

Nate Robinson

Junior, Guard, University of Washington, Ht. 5-9, Wt. 180

High School: Rainier Beach HS, Seattle, Wash.

Birthdate: May 31, 1984 (Seattle, Wash.)

University of Washington

Three-year letterman guard who led Washington in scoring during each of his three seasons ... A two-time All-Pac-10 selection ... Garnered third-team All-America accolades in 2005 ... Ranks 18th among all-time UW scorers with 1,283 career points ... His 295 career assists are the sixth-highest figure in Husky history ... Listed third among all-time Huskies with 140 career steals ... No. 4 at UW with 127 career 3-pointers ... Registered 65 career double-figure scoring games and 20 games of 20-or-more points ... Boasts a 43-inch vertical leap ... Originally enrolled at Washington on a football scholarship, but decided to concentrate on basketball beginning with his sophomore year ... Played all 13 football games in 2002 and started the final six games as a cornerback on the Husky football squad, including the Sun Bowl ... Intercepted two passes and made 34 tackles ... Father Jacque Robinson played tailback for the Washington football team between 1981-84 and amassed 2,300 career yards to rank No. 8 among all-time Huskies ... Jacque is the only college player ever to earn MVP honors in both the Rose Bowl (1982) and Orange Bowl (1985).

2004-2005: As a junior, started all 35 games ... A third-team *Associated Press* and NABC All-American in 2005 ... Honored as a first-team All-Pac-10 Conference selection for the second season... Finalist for the Wooden Award ... Named to All-Pac-10 Tournament team ... Voted the Most Outstanding Player in the Great Alaska Shootout after being named Shootout Player of the Game in wins over Utah (Nov. 25) and Alabama (Nov. 27) ... Received the Pac-10 Player of the Week award on Nov. 29 ... Led the team in scoring for third consecutive year, and ranked sixth among Pac-10 players with a 16.4-point average ... Scored double-digits in 27 games and tallied 20 or more points in 14 contests ... Ranked fourth among Pac-10 players with 159 assists (4.5 apg), the third-highest season total in Husky history ... Led UW in scoring 14 times, in assists 12 times and in rebounding five times ... Posted a team-high 61 steals, an average of 1.74 per game that ranked fourth among Pac-10 players ... Helped the Huskies to a 29-6 record, tying the 67-year-old school record for wins in a season ... Washington won its first Pac-10 Tournament championship and received a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament for the first time ever ... The Huskies advanced to the Sweet 16.

2003-2004: As a sophomore, played all 31 games and started 21 of them ... A first-team All-Pac-10 Conference selection ... Led the team and ranked 13th among Pac-10 scorers with 13.2 points per game ... Tallied double-figure points 21 times and led all Husky scorers on seven occasions ... Topped all UW rebounders four times ... His team-leading 53 steals were the third-highest total among Pac-10 players ... Also led UW in free throw accuracy, hitting them at an 85.3-percent clip (87-102) that ranked third in the Pac-10 ... Voted the Feb. 2 Pac-10 Player of the Week after leading UW to a home sweep of the Arizona schools ... Tallied a career-high 31 points on 11-of-15 shooting and added five rebounds and five steals during the Huskies' 96-83 win over No. 9 Arizona (Jan. 29) ... Scored 23 of his 25 points after halftime at Oregon State (Jan. 17), including a 3-pointer inside the final second that forced overtime in UW's 103-99 win ... Robinson's heroics at Oregon State rallied UW from a 16-point second-half deficit to post the pivotal victory that stopped a five-game losing streak and started a run of 14 wins in the next 16 games ... Helped the Huskies to a 19-12 record and their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1999 ... Topped the Huskies with 27 points, on 9-of-15 shooting, in their 102-100 first-round NCAA loss to UAB (Mar. 19).

2002-2003: As a freshman, played 23 games and started the final 10 ... Named to the CollegeInsider.com's 20-player national All-Freshmen Team ... A member of the All-Pac-10 Freshman Team ... Joined the team after the football regular season ... Led the team in scoring average with 13.0 points per game, a figure that ranked 17th among Pac-10 players ... His 300 points tied for fourth among all-time UW freshmen ... Had 19 points, six rebounds, four assists and two steals in his second collegiate game, at Santa Clara (Dec. 7) ... Tallied double-figure points 17 times and led all UW scorers on 11 occasions ... Top scoring effort was a 20-point performance against Arizona State (Feb. 8) ... Tallied eight points and played 23 minutes against UCLA (Jan. 2), two days after his Sun Bowl appearance ... Ranked second on the team with 52 assists.

Rainier Beach High School (Seattle, Wash.)

Averaged 17.9 points, seven rebounds, seven assists and three steals per game as a senior in 2002 ... The 2002 Player of the Year in Washington state for the AAA classification ... Led Rainier Beach to a 28-1 basketball record en route to the 2002 state championship and a No. 7 national ranking from *USA Today* ... The MVP of the 2002 Class AAA state tournament after averaging 25.8 points for the champion Vikings ... One of 100 finalists for the McDonald's High School All-America team ... Honored as the *Seattle Times* Class AAA state player of the year in both football and basketball ... As a senior, totaled over 1,200 yards rushing and 500 yards receiving while scoring 21 touchdowns ... A *SuperPrep* All-American in 2001 who was ranked as the nation's 17th-best player at the athlete position ... Also a standout in track and field, setting a state record of 13.85 seconds in the 110-meter hurdles ... Placed second in the 110-meter hurdles at the 2002 state track meet ... Transferred to Rainier Beach in Seattle prior to his senior year from Logan High School near Oakland, Calif.

Robinson's Washington Statistics

YEAR	GP/GS	MIN	AVG	FG-FGA	PCT	3FG-A	PCT	FT-A	PCT	OR-DR	TOT	AVG	PF-DQ	AST	TO	BK	ST	PTS	AVG
2002-2003	23/10	576	25.0	120-260	.462	19-74	.257	41-57	.719	33-56	89	3.9	61-0	52	42	0	26	300	13.0
2003-2004	31/21	833	26.9	138-309	.447	46-130	.354	87-102	.853	52-69	121	3.9	75-3	84	61	3	53	409	13.2
2004-2005	35/35	1101	31.5	188-406	.463	62-161	.385	136-174	.782	53-82	135	3.9	99-2	159	71	6	61	574	16.4
TOTALS	89/66	2510	28.2	446-975	.457	127-365	.348	264-333	.793	138-207	345	3.9	235-5	295	174	9	140	1283	14.4

Nate Robinson Game-by-Game 2004-05 Season Statistics

Opponent	Date	GS	Min	---TOTAL---		---3-PTS---		---REBOUNDS---														
				FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg	PF	FO	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg	
SEATTLE PACIFIC	11/19/04	*	34	5-12	.417	1-2	.500	11-12	.917	1	5	6	6.0	1	0	4	2	0	2	22	22.0	
vs Utah	11/25/04	*	38	11-17	.647	5-9	.556	2-2	1.000	1	2	3	4.5	2	0	3	3	1	2	29	25.5	
vs Oklahoma	11/26/04	*	37	7-11	.636	0-1	.000	5-6	.833	1	3	4	4.3	2	0	8	2	1	2	19	23.3	
vs Alabama	11/27/04	*	35	5-11	.455	3-4	.750	3-4	.750	2	2	4	4.3	4	0	4	1	0	1	16	21.5	
at Gonzaga	12/02/04	*	37	8-13	.615	4-8	.500	2-3	.667	1	3	4	4.2	3	0	8	2	0	3	22	21.6	
EASTERN WASHINGTON	12/05/04	*	30	6-12	.500	2-4	.500	6-9	.667	1	6	7	4.7	3	0	7	2	0	1	20	21.3	
SAN DIEGO STATE	12/07/04	*	31	9-16	.563	3-7	.429	3-4	.750	2	1	3	4.4	1	0	5	1	0	5	24	21.7	
at Loyola Marymount	12/12/04	*	37	9-15	.600	4-6	.667	6-11	.545	2	2	4	4.4	2	0	6	0	0	3	28	22.5	
NORTH CAROLINA STATE	12/19/04	*	34	2-11	.182	0-5	.000	3-5	.600	2	5	7	4.7	3	0	5	3	1	0	7	20.8	
SACRED HEART	12/22/04	*	25	4-12	.333	3-6	.500	2-2	1.000	1	2	3	4.5	4	0	3	0	0	2	13	20.0	
HOUSTON	12/24/04	*	26	2-5	.400	1-4	.250	6-6	1.000	0	3	3	4.4	3	0	7	5	0	0	11	19.2	
CALIFORNIA	12/31/04	*	36	3-10	.300	2-5	.400	1-2	.500	2	0	2	4.2	2	0	6	3	1	3	9	18.3	
STANFORD	01/02/05	*	32	4-12	.333	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	3	2	5	4.2	3	0	3	1	0	2	10	17.7	
at USC	01/06/05	*	32	2-9	.222	1-4	.250	3-4	.750	0	1	1	4.0	2	0	7	1	0	2	8	17.0	
at UCLA	01/08/05	*	35	7-13	.538	1-3	.333	6-8	.750	0	2	2	3.9	5	1	3	4	0	2	21	17.3	
OREGON	01/13/05	*	34	6-14	.429	1-4	.250	1-2	.500	3	2	5	3.9	3	0	4	1	0	2	14	17.1	
OREGON STATE	01/15/05	*	26	6-9	.667	0-2	.000	3-5	.600	3	5	8	4.2	3	0	8	5	0	1	15	16.9	
WASHINGTON STATE	01/23/05	*	24	3-8	.375	1-2	.500	6-6	1.000	1	5	6	4.3	3	0	3	1	1	0	13	16.7	
at Arizona	01/27/05	*	29	4-12	.333	1-5	.200	1-2	.500	1	2	3	4.2	2	0	5	5	0	1	10	16.4	
at Arizona State	01/30/05	*	32	8-12	.667	3-7	.429	4-4	1.000	2	1	3	4.2	4	0	5	1	0	0	23	16.7	
USC	02/03/05	*	25	4-6	.667	0-1	.000	1-2	.500	1	0	1	4.0	3	0	5	1	0	2	9	16.3	
UCLA	02/05/05	*	32	4-14	.286	0-4	.000	8-9	.889	2	2	4	4.0	3	0	3	0	0	2	16	16.3	
at Oregon	02/10/04	*	39	5-9	.556	3-5	.600	11-16	.688	2	0	2	3.9	4	0	4	2	0	0	24	16.7	
at Oregon State	02/13/05	*	31	4-11	.364	0-4	.000	0-0	.000	1	1	2	3.8	4	0	4	4	0	3	8	16.3	
at Washington State	02/19/05	*	26	2-9	.222	1-3	.333	2-2	1.000	1	1	2	3.8	1	0	6	3	1	1	7	15.9	
ARIZONA STATE	02/24/05	*	26	8-10	.800	2-3	.667	3-3	1.000	2	1	3	3.7	4	0	3	3	0	4	21	16.1	
ARIZONA	02/26/05	*	32	6-12	.500	3-6	.500	7-8	.875	0	3	3	3.7	3	0	7	3	0	0	22	16.3	
at California	03/03/05	*	26	7-11	.636	5-7	.714	2-2	1.000	1	1	2	3.6	3	0	3	0	0	4	21	16.5	
at Stanford	03/05/05	*	33	4-16	.250	2-8	.250	1-1	1.000	1	1	2	3.6	5	1	3	1	0	3	11	16.3	
vs Arizona State	03/10/05	*	35	9-16	.563	3-5	.600	8-9	.889	5	2	7	3.7	4	0	0	2	0	2	29	16.7	
vs Stanford	03/11/05	*	35	5-14	.357	2-8	.250	2-4	.500	2	3	5	3.7	3	0	2	1	0	1	14	16.6	
vs Arizona	03/12/05	*	34	5-16	.313	2-8	.250	6-6	1.000	2	3	5	3.8	2	0	4	3	0	1	18	16.7	
vs Montana	03/17/05	*	27	3-7	.429	1-3	.333	2-2	1.000	0	4	4	3.8	0	0	5	2	0	1	9	16.5	
vs PACIFIC	03/19/05	*	30	10-14	.714	2-3	.667	1-2	.500	3	4	7	3.9	1	0	3	1	0	1	23	16.6	
vs Louisville	03/24/05	*	26	1-7	.143	0-5	.000	6-9	.667	1	2	3	3.9	4	0	3	2	0	2	8	16.4	
Totals.....			35	1101	188-406	.463	62-161	.385	136-174	.782	53	82	135	3.9	99	2	159	71	6	61	574	16.4

Games played: 35
Points/game: 16.4
FG Pct: 46.3
3FG Pct: 38.5
FT Pct: 78.2

Rebounds/game: 3.9
Assists/game: 4.5
Turnovers/game: 2.0
Assist/turnover ratio: 2.2
Steals/game: 1.7
Blocks/game: 0.2

Nate Robinson Game-by-Game 2003-04 Season Statistics

Opponent	Date	GS	Min	---TOTAL---		---3-PTS---		----REBOUNDS----														
				FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg	PF	FO	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg	
PORTLAND STATE	11/21/03	*	19	2-9	.222	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	2	1	3	3.0	2	0	0	0	0	1	4	4.0	
UC RIVERSIDE	11/24/03	*	30	2-8	.250	1-4	.250	3-3	1.000	1	0	1	2.0	1	0	5	1	0	1	8	6.0	
EASTERN WASHINGTON	11/29/03	*	29	5-7	.714	0-1	.000	4-6	.667	1	2	3	2.3	3	0	3	2	0	3	14	8.7	
GONZAGA	12/03/03	*	24	2-11	.182	2-6	.333	3-4	.750	4	1	5	3.0	1	0	1	1	0	0	9	8.8	
at Wyoming	12/06/03	*	28	1-9	.111	0-4	.000	0-0	.000	2	3	5	3.4	2	0	3	1	1	0	2	7.4	
at Houston	12/20/03		12	1-4	.250	0-1	.000	1-2	.500	0	1	1	3.0	3	0	1	2	0	0	3	6.7	
at San Diego State	12/27/03		21	6-8	.750	2-3	.667	2-2	1.000	1	1	2	2.9	1	0	4	4	0	2	16	8.0	
COLUMBIA	12/30/03		20	1-3	.333	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	0	1	1	2.6	0	0	2	2	1	2	3	7.4	
at California	01/02/04		21	4-8	.500	1-3	.333	1-1	1.000	2	0	2	2.6	1	0	2	0	0	3	10	7.7	
at Stanford Cardinal	01/04/04		25	6-13	.462	4-6	.667	0-0	.000	1	2	3	2.6	3	0	1	0	0	1	16	8.5	
USC	01/08/04		26	4-14	.286	2-7	.286	3-3	1.000	4	4	8	3.1	4	0	4	7	0	2	13	8.9	
UCLA	01/10/04		27	5-14	.357	3-6	.500	5-6	.833	0	2	2	3.0	2	0	4	1	0	4	18	9.7	
at Oregon	01/15/04		28	5-12	.417	2-5	.400	4-4	1.000	1	1	2	2.9	3	0	1	2	0	3	16	10.2	
at Oregon State	01/17/04		22	9-17	.529	2-7	.286	5-5	1.000	3	2	5	3.1	4	0	2	1	0	3	25	11.2	
at Washington State	01/24/04	*	30	5-8	.625	5-7	.714	2-2	1.000	1	0	1	2.9	1	0	4	2	0	0	17	11.6	
ARIZONA	01/29/04	*	32	11-15	.733	3-4	.750	6-6	1.000	1	4	5	3.1	1	0	3	2	0	5	31	12.8	
ARIZONA STATE	01/31/04	*	30	2-7	.286	0-4	.000	4-5	.800	2	2	4	3.1	4	0	5	4	0	2	8	12.5	
at USC	02/05/04	*	19	3-7	.429	1-4	.250	3-4	.750	1	2	3	3.1	5	1	0	0	0	1	10	12.4	
at UCLA	02/07/04	*	32	2-9	.222	1-5	.200	4-6	.667	3	4	7	3.3	2	0	2	0	0	0	9	12.2	
OREGON	02/12/04	*	35	7-10	.700	2-4	.500	4-5	.800	3	3	6	3.5	3	0	4	2	0	3	20	12.6	
OREGON STATE	02/14/04	*	28	5-9	.556	1-4	.250	1-1	1.000	2	4	6	3.6	1	0	2	4	0	1	12	12.6	
WASHINGTON STATE	02/19/04	*	32	2-7	.286	1-4	.250	0-0	.000	2	1	3	3.5	5	1	1	3	0	3	5	12.2	
at NC State Wolfpack	02/22/04	*	29	5-10	.500	1-2	.500	2-2	1.000	3	4	7	3.7	4	0	1	2	0	0	13	12.3	
at Arizona	02/26/04	*	30	5-12	.417	3-8	.375	5-5	1.000	2	2	4	3.7	1	0	3	3	0	2	18	12.5	
at Arizona State	02/28/04	*	25	4-8	.500	1-3	.333	4-4	1.000	1	4	5	3.8	3	0	3	1	0	3	13	12.5	
CALIFORNIA	03/04/04	*	28	3-9	.333	0-4	.000	2-2	1.000	1	1	2	3.7	1	0	1	0	0	0	8	12.3	
STANFORD	03/06/04		31	3-8	.375	1-3	.333	6-7	.857	1	4	5	3.7	2	0	3	2	0	1	13	12.4	
vs UCLA	03/11/04	*	26	4-7	.571	2-4	.500	2-2	1.000	2	3	5	3.8	4	0	7	3	1	2	12	12.4	
vs ARIZ	03/12/04	*	30	8-16	.500	2-4	.500	2-3	.667	3	3	6	3.9	1	0	5	4	0	3	20	12.6	
vs Stanford	03/13/04	*	32	7-15	.467	0-3	.000	2-4	.500	0	5	5	3.9	2	0	5	0	0	2	16	12.7	
vs UAB	03/19/04	*	32	9-15	.600	2-7	.286	7-8	.875	2	2	4	3.9	5	1	2	5	0	0	27	13.2	
Totals.....			21	833	138-309	.447	46-130	.354	87-102	.853	52	69	121	3.9	75	3	84	61	3	53	409	13.2

Games played: 31
Points/game: 13.2
FG Pct: 44.7
3FG Pct: 35.4
FT Pct: 85.3

Rebounds/game: 3.9
Assists/game: 2.7
Turnovers/game: 2.0
Assist/turnover ratio: 1.4
Steals/game: 1.7
Blocks/game: 0.1

Nate Robinson Game-by-Game 2002-03 Season Statistics

Opponent	Date	GS	Min	---TOTAL---		---3-PTS---		----REBOUNDS----													
				FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg	PF	FO	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
WYOMING	12/05/02		6	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	1.0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.0
at Santa Clara	12/07/02		18	8-13	.615	0-2	.000	3-4	.750	0	6	6	3.5	1	0	4	1	0	2	19	9.5
EASTERN WASHINGTON	12/14/02		24	8-13	.615	1-2	.500	2-4	.500	1	1	2	3.0	4	0	0	2	0	3	19	12.7
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	12/21/02		21	6-10	.600	2-4	.500	0-0	.000	1	2	3	3.0	3	0	3	4	0	1	14	13.0
HOUSTON	12/23/02		21	3-8	.375	3-6	.500	0-0	.000	1	0	1	2.6	2	0	2	0	0	1	9	12.2
UCLA	01/02/03		23	3-8	.375	1-2	.500	1-1	1.000	1	0	1	2.3	4	0	0	2	0	1	8	11.5
USC	01/04/03		28	3-15	.200	0-4	.000	1-3	.333	3	6	9	3.3	3	0	4	1	0	2	7	10.9
at Arizona State	01/09/03		23	2-8	.250	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1	2	3	3.3	2	0	2	2	0	1	4	10.0
at Arizona	01/11/03		24	5-11	.455	1-3	.333	0-0	.000	0	5	5	3.4	4	0	2	2	0	0	11	10.1
CALIFORNIA	01/16/03		26	6-18	.333	3-10	.300	0-0	.000	2	1	3	3.4	4	0	1	2	0	2	15	10.6
STANFORD	01/18/03		23	5-8	.625	0-2	.000	3-4	.750	5	1	6	3.6	1	0	3	1	0	1	13	10.8
at Oregon	01/23/03		21	6-11	.545	2-5	.400	4-4	1.000	2	1	3	3.6	2	0	2	2	0	1	18	11.4
at Oregon State	01/25/03		23	3-9	.333	1-3	.333	2-2	1.000	1	4	5	3.7	3	0	3	0	0	1	9	11.2
WASHINGTON STATE	01/31/03	*	27	3-6	.500	1-1	1.000	4-4	1.000	2	2	4	3.7	1	0	3	2	0	1	11	11.2
ARIZONA	02/06/03	*	38	9-22	.409	1-7	.143	0-0	.000	3	1	4	3.7	1	0	2	2	0	0	19	11.7
ARIZONA STATE	02/08/03	*	37	7-13	.538	1-3	.333	5-6	.833	2	4	6	3.9	4	0	3	4	0	1	20	12.3
at Stanford Cardinal	02/13/03	*	23	7-10	.700	0-3	.000	2-2	1.000	0	1	1	3.7	3	0	2	3	0	0	16	12.5
at California	02/15/03	*	29	6-10	.600	0-3	.000	0-0	.000	0	4	4	3.7	2	0	1	4	0	2	12	12.4
OREGON STATE	02/20/03	*	30	6-13	.462	1-1	1.000	2-3	.667	0	2	2	3.6	4	0	5	1	0	0	15	12.6
OREGON	02/22/03	*	25	5-15	.333	0-2	.000	4-6	.667	3	3	6	3.8	2	0	5	1	0	0	14	12.7
at Washington State	03/01/03	*	29	6-13	.462	1-3	.333	2-4	.500	0	5	5	3.8	1	0	2	2	0	1	15	12.8
at USC	03/06/03	*	30	6-13	.462	0-4	.000	6-8	.750	4	2	6	3.9	3	0	1	2	0	3	18	13.0
at UCLA	03/08/03	*	27	7-11	.636	0-3	.000	0-2	.000	1	2	3	3.9	4	0	1	2	0	2	14	13.0
Totals.....		10	576	120-260	.462	19-74	.257	41-57	.719	33	56	89	3.9	61	0	52	42	0	26	300	13.0

Games played: 23
Points/game: 13.0
FG Pct: 46.2
3FG Pct: 25.7
FT Pct: 71.9

Rebounds/game: 3.9
Assists/game: 2.3
Turnovers/game: 1.8
Assist/turnover ratio: 1.2
Steals/game: 1.1

Robinson's Washington Career Highs

Points: 31, vs. Arizona (1/29/04)
Rebounds: 9, vs. USC (1/4/03)
Assists: 8, on three occasions, last vs. Oregon State (1/15/05)
Blocks: 1, on nine occasions, last at Washington State (2/19/05)
Steals: 5, vs. Arizona (1/29/04) & San Diego State (12/7/04)
Minutes: 39, at Oregon (2/10/04)

Huskies' Robinson Plays Big

by Jeff Shelman

ANCHORAGE, Ak. -- There is no need for the usual qualifiers. Not anymore.

Sure, there was a time when Washington junior guard Nate Robinson could be described as a good basketball player for his size. When he was a freshman cornerback moonlighting with the Huskies basketball team (and even to a certain extent last season), there was a sort of freak-show appeal to his game.

He is, after all, a player with crazy athleticism, a guy listed at 5-foot-9 with a vertical jump of more than 40 inches. He's a little guy who sees nothing wrong and nothing unusual with the idea of driving to the basket and taking it at players who are often literally a foot taller than him. He plays with a perpetual chip on his shoulder, trying to prove that a little guy can succeed in a game where height is coveted.

He is a highlight waiting to happen.

But to simply describe him as exciting doesn't provide a complete picture. Not any longer.

Robinson isn't a great player for his height. He isn't the best player in the country shorter than 6 feet. He isn't a guy who's really fun to watch because of his crazy hops.

Robinson is simply one of the best guards in college basketball. End of sentence. End of story. No ifs, ands or buts needed.

He clearly showed that Thursday night as the Huskies defeated Utah in the quarterfinals of the Great Alaska Shootout. Because as impressive as Robinson's 29 points were (he's only scored more than that once in his career), when he got the points was even more impressive.

While it appeared as if the No. 22 Huskies were going to roll in this game, Utah rallied from 13 points down to make it close in the second half. When Utes big man Andrew Bogut cut to the basket and

scored with 5:32 to play, Washington's lead was down to two, 62-60.

And that's when Robinson did what top-level players are supposed to do. He took over.

He split two defenders on the next possession (including Bogut) and scored a layup. Then, after Utah tied the game 64-64, Robinson really got going. He hit a 16-footer, then drove to the basket, then grabbed a loose ball on the defensive end that led to a Will Conroy layup.

"Down the stretch, when we needed a bucket, he turned it on again," Washington coach Lorenzo Romar said. "Great players are able to do that. He picked his spots and when there were openings, he was able to come through for us. He made big baskets."

Ray Giacoletti, the former Eastern Washington and current first-year Utah coach, has seen Robinson's transformation.

"He was not a very good shooter three years ago," Giacoletti said. "He's worked his butt off to become a pretty damn good shooter."

That's been one of Robinson's biggest focuses since going from part-time basketball player to full-time.

"When I was young, I could pretty much always go to the hole," Robinson said. "My dad was telling me that if I got to be a good shooter, I'd be unstoppable. So I've worked on my jumper every day.

"I love basketball with a passion and people don't think I can play. I want to prove that I can, I know I can. Every day I want to show the world."

How impressive has Robinson become? It's gotten to the point where he's made his backcourt mate and long-time friend Brandon Roy look average. Roy, however, is anything but. Against Utah, he scored 25 points on 11-for-19 shooting.

"Roy and Robinson may be the best two players on any one team in America,"

said Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson, whose Sooners face the Huskies on Friday night.

In many ways, the transformation of the Huskies under Romar mirrors the evolution of Robinson's game. In the two-plus years since Romar was hired from Saint Louis, the Huskies have gone from a team with a lot of raw athleticism to one that is very legitimate. And just like Robinson's clutch play is often overshadowed by his lack of size, the defense played by the Huskies doesn't get the attention their offense gathers.

"I'd be hard pressed to think of a more athletic team or one that buys in and loves playing defense [more] in the rest of the country," Giacoletti said. "I can't think of somebody that is going to get out and guard the way they guard. They appear to be as good as anybody on the perimeter guarding the basketball. The pressure is so great where we couldn't get into sets."

Everyone will certainly know more about the Huskies by the end of the weekend. After the game with Oklahoma, there's a possibility that Washington will play No. 19 Alabama on Saturday. That game would certainly be played above the speed limit.

Considering the way Arizona has struggled so far this season — losing at Virginia and struggling to beat Michigan — could Washington be the Pac-10 favorite? That might be a bit early to declare, but the Huskies' late-season run a year ago — they won 14 of 16 games before losing to Stanford in the championship game of the Pac-10 tournament — certainly appears to be anything but a fluke.

Just like Robinson is much more than a freak show.

Little Big Man is in Motion

by Les Carpenter

SEATTLE — The most exciting player in college basketball came into the world much as he is now, a carousel of motion, arms akimbo, legs jiggling, feet shuffling in the air. And when the nurses swaddled Nate Robinson for the first time, his father — an athlete himself, then seven months away from being the MVP of the Orange Bowl — looked at the boy and smiled into the future.

“My son is going to be great,” Jacque Robinson said.

At which point he bestowed upon his child the nickname “Nate the Great.”

And the son did everything he could to live up to the title even if he never grew to be taller than a small SUV. He was Nate the Great, bounding off couches, running hurdles on an imaginary track filled with trash cans and lawn chairs. He wore homemade crowns around the house and urged his mother to buy him birthday cakes with crowns made of frosting.

People looked at the tiny boy who boasted of NBA dreams, and they laughed. He was too small, they said. But the rejection only emboldened Nate the Great. Doubt him? They would learn.

This was how he came to dunk a basketball in eighth grade. How at just 180 pounds he was the high school running back nobody could tackle. And how at barely more than 5 1/2 feet tall the little junior guard from the University of Washington became the most exciting player in a sport of giants.

“I hear I can’t do things a lot,” Nate Robinson says, a small smile playing on his lips. “It just goes in one ear and out the other.”

In this NCAA tournament that starts today, Washington is an unlikely No. 1 seed, playing Montana at 3:10 p.m. in Boise, Idaho. But if the Washington Huskies are college basketball’s most unlikely top seed, Nate Robinson is the game’s most improbable story, the one

almost nobody believed would make it here.

Like Jacque Robinson, who was a star running back at Washington, the son also was a football prodigy still famous for a 98-yard kickoff return in high school where everybody — even the officials — were looking for him in the pile of tacklers while he was standing in the end zone on the other side of the field. So good that USC Coach Pete Carroll came to Seattle’s Rainier Beach High in Nate’s senior year and told the player that he would become the Trojans’ next great Heisman Trophy winner if only he would pledge his life to USC.

But USC wasn’t offering basketball. Nobody was offering basketball despite Nate’s qualifications as a McDonald’s All-American finalist because major colleges don’t offer basketball scholarships to football players who say they are 5 feet 9 and yet have been measured at no more than a finger over 5-7.

In the end, he went to his home-town Washington, the place that offered him a football scholarship along with permission to play basketball at the end of the fall. He played cornerback as a freshman for the football team, starting six games, intercepting two passes and heading straight to the gym to shoot baskets for an hour after his football practices.

Then the moment the Huskies football season ended, he stripped off his shoulder pads and never went back.

Great Leap

College basketball’s most exciting player is a burst of Husky purple on the court, skittering around 7-footers, leaping from nowhere to snatch a pass and flying into the stands to save a loose ball. But it’s when he jumps that everybody stops, mainly because no one has seen a player so small leap so high. There seems no logical explanation for why a player an inch shorter than his little cousin on the Washington women’s team can dunk.

And not just dunk but to send his stout little body hurling over men more than a foot taller as he does it.

“He jumps like he’s someone who is 6-foot-6,” teammate Brandon Roy says.

Or as Washington Coach Lorenzo Romar says with a bemused laugh: “He is the only one who doesn’t know he’s 5-9.”

Nate Robinson shrugs. Growing up his father would always tell him “it’s not the size of the dog in the fight; it’s the size of the fight in the dog.” For years the analogy stumped the boy. “What does that mean?” he used to ask.

Now he understands. He’s Nate the Great, which means there’s nothing he can’t do.

“He has this ability to make you forget what you came to watch,” Romar says. “Whatever you came to watch, you leave thinking of him. You zone in on his every move because you don’t know what he’s going to do next. It might be a big dunk or it might be a defensive play where he jumps in and steals a pass. Or maybe he takes a charge.

“You don’t know. But you want to see.”

Robinson’s first basketball game at Washington was a disaster. He still had the football in him, careening into opposing players, being whistled for fouls almost every time he took a step.

The second, on the road at Santa Clara, didn’t start much better. He still didn’t know any of the plays, he had been to only a couple of basketball practices and hadn’t even learned any of the defenses. Nonetheless Romar tepidly let him on the court early in the second half just to get him accustomed to the game. Suddenly Robinson stole a pass and raced down the court for a layup, then another, a jump shot and a rebound. The player who didn’t know a single play had taken over the game on instinct alone. By the end, he had 19 points in 18 minutes and the crowd rose as he left the court, giving the littlest player on the opposing team a standing ovation.

Little Big Man is in Motion

“I’ve seen a lot of basketball, but I’ve never seen that one before,” Romar says.

Yet in Nate’s world, such things are commonplace.

His senior year of high school, he stole a night that was supposed to belong to LeBron James. At the Slam Dunk to the Beach tournament in Delaware, the gym was filled to see James in a later game, when Robinson in his No. 2 jersey swooped in to snatch a rebound from a 6-10 NBA draft prospect named DeAngelo Brown and then dunked all in one motion. The gym erupted, and for a moment, the crowd forgot about James and began to chant: “Give it to No. 2! Give it to No. 2!”

Every game brings something new — a flying dunk off the glass, a spinning jump shot taken among three bigger players that bounces off the top of the backboard and somehow rolls through the rim, a long arcing jump shot from the farthest corner of the court.

“Nate, I think, visualizes himself doing special things 24 hours a day,” Romar says. “He lives out special fantasies that keep coming true for him.

“He’s at his best when he’s almost out of control. It’s like the child when they learn to walk. You start holding him, but you want to let him walk so you pull your hands back and let him go on his own.”

Motion Picture

The most exciting player in college basketball can’t sit still. He is constantly in motion, tapping his feet, standing up, pacing around. Roy always cherishes the moments Nate appears to be subdued, when things are quiet, because in an instant everything can change and the room will fly into chaos.

“He’s always ready to go 100 mph,” Roy says.

Jacque Robinson has a theory about all this. He thinks it has to do with his son’s size. Because Nate is so close to the ground he creates more energy, kind of

like a spring that is pulled down as far as it can go, then when the spring is released, it hurtles into the air. This is how Nate can jump so high, he surmises. It’s also how his son can possess these endless reserves of enthusiasm that propel him through games.

Perhaps with a less vivacious player this would be a disaster. But so much of basketball is about energy, and the verve of UW’s littlest player makes the team more effective. It’s something that can’t be measured in numbers though Nate’s at 16.7 points, 4.6 assists and 1.7 steals a game are good. Rather it’s the way he gets those statistics that make him so vital.

“I just think whatever I put my mind to, I can do it,” he says.

Last spring the NBA invited him to its draft camp in Chicago. It was something of a surprise because the NBA isn’t usually in the business of giving extended tryouts to players who opposing fans greet by displaying pictures of Gary Coleman. But this was a new challenge, something more for Robinson to prove.

Soon Romar’s phone started to ring.

“You wouldn’t believe what this guy is doing,” the scouts shouted.

“I see it every day,” Romar replied.

By the end of the second day, Pacers President Larry Bird had told the Seattle Post-Intelligencer: “He was very impressive; if he stays in college, they will win the whole thing next year.”

During the Pacific-10 tournament just a few weeks earlier, Robinson — still dressed in his Washington uniform — walked up to Bird and said “Mr. Larry Bird, can I have your autograph?”

Now with the future suddenly open, he pondered the NBA, dreamed of the money and ultimately decided that Bird was right. He was Nate the Great, after all, and if he returned, Washington could indeed win the whole NCAA tournament.

It was a notion that seemed preposterous at the time given the way the Huskies barely made the NCAAs and lost in the first round. But after winning the Pac-10 tournament last weekend and getting the No. 1 seed, well, nothing seems impossible in Nate Robinson’s world.

“It opened my eyes,” he says of the draft camp. “It made me a better player. It made me understand the game. I know now what I have to learn.”

The NBA will be there this summer, and while Robinson won’t give a hint about anything, the understanding around Washington is that this time he will leave.

Someone will take him, of course. Even in the world of NBA giants there is room for a player who doesn’t know when to stop.

But there was another reason Robinson said no to the NBA. His girlfriend, Sheena Felitz, was pregnant, and Nate, at 21, was going to be a father of a baby boy, just like Jacque in the months before winning the Orange Bowl MVP.

Nate wanted to be there for his son’s first year. He even knew exactly what his name should be.

“Greathaniel.”

The women groaned.

Ultimately, he lost the name fight, having to settle for his second choice, Nahmier, which his mother Renee Busch says is a combination of Nate’s name and that of former Saint Joseph’s star Jameer Nelson, who was last year’s college player of the year despite being just 6-feet tall.

As his father did two decades before, Nate Robinson stood in a hospital room as the nurses swaddled his son. He looked down at his son already squirming in his arms.

And he told him he, too, would one day be great, just like his father.

Washington's Robinson makes a little magic

By Reid Cherner

SEATTLE — The speed in which University of Washington guard Nate Robinson can change a basketball game must frighten Huskies opponents.

The speed in which he can change his mind must frighten Huskies fans.

Robinson's quickness on the floor has "U-Dub" fans leaping to their feet — and his elusive nature off the floor has them flying by the seat of their pants. They already lost him in one sport and came close to losing him in two.

One of the most gifted football recruits at Washington, Robinson no longer plays the game. Fans who have watched the storied football program lose two coaches in two years and go 1-10 this year beg him to come back.

Robinson, the gifted basketball player, almost left for the NBA draft after averaging 13.2 points, 3.9 rebounds and 2.7 assists his sophomore year. That was before a "heart-to-heart" with Saint Joseph's All-American Jameer Nelson at an NBA draft camp convinced him to return for another season. Fans rewarded his decision by buying all 7,200 season tickets.

This season Washington is 4-0 and Robinson is averaging 21.5 points, 4.8 assists and 4.3 rebounds. The Huskies, 19-12 last season, is loaded with talent — the top seven scorers return — and probably would be a Pacific-10 contender without Robinson. But fans seem drawn to the player who Rainier High coach Mike Bethea likens to "a little kid that has just had a spoonful of sugar and is bouncing off walls."

It is Robinson who has children trailing after him shouting for him to dunk it. And it is his name chanted during warm-ups. It is his quickness and 40-inch-plus leaping ability that have raised the decibel level in Hec Edmundson Pavilion.

"He has the ability to get a team and crowd going like none that I've ever seen. ... You can't help but notice him if you watch the game for five minutes," Washington coach Lorenzo Romar says.

Coaches, players and fans alike noticed him at the Great Alaska Shootout, where Robinson was named most outstanding player Saturday after No. 23 Washington beat No. 19 Alabama 79-76 to win the holiday tournament.

Back home, it is Robinson who has cab drivers stopping to stare and a classmate interrupting a photo shoot to give him a quick kiss on the cheek before she continues down the street.

Romar is hesitant to make a comparison to one of the great showman-winners of all time. Then he breaks down and smiles.

"I'm not saying Nate is as good, but Magic played that way," the coach says. "He had so much fun when he was playing out there, he could convince you it was really fun."

Robinson's magic seems to come as naturally as Johnson's. "It is a gift that very few have," Romar says. "It is interesting because it is not straight showmanship. It is not, 'I care more about what you think of my move than about winning the game.'"

Football fans want him back

Some of Robinson's best sleight of hand concerns what he will do next. The son of former Washington football star Jacques Robinson, he wanted to play two sports. But he left football after his freshman season — after starting the final six games at cornerback — to concentrate on basketball.

"Sure I miss football. I love football. I just love basketball more," Robinson says.

Until recently Washington was more of a football than basketball school. But football coach Rick Neuheisel was fired after an incident involving an NCAA basketball pool. His replacement, Keith Gilbertson, will not return after a one-win season.

That Robinson alone could have prevented the current problems is unrealistic, but it hasn't stopped the chorus hoping for his return. There have been rumors he'll play again, and conflicting stories about whether he approached Gilbertson about playing this year. Robinson, who says he could see himself being used like Southern California uses Reggie Bush, neither confirms nor denies, and never, ever closes a door.

"Some guy wanted me to ask the coach if I could just suit up one game," Robinson says.

And?

"I would do that," he says with a straight face. "It would definitely be pretty cool."

Romar is pleased that he has Robinson's full attention but he acknowledges his debt to the football team.

"I love two-sport athletes, especially the ones who play football," Romar says. "They have toughness, they have good feet and they have an edge about them."

He was tickled to watch Robinson play at Michigan when he stood in front of more than 100,000 Wolverines fans waiting for a kickoff.

"Here he was, a freshman playing in the Big House, and he wasn't intimidated at all," Romar says. "That part of him came over to the basketball floor."

For now, Robinson is keeping a laser-like intensity on the basketball season. The Huskies have been picked second in the Pac-10, and Robinson hopes to parlay a great season into a high draft slot in April.

Washington's Robinson makes a little magic

"I just want us to get to the tournament," he says. "We'll take care of everything else once we're there."

Size no deterrent in the big picture

Romar is confident that Robinson will take care of things all along the way. And he has no qualms about putting his faith in his 5-9 — 5-7 by some reports — star.

"You have to understand, you don't see this very often. You don't see someone of his size controlling a game, not in basketball," Romar says. "I don't mean making a highlight. I mean dominating on both ends. You can't wait to see what happens next. You don't want to miss it. You don't want anyone to tell you, you want to see it for yourself."

"Nate scores points, he makes passes, he gets offensive rebounds, he gets steals, he gets charges, he's always all over the place. All the boxes are filled when his games are over."

Robinson is expected to enter the draft after this season, but he has had an impact on next year's Washington team. Romar has recruited one of the best freshman classes in the nation. It includes Martell Webster and Jon Brockman, two USA TODAY preseason Super 25 players.

The Huskies coach believes the team's performance last year, and his point guard, helped in the recruiting.

"You can't go anywhere in the country without anyone who says, 'Boy, I really like your point guard. What is that little guy's name?' " Romar says. "Wherever you go, people know who we are."

Bethea had the same confidence when Robinson played for him at Rainier Beach. Like Romar he believes the guard must be seen to be appreciated.

"You tell them and you tell them, but the one thing people can't get over is his height," Bethea says. "They say, 'Oh, he's 5-7, how fast, how quick can he be?' I tell them when he's coming down the lane, it's not like you are going to knock him down. He's probably not only going to knock you down but he's probably going to dunk on you, too. I don't care what size you are."

When Robinson performs his magic, people talk about it long after.

"When you see him go up for a dunk, you are kind of like, 'Wow,' " says 18-year-old Anthony Matlock of Seattle, who played pickup ball against Robinson. "He can probably do a windmill off his vertical. I've seen him dunk on a 6-7 dude."

Romar understands that people love the flash but warns that shouldn't prevent them from appreciating the substance.

"This is not a sideshow. This is not something cute," he says. "He will rip your Adam's Apple out. He'll tell you he's sorry afterward and see you in the hospital. But during a game he is just that competitive."

Adds Matlock: "He gives a lot of confidence and hope to guys who are 5-9, so I say keep up the good work."

Still a surprise or two left to unveil

The one person who seems to show little interest in the height conversation is Robinson. He leaves listeners wondering whether Robinson is aware that he is shorter than most everybody on the court.

"If you believe in yourself you can do so many things," he says. "There is an Adidas commercial that I idolize. You know the one that says, 'Impossible is Nothing?' I want to get that tattoo just so when I do the impossible things I can say that was nothing."

"You set the goals and you have to go out and achieve them."

But Robinson loves little guys, as in children. He gets a kick out of those who follow him around.

"I always wanted to be one of those guys that when little kids go to the basketball court, they shout out your name and shoot like they are you," Robinson says. "They say I want to be him or I want his jersey. I want somebody to wear my jersey one day."

Still, the world is filled with exciting college players whose legends stop at graduation. Bethea believes Robinson's is just beginning.

"There is not going to be any defense for him, there is not going to be any way to stop him," his former coach says. "If he doesn't have success on the next level, that would surprise me."

As for Robinson, he might have one surprise left. When he is jokingly asked about his draft chances in the NFL, he doesn't laugh.

"I'm definitely going to do that some day," Robinson says. "I might surprise some people, but I'm all for doing different things. I want to be the first to play (pro) basketball and football. I hope I can make history. You have to play your cards right, that's all."

The new Dawgfather

By Bob Condotta

In the din of Oregon's McArthur Court last Thursday, a minute or so before tipoff, Washington guard Nate Robinson jogged to the sideline and greeted a 4-month-old baby with a kiss and a hug before returning to the court.

"Just to let him know his daddy is going to play hard," Robinson said.

Daddy.

It's a job description Robinson appears to embrace just as readily as all the others he has carried — high-school hoops legend, two-sport college phenom, leader of the UW basketball revival. "It's exciting; it's fun," Robinson said of fatherhood. "It's like, now I have something to work 10 times harder for, and that's to provide for my son."

This isn't really a story, however, about how having a child has helped a well-known athlete put everything in perspective. Robinson resists that easy answer when asked such a question.

Instead, he views the arrival of Nahmier Caillou Robinson last Oct. 26 as a natural next step in his own life.

As easily as he can rattle off any of his basketball stats, Robinson can tell you the exact moment of Nahmier's birth — 4:21 p.m. — and weight at the time — 7 pounds, 6.8 ounces.

He carries with him everywhere a picture phone filled with photos of his son to look at during road trips, and often wears a necklace engraved with Nahmier's portrait.

"I wouldn't trade (being a father) for the world," he said.

Robinson and Nahmier's mother, Sheena Felitz — who have known each other since high school — aren't married and have no plans to wed. The status of their current relationship is left somewhat vague by each.

But Robinson, long acknowledged as one of the hardest workers on the Huskies team, has by all accounts thrown himself into his new fatherhood role with equal vigor. His pride in Nahmier is evident as he talks.

"He's a good dad," said Felitz, adding that Robinson even enjoys changing diapers. "He does his share."

He had understandable initial trepidation, however, about the impending change in his life.

"It was like, this is big time for me,"

Robinson said. "Like, all right, now I have to handle the responsibility and be there for my son and accept that father role."

Robinson, though, had an inkling of what lay ahead, having grown up as the oldest of eight brothers and sisters. His father is former UW running back Jacque Robinson. Nate was born the spring before his father's senior season at Washington in 1984.

"I was like 11, 12 years old, changing my little sister's diapers," Robinson said. "It just came natural. I just love children, period."

Loves them so much, in fact, that he said he not only hopes to have a few more someday, but adopt a couple as well.

"There are so many kids out there who don't have anything at all and need someone to love them," he said.

He watched Nahmier's birth with UW coach Lorenzo Romar by his side, cutting the umbilical cord himself.

He said he hasn't told Romar how much the coach's presence that day meant to him.

"I can always tell my son that coach Romar was there when you were born," he said. "I just think that's one of the greatest things to happen in my life."

He later took Nahmier — whose name is simply one that mother and father like and has nothing to do with Robinson's friendship with Jameer Nelson despite some reports to the contrary — to practice and said he considers his fellow Huskies "a team full of uncles."

"They all call him 'Little Mir Mir,' " Robinson said.

When Robinson began slumping a bit in December, it was easy to wonder if fatherhood wasn't providing a distraction.

"There are times I'm sure it has," Romar said. "You've got school, basketball and now a child. It can have an effect. But I think he's handled it pretty well."

Robinson, however, said he thinks his son has been solely a positive influence on his play this season.

"Believe it or not, it's only made me more focused," he said. "Me having a son has gotten my attention so where if I'm slacking, I know I have to straighten myself out and work hard. If I ever forget where I came from, I take a look at my son and realize how I have to work harder."

It's also easy to wonder if having a child

will make Robinson that much more willing to give up his senior year of college for a shot at the NBA.

Robinson said having Nahmier "has a little bit" entered his thinking about his future "because I know I want a better life for me and my family and my son."

Robinson knew about the impending birth last spring when he first wrestled with that decision, and most around the UW figure he's likely to leave this year regardless.

Nahmier spends much of his time with Felitz, 20, who lives in West Seattle. After working until the final days of her pregnancy to save money, she is a stay-at-home mom for now. Nahmier also often spends the night with Robinson, 20, and his mother.

Robinson tries to watch the cartoon show that gave his son his middle name — "Caillou," a favorite — with Nahmier at 9 a.m. before heading to class. He jokes about Nahmier's thumb-sucking, glows in telling how Nahmier can already sit up on his own and sounds like a seasoned pro when talking about tricks to get Nahmier to go to sleep when he turns fussy.

"Just put him in a car and drive around and he will fall fast asleep," Robinson said.

Robinson has also learned, though, that babies can often sleep anywhere. He said he glanced at Nahmier from the free-throw line during the Oregon game and caught him somehow napping despite the raucous surroundings.

"I was like, 'Somebody wake him up,' " he said.

The Oregon trip was Nahmier's first, but Robinson said he hopes his son will now be able to travel everywhere the Huskies go.

Felitz said that wherever basketball takes Robinson in the future, she's sure he will want Nahmier close by.

"When I heard him cry (in the hospital), it was like, 'That's my boy now,' " said Robinson. "Now I can teach him all the things I wanted my dad to teach me, do all the family things I did with my mom and my dad."

"When he comes home with bad grades, I'm the one who can give him the pep talk. But I want him to avoid that. I want him to be a great student, a great person, a great kid and have fun growing up so that when he's 18 years old, he can take care of himself."