



PRE-DRAFT WORKOUTS - JUNE 11, 2008

Tyrone Brazelton, Brian Butch, Mike Green, DeVon Hardin, Nathan Jawai, Sasha Kaun, Kevin O'Connor and Jerry Sloan.

Brian Butch – Forward/Center (Wisconsin)

On the workout

“You always wish you made more shots. You always wish you did some things differently. I thought I came in great shape, and hopefully that’s one of the things they saw. It’s one of the things that I have been working on pretty hard. At Wisconsin we pushed it when we had to push it, but the Big Ten you have to grind it out a little more for some shots.”

On fitting into this system

“It’s not up to me about how I feel about it but how the coaches and the GMs feel. My biggest concern is to come in here and play as hard as I did, and I thought I did that today. Give them a good look at what I can do.”

On the importance of these workouts to boost draft stock

“These workouts are so important. A lot of us are in the same position, and we really don’t know what to expect. We don’t know exactly what they are looking for. For us it is to come in here and play hard and play our game. Show that we have improved since the end of the season and that we can do some different things that what you did at school. When you’re at school every one of us had to fit into a system. When you get to the next level they have a system you need to fit into. That is a huge thing that they also know you can fit into a system.

Difference between the Orlando Pre-draft camp and individual workouts

“The big difference is you get a chance to come in here and really talk to the coaches and get a feel for how they like you. You also get to come and see the city a little bit. I had never been to Salt Lake City before so it was a great thing to see. It’s a beautiful community and someplace that I would definitely love to play.”

Nathan Jawai – Center (Australia)

On watching the NBA in Australia

“I watch a few games, but mainly on tape not live. Especially the finals when it is really intense and I want to watch. It has been hard to get some of the NBA games.”

On advice from other Australian players like Andrew Bogut

“I spoke to him over email. The only advice he gave me is exactly what I said before, the change of lifestyle, and how this whole thing is business. Do my best. It was good advice from Andrew.

On his junior college experience

“I came and played at Midland College in Texas for about four to five months. I had knee surgery when I was there, torn meniscus. I went back home for holiday and my assistant coach had a look at my knee. I couldn’t run so he said to try and play professional in Australia and try and make it from there. I have done so far and it has been a great dream.”

On other scheduled workouts

“I have been to Seattle, Golden State, and Phoenix. After this I go to Texas teams, San Antonio and Houston. Then I head to Indiana for a bit.”

On his game

“Physical. Balanced. Rebounding. I am getting better at that area. I am more physical down low. I can shoot up to 15-18 feet. That’s been my biggest improvement since I finished professional is my jump shot. I would say I am step out, big square, face the basket, back to the basket game.”

On the Jazz

“They have built a great team over the past few years. They made the (Western Conference Finals) with Derek Fisher. They have Deron Williams. He is a great player. I have been watching him a fair bit. They like to run the pick and roll with him and Boozer. It has been a great success for the team. That’s why they reach the playoffs.”

On what other teams are looking for

“Most of the teams tell me to change the speed of the game. In Australia it is very different, slow, and the athleticism isn’t as great as it is here. It is mainly trying to get used to the speed of the game. A lot of one-on-one so I have to get my post game a bit better and sharper.”

On the competition level in Australia compared to the NBA

“I would say it is maybe tougher than college. We (have) ex-NBA guys. I got to workout with the national team. I got to go against David Anderson and (Andrew) Bogut. It’s tough and physical. I say it is more physical than college because we are big bodies as well over seven foot. It has been a great experience for me so far. I think it is going to help me fair a bit while I am over here.”

On fitting into the Jazz system

“The pick and roll? We run a lot of pick and roll on our offense. I am easy and I can adjust to any type of play. I am pretty happy with wherever I go. I play defense all the time.”

On being an offensive or defensive player

“I have been a more defensive player than an offensive player. My offense just came along in the last few years. I am happy with the way I am going. I still have a lot more to learn. Defensively I have always been there, but the past few seasons I have tried to work on my offensive game a fair bit. I kind of stopped playing defense, but I am getting back to it right now. I am happy with it.”

Sasha Kaun – Center (Kansas)

On the workout

“Guys went hard. It was good competition to play against. It was a good workout.”

On the importance of these workouts to boost draft stock

“Pretty important, a lot of these teams get to see us on TV and don’t get to see us live. It’s a good opportunity to come and show the coaches and stuff what you can do on the court, what are your strengths and stuff, and kind of just get a chance to meet them face to face and stuff like that. Just in terms of doing what I do best, stuff like that, doing what I need to be doing on the court and not trying to do too much.”

On the feedback from his workouts

“It’s been pretty good, you know, I mean, everyone’s been saying I’ve been playing hard and stuff like that and that’s the most important thing for me. You know, I’m not the most skilled guy, but I feed off hustle players, rebounds, and just play hard.”

On the adjustment from the college to professional level

“How much more physical the games are. Now you’re playing every night against someone who’s just as big and just as strong as you are. The physical aspect of the game.”

On the importance of coming from a winning program

“Winning the National Championship is a big thing and teams like that. The attitude of being a part of a winning program, you know what it takes to win.”

On being from another country

“Sophomore year, I came over at 16. The first two or three months were the toughest, because I had no clue what was going on. After that I kind of picked up a little more and I’m still learning. It’s been seven years.”

DeVon Hardin – Center (California)

On what the Jazz are looking for

“They’re looking for a player to go out there and add to the team in some way. Defensively help out some of the big guys out there. They had mostly big guys here today.”

On the Jazz organization

“I know its 4,500 feet above sea level. It’s a pretty good organization. I haven’t had a chance to do much research on them, but I did get a chance to walk around the facilities while I was here and I was very impressed.”

Thoughts on Coach Sloan

“I actually had a chance to sit down and talk with him. I have a meeting with him in a minute, but I think he’s a pretty cool guy.”

Where he might go in the draft

“(My agent) is doing most of those negotiations and I’m just out here working hard. I’ve got enough stress. I’m just trying to keep it to a minimum. I’ll worry about that stuff come June 26th.”

On pulling out of last years draft

“I think it was partly just because I wasn’t sure of my position in the NBA, and where I would have played a role this year. So I felt like it would have been a better decision to go back to college that year. We’ll never know”

Tyrone Brazelton – Guard (Western Kentucky)

On his chances of playing in the NBA

“I heard (my changes) good. We’re trying the workouts. I should be able to make it.”

On the workout

“I think I had a pretty good workout. We went through a lot of shooting. The altitude kind of hit us, but it’s something we had to adjust to.”

On the feedback from the Jazz

“We really haven’t got feedback yet. We’re about to sit down and have meetings with them. I think it’s going to be positive. I think I showed what I can do. I shot the ball pretty well today.”

On his strengths

“I think I bring leadership and defense. I can apply defensive pressure on an offensive team and I can relieve minutes.”

Mike Green – Guard (Butler)

On feedback from the Jazz

“No, it’s weird. You don’t get very much feedback. I’d rather have it that way. That way you come in, work hard, and leave nothing to chance. Feedback is very minimum though.”

On other workouts

“This is number seven for me. I’d rather be on the road than in the house. Portland, Chicago, Cleveland, Houston... I’ve been to Detroit. I hope I’m not missing anyone, but it’s been seven. This is number seven. It’s a grind and sometimes it’ll be like that.”

On fitting in with the Jazz

“Good character first of all. They have good character players, and definitely the ability to be smart. Being a true point guard helps me out a lot. A lot of teams don’t have true point guards. The Jazz are definitely not one of those teams, but a lot of teams don’t have true point guards and that’s why I fit in.”

Jerry Sloan – Head Coach

On Nathan Jawai

“He’s big. I thought he worked hard. I know he’s a young player. Let’s take a look and see who’s there and what’s there ahead of him. I’m sure Kevin would be able to analyze that much better than I can.”

On seeing players workout live and on film

“It’s totally different for us. We see players in person. We see them out here on the floor and how they react to situations. It’s always the ability to hear our coaches talk to players and see how they pick things up. Some guys don’t hear well. It’s always interesting because it’s hard to coach a guy that can’t hear.”

On tailoring the workout

“Things that we’re interested in is our big guys. Can they catch the ball? Can they rebound the basketball? Can they play inside with a little bit of pressure on them? Can they play off the pick and roll? We do a great deal as long as Deron Williams is here. He’s a pretty good pick and roll player, so we see how guys could play possibly in situations like that.”

On the importance of players listening to the coaching staff

“They may not get the opportunity to play enough to be able to improve. If they listen and go out there on the floor and try to do what the coaches tell them to do, then they have a chance to get better. We have a lot of guys drafted way down the line that have gotten better. That’s the bottom line. We have to have guys try to play within a team concept. I don’t see any of these guys being able to take the ball and try to go jump over the top of somebody and score. So how are they going to play? They have to be able to listen a little bit. Not that we’re always right. We just have to have some sort of work order to play.”

On the pre-draft workouts

“This is the first one I’ve seen. We only had the one workout and I wasn’t here. I think there are some guys here that if they work, and try to do some of the things that they have to improve on, I never say no to anybody. There’s always a chance players can play if they’re willing to work and do the things to become better. We’ve had a lot of guys that have gotten better because they worked hard. But if you don’t work hard, that doesn’t give you much chance to get better.”

Kevin O’Connor – General Manager

On Nathan Jawai

“He’s a young man that is obviously from Australia and played in Australia. We got tape on him and contacted his agent about midway through the year. We realized he would be coming over during this process. He is intriguing obviously because of his size. When you look at the length of his arms and the size of his hands he is certainly not a finished product, but he is somebody that is intriguing.”

How pre-draft workouts fit into the big picture of the draft

“I think that when you look at Sasha Kaun that has played 130 games, we’ve all seen him a gazillion times on TV, what you try and do is put the whole package together. If you really want to know the truth, the interview is probably more important than the workout. The 130 tapes don’t lie. We know who he is and isn’t, and we try and focus on who he is. We evaluate it off that much more so than a 25 minute or 30 minute workout. You do want to see how they take coaching, and how quick they pick up on a drill. It is all part of it. I couldn’t put it into a percentage on most of them. With some of the kids that you don’t know as much about then maybe it equates a little bit more. Guys that are four year guys, and I think we had three or four of them here, they are kind of finished products as far as what we have in a hopper as far as what they do. The interview process is as important as anything for us.”

On whether workouts can determine if a player is not a good fit

“I would hope that we wouldn’t bring somebody in if it showed up that quickly. I hope we would have said; ‘let’s pass on that’. The most important thing is that the guy has to have talent to play in the league. We can go back and forth about character and everything else, but if he doesn’t have enough talent he is not going to play in the league. That’s an evaluation that you have to have. The second part is that you have to be able to be coached at some point in time, and that’s part of the consideration too.”

On whether Tyrone Brazelton was well known before the NCAA Tournament

“He was always on the map. He was telling me he visited Utah State coming out of junior college. He was always somebody that you looked at and appreciated, and recognized his quickness. When you step up on a big stage and play well, that puts a little feather in your cap.”

On the difference between four year college players and younger players in the interview process

“From the younger guys you see a work ethic that maybe sometimes you don’t see. Younger guys and very young guys that are in the draft generally are pretty talented. When you see older guys in the draft maybe there’s an issue with something that they don’t do. We try and look at the issue of what they do. You see guys that take coaching better, understand what the workout drill is, and know our DNA of what the Utah Jazz is and isn’t. They’re here for a job interview, and I think they’re more prepared for the job interview. Maybe they’re not quite as talented, but they’re prepared for the job interview.”

On the talent and work ethic of younger players

“It’s repetition and competition against better players. When you continue to do that you wind up learning how to work harder. I think guys in the pros do that.”

On Brian Butch's perimeter shooting

"If you look at his numbers he is a good shooter. Bo Ryan has done a fabulous job (at Wisconsin). Every year he wins 25 games and nobody recognizes him. If you look at the talent he has, the sum is a lot better than the parts so give him credit for that. Brian is a guy that steps out on the floor and spreads the floor a little bit. He can make a shot."