

CSU's Smith drafted by 76ers in 1st Round

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DENVER (AP) Jason Smith was happy to be a member of the Miami Heat for all of about five minutes.

Now the former Colorado State forward is looking forward to playing in Philadelphia.

Smith was selected by Miami with the 20th pick Thursday night in the first round of the NBA draft and then immediately dealt to the 76ers for Ohio State freshman Daequan Cook (taken with the 21st pick), a 2009 second-round pick and cash considerations.

Smith becomes only the second Colorado State player selected in the first round, joining Bill Green who was picked by Boston at No. 8 in 1963.

“It was just exciting,” Smith said in a teleconference. “My heart was just pounding. It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear your name on national (television).”

And Smith got his name called on more than one occasion. Smith, who was watching the draft at a local restaurant in Fort Collins, doesn’t mind the trade.

“It’s a great organization,” Smith said of Philadelphia. “They are a really young team.”

The 7-foot Smith, an All-Mountain West Conference selection the past two seasons, led the Rams in scoring and rebounding both years. He averaged 16.8 points and 10.1 rebounds last season.

Smith elected to declare for the NBA draft in April instead of coming back for his senior season but he had no idea where he might be picked.

“I really didn’t pay attention to any of the mock drafts,” he said.

He was asked about growing up in the small town of Kersey, Colo., and said he’s excited to put the city on the map.

Smith said that for as exciting as the day was, he’s happy it’s over and he knows where he’ll be playing next season.

“I’m relieved,” he said. “I’m happy the process happened as it did.”