

Legends of the Game

HONORING THE GREATS OF THE GAME

NORRIS COLE

**Cleveland State University
Player (2008-11)**

First you had instant classics. Now you have instant legends.

Arriving on campus as a relatively unknown 6-2 guard from Dayton, Ohio, Norris Cole quickly became a known quantity, finishing his career ranked third on Cleveland State's all-time scoring list with 1,978 points.



He left the program ranked among the top 10 in 16 statistical categories and helped the Vikings to 90 wins and three postseason berths in his four years.

As a freshman, he came off the bench in all 34 games he played in and averaged 4.9 points per game as the Vikings earned an NIT bid, their first postseason berth since 1988.

As a sophomore, Cole started all 37 games as the Vikings won the Horizon League title and earned an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament - CSU's second ever. In the tournament, Cole averaged 19.5 points in two games, including a 22-point effort in a first round win over Wake Forest that left little doubt of what was to come.

As a junior, Cole earned first-team All-Horizon League accolades and ranked third in the league in scoring (16.3 ppg). As a senior, he led the Vikings back to the NIT and became the first player in league history to earn Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year honors in the same season. He led the Vikings to the best start in school history with 12 straight wins as CSU won 27 games, the second highest total in program history.

His 41 points, 20 rebounds, and nine assists against Youngstown State last season was just the second 40-point, 20-rebound game by a Division I player in the last 15 seasons. He concluded his senior season with a school-record 780 points and his 21.7 points per game was the fifth-highest in a single season in CSU history. He was also the only player in the nation to average 20 points, five rebounds, and five assists in 2010-11 en route to becoming just the third player in school history to earn AP All-America honors with his honorable mention selection.

Cole was chosen 28th overall in the 2011 NBA Draft by the Chicago Bulls, becoming just the eighth CSU player to be selected in the NBA Draft and the first since 1986.

SPEEDY CLAXTON Hofstra Univ. Player (1997-2000)

Craig "Speedy" Claxton was a point guard who helped lead Hofstra to two postseason appearances before being selected in the first round of the 2000 NBA Draft by the Philadelphia 76ers.

Claxton finished his career with 2,015 points and still holds the Hofstra records for career assists (660) and steals (288).

He led the Pride to an NIT berth in 1999 and then to the NCAA Tournament as a senior in 2000.

Speedy started all 27 games as a freshman, averaging 15 points, 3.4 assists, and 4.6 rebounds per game to earn third-team All-America East accolades. He upped his scoring average to 16.3 points per game, grabbed 4.6 rebounds, and dealt 224 assists in 31 games as a sophomore en route to his first America East Player of the Year Award.

As a junior in 1998-99 Claxton averaged 13.3 points, 5.3 assists, and 4.4 rebounds per outing as Hofstra ended a postseason drought of 21 years with a berth in the National Invitation Tournament. In his senior season he averaged 22.8 points, 6.0 assists, and 5.4 rebounds per game in leading the Pride to a 24-7 record, an America East Championship, and an NCAA Tournament bid for the first time since 1977. Claxton claimed his second America East Player of the Year honor and also earned the Haggerty Award as the top player in the New York metropolitan area.

During his senior campaign Claxton registered three of the top 12 single game scoring performances in program history, including

back-to-back

40-point efforts versus Hartford and Maine.

He finished his career with a scoring average of

16.9 points per game and added 5.5 assists, 4.8 rebounds, and 2.4 steals per contest.

A first round pick of the Philadelphia 76ers in the 2000 NBA Draft, Claxton was a member of the 2003 NBA champion San Antonio Spurs. He enjoyed a decade-long NBA career, averaging 9.3 ppg and 4.3 apg, before announcing his retirement in 2010. He now serves as a college scout for the Golden State Warriors.

