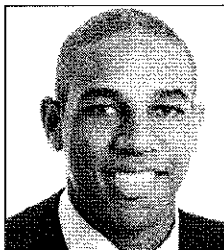




XAVIER HENRY
KANSAS



Xavier Henry

Position: Guard
Height/Weight: 6-6 (1.98 m)/ 220 (99.8 kg)
Birthdate: March 15, 1991 (Gent, Belgium)
High School: Putnam City (Oklahoma City)
College: Kansas

Season	G	GS	FGM	FGA	PCT	FTM	FTA	PCT	REB	AST	STL	BL	PTS	AVG
2009-10	36	36	162	354	.458	90	115	.783	157	53	54	18	483	13.4

Three-point field goals: 69-for-165 (.418).

An early entry candidate for the 2010 NBA Draft.

Career Highlights: Chosen Big 12 All-Freshman Team and All-Big 12 Honorable Mention in 2009-10. A freshman All-America by Collegeinsider.com and FoxSports.com, and a mid-season candidate for the Wooden Award. Competed for the USA Junior Select Team in the Nike Hoop Summit as a high school senior.

Freshman (2009-10): Averaged 13.4 points to rank second on Kansas and 18th in the Big 12. Also posted 4.4 rebounds and 1.5 steals per game (eighth in the Big 12) and shot 41.8 percent from three-point territory. Named All-Big 12 Honorable Mention, Big 12 All-Freshman Team, USBWA District VI and a Wooden Award Midseason Candidate (top 30). Earned Phillips 66 Big 12 Rookie of the Week three times. Led the Jayhawks in scoring in 11 games and made multiple three-pointers in 21-of-36 contests. Erupted for a career-high 31 points on 10-of-15 shooting, 7-of-9 from the free-throw line and 4-of-5 from three-point range vs. La Salle. Totaled 27 points on 8-of-12 shooting from the field and 5-of-8 from three-point range in 24 minutes in his collegiate debut vs. Hofstra. Registered 24 points on 9-of-16 shooting and 4-of-7 from three-point range vs. Colorado. Collected 23 points on 9-of-13 shooting vs. Oklahoma. Tallied 18 points on 8-of-11 shooting and 3-of-5 from three point range vs. Oakland. Totaled 18 points in 21 minutes on 5-of-10 three-point shooting vs. Alcorn State.

High School: Led Putnam City High School in Oklahoma City to the 6A state championship in 2009, averaging 28.3 points, 6.7 rebounds, 2.7 steals and 2.1 assists per game. Scored a team-high 22 points for the USA Junior Select Team in a 97-89 loss to the World Select Team at the 2009 Nike Hoop Summit. A McDonald's and Parade All-American and two-time Gatorade Player of the Year for Oklahoma. Averaged 26.7 points and 7.2 rebounds his junior season of high school.

Strengths: Excellent outside shooter. Great height for a shooting guard and possesses a strong physical build. High basketball IQ.

Personal: Brother, C.J., was a freshman walk-on teammate on the Jayhawks and played several seasons of professional minor league baseball. Father, Carl, played for KU coach Larry Brown and was an All-Big Eight First Team selection as a Kansas senior. Played professionally in Belgium, where Xavier was born. Mother, Barbara, also played basketball at the university. Uncle, Joe Adkins, played basketball at Oklahoma State and aunt, Vickie Adkins, competed at Washington.



Posted on Wed, Apr. 07, 2010

KU's Henry opens up as he exits for NBA

By J. BRADY McCOLLOUGH
The Kansas City Star

LAWRENCE | This was supposed to be predictable. Xavier Henry was going to declare for the 2010 NBA draft. He was going to flash his aw-shucks teenage smile. He was going to thank some people for helping him accomplish his dream. And then he was going to get up from his seat and leave Kansas behind after one college season just like everybody figured he would all along.

On Wednesday, Henry did all of these things, yet he couldn't have been more unpredictable. Henry, who could have easily been misconstrued this season as an aloof 18-year-old waiting on his NBA payday, cried often while explaining his decision. He battled a runny nose and talked about his teammates and just how strong relationships can become during only one year in a special place.

"I think for the people that really know me," Henry said, "they knew it'd be a tough decision either way. They know I love people, and they know once I start bonding with people that it's really hard for me to let go."

For those outside of Henry's circle, his words felt revelatory, as if Henry had waited for his last official day as a KU basketball player to introduce himself. But for his teammates and coaches, who showed their support of his decision by attending the announcement, he was just being Xavier.

"What you saw today was 'X,'" KU coach Bill Self said. "That's what we see all the time. You just don't see it during the 40 minutes in the game

"He's very, very, very emotional. His cover-up sometimes to hide the emotion is just to smile and just kind of be noncommittal.

"But he's very emotional. Some guys you can tell what they're thinking by their appearance, and to me he was pretty stone-faced for the most part.

"He wasn't a rah-rah guy. Some people may have thought he wasn't enjoying himself as much as he was. I think he really loves it here."

Henry said he was undecided about leaving for much of the last few weeks. Self said it made him feel good to know that Henry, who said last summer that he considered playing professionally in Europe for a year because he didn't want to take classes, ended up struggling with the decision.

Still, Henry's destiny was to become the first player in KU history to declare for the draft after his freshman season and Self's first "one-and-done" player.

Henry was not the difference-maker on the way to a national championship that many hoped he would be, but he did average 13.4 points per game, placing him 13 points behind Danny Manning as the No. 2 freshman scorer in school history. Henry started every game for a team that went 33-3 and won the Big 12 regular season and tournament titles. It certainly appears that Kansas got something out of him.

And ultimately, Henry made the decision to turn pro because he felt like he had gotten enough out of Kansas.

"I think Coach prepared me as well as he can," Henry said. "He kept me confident throughout the whole season even when I went through slumps. He got my mind-set ready to be able to play with anybody. I think he did a great job doing that. I'm confident going in, and I want to go in there and kill it."

Henry said that he's been told he could go anywhere from the eighth pick to the 20th pick. No matter where he goes, he'll feel much more ready for the NBA experience than he would have a year ago.

"It helped me grow up," Henry said. "I'm thankful for that. I think I'm more prepared now than I really would have been in high school from a work-ethic standpoint and from a mind-set standpoint. That's what I gotta go

into the world with."

Henry was thinking bigger than basketball on Wednesday. When asked about on-the-court accomplishments and memories, he often steered the conversation to the overall college experience.

"Honestly, I would rather be remembered for the person I was off the court, the fun-loving kid," Henry said. "I'm just a kid. I'm always smiling. I'm as nice as can be."

Nobody ever doubted that Henry was a nice kid. But because of his original signing with Memphis, his flirtation with Kentucky and his family's intention for him to reach the NBA as soon as possible, people naturally wondered how much he wanted to be in Lawrence. It seems he had no problem selling Self.

"I've told 'X' this: If my son would grow up and be like him from a spirit standpoint and a heart standpoint, then my wife and I would be ecstatic," Self said. "Because he has about as good a spirit and as good a heart as any kid I've ever coached. He is a pleaser. He wants to do what's right. He wants people to like him. He wants to make others happy."

Self expects C.J. Henry to return next season

•Kansas redshirt freshman walk-on guard C.J. Henry sat next to his younger brother, Xavier, as Xavier discussed his decision to enter the NBA draft on Wednesday. C.J. was asked how Xavier's departure would affect his status with the team, but he declined to answer.

"I'm not here to discuss anything about me," said C.J., who missed the last half of the season recovering from a back injury.

Self said he expected C.J. to return for his sophomore year.

"I was a little surprised he didn't touch on it," Self said. "He's excited about next year. Things can always change, but he's excited about what's going on with our program. He's out there busting his butt trying to get 100 percent healthy and get his rhythm."

Other early entrees

•Five players from Kentucky led a slew of other underclassmen who declared for the NBA draft. Freshman All-Americans John Wall and DeMarcus Cousins, junior forward Patrick Patterson and freshmen Eric Bledsoe and Daniel Orton all plan to enter the draft.

Cincinnati freshman Lance Stephenson, who once considered attending KU, Ohio State junior Evan Turner and Florida junior Alex Tyus also will leave school early.

Xavier sophomore Jordan Crawford, who shined against Kansas State in the NCAA Tournament, and Dayton junior Chris Wright both will explore the draft but won't hire an agent, leaving open the possibility that they could return. Players have until May 8 to withdraw from the draft.

To reach J. Brady McCollough, e-mail jmccollough@kcstar.com or follow him at twitter.com/BradyMcCollough | Staff and wire reports

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Life is good for Henry family

By BILL REITER
The Kansas City Star

Carl Henry stood and let his long arms stretch as high as they could go. All around him and throughout the Sprint Center, Kansas fans clapped and screamed with the intensity of knowing, beyond any doubt, the Big 12 tournament was theirs.

It was a pretty good moment to be the parent of a pair of Kansas basketball players — star freshman Xavier Henry and his older brother C.J.

"I won it when I was here at Kansas, and my son has too," said Carl, who in 1984 led KU in scoring as it won the Big Eight tournament.

Forget that Xavier Henry scored only four points. Or that C.J., a walk-on, has hardly sniffed the court this season. Or that, after comments Carl Henry made last summer, Xavier and C.J. almost never made it to Lawrence at all.

"It was close — really close," Carl said about his sons almost playing somewhere else after a controversy erupted over comments he made to The Star, including that Xavier, one of the nation's top recruits, might have in an interest playing in Europe rather than at Kansas.

"That's how it works sometimes. Sometimes you stay, and sometimes you leave."

All around him were the rewards for his sons' decision to stick with KU: A dominant team cutting down the nets, a tradition steeped in crimson and blue that was now theirs and the promise to play deep into March.

"It's just wonderful," said their mother, Barbara, who played for the Jayhawks' women's team.

Carl stopped for a photograph with fans. Then another. Below, Xavier climbed onto a ladder and eyed greedily his portion of the net.

"I feel good for my son," Carl said. "He showed no emotion through all the things that happened. He just played."

Two rows down, Barbara beamed. A mother can't explain how much she loves her children — only another mother can understand — so to try and express how it felt to have come from the controversy of June to this moment in March left her smiling and trying to find the words.

"It makes it sweet," she said. "It was hard. It was. But our kids wanted to come here. And it's been great."

So great, in fact, the very thing that had caused the family so much stress has, in the parents view, shaped Xavier into a better player. So did Xavier's midseason slump, a stretch of games in which it was easy to wonder if the hubbub of June was worth his performance come winter.

"He's very young and he's like everyone else," Barbara said. "He has bad days. But you can do other things that make you a complete player and that's what he's focused on this year — to be more than just a scorer."

Xavier Henry left the floor. In the locker room, between joking with his teammates, he smiled and thought about his up-and-down year.

"(It's not just) today — it was overall, a journey going from day one to boot camp to now," he said. "Figuring out my teammates and coaches, it's been a journey. And it just feels right. I love my team and my teammates. I'm in the right place."

Cutting down those nets, he said, symbolized all the reasons why he was glad to be a Jayhawk.

"We're grateful or this — for the wins," he said. "It's a blessing."

His mother agrees. She can't help but be proud of her son, from how he's played to how he's conducted himself amid the kind of scrutiny that accompanies a future NBA player.

"It was emotional, and they handled it very well," Barbara said. "But it was hard as a parent. People can take it one way or another."

She looked down on the floor. Confetti littered the floor and a No. 1 seed awaits Kansas in the NCAA Tournament. So, too, might an early entry into the NBA draft and a first-round selection for her son. Life was good.

"You can't ask for anything more than this," she said. "Three rings a year, that's what we want. This is the second. Now, we want the third."

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