



## **PRE-DRAFT WORKOUTS - JUNE 15, 2008**

**D. J. White, Marreese Speights,  
Ronald Steele, Johnnie Bryant,  
Jason Thompson and Jerry Sloan.**

### **D. J. White – Forward (Indiana)**

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#### **On pre-draft workouts**

"It's been a long process. This has been my ninth workout so far, with a couple more to go."

#### **On staying in college all four years**

"Things worked well for me. We had a rocky season this year, but as far as individual I think things shaped out well for me."

#### **On how he assesses himself against others during workouts**

"Do what I always do, play hard. Every time I step on the court guys know when they face me I am going to give 110 percent. A lot of the guys are the same skill level. It's just about determination and coming out every day and playing hard."

#### **On how the Jazz workout compares to others**

"They are about the same. You get kind of the same things at workouts. Some things are different. After you do a couple you know what to expect going into them. It was a good workout today, and we competed well against each other."

#### **On strengths and weaknesses**

"Positives right now are on the offensive end. I think I can mix it up well on the post. I think I can score well with the best of them. My jumper from 15 to 18 feet I improved over the years. My rebounding and toughness have helped me out a lot. Some things I need to work on a lot are my quickness and foot speed. I was doing that before the draft process started. Those are some of the things I look at right now."

### **Marreese Speights – Forward/Center (Florida)**

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#### **On coming to Utah and the workout**

"When I came here yesterday I expected way different. This is kind of like a city, I expected cows. It's a pretty good town. Kind of like the workout today you have good people around you. It's really good out here."

#### **On the coaching staff**

"They are really good guys. Coach is always cheering you on to do better instead of just sit over there and look at me. I enjoyed it."

#### **On staying in the draft**

"When I was going to do workouts I was feeling better about playing against other players."

#### **On draft ranking and where he falls**

"That's why I went through this process, to see my ability against another big guy who is trying to get to the same level I am. I am doing pretty well at that. That is why I stayed in the draft."

### **On his strengths**

"I am an athletic big and can shoot the ball. I bring a lot of energy."

### **On leaving college for the draft**

"I loved the college experience. I was ready for a new challenge. I tested the waters and it felt good so I stayed in the draft."

## **Ronald Steele – Guard (Alabama)**

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### **On the feedback he has received from teams**

"Hopefully I get a lot. I'm kind of going back and forth, but I'm confident I made the right decision."

### **On going pro**

"This whole process has been good for me, having the chance to come work out, just to see what it's like at the next level. Meeting coaches like Coach Sloan, and getting the whole NBA experience."

### **On the positives and negatives from the workout**

"It's a different level. The intensity and guys are really good. Learning how to come with it every day because you've got guys who can play."

## **Johnnie Bryant – Guard (Utah)**

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### **On hopes of playing in the NBA**

"I'm going to keep pushing. It's business. You've just got to play where you can. If it's here or overseas, I've got no problem with that."

### **On the workouts**

"They just want to see if you can shoot off the screen, shoot off the dribble, pick and rolls, and defense. A lot of dribbling drills. They just want to test you to see what type of fitness you're in and evaluate you that way. I feel pretty good. I have a great group of guys helping me get ready for these workouts. I've got a great strength guy so that's helping me a lot."

### **Thoughts on the other guys at the workout**

"D.J. White is very athletic. Ronald Steele is a nice, quick guard. They're very talented. At this level all of them can play. You've just got to separate yourself as best you can. You can't just pinpoint one guy. You just have to evaluate what you have. On draft day a lot of things come up. Some guy might get picked who you thought would be a sleeper. It just all depends on draft day."

## **Jason Thompson – Forward (Rider)**

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### **On the workout and the Jazz**

"The workout was good. I got up and down a little bit. I worked out with a couple of guys I've worked out with before, Marreese Speights and D.J. White. Workouts have been good. I am just getting used to the travel. Every team has their own style, and it's good to know their system. Then if they draft me I'm a little bit ahead of the game."

### **On Utah's style**

"It seems like they like to run up and down. They've got a great point guard in Deron (Williams), a solid big man in Carlos (Boozer), and then they've got a defensive guy in (Andrei) Kirilenko. They're an up and down real defensive team and that's why they've been real deep in the playoffs for the past couple years."

## **On what he can off the Jazz**

"A little bit of versatility. I can step outside and shoot, defend, and establish a post game as well. When I come in here in the beginning, I just want to come here and do whatever it takes for Coach Sloan. Just see what happens from there. I can block shots. I can even step out and guard one of the premiere threes if possible. I have versatility like that, and can come in and stop a post player as well."

## **On his strengths and weakness**

"Just probably establish a core. Just get stronger with my lower half of the body. I'm hard on myself. Coach may come in and say I have a lot of strengths, but I think with a certain coach and coaching style that they can even help me out with my strength as well. I have to work on everything in my game, and coaches are going to come and tell me the specifics. Probably work on my low core so I can establish deep in the post."

## **The jump from Rider to NBA workouts**

"It feels good. It's not that much of a jump. Obviously college and the NBA are two different things, but I've worked out hard for this. I experienced LeBron James Skills Academy Camp and Amare's (Stoudemire). I played against a tough schedule with the Old Spice Classic where I played against top teams and I fared well against them. I know coming in from a mid-major school I need to prove myself every day, but that just motivates me even more."

## **Who he compares himself to in the NBA**

"I try to compare my game to KG (Kevin Garnett) a little bit. I love his energy offensively and defensively. If he gets a dunk he's screaming. Also a little bit of Rasheed Wallace with his inside-out, but definitely not his attitude though."

## **On if he considered entering the draft last year**

"Not really. I knew I needed a little bit more experience. It was good to know I was getting scouted real hard. I knew I only had one more year and it was good to get my degree. It's a great feeling. Now I don't need to think about going back to school, no more eligibility."

## **Jerry Sloan – Head Coach**

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### **On what he looks for**

"We talk to Kevin (O'Connor) and Walt (Perrin) about the players, and try to get a background and watch some films of them. Then we get a chance to see them in person. It gives us a different outlook on them."

### **On looking at players who focus on defense**

"There's some guys where that may be the strong suit. Some guy might be a great offensive player so you've got to be interested in who they are. We try to project that into what we do. We're always interested in defense, but are you trying to say a good defensive guard, a good defensive forward, a good defensive center?"

### **On improving interior defense**

"That'd be nice, but you can't always get the person you want when you're looking at the draft. You've got to take the best player available. You may say we've got this guy that's going to be a center, but maybe he's not good enough to play. You've got to get a guy that can play. That enhances your program a lot more than a guy that can't play, and it helps build a franchise. Just taking players by position is a frightening thing. I think you make decisions based on what will give a guy the best chance to be here 10 years from now."

### **On what player would be the best fit for the #23 pick**

"Any guy that can catch the basketball and shoot it. That's a skill. A guy that can run the floor? That's a skill. All those things have to be taken into consideration as to how you would project them as part of being a player on your team."

### **On the importance of character**

"It means a lot. If a guy has a questionable character, he's here for two weeks, and then he's gone to jail. I don't think that helps us get a better basketball player."

### **On judging character**

"You get an idea of who they are a little bit, and that's part of the process of checking into the guys background to see where he is, what his thoughts are, and what happened to him. That's just part of the process. You try to find out as much as you can. Some of these (players) it's something you might slip up, and it's hard to know everything. You try to get as much information as you can and try to project that into how will a guy work. The bottom line is will a guy work. It doesn't make a difference what skills he has out here today. If he doesn't work to make himself better, he's going to be the same guy 15 years from now and probably not good enough. We've had a lot of good players come in here and play well, second round draft choices, that have made themselves better because they worked hard."

### **On Jason Thompson**

"He shoots the ball pretty well. He ran the floor pretty well for a big long guy. It doesn't make any difference where you play. A lot of guys play in division two schools. It doesn't make any difference where you play. People find you if you're a good enough player because every team has a workout and usually those guys have the potential. There's a lot of background work already accomplished by the time they've come here being seniors in college. The younger guys, that's a little bit of a different story."

### **On if it is better to draft players from bigger schools**

"No. Not as far as looking at talent. If you're going to do that, you're going to get burned a few times. There are some guys that have played at smaller schools that have done pretty well. Maybe better than guys at big schools that they had to compete against. I don't think teams take that into consideration, unless they see a guy has tapped out at his talent level."

### **On looking at someone from a smaller school**

"Kevin does a great job. I don't do that stuff. It's not part of my job. We look and try to evaluate as much as we can, but when we see guys one time and you've got to make a total evaluation, that's impossible. We don't have the time to watch films, but to see them one time. They've been seeing them for four years, some of these guys. They've been watching guys coming out of college, workouts, all-star games, and all that stuff is to their advantage. Plus, if you're out there scouting, you've got two or three guys scouting to see them play. I don't know who they are a lot of times until they come out here."

### **On the workout today and the possible impact in the NBA**

"That's a pretty tough situation to try and judge them. I've only seen them one time. Kevin (O'Connor) and Walt (Perrin) have much better ability to tell you more about that than I would. I like their athletic ability and their work habit. But I don't see them running plays. A lot of times we put them out and start running plays and trying to know the intricacies of basketball. We don't have time to do all that here. Sometimes guys start doing that and then they lock up and you try to get them out of that and it takes awhile. You have to go back and watch and see what they did in college."

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