



MATTHEW TAYLOR

POSITION

G

AGE

18

HEIGHT

6'5"

WEIGHT

170 lbs

PERSONALITY

LAI D BACK

FROM

BRAMPTON

SCHOOL

FUTURE COLLEGE PREP

STATS

12.5 ppg | 8.0 rpg | 2.5 spg

EPITOME: When did you pick up a basketball?
MT: I Started playing in grade 6 in the neighborhood. Made my first team in grade 8. I Wasn't too good then. I didn't really love basketball but I was recruited to my High school (Chinguacousy S.S) because of my height.

EPITOME: What is keeping you motivated?
MT: The possibility of making it to the league and being able to earn a good living and support my family. My mom because she's always been there to encourage me. Even at times when I wanted to quit, she wouldn't let me. Oh and of course represent for Canada and Toronto.

EPITOME: Are there any NBA Players that inspire you?
MT: Mamba. . . After you play basketball, you realize how long it takes to be great, and he is already great and getting better day by day, year by year. I saw him play in person against Toronto, and was in awe by what Kobe did on the floor, and all the crazy shots he was able to hit.

EPITOME: Would you like to play him one on one if you got the chance?
MT: Of course ! I want to see what its like to play against him. I think i could learn so much from that. But I really just want the challenge.

EPITOME: Kobe or Jordan?
MT: I didn't really see Jordan play so I cant really say. From what I hear and read he is the greatest. But for my era of basketball Kobe is the best out here.



EPITOME: What was your favorite team growing up? And did that change?
MT: Lakers were my favorite team growing up. I love the Lakers in general, I love the style they play, The Triangle Offense. Kobe, Shaq, Derek Fisher, Robert Horry, I love everything about the organization

EPITOME: Have you had any roadblocks getting to where you are now?
MT: Starting late, I never realized I could take this somewhere for a while, and when I did I wasn't able to play for the good schools or teams. I was under the radar, no one knew my name or who I was. And the fact that I had no professional training hurt me a bit.

EPITOME: How did you overcome these roadblocks?
MT: Kept going, kept grinding. My athleticism helped get me the looks and attention I needed. and from there I took advantage of any opportunities that I got.

EPITOME: What is FCP?
MT: Future College Prep. It's a prep school down in California. I went to become a better player. It was a totally different experience. They have a different mind state in the states, more intense, more focused and more coaching. It really helped me become a stronger player.

EPITOME: Which NBA player do you think you play similar to ?
MT: Off the top I would have to say Nicolas Batum, Tayshaun Prince and Andre Iguodala. Essentially i can do it all on the court on both the defensive and offense, so i guess that's where I'm similar to Batum. Iguodala is a good defensive player and is very athletic. I'm known for my hustle and defensive play when I'm on the court you can always expect something to happen on both ends.

EPITOME: What do you like to do before games?
MT: Have a good meal, listen to some music by J. Cole, Drake, 2 Chainz, Jeezy and Kendrick Lamar. I also watch game tape and YouTube tapes of other players to see what the competition.

EPITOME: Do you have a Go-to-Move or Dunk?
MT: The Sham-God crossover, I also Love to Euro step. My favorite dunk would have to be the Reverse Windmill. I go to that move mainly on breaks, and I like to dunk on dudes. It gives me a rush and hypes up my teammates.

EPITOME: What are our plans for this summer?
MT: To continue improving my overall game. Get faster, stronger, more athletic and to prepare myself for the next level. Some main things I'm working on improving is my shooting and handle with the rock.

EPITOME: So you'll be attending New Mexico State this year, why them?
MT: I chose New Mexico State because I believe that where ever you are most comfortable you will do the best. All my life I've been an underdog and I've thrived best when in that situation, using it as motivation. New Mexico State is home to many other great, yet not very known Canadians. I believe in their system, which also caters to my style of play it's what's best for me to propel my game to the next level.



EPITOME: Where do you see yourself in 10 years ?
MT: Anything can happen. Playing professional. Wherever, Europe or NBA. If basketball doesn't work i plan to own my own trucking business or barbershop. I was the barber at FCP so who knows.

EPITOME: If you got Drafted what team would you want to play for?
MT: A Team like The Clippers would be cool, because they are a dunking team which is what i like to do. They also play my type of ball, up tempo style.

EPITOME: Anybody you would like to shout out?
MT: Shout out to my Manager/brother Jordan Brooks, he helped me get to where I am today. My family who I couldn't do anything without. All my coaches especially my Etobicoke coaches who gave me a chance when no one else would. My girlfriend who helped me when ever I needed it and is always there to support me and has given me my beautiful daughter Layla. And of course Epitome Mag for doing this interview. Not many people would give me a chance, let alone put me on the cover of a magazine.