

OSU signee LeBryan Nash shows off big personality, big skills

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LeBryan Nash's big personality — and big skills — were on full display Monday night at the [McDonald's All-American Jam Fest](#) in Chicago.



Oklahoma State signee LeBryan Nash competes in the slam dunk contest at the McDonald's High School All American basketball Jam Fest at Chicago State University in Chicago, Monday, March 28, 2011. Nash won the event. (AP Photo/Brian Kersey)

Nash trotted out that massive foam cowboy hat, the same one he donned when he signed a letter-of-intent with Oklahoma State back in November. Then he wore it while soaring to the dunk contest title.

"I try to be creative, give the fans what they want, a show," Nash told reporters afterward. "My mama told me to get (the hat). You gotta listen to your mama."

The [Cowboys'](#) offense could use some pizzazz following a season of struggle. And, coach [Travis Ford](#) said, they'll take the personality, too, with it all part of the package for one of OSU's most anticipated recruits ever.

"The big thing is," Ford said, "everybody likes him. You saw everybody gravitating to him on TV, everybody just gravitates to him when he goes to all these camps. Everybody likes him."

A 6-foot-7, 5-star recruit from [Dallas](#), Nash became the second Cowboys signee to win the competition, following [Gerald Green](#), the 2005 dunk champ. Green never made it to campus, opting instead to enter the NBA Draft.

Nash is on track to become the highest-rated recruit to ever wear an OSU uniform, ranked as the nation's No. 4 prospect by [Rivals.com](#), No. 6 by [ESPNU.com](#) and No. 8 by [Scout.com](#). A McDonald's All-American, he's been named second-team All-American by [Parade Magazine](#).

Clearly, he's the next big thing for Cowboy basketball.

And he's got the oversized hat to prove it, although Ford said the hat isn't anything necessary to accommodate an oversized ego.

"There's always that challenge when you bring a guy of his reputation and stature in," Ford said. "But I tell you, I don't fear that at all because of the players on our basketball team. We've got some great leaders — [Keiton \(Page\)](#), [Fred Gulley](#), [Brian Williams](#), [Michael Cobbins](#), I can go down the line — of very high character personalities that he's going to be surrounded by.

"I've gotten to know (Nash) very well, he has a childish personality about him. And that's a tribute to his mom. He's been raised by a single mom and she's done a terrific job. And she's just like him, just a joy to be around, a bubbly person.

“LB, if he walked in here, you'd think he was a serious, but once you got to know him, he's like a little bitty kid. He'll have that persona of any top-five player in [America](#) who thinks they've conquered the world. But once you really get to know him, he's got an incredible personality. He's a jokester. He's funny.”

Nash was somewhat humble, too, after winning the dunk title, suggesting that Duke recruit Marshall Plumlee, not he, may have deserved to win a contest judged by an all-star panel of former [Chicago Cubs](#) shortstop [Ernie Banks](#), Chicago Bears [tight end Greg Olsen](#) and Bears coach [Lovie Smith](#).

“He's a great dunker,” Nash said of Plumlee, “unfortunately for him the judges thought I was better, and that's why I earned this trophy.”

Maybe it was the hat.

“I think it's great,” Ford said. “That hat has created a life of its own. I'm happy for him. I know how much basketball means to him. He loves the game and he has fun with it, as you see.

“If there's 12 McDonald's All-Americans, I bet 10 of them wouldn't put that hat on. They're too cool. He's great in that aspect. It's fun to watch him and it's fun to see him have the success he's having.”