

Aurora's Nembhard shows off at Nike Hoop Summit



By Jake Courtepatte

Just a few short months before his projected first-round drafting into the NBA, Aurora's Andrew Nembhard is proving scouts right in one of the top recruiting games in basketball.

The 6'4" point guard threw down five points, adding four assists, in Saturday's Nike Hoops Summit game for Team World against Team USA, proving to be one of two Canadians to undoubtedly hear their name called in the first thirty picks of this summer's draft. "Andrew sees everything. I don't know how. He has eyes in the back of his head," said fellow Canadian teammate R.J. Barrett in a media scrum following the game. "If you need him to score, he'll score, if you need him to defend, he can really do anything on the court."

Moving to the prestigious Montverde Academy in Florida two years ago after starting his high school education at Vaughan Secondary School, Nembhard led Montverde to a 35-0 record this season.

After receiving offers from Ohio State, University of South Carolina, and Gonzaga, he officially committed to playing for the Florida Gators next season in October.

Widely considered as one of the top point guards in the 2018 class, Nembhard is hoping to take his size and athleticism to the pro ranks as early as possible.

"My favourite thing to do is probably pass," said Nembhard. "A nice assist for a dunk. I'd rather have a no-look bounce pass than a dunk?unless it's a dunk on somebody."

With scouts from across the NBA and the world on hand, Nembhard threw a no-look pass to Barrett in the second quarter, setting Team World up for an easy two points.

When comparing his game with his NBA counterparts, Nembhard likes to draw comparisons with some of the better defending guards in the league.

"I don't think I play like one specific player, but I try to take a lot from a lot of guy's games," said Nembhard. "If I had to compare myself to any player, it would be Tyler Ennis. He's really smooth with the ball, he can score, pass it." Ennis is a fellow Canadian with the Los Angeles Lakers.

While going pro remains the top priority on Nembhard's list, there are closer goals in reach before the big day.

"My goals are to go to Florida and try to contribute as much as I can from the jump and try to help us win a national championship."