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Cole Anthony

Prep Profile

Like father, Cole Anthony takes aim at national title

Scott Phillips

As the son of a former college star and NBA veteran, Class of 2019 point guard Cole Anthony already has a lot of eyeballs on him.

While many people are initially drawn to watching the son of former UNLV lead guard Greg Anthony, it doesn't take long to realize that Cole Anthony is talented enough to stand out on his own. In fact, since his freshman year of high school, Cole has been recognized as one of the best high school basketball players in the country.

During the spring, the 6-foot-2 Anthony elevated his play to another level as he went from consensus five-star prospect to the best point guard in his class. The top overall scorer in the prestigious Nike EYBL during the spring, Anthony helped lead the PSA Cardinals to a berth in the Peach Jam. After the spring scoring binge, Anthony continued his positive momentum during June as he was a key player on the USA Basketball U18 team.

Winning a gold medal with USA Basketball during the 2018 FIBA Americas, and making the all-tournament team, Anthony has accomplished everything he set out to do over the past few months.

Now, Anthony has his sights set on potentially being the No. 1 overall prospect in the Class of 2019. Many of his classmates in the national top 10 are big men or jumbo wings. But Anthony has the advanced basketball IQ, and the skill level, to make a push for the top spot.

Anthony credits his relationship with his dad as a big part of his basketball upbringing. While Greg doesn't like to be directly hands-on with his son's day-to-day basketball workouts, he makes an effort to come to all of Cole's major events. The duo has a close relationship when it comes to the passing of basketball wisdom.

"Me and my dad's thing is just seeing how basketball is evolving into a very guard-oriented game," Cole said. "So, you need to be able to shoot. If you can't shoot, you don't really have a place on the floor. So we've been working on my jump shot quite a bit.



Cole Anthony, son of former UNLV star Greg Anthony, is working on his jumper.

And then, just being a person that's easy to play with."

The game has come naturally to Cole during his high school career, as he started playing in the 17U division of the EYBL two years ago as a freshman. Also playing in top national camps and competing in all-star games against older players, Anthony quickly established a reputation as one of the top guards in his class.

Maintaining a spot in the top-10 national rankings throughout high school, the New York native

started to evolve during his junior season. Although Anthony has always been a natural scorer, he developed more of an ability to consistently stretch the floor. The added 3-point ability made Anthony a lethal three-level scorer, as he put up 26.9 ppg in the EYBL this spring.

"It's come a long way," Anthony said. "I'm extremely confident in my jumper now, which is something I couldn't say two years ago. Especially coming in as a freshman playing 17s EYBL. So coming in, working on that jumper, has been a focus."

Playing with USA Basketball allowed Anthony to showcase more of his natural playmaking abilities, since he was surrounded by talented teammates. While Anthony has to do so much of the scoring while playing for PSA, he relished the opportunity to set up others during the 2018 FIBA Americas.

Anthony still scored enough to lead the U18 team in scoring during two of their six wins, but he also led the team in assists during three of the victories.

"Obviously, on my AAU team, I have to be in scoring mode," Anthony said. "It's on my shoulders a lot. I have to score on that team. Coming here is a nice change of pace. I don't have to shoot the ball every time. I can come here and distribute the ball. I want to have fun and see other people succeed. I want to set them up."

Besides learning the nuances of the point guard position, Anthony is starting to look ahead to recruiting and playing at the college level. Although the Anthony family has been very quiet about specific schools that are recruit-

ing Cole, he's trying to find a future college coach who will let his offensive game shine.

"It's a lot of colleges," Anthony said. "I respond to everyone. I have no favorites right now. I'm just trying to focus on getting better.

"One thing we always talk about is which school is going to be the best fit for myself. We're definitely thinking about that. And we're definitely thinking about a school that has a chance to win a national championship my freshman year."