

**JUNIOR GUARD ASKIA BOOKER****On what it's like to have you teammate tell everyone at Pac-12 Media Day that you guys are the "cream of the crop:"**

"It means a lot, but at the same time we can't think about that kind of stuff. It really doesn't matter where anyone ranks us, or where anyone puts us in the polls. We're just going to have to come out game-by-game, and you know, win. Take one game at a time, and practice-by-practice and that's what matters."

On whether or not the team feels like there is a "target on their backs:" "Without a doubt, you know everybody is going to give us their best shot you know since we are picked top three in the league. Everybody is going to want to give us their best shot and compete and play hard against us, but at the same time, like I said, it is not going to matter when we get on the floor we are just going to play game-by-game, and practice-by-practice."

On getting praise from people on campus and around town with high expectations: "I don't know about too many pats on the back, but there are high expectations. You know you talk to certain people and they're [fans] really excited about the season. They want to come out and watch, and they're hoping that we go further than we did in the past. They're definitely ready for this year."

On the key to getting to the next level this year: "The key is to get the freshmen and the guys that have not played, the redshirt freshmen, on track fast. If we can do that. then I think we can be good as anybody in the country. They're so talented and they're going to be able to contribute to this team, so once they get on track we will be just fine."

On whether or not staying grounded is a problem for this year's team: "Sometimes. You know sometimes we do get caught up in what the media says, and we do get caught up in rankings. People think sometimes guys on this team think good of themselves; you know that we are good. But then you know coach [Tad Boyle] keeps us grounded at practice by telling us we are not that good, just yet. Not that we can't be but that we aren't just yet, and that we have to defend and rebound to be good."

On Askia Booker and Spencer Dinwiddie stepping in and helping their teammates to stay grounded: "Oh, without a doubt. Sometimes we have to put guys in check, whether it is verbally or setting an example physically on the court. Either way it goes, Spencer and I, are going to have to set the tempo for this team, and keep everybody grounded and on accord."

On-going from having a team that was trying to get the top guys, to a team that is trying to defend a new upper-level status:

"Well seriously, we don't know what it's like to defend that yet. You know, the "top of the crop." We don't know how it is yet. We don't know what everybody's best shot is going to look like. We don't know what they're going to throw at us. Spencer, Josh, and I have seen some of what they're going to throw at us but we don't really know yet. We haven't faced the talent we're going to see just yet. But we know that we are going to get everybody's best shot, and we're going to be prepared."

On seeing the "hype" centered around Colorado this year when he committed to Colorado: "I didn't notice it right away. I noticed it once we won't the Pac-12 Championship. That Spencer and I would probably put the team on our backs once Carlon Brown, Nate Tomlinson, and Austin Dufault left. We had to get better in the summer and to come back and lead the team, and I think we've done a pretty good job since then."

On how his jump shot has improved for the upcoming season: "It's more consistent. That's number one. I watched a lot of film this summer and I wasn't holding my follow through and I was rushing shots. I did a lot of studying over the summer, and you know I made sure that I'm holding my follow through, that I'm taking the right should at the right time, and not forcing the issue."

-more-

On younger teammates he is impressed with: “Jaron Hopkins. He’s so athletic. He’s a chore to guard at times since he is so shifty with the ball. Dustin Thomas as well, he’s so good and he is physical. He can rebound the basketball, score in the post, and he can shoot the three and that makes him dangerous.”

On missing Andre Roberson this season: “I miss him a lot. He’s a double-double machine and you wish you could have that every year on this team. And hopefully someone on this team this year can fill in that role. Maybe not replace him, but fill in that role and get a double-double every night.”

On being excited for the upcoming season: “I’m beyond excited. I’ve sat out for the last three weeks and I haven’t been able to practice with me team. I’ve been here but I haven’t been able to physically practice, and today was my first time to run the offense and touch a ball so I feel pretty good.”

JUNIOR GUARD SPENCER DINWIDDIE

ON HIS PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TEAM: “Well, it falls on everybody that came back from last year. We finished sixth, we only made it to the second round of our conference tournament, and we lost in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. You know, it was an honor to make it there, it was great. All in all we had a successful season by reaching the NCAA Tournament, but it’s not like we won any type of championship. Everybody understands that we haven’t done a ton, you know we have a lot of talent coming. It’s great to be ranked third but we still understand that we haven’t really accomplished anything until we get on the floor.”

ON KEEPING THE TEAM GROUNDED: “I think as a coach it might be [a challenge] but outside of myself, we don’t have very many people that are even borderline cocky, we have a lot of humble guys and everybody on this team has a story of how they were overlooked and how they had to work hard to get where they are. So, everybody on this team understands the value of hard work.”

ON HIS COMMENT AT MEDIA DAY: “It was spontaneous. Sometimes the media asks me a load of questions and initially I took the approach of being politically correct but now I’m like, if you’re going to serve it up to me, I’m going to knock out of the park.”

ON THE EFFECTS OF HIS COMMENT: “I feel like we already were on a mark. We’re a team that has been doing fairly well, we’ve been picked third, a lot of teams probably look at us as one of those teams that they can knock off, you know. Some teams will look at Arizona and be scared, look at UCLA and be scared, and they’ll look at Colorado at third and be like, we can get those guys. But we look at ourselves, like I said at media day, as the top dog. I mean we have great respect. It’s not to disrespect anyone in the conference, they all have talent. But we want to win the conference, that’s our goal. And we want to win the conference championship. We want to sweep both.”

ON TEAM IMPROVEMENTS: “I think we need to be more efficient on offense, the staple of our teams have been defense. Hopefully we’re going to get on a faster pace, press a little bit by just being a more efficient offensive team, which I don’t think we’ve been the past couple years.”

ON HIS COCKINESS: “I was saying that I am the cocky one that kind of says what he wants to say, everyone else pretty much doesn’t. My whole point in that was just saying that we all understand how hard it was for us. We all have our own story. You know George (King), Tre (Tre’Shaun Fletcher), I’m sure they felt like they should be recruited higher, Jaron (Hopkins) included. And that’s just the freshmen. You know, Josh (Scott) didn’t blow up until late. Me and Askia (Booker) feel under recruited. I mean everybody has their own story and everybody understands that it’s been hard to get to where we are and I don’t think they take it for granted that we’re here.”

ON THE FRESHMEN: “Well I think the overall talent of them is very high so that impresses me. As long as their learning curve is up to speed by the time November 8th hits, then they all have a chance at playing. They are just very talented.”

ON JOSH SCOTT’S WEIGHT GAIN: “Oh, he’s a ton better. I mean you just see him holding his position and being more of a force. He’s been rebounding a lot better, which is going to be key with the loss of Dre (Andre Roberson), and hopefully Wesley (Gordon) can help in that area as well.”

-more-

ON DEFENSE WITHOUT DRE: “No I’m not [concerned]. Like I said to Channel (CBS) 4, Wesley is a little bit different than Dre. He’s a bigger body, 6’ 9”, 230, so he’s not going to move and look like a wing like Dre did. But he’s got a lot of the same team defensive qualities that Dre did. He’s going to block shots from the weak side and he’s a very good rebounder. I think people saw a little bit of that in the scrimmage. You know it wasn’t great basketball, we were kind of running up and down and dunking and having some fun but those weak side block shots and those rebounds are things that he does on a consistent basis.”

ON HOW WESLEY IS DIFFERENT FROM LAST SEASON: “Well he’s more mature, so that’s the biggest thing. He already knows the concepts and the principles that we’re looking for in someone that’s going to play heavy minute. So, last year was big for him. Don’t get me wrong, he still has a long way to go. He’s probably not going to come in and set the world on fire and be a 20 in 10 guy but, he’s going to be very solid for us. He’s going to rebound a lot, he’s going to block shots, he’s going to score, and be a great addition to our team.”

ON HOW WESLEY HANDLED THE REDSHIRT YEAR: “Quite honestly, you’ll have to ask him that question. From what I’ve seen, it was hard initially and then it got easier as it went on. He likes that he did it now but you know, to know his ups and downs during the year, I wouldn’t really know that. You’d have to ask him. I think people will [be surprised by him]. He’s an athlete that we haven’t really had at the fore position, since I’ve been here at least. Even since Coach Williams has been here watching the 2010 team so, I think people will be a little bit surprised by Wesley Gordon.”

ON LAST YEARS HOME COURT RECORD: “I’m extremely proud but we had a couple losses that we shouldn’t have had. Oregon State sticks out in my head on senior night. So, you know we still have a long way to go, like I said. We believe that we have the best home court advantage in the Pac-12 and we want to win all of our games here.”

SOPHOMORE FORWARD JOSH SCOTT

On Getting to the Next Level: “I think we have to grow up fast. We are young, but that’s not an excuse for us. I think we have to pull it together, defense, rebounding, and keep building on what we did last year.”

On the Preseason Pac-12 Ranking: “We don’t talk about it at all. We just go out and play and practice. It’s there, but it’s really far away.

On the Support Around Campus: “It just comes with basketball being on the rise up around here. It’s cool, but honestly we just come to practice and play and it’s not something we discuss within the team or with the coaches at all.”

On Spencer Dinwiddie Announcing Colorado as the “Cream of the Crop:” “Stereotypical Spencer Dinwiddie. I think all of us don’t see Arizona as the cream of the crop. We are competing and we’re out there with them. We split with them 1-2, and should’ve been 2-1 with them last year. We are going to be better this year. They are going to be better this year. The Pac-12 is going to be better this year. It’s up for grabs for anybody. We’re just going to compete every day to get up there.”

On the Target on Colorado’s Back: “Most of us come from high school backgrounds where we were the target. We are used to having a target on our back. It’s just now in college. It is just the same as it was before.”

On Competing Inside with Physical Teams: “Part of me putting on twenty pounds was to help deal with that. We are going to miss Dre [Andre Roberson], but Wesley is bigger than Dre physically. That will help us out with bigger teams. We are really athletic and will have to use that to our advantage this year.”

On Putting on Twenty Pounds: “It was hard. I was eating a lot. I can’t really count how much in one day. I had texts messages from James Hardy [Strength Coach] telling me to go eat, go get a protein shake. I lifted every day. I was sore all summer, but it paid off in the long run. I’m really happy I did it. I probably will do it again this coming summer.”

On Being Physically Ready: “I’m ready to go. I know what to expect going in to this year. I know how the Pac-12 is and how hard it is. We play some good teams in our non-conference schedule. I fell excited and ready. I’m ready to go right now.”

-more-

On Being a Colorado Native in a Golden Year for Basketball: "It's what I came here for. All the six guys that came in the 2012 class kind of thought 'let's start something special here'. We talked a whole lot before we all came up here. You are seeing that come in to play. I think especially being a Colorado kid, I've talked about it [turning the program] when I used to watch Colorado on TV. There were not very many people in the stands what-so-ever. It was kind of pathetic. I remember thinking 'well if only they could get the basketball program going, I would love to have Colorado as an option when they first offered me'. I liked [Coach Tad] Boyle at UNC and everyone liked Boyle. Things just fell in to piece. When they [Colorado] won with Alec [Burks] and Cory [Higgins] it was a no brainer to come to Colorado to help them win."

On the Recruiting Process: "I thought I was going to go out of state. Obviously, that was a long time ago. Boyle came here. I took visits to every college here in state after my freshman year. I met Boyle at UNC and I really liked him. It was UNC for me. Once he went to Colorado, it really interested me. The rest is history I guess."

On Personal Goals: "I would like to make it to the Sweet Sixteen, personally. I'd be happy with anything. Personally, I would like to be All Pac-12 and just build upon what I did last year. That's about it for me."

On Last Year's Performance: "I think I had about 25 good games. With that concussion, I had about a two week period where I was just kind of out of it in terms of playing. I think it showed up a bit and I was tired. I picked it up around the Pac-12 tournament and NCAA's. There was just a two or three week stretch. I think that putting on muscle, I won't have that happen."

On Being Banged Around as a Freshman: "I was playing guys like Colton Iverson and Jeff Withey. There were definitely times that I felt banged around. That's part of my learning experience. It was hard. I had to work to get around people. I'm a little bit bigger, so I can work just as hard, but now I have some extra weight and strength to throw around."

-COLORADO-