



Getting reacquainted with Andy Ellis

by **Emily Jones**

KCBD-TV Sports Director Emily Jones caught up with former Tech hoops stand-out Andy Ellis to find out what he's been up to the last couple of years.

RRS: *Get us up to speed on what you've been doing since you left Texas Tech.*

Ellis: Playing basketball. I played overseas in Turkey and in Italy during the season, and I played in the NBA summer league with the Dallas Mavericks, Phoenix Suns and Orlando Magic.

RRS: *What was the most interesting thing that happened to you while playing overseas?*

Ellis: Getting things thrown at us--chairs, lighters, coins. We came back from 20 down one time on the road and they had to clear the gym. We finished the game with no one in the stands.

RRS: *Other than that, what is the biggest difference in playing overseas?*

Ellis: It's a slower game, and it's more

guard-oriented. The game is played very methodically over there and features more of an outside game.

RRS: *What position did you play overseas?*

Ellis: I played the 3, 4 and 5 positions. Basically, I guarded the biggest guy on the other team, then on offense they pretty much let me do my own thing.

RRS: *What are your plans now?*

Ellis: I'll play in the NBA's summer league again. Then if I get a good contract, I'll play overseas again. I figure I've got two more years to try and get into the league.

RRS: *If the NBA doesn't work out, what are your plans?*

Ellis: I have a degree in marketing, so I could do something business-related. I've never really wanted to coach until the last year or so, but now I think that's something I'd like to do.

RRS: *What has your relationship with Coach Knight been like since you left?*

Ellis: It's been great. He's been trying to help me with his connections. I go to his office and talk with him a lot. We talk about the team. He asks me what I think and vice versa. It's been very good.

RRS: *Coach Knight has said he greatly underestimated your role on his team in his first season at Tech. What do you think about that?*

Ellis: It's a big compliment, especially considering some of the guys he's coached. Sometimes it's hard to tell how someone is going to fit into a new system, but I felt his system fit me well and I was able to do a lot in it.

RRS: *Finally, what was your favorite memory as a Red Raider?*

Ellis: I have three. 1. My freshman year when we beat Kansas at home. 2. My sophomore year when we played Indiana to open the United Spirit Arena. 3. Everything about senior night. ■

Emily Jones is the Sports Director for KCBD-TV in Lubbock (an NBC affiliate).