paul. Paul's a great playmaker as well.

You want to make him as inefficient as possible and you want to hopefully limit their efficiency from the 3 point line because those are the two things that make them dangerous when Paul is getting off and getting his teammates involved. And when they're capitalizing on the 3-point opportunities.

ANDRE ROBERSON: They're a great 3 point shooting team. They get out and run. Brandon Paul and Richardson, they score, and they definitely kind of remind me of Washington or a little bit of UCLA. Getting out and running and shooting the three ball very well.

**Q. Does last year's experience give you guys a different approach to this year? I'm sure you were just in a whirlwind a year ago after winning the Pac 12 tournament. What does that do for you guys this week?**

SPENCER DINWIDDIE: Experience is always a good thing. It kind of settles down a little bit, because it's not your first time. That kind of goes with everything in life. So it's the same in this situation.

At the same time it doesn't really do much for you in the sense of your matchup because you're still going to have to go out there and compete and they're going to compete as well. And you're just trying to win the game.

ANDRE ROBERSON: Can you repeat the question?

**Q. How does last year help you this year?**

ANDRE ROBERSON: Last year helps this year definitely. We have guys that played last year and definitely experience helps us. Definitely it's not all about experience though. It's always going out there and competing and just being aggressive.

I feel like we did a great job of doing that last year and just coming out firing and playing loose and confident. And I feel like if we do that this year we can go far.

SABATINO CHEN: I think mostly just for us three, just because we have been there before, we'll just treat it like another game. And with the guys on our team that haven't been there, we'll just try to give them as much help as we can. Try to calm them down and I think we'll be ready.

**Q. Andre, you and your sister are both playing in the NCAA tournament. Can you just talk about that family affair, I guess. Have you talked about it much with her? Especially since she had to come back from that injury and now she's getting a chance to do what you've done.**

ANDRE ROBERSON: Yeah, it's definitely cool to have a sister, not just playing in the NCAA, but also at the school.

But it's just great now that we both made it. Both programs are up and rising. And I just kind of gave her a little tip of what we did last year and she definitely kind of took it well. So it's pretty cool to have her in the NCAA as well.

**Q. Andre, talk about your recruiting process and which Texas schools came in on you late? Did you even consider them? And what attracted you to Colorado?**

ANDRE ROBERSON: Yeah, my recruiting process, I was kind of a late bloomer. I didn't really get recruited until after junior year. And that's when all the schools started coming in. The big schools didn't really come in until I started playing in high school the season. And I definitely took a trip up to Colorado for an AAU tournament. Because I really didn't want to make a decision yet. I was still searching around.

But I took a trip up to Colorado, went to Northern Colorado, to meet Coach Boyle because he was the head coach at the time. Even though I took an unofficial to Colorado. So I went to go meet him and then later he signed to Colorado and I took an official visit up there.

But the Texas schools, they started coming in late. After everybody and Colorado came in. Since they were in the Big 12 at the time. And I kind of took that as disrespect. Just kind of recruiting me late. Not really in the beginning since I'm in Texas and all. So I just felt disrespected. So I just felt like going to another Big 12 school in this conference and kind of getting back at them.

**Q. Which Texas school looked at you?**

ANDRE ROBERSON: Texas came in late, Texas Tech was early, A&M didn't look at me and Baylor didn't either, so.

**Q. Spencer, talk about Andre's rebounding and what it brings to the game and how it helps you guys control the game.**

SPENCER DINWIDDIE: Well our program is based on defense and rebounding and we have the best rebounder in the country and arguably the best defender in the country. So when you have a guy that's the best in the nation at what your program is built upon, then it just makes everybody else's job easier.

You have a guy that you can say, hey, I want you to shut down Jason Washburn, who is a very good center at Utah or hey, I want you to shut down Brandon Paul, who is a prolific two guard. So when you have a guy who can guard the two through the five on the collegiate level, I mean it makes our whole team just better. And it's easier to play different people. We can go small, go big, and continue to be a great defensive team.

**Q. For Spencer and Sabatino, how much did you guys miss Andre when he was gone as far as defense and everything like that goes?**

SABATINO CHEN: We missed him a lot. I think you could see that right away. With the back-to-back Oregon State games. We lost the game at home and then we win a game with him in the tournament. It just makes

everyone's job easier, like Spencer said. And without him we lack some depth that we have when he's in the game too.

SPENCER DINWIDDIE: His rebounding on the defensive end limits them to one possession and then on the offensive end it gets us extra possessions.

And it kind of limits our versatility on offense because when we have the two wings and the big in, Josh and Dre, we can choose to post whoever has the smallest man.

If one has a bigger man we can drive him and then put that one on the wing. It just makes us a lot more versatile. And that's what him and Xavier Johnson kind of bring to the table. They are both players that can go inside and out and pretty much just do it all for us.

**Q. All year long we heard about how great the Big Ten was and in the NCAA seeding process, some of the PAC 12 teams got seeded fairly low. Do you guys have any kind of conference going on here too? Conference pride?**

ANDRE ROBERSON: Definitely. With the Big Ten being talked about all the time I feel like our conference has grown a lot since last year. With it being down and all. I feel like we're definitely going to show it when we play. Because a couple of us are matched up with a couple Big Ten teams. So I think we're going to show what we got.

SPENCER DINWIDDIE: For sure. Any time you have arguably actually probably not even arguably, the best conference in the country and a conference that has been maligned very recently and has kind of gained traction, I mean we want to prove that we're as good as a lot of people think we are and that we play good basketball on the West Coast. Yeah, we're rooting for each other. I want UCLA to win their game, California, Oregon, Arizona to win theirs, even though we're conference foes, but in the NCAA Tournament you kind of root for your conference to do well.

SABATINO CHEN: Yeah, just to go out there, I just think maybe just because our last year our conference was down so much that it probably hurt us a little bit in the seeding process. But this conference is a lot better than it was last year, it's like night and day. So I think we could compete with the Big Ten.

**Q. What separates Coach Boyle? What makes him such a good coach? Anything that makes him distinctive?**

SPENCER DINWIDDIE: For me it's because pretty much everything that he's told me in the recruiting process and now that I'm here he's just been a very honest guy. So when you can build that type of trust and have you a relationship with your coach in that manner, then it makes you want to run through a wall for him. If you believe in him and you want to do something for him, I mean that just makes you play that much harder and you see results of what he's preaching also produce wins, so there's no down side really to it.

SABATINO CHEN: I would say just the biggest thing would be his honesty from a non-basketball sense. He tells you exactly what he wants you to do, he doesn't like play games with you or anything. And then basketball wise, he's a great just player's coach. He makes you individually a better player.

THE MODERATOR: All right. Thank you, gentlemen, we're going to let you go now. We'll start with an opening statement from coach.

COACH BOYLE: Well, it's great to be back in the NCAA Tournament. Great to be in Austin, Texas. We're excited. Our team just got done with a very spirited practice, our guys are dialed in, and hopefully ready to play well tomorrow.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. Questions?

**Q. How does that change as far as Big 12, PAC-12, and do you think maybe the PAC-12 is even a better fit as much as you recruit California?**

COACH BOYLE: Well, I think it's a good fit for our university on a lot of different levels, not just athletics. So we were excited about the move. We were certainly, it was bitter sweet, because we love the Big 12, had a lot of great history there. But it has been good for us in terms of opening up California recruiting and if you look at our roster, we have got a pretty heavy influence there. We still have a Texas influence, Andre Roberson, obviously, we signed Andre from San Antonio when we were still members of the Big 12.

But in the landscape of college athletics now, we're not the only school to go through it. So you got to make the most of it. I think we have. I think it's been a positive thing for our basketball program. But we miss the Big 12. It's good to be back in this country.

**Q. How is the leadership of this team evolved throughout the year after losing the seniors last year?**

COACH BOYLE: Well, I think the three guys that were up here preceding me is a good indication of how it's evolved. I think it's been a work in progress, Sabatino Chen being our only senior has kind of, was kind of our leader by default early. But he's really become more vocal as the season's gone on. Andre has really grown into that role. I think he's a guy that certainly in the locker room has everybody's ear, has their respect. And Spencer, I think, has made some strides in that regard as well.

So I think that was something as we started this season coming off of last year's NCAA team and three seniors who were great leaders has been a positive thing for us. But it has been a work in progress and there's been some bumps along the road. But I think those three kids have emerged and we got some other guys capable of it as well.

**Q. You've mentioned that Andre's going to start on Brandon Paul. What was the thought process behind that?**

COACH BOYLE: Well, matchup. When Josh [Scott] obviously starting our big guy and then Xavier Johnson, we'll start on their four man who is really a pick and pop guy. If they start, if they go big with two post players, Xavier Johnson can guard him. So it really allows us, matchup wise, to get Andre on Paul and then Spencer can guard as well and obviously Ski will guard their point guard. So Spencer and Dre are our best two perimeter defenders and we're going to put them on their two best offensive guards production wise, so it really works out well. Obviously Jeremy and Sabatino Chen when he they come in, it will be kind of a rotating deal as the game goes on.

**Q. What do you see on film that's the key to guarding Paul?**

COACH BOYLE: The key on film is you have to be there when he catches it. He's got deep range, he's got the green light. He'll let it fly when he catches it. So I think being there on the catch and the one thing Andre's got is he's got great length, he's got great athleticism. He's going to have to get through a lot of screens. He'll get some bumps and bruises tomorrow, but using his length and athleticism to be there on the catch and play Brandon's shot high is the key. Because he's got a quick release and he's a very capable shooter of getting hot and we want to try to not let that happen.

**Q. As far as recruiting goes, how many top players do you feel like D I players, Colorado in state produces year and how do you sell Colorado?**

COACH BOYLE: Well, Colorado I've always said this, is a, what I call a cyclical state. It's not like Texas, it's not like California, where you know year in and year out you're going to be able to recruit some blue chip type basketball players. Some years there's going to be more than others. There's always going to be some, but you don't know how many. Last year was a good example. Josh Scott and Wesley Gordon were two big time recruits, big time players we were able to get both of them. This year we didn't recruit Colorado very heavily in the 2013 class. Next year, there's some good ones coming. Following year there's some good ones coming. But there's not the depth in the recruiting classes that you're going to find in a state like Texas and a state like California.

That's why we signed Dustin Thomas a kid from Texarkana in November, we're very excited about him. So we'll always recruit Texas and California when we can't get the players that we need or that we want out of Colorado.

**Q. How about for selling the school.**

COACH BOYLE: Selling our school?

**Q. Lack of basketball tradition.**

COACH BOYLE: Well, we have got tradition, the problem is our tradition is spotty. We have been to a Final Four. It's been since 1950s. We have been to multiple NCAA tournaments, it's been since the 1960's. So we have had pockets. We have got Chauncey Billups, obviously, at the end of his NBA career, who led his team to the NCAA tournament and then the 2003 team.

So we have had pockets of success, we haven't had sustained success. In terms of selling Colorado basketball, we sell the opportunity to come and make your mark on a program and leave your stamp on a program and build a legacy. I think you see the players in our team right now, Andre Roberson, Spencer Dinwiddie, Josh Scott, all the guys that are in our program that have come to Colorado to do that is appealing. If you've never been to Boulder, we have got a lot to sell. It's a beautiful place to live, a beautiful campus, a beautiful community. We have got everything we need to be successful at Colorado and it's just a matter of believing it and getting young machine and their families to believe it.

**Q. The players were asked about how last year's experience might help them this year. Does that also apply to you and your coaches having been here last year?**

COACH BOYLE: I don't know. I don't see it so much as coaches. You're preparing for a team that you haven't seen before, just like we had to do for UNLV last year. This year it's Illinois. And if you're fortunate enough to advance, it's a quick turn around. We have done that in Charleston and Puerto Rico the year before. So from a coaching standpoint I don't see a benefit of having been here before. I think that you're more familiar with what goes on and if that's helpful, it's helpful. But I don't think it helps you win games. I think it's just business as usual preparing your team and getting them to play well.

**Q. With such a limited window of time to get acquainted to a foreign opponent do you really focus in on Illinois's big wins or do you kind of get a mix?**

COACH BOYLE: We look kind of more at their recent games and they have had some big wins in there, obviously. You look at some of their close games where you know how teams that have played them close. But we have looked more at the last five, six games more so than going back to an early game. We watched the Gonzaga game, because obviously that was a good game for the Illini and beat a heck of a team. But mostly the more recent games is what we dial into. Not worrying about who it is. And you also look to see teams that play like you defensively and maybe offensively and see what worked or what didn't work.

**Q. Talk about what you have seen in Brandon Paul and sort of, he seems to be some games he just dominates and other games he's not necessarily the scoring guy. What do you see from him and how do you try and deal with him?**

COACH BOYLE: Well, he's a heck of a player, obviously. He's got great size. I think that one of the things you see with a guy like Brandon Paul is he's the focal point of everybody's defense. So I think that's why you maybe when you see him play every game you feel like, oh, there's some, maybe some inconsistencies there. Well, there's every defense that is going up against Illinois has got Brandon Paul in the forefront of their mind. And we're no different.

So he's a big guard. Again, he can put the ball on the floor. He can shoot the ball from deep. And they run a lot of screens for him. You got to be there on his catch and understand that he's a big shot taker and he's a big shot maker. He's going to make some tough shots and we know that. It's just we have got to try to make him work for everything that he gets and make sure everything comes over our hands.

**Q. How does your Kansas background shape you as a coach and I understand you used to shut down Bill Self at Oklahoma State.**

COACH BOYLE: (Laughter.) Yeah, Bill and I always joke that he liked playing against me because I was the only guy he could guard and I liked playing against him because he was the only guy I could guard. So we played against each other for four years.

But my Kansas background helped me having played two years for Ted Owens who recruited me there, really prepared me well and then obviously Larry Brown came in. It's helped me in my coaching background in dealing with young men. And usually when you take over a program, I took one over at Northern Colorado, as a head coach, and now at the University of Colorado three years ago, it helps you understand what young men are going through when they go through a coaching change. That's helped me a lot. It's given me a great understanding that Coach Owens, as successful as he was, and Coach Brown, as successful as he's been, Hall of Fame coach, two totally different personalities, two totally different styles. How you can be successful being yourself in this business. And it's given me a great background.

But I think the best advice I think I was given and I think Coach Brown gave it to me when I got this job was, just be Tad Boyle, be who you are, don't try to be somebody else. But those basketball minds, along with guys like Mark Turgeon and people that I've worked with coming up as assistant coach have helped form me.

**Q. Were you a bit slow?**

COACH BOYLE: I was slow. Yeah, I wasn't a step slow, I was two steps slow. (Laughter.)

THE MODERATOR: All right. Thank you.

## **Locker Room Quotes**

### **Freshman F Xavier Johnson**

**On being a team on the rise, how important is it to make a statement:** It is definitely huge. We are a young team with a lot of inexperienced players, but we are also learning at the same time. As a freshman I am learning as well and I really enjoy this program so far.

**On feeling any pressure with the buzz around his team:** Not really. We are just going to go out and execute the game plan.

**On thoughts about playing in front of a big crowd:** I don't think it is because we have played a lot of big games and should be just another one.

### **Colorado F Andre Roberson**

**On what his family thinks of his first game so close to home:** They think it's great. They were planning on going wherever I was going but it is awesome that it is in state and that they can bring friends and family.

**On thoughts about getting so close to Sweet 16 last year that the team has a vision to try and get there this year:** Oh definitely. We definitely have a vision for that. That is what we are building upon and trying to take a step forward. I feel like we have been doing a good job of that so far and we are going to try and take it to the next step every year. I feel like we can make it to the Sweet 16 and maybe even further.

### **Junior C/F Shane Harris-Tunks**

**On thoughts about making it to the NCAA Tournament in back-to-back season since 1963:** It is just awesome to see where this program has come in such a short period of time. From not even making a postseason my freshman year to going to back-to-back NAAs is just a testament to how hard people have worked in this program.

**On how they prepped for a team they haven't played recently:** I mean it is just like at the start of any preseason, you play teams but every team changes. Even within the season, teams changed so it is just the same preparation every time.

### **Sophomore G Askia Booker**

**On Colorado's style of play:** We play a lot of defense. We are a transition team. You're going to see some dunks here and there and some flashy plays. We have great guards.

**On taking it a step further and advancing:** To set the high standard that we want to set for this school we have to win the first game. We don't want to take a step back. Last year we won a tough game, we didn't win by a lot but we competed and we won. In the second game we were neck and neck in the first half but didn't come out in the second half on top and we lost. This year, if we could advance to the next round, we will be just fine.

**On making it to Tournament:** We have played some great teams this year and took some tough losses that might have taken us out of the top 25, but we made it to the NCAA Tournament. Ever since I've been here we've made it and we haven't let down the program yet and hopefully we don't.

### **Sophomore G Spencer Dinwiddie**

**On Illinois' 3-point shooting:** When you think about this year's Illinois team, you think about 3-point shooting and Brandon Paul. Those are the two things that come to your mind instantly. The third thing would be D.J. Richardson. Those are the three things you want to stop.

**On adversity over year:** I think any adversity bonds a team together and that's kind of what happened. The Arizona game was a big struggle for us and it was a mentally tough thing for us to go through. We wanted to continue to build on signature wins and we had just come off nonconference games where we had played so well and we thought we would open up conference with a very big win away from our home court. To have it taken away, in retrospect, I think it did kind of hurt us and put us into a little bit of a funk.

### **Freshman F Josh Scott**

**On mindset of Colorado:** Win this next game. That's it.

**On preparation:** We're getting shots up and running plays. We're coming in with the mindset that it's going to be a tough game but we can win it.

**On keys to winning:** We're going to have to rebound and play defense. We do that and we've done that all year. That's been the statement of our game.

-COLORADO-