

EXPOSURE



A FIRE WITHIN

Beyond the sport: Orlando Robinson

Story by [Fresno State](#)

April 30th, 2021

As only the fifth Bulldog to be named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) All-District team, Orlando Robinson is making his mark on Fresno State men's basketball.

Orlando was drawn to basketball from a very young age, and his father, a former basketball player for CSU San Bernardino, helped kindle Orlando's interest into a burning passion.

His father also instilled in him a strong work ethic and drive to succeed. Growing up, Orlando and his father worked out together almost everyday and always found an open court to

You're viewing a version of this story optimized for slow connections. To see the full story [click here](#).

“I remember on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and then all the other holidays, me and him would go workout before we would do anything,” he says. “We’d go workout before at a park or something because all the gyms were closed.”

Orlando’s commitment to the sport is part of what helped him receive 28 collegiate offers from schools like Oregon State, Georgia Tech and Boise State. But after building a rapport with the Bulldog coaching staff, he ultimately chose Fresno State and has since made a lasting impact on the program.



KEEPING ON

During his freshman season, Orlando averaged 12.2 points per game and was the only player to start in all 30 games. Coming off the season having scored double digits in 17 games and at least 20 points in five games, his anticipation for next season and excitement for summer training was at an all time high.

But then COVID hit.

“That was really tough for me,” he says. “Throughout that summer, I was just trying to find

[You’re viewing a version of this story optimized for slow connections. To see the full story click here.](#)

season was coming.”

As most public gyms closed and workout equipment became unavailable, Orlando channeled the same motivation and dedication he had as a kid when he and his father would train on holidays.

“I kept trying to find opportunities to lift and work out,” he says. “My own ambition kept me motivated because I knew that I needed to get better to get to where I'm trying to go.”

Despite the challenges of quarantine, Orlando’s game improved.

This last season, on top of averaging 14.6 points, 9.2 rebounds and 2.1 assists per game, he recorded 11 double-doubles, which ranked in the top 20 in the nation.



You're viewing a version of this story optimized for slow connections. To see the full story [click here](#).



You're viewing a version of this story optimized for slow connections. To see the full story click [here](#).



You're viewing a version of this story optimized for slow connections. To see the full story click [here](#).



You're viewing a version of this story optimized for slow connections. To see the full story click [here](#).

THE BEAUTY OF BASKETBALL

Even after two exciting and unprecedented seasons, Orlando is still hungry for more.

“There's a saying that Coach Hut says, ‘Freshmen just want to play. Sophomores want to start. Juniors want to get points, and seniors want to win.’ And I feel in my position as a sophomore, I'm trying to win already,” he says.

Although a big part of Orlando’s mentality is focused on improving his own skills, the value of being a teammate and part of something bigger than himself is “the beauty of basketball.”

“I like that comradery that we have with each other when everybody's on the same page and we all want to win and we all can count on each other,” Orlando says. “And if your whole team is on the same page and they all want to do the same thing you want to do, then it's really beautiful what you accomplish.”

Orlando is looking forward to his next steps and getting closer to accomplishing his goals.

“I put basketball so much into my life, and I will continue to do so because it's something that I love and something that I'm really passionate about,” he says.

With an eye on the future and a fire within, Orlando hopes to follow in the footsteps of alumni like Paul George and the 30 other former Bulldogs who have played in the NBA.

“Some of my goals outside of Fresno State are to make it to the NBA and to be one of the greatest players to ever play this game,” Orlando says. “It's going to take a lot more than what I have been doing, and I know that, and I look forward to it.”

You're viewing a version of this story optimized for slow connections. To see the full story [click here](#).



You're viewing a version of this story optimized for slow connections. To see the full story click [here](#).



You're viewing a version of this story optimized for slow connections. To see the full story click [here](#).



You're viewing a version of this story optimized for slow connections. To see the full story click [here](#).



Fresno State has a long history of producing professional players ready to compete at the highest level, which includes 22 NBA Draft picks with five selected as first-round picks and a total of 14 drafted in the first two rounds.

You're viewing a version of this story optimized for slow connections. To see the full story click [here](#).



WHERE BOLD BEGINS

YOU CAN HAVE A HAND IN STUDENT SUCCESS.

[SUPPORT FRESNO STATE — GIVE NOW](#)

Footnote: *Photos by Cary Edmondson, Story by Victoria Cisneros — University Brand Strategy and Marketing*

Story by [Fresno State](#)

© Copyright 2025

You're viewing a version of this story optimized for slow connections. To see the full story click [here](#).

You're viewing a version of this story optimized for slow connections. To see the full story click [here](#).