

World travel a phone call away

Sports

By RAMELL TAYLOR
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I went to an Overseas Basketball Combine in Las Vegas hoping to impress European scouts, but I ended up impressing myself when I received the news that I was considered to be one of the top five basketball players out of 115 people.

I left for the combine around 8:45 a.m., Sunday, July 21 flying out of the McCook Airport. Although I had several people who called me with their best wishes, the thought of having the opportunity to play for Europe still had not registered.

From McCook, I transferred flights at Denver's airport before arriving in Las Vegas around 10 a.m. Pacific time. I forgot to account for the time changes when booking my flight making me one of the first guys to check in.

I couldn't check into my room until noon, and I didn't have a meeting until 5 p.m., so I did what anybody on "vacation" in Las Vegas would do; gamble. I didn't win anything.

As 5 p.m. drew closer and players began to arrive, I finally started to feel some type of excitement.

During the meeting, I learned I would be playing for Iceland, which made me happy — at first. My feelings would soon change when I discovered that everyone on Team Iceland were the players who the scouts considered to be "under-skilled."

I was told a player could be subject to changing teams depending on how a player did during combine testing. That night I decided to have a vendetta against the scouts who determined that I didn't meet their standards, especially before seeing me play.

Monday morning I reported to combine testing. The testing consisted of a skills challenge, speed and agility, and a vertical jump test. I was the first guy in the shooting guards/small forward Iceland group to do all three events.

In the skills challenge the players had to perform fundamental moves of shooting, coming off screens, curl movements and things a wing player should know how to do. We had three minutes to get up as many shots up as we could while performing various actions.

Since I was the first guy, I wanted to set the bar high for the rest of the competition. It was a very exhausting drill, but I managed to make all of my shots inside the 3-point line, missing maybe three or four 3-pointers as well as dunking the ball 10 times.

The scouts were very impressed and so was my competition.

My next test was the vertical jump, which measured in at 35.8 inches. Afterwards, my agility was tested by jumping over a foot hurdle as many times as I could in one minute. I scored 53 jumps compared to the all-time combine record of 59 jumps.

In the three-quarter length court sprint, I had a time of 2.9 seconds, and was able to defensive slide around the free throw lane twice in 11.8 seconds.

After my testing, I was told by the director of the combine that I had been moved from Iceland to Norway, which was considered one of the top four teams. I was happy that my hard work had paid off.

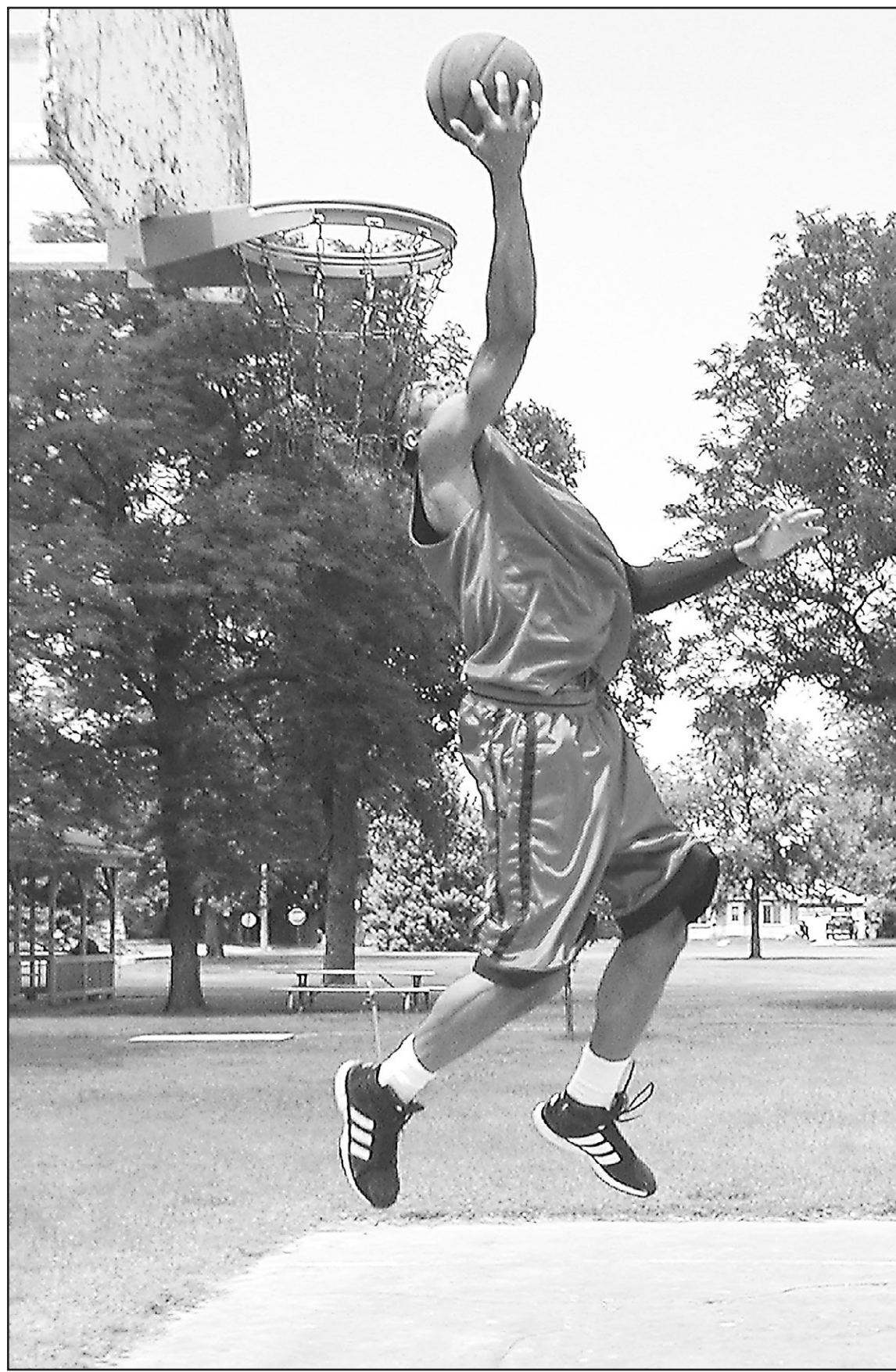
The first game I played with my new team was an evaluation game against Finland. Playing with Norway was great. Everyone had a great personality and shared the basketball like a team should. We ended up beating Finland by 20 points. I scored double figures and had a big dunk.

The second game we played was against Turkey. That was a close game, but we ended up pulling away at the last second. I scored double figures again and by this game, everyone in the gym was talking about "the shooting clinic" I was putting on for the crowd.

We started our tournament games Tuesday, where we were ranked number one in bracket seeding. After our two games, everyone had Norway predicted to win the tournament.

I left the gym feeling great that night; that is until I discovered that my body wasn't used to playing six hours of basketball at that level of intensity. I cramped up almost everywhere on my body that night, eventually going to sit in the hot tub and eating a dozen bananas.

When I woke up Tuesday morning, I was so stiff, I felt like I was sitting in a full body cast. I had no idea how I was going to play the two games, but I never doubted that my team would walk away from



RAMELL TAYLOR GOES IN FOR A LAYUP while practicing basketball. He was playing in the Oberlin City Park prior to playing in the Overseas Basketball Combine in Las Vegas. — Herald staff photo by Crista Sauvage

Las Vegas without being crowned champions.

In the semi-finals, we played Turkey, the team that came close to beating us the first time. They came out with a lot of energy and went up 10 points in the first half. I felt that it wasn't the time to be a "hero," but if I got open looks at the basket I knew I would shoot the ball more than I had been.

I ended up making three consecutive three pointers that cut their lead to one, which sparked my team to go on a scoring frenzy and beat Turkey by 20 points the second time around.

I had a couple scouts walk up to me after that game and hand me their calling cards, which I found amusing since I was dripping sweat and had nowhere to put them.

Our championship game was against Czech Republic. They supposedly had the "best player" at the combine on their team. We beat them by 20 and the proclaimed "best player" had his worst game in the tournament.

I felt really good to win the championship while performing at a high level because it showed the guys who had predetermined me as not being good enough that they had been mistaken.

At first, I was very happy to report the good news to my friends, family, and co-workers. As the feeling of telling everyone in Oberlin I could be vacating my positions as a reporter and a head coach sunk in, it made me reluctant to take pride in my accomplishments.

When I got back to Oberlin Wednesday afternoon, everyone greeted me with hugs and were excited to hear that I did well. Some people even made me creative "homecoming" gifts and really made me feel better about the situation.

Now that the combine is finished, the only thing left to do is to wait for my phone to ring with an offer to play basketball in Europe, with the possibility of playing in the U.S.

I don't know who or where the offer will come from, but I do know that I have a great community behind me encouraging me to follow my dream; even if they don't want me to leave.

Coed softball tournament results

July 16th Coed Softball

Legion 15 vs. Stallman Construction 8
E&R Trucking 18 vs. Legion 3
Black Gold 16 vs. Stallman Construction 3
E&R Trucking 40 vs. Black Gold 18

Final League Standings

Fortin's 12-2
E&R Trucking 10-4
Black Gold 10-4
Creative Dimensions 8-6
Anderson's 7-7
Decatur Coop 6-8
Legion 3-11
Stallman Construction 0-14

Tournament Results :

Fortin's won over Stallman Construction by forfeit
Creative Dimensions 11 vs. Anderson's 8
Black Gold 16 vs. Decatur Coop 1
E&R Trucking 18 vs. Legion 3
Fortin's 10 vs. Creative Dimensions 3
E&R Trucking 12 vs. Black Gold - 2
Black Gold - 19 vs. Creative Dimensions 4
E&R Trucking 25 vs. Fortin's 6
Fortin's 15 vs. Black Gold 5

Championship Game

Fortin's 11 vs. E&R Trucking 10
*since Fortin's won they had to play again since E&R Trucking hadn't lost before this
E&R Trucking 15 vs. Fortin's 5

*E&R Trucking were Tournament Champions
*Fortin's were Tournament Runner - Up

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NOTICE OF HEARING 2012-2013 BUDGET

The governing body of Unified School District 294 will meet on the 12th day of August, 2013 at 7:30 P.M., at 131 E. Commercial for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied. Detailed budget information (including budget profile) is available at the District Office and will be available at this hearing.

The Amount of 2013 Tax to be Levied and Expenditures (published below) establish the maximum limits of the 2013-2014 Budget. The "Est. Tax Rate" in the far right column, shown for comparative purposes, is subject to slight change depending on final assessed valuation.

	2011-2012 Actual		2012-2013 Actual		PROPOSED BUDGET 2013-2014			
	Code 99 Line	Actual Expenditures (1)	Actual Tax Rate* (2)	Actual Expenditures (3)	Actual Tax Rate* (4)	Expenditures (5)	Amount of 2013 Tax to be Levied (6)	Est. Tax Rate* (7)
OPERATING								
General	06	2,644,225	20.000	2,735,286	20.000	2,853,115	680,294	20.000
Supplemental General (LOB)	08	898,348	24.808	897,949	22.185	927,379	861,490	23.232
SPECIAL REVENUE								0.000
Adult Education	10	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	
Adult Supplemental Education	12	0		0		0		
Bilingual Education	14	0		0		0		
Virtual Education	15	0		0		0		
Capital Outlay	16	454,288	6.000	290,804	6.000	774,157	222,496	6.000
Driver Training	18	11,041		10,777		15,181		
Extraordinary School Program	22	0		0		0		
Food Service	24	252,470		257,449		275,849		
Professional Development	26	12,888		6,589		14,461		
Parent Education Program	28	0		0		0		
Summer School	29	0		0		0		
Special Education	30	443,508		516,648		646,829		
Vocational Education	34	177,085		185,200		183,200		
Special Liability Expense Fund	42	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
School Retirement	44	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Extraordinary Growth Facilities	45	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Special Reserve Fund	47	0		0				
Federal Funds	07	115,538		111,850		100,778		
Gifts and Grants	35	10,047		22,805		22,849		
At Risk (4 Yr Old)	11	0		0		0		
Cost of Living	33	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
At Risk (K-12)	13	190,613		202,252		217,000		
Declining Enrollment	19	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
KPERS Special Retirement Contribution	51	287,192		252,319		305,306		
Contingency Reserve	53	0		0				
Textbook & Student Material Revolving	55	15,652		24,955				
Activity Fund	56	54,269		39,376				
Tuition Reimbursement Fund	57	0		0		0		
DEBT SERVICE								
Bond and Interest #1	62	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Bond and Interest #2	63	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
No-Fund Warrant	66	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Special Assessment	67	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Temporary Note	68	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
COOPERATIVES**								
Special Education	78	0		0		0		
TOTAL USD EXPENDITURES	100	5,567,164	50.808	5,554,259	48.185	6,336,104	1,764,280	49.232
Less: Transfers	105	682,278	xxxxxxxxxx	886,322	xxxxxxxxxx	1,004,128	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
NET USD EXPENDITURES	110	4,884,886	xxxxxxxxxx	4,667,937	xxxxxxxxxx	5,331,976	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
TOTAL USD TAXES LEVIED	115	1,551,413	xxxxxxxxxx	1,551,411	xxxxxxxxxx	1,764,280	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
OTHER								
Historical Museum	80	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Public Library Board	82	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Public Library Board Employee Benefits	83	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Recreation Commission	84	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
Rec Comm Emp Benefits & Spec Liab	86	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
TOTAL OTHER	120	0	0.000	0	0.000	0	0	0.000
TOTAL TAXES LEVIED	125	1,551,413		1,551,411		1,764,280		
Assessed Valuation - General Fund	128	\$28,734,532		\$30,397,168		\$34,014,677		
Assessed Valuation - All Other Funds	130	\$31,785,780		\$33,452,720		\$37,082,645		
Outstanding Indebtedness, July 1		2011		2012		2013		
General Obligation Bonds	135	0		0		0		
Capital Outlay Bonds	140	0		0		0		
Temporary Note	145	0		0		0		
No-Fund Warrant	150	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	153	0		0		0		
TOTAL USD DEBT	155	0		0		0		

Monte Moore

President

Vickie Lippelmann

Clerk of the Board

*Tax Rates are expressed in Mills

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