RODNEY STUCKEY

2005-06 National Freshman of the Year

(G, 6-4, Kent, Wash. - Kentwood HS '04)

- Eighth in NCAA Division I in Scoring – 24.2 points per game (tops nationally among freshmen or sophomores) to become just the 36th player in NCAA Division I to lead his conference in scoring as a freshman. He led EWU to 15-15 record (9-5 Big Sky Conference/6th) and the semifinals of the Big Sky Tournament.

- Collegeinsider.com Freshman of the Year (announced on March 6, 2006) – Also selected to Collegeinsider.com’s Mid-Major All-America team and the Player of the Year in the Big Sky.

- Associated Press All-America Honorable Mention – Joins Alvin Snow (2004) as EWU’s all-time recipients

- Fox Sports Mid-Major Freshman of the Year – Also Fox Sports second team Mid-Major All-American

- Collegehoops.net Freshman All-Rookie First Team & Third Team Unsun All-America

- Rivals.com Freshman All-America Second Team

- Big Sky Conference MVP and Freshman of the Year – First time in league history that a freshman has been MVP. Is one of only 12 players in NCAA Division I history to win his league’s MVP award as a freshman.

- NABC All-District 13 First Team – Only Big Sky player honored and the first in school history to be selected to the squad. One of only two freshmen nationally to earn first team honors.

- ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District VIII – 3.34 grade point average as a business administration major. In 2004-05 he couldn’t practice or play because he didn’t meet NCAA academic eligibility requirements.

- CBSSportsline.com and Rivals.com Freshman of the Week – 38 points versus Portland State on March 4 in a quarterfinal victory in the Big Sky Tournament (second-most points in tournament history)

- Sports Illustrated “Bracket Buster” – Four-Time Big Sky Player of the Week

- School-Record 45 points vs. Northern Arizona on Jan. 5 – For a month ranked as the top single game performance in NCAA Division I (finished second) and 12th in Big Sky history. Had a total of six games with at least 30 points. All six rank in the top 32 in school history and were six of the top nine performances in the Big Sky Conference in the 2005-06 season.

Here are some other links to recent stories/features on Rodney Stuckey (links active on Rodney Stuckey .pdf that can be found at: http://www.ewu.edu/mbindex)

- Column by Dave Boling in the Tacoma News Tribune
- collegeinsider.com Freshman of the Year
- Rivals.com Freshman of the Week
- The Sports Media Freshman of the Year
- Associated Press Freshman of the Year
- ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District VIII
- CBSSportsline.com Second Team Mid-Major All-American
- Sports Illustrated “Bracket Buster”
- Four-Time Big Sky Player of the Week
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What They Are Saying About Rodney Stuckey . . .

"One coach joked that the best defense for Stuckey is to hope he doesn’t play. But even the flu can’t slow him down. Fighting a fever, Stuckey recently dropped 36 on then first-place Montana."

Matt Drake
Collegeinsider.com
(from column published in February 2006)

"He’s really, really good. We need to figure out a way to get him to the next level — the sooner the better."

Larry Krystkowiak
Montana Head Coach and former NBA player
(from story published in the Missoulian and written by Bob Meseroll)

"It’s hard to know whether it’s more accurate to say that Mike Burns has hitched Eastern Washington’s basketball wagon to a mere freshman or that Rodney Stuckey has hijacked it. Not that it matters, really. What’s to be seen . . . is both rare and seductive, the beginning of something. A living thing, with its own DNA . . . You’re watching the early evolutionary stages of the best player in Eastern history."

John Blanchette
Spokesman-Review in Spokane, Wash.
(from column published in December 2005)

"He will undoubtedly be overlooked for accolades outside the borders of Big Sky country and that is too bad because Rodney Stuckey is a legitimate candidate for national freshman of the year. Rodney Stuckey is the real deal. Before you point out again that it’s the Big Sky, sit down and watch. You’ll see that this kid could play and star in any league in America."

Matt Drake
Collegeinsider.com
(from column published in February 2006)

"He’s one of the best players in the nation as a freshman. Yeah, he gets the ball a lot, but he’s good enough to where the coach puts a lot on his shoulders. He’s 6-foot-4 and he’s not waiting to fill out. He’s already filled out."

David Schroeder
Idaho State Senior
(from story published in the Idaho State Journal)

"He’s a great player. There’s not much you can do. He shoots it really pure and he can take you off the dribble. He’s just a great player and a great guy."

Andrew Strait
Montana Sophomore and Former AAU Teammate
(from story published in the Great Falls Tribune)

"He could have played at any major conference. When I watched him play, he had an uncanny ability to make shots. He’s a very strong, physical, tall guard. The kind of player we would want here."

Mike Jensen
University of Washington Senior and Kentwood High School Graduate
(from story published in the Seattle Times and written by Bob Condotta)

"You can tell him something once on the basketball floor and he can not only incorporate it into his game, but he can articulate it for his teammates. I kid him that he’s got a Ph.D. on the basketball floor. And with the work he’s done recently in the classroom, he may be headed to a Ph.D. there, too."

Mike Burns
Eastern Washington Head Coach
(from story published in the Inlander and written by Howie Stalwick)

"He’s just got an outstanding feel for the game. It’s a gift. He has the ball a lot and we ask him to do a lot. For the most part, he makes good decisions when he has the ball. He just understands how to play the game. It’s an innate ability he possesses. I think the game is just a little slower for Rodney than for other players. That’s the way it is for the great players. Three or four times a day a practice, he does things that just make you shake your head. I’ve always felt the MVP comes from the championship team. That’s the way the conference has usually voted in the past. But he definitely has to be considered, no question."

Mike Burns
Eastern Washington Head Coach
(from story published in the Bozeman Chronicle and written by Howie Stalwick)

"He’s really a good player. It’s kind of like he’s playing the game at a little different speed. He’s got all the facets of the game. Usually a guy’s either a 3-point shooter, or a mid-range player or he’s an around-the-basket kind of player. (Stuckey’s) pretty productive at all three spots."

Larry Krystkowiak
Montana Head Coach and former NBA player
(from story published in the Missoulian and written by Bob Meseroll)

"Rodney Stuckey is a great player. I haven’t been around the Big Sky very long . . . but he has to be one of the best they’ve ever had (in the league). He may be the best freshman ever. I know basketball pretty well and I think he’s just a great, great player."

Ken Bone
Portland State Head Coach & Former University of Washington Assistant (from story published in the Oregonian)

"Stuckey might be the best player ever to play in the Big Sky. He is just head and shoulders above guys on our team. There is not a thing we can do about it. The guy is just way way better than anyone else in the Big Sky. I am proud and happy for Rodney Stuckey. I tried to recruit him to the University of Washington when I was there."

Ken Bone
Portland State Head Coach & Former University of Washington Assistant (Stuckey scored 91 points in three games versus PSU, including 38 in Big Sky Tournament)

"That’s a good basketball player. If he was a senior, he’d be a good basketball player, but he’s only a freshman. He’s kind of had his way with opposing teams. We really wanted Rodney Stuckey."

Lorenzo Romar
University of Washington Head Coach
(from stories published in the Seattle Times and written by Bob Condotta)

"Everything revolves around Stuckey. He has to play well for them to win."

Mike Adras
Northern Arizona Head Coach
(from story published in the Arizona Daily Sun and written by Keith Jiron)

"He’s kind of waiting on the table, bussing the table and he’s back in the kitchen cooking the food. He’s doing quite a bit. We’ve got him playing at the point. He leads our team in assists and scoring and he’s second in rebounding. Generally, he’s going to draw the toughest defensive assignment. I’ve been around the Big Sky for six or seven years and I don’t recall a freshman leading the league in scoring. He’s put together an impressive non-conference season. He’s done it against some good people. His numbers have increased as the season has progressed. He’s been able to compete against the Washingtons, the Gonzagas, the Brigham Youngs and the Boises all on the road."

Mike Burns
Eastern Washington Head Coach
(from conference call in early January)