

CONFIDENTIAL FACTS FOR THE DENVER NUGGETS

The Denver Nuggets have been a strong team in the Western Conference since the arrival of Carmelo Anthony in 2003. However, since Anthony left the Nuggets via a trade to the Knicks during the 2010-2011 season, the front office needs to determine which players acquired in the Anthony deal should stay, leave, or be utilized in different roles. The players the team decides to hang on to will keep the team competitive in the future.

In 2009, the Nuggets were informed that Anthony was looking to be traded. At that time you began looking for a trade possibility that could help bring in some new blood to run a slightly different style of play, and transform from a team focused on a forward like Anthony, to a team that can score and pass the ball. In addition to losing Anthony, the Nuggets are also worried about the age of the team. Starting guard Chauncey Billups had been in the League since 1997 and during the last 14 years he has been a respected leader and overwhelmingly revered as one of the best players in the game. By including Billups in the Anthony trade, the club was able to acquire Raymond Felton, whom your scouting staff sees as the guard in the best position to keep the Nuggets near the top of the Western Conference for the next several seasons. Felton was recently signed to a two-year contract worth \$8 million per year.

Before the acquisition of Raymond Felton, the player that would have filled Billups spot in the starting lineup was Ty Lawson. Lawson is an explosive player and the Nuggets scouting department sees him as being a capable player but not a great fit for a system that will be spreading the ball around more with the new players brought to the team in February. Your scouting department is in near agreement that Lawson is in the top five of NBA point guards under 25, but he is not the point guard of the future.

During the course of discussions with your scouting department you have come to believe that Rajon Rondo is a player that would be a perfect fit for the Nuggets starting lineup and would be able to lead the team deep into the Western Conference playoffs. Rondo is young, smart, and quick. He has experience spreading the ball around to his teammates, similar to how the Nuggets envision their offensive attack in Anthony's absence. Last year in the playoffs Rondo showed his toughness by playing with a dislocated elbow. Your scouting department has given you their thoughts and your Director of Scouting has told you Rondo is one of the top three point guards in the NBA.

In order to get Rondo on the Nuggets roster, you know that Lawson, and perhaps at least another player or draft picks, may have to be moved in order to pay Rondo's salary and stay within the salary parameters set by your General Manager. You may give up all of your second round draft picks for the next two years to get a deal done that involves Rondo and another solid veteran, but you cannot offer either of your first round draft picks.

Lawson has heard the whispers that he could be moved this offseason. While he enjoys playing for Coach George Karl, he wants to show that he can be the starting point guard on a top

NBA team. The Nuggets would be willing to trade Felton, if necessary, to acquire Rondo, but feel the combination of Rondo and Felton would make for a good change of pace, if the two were on the same team. While the ideal situation would be to acquire Rondo, you have interest in a number of other Celtics' players.

<u>Celtics Players</u>	<u>Interest In Trading For</u>	<u>Nuggets Players</u>	<u>Interest in Trading to Boston</u>
Kevin Garnett	No	Kenyon Martin	Yes
Paul Pierce	Yes	Raymond Felton	No
Ray Allen	No	J.R. Smith	Yes
Rajon Rondo	Yes	Al Harrington	Yes
Jermaine O'Neal	Yes	Chris Andersen	No
Nenad Krstic	Yes	Timofey Mozgov	Yes
Jeff Green	No	Danilo Gallinari	No
Glen Davis	Yes	Wilson Chandler	No
Avery Bradley	No	Arron Afflalo	Yes
Von Wafer	No	Ty Lawson	Yes
Delonte West	Yes	Kosta Koufos	Yes
Troy Murphy	Yes	Melvin Ely	No
Sasha Pavlovic	Yes	Gary Forbes	Yes
Carlos Arroyo	No	Kenneth Faried	Yes
Chris Johnson	No	Jordan Hamilton	Yes
JaJuan Johnson	Yes	C. Maduabum	No
E'Twaun Moore	Yes	Andre Miller	Yes

In order to be the team you and your staff believe the Nuggets can be next year, you want the players you receive in any trade to be established players that are consistent, reliable, and cost effective. Additionally, it is important to keep as many of your experienced players as possible provided the players you acquire will contribute to the team and be worth the salary they command.

While you are willing to give up some experience in a trade involving Rondo, you need to explore the possibility of acquiring a forward or an experienced center. Your instructions are to not give up any first round draft picks. You may give up one or more of the Nuggets' second round picks because your General Manager believes that any second round draft picks are unlikely to make any significant contributions to the team for a few seasons. Your staff has suggested the best option is dealing young players or draft picks and holding onto the experienced players unless you can receive experience in return. Additionally, the team is willing to bring in a player with an injury history, if that player is known to be a team leader and can

provide a high level of leadership even while not playing extensive minutes per game. Your job is to improve the Nuggets, with the focus being on this year through the 2012-13 season.

The front office and Coach Karl believe the Nuggets are a solid playoff team that has the ability to remain one of the top teams in the Western Conference for the next three to four years. In order to remain a legitimate contender and win the Western Conference, the Nuggets need to keep players that are solid NBA veterans and have proven themselves for a few years. Rondo fits this mold perfectly. While the departure of Anthony's high price has helped the issue of salary space, cost is still a big issue with adding players to the team. It is understood that Lawson should be discussed in a trade with the Celtics and you are willing to discuss trading other players.

The Nuggets need to make a deal that nets them a proven veteran with playoff experience that can lead this young team on a playoff run. While the Nuggets have salary room to work with, ownership and the General Manager have given you explicit instructions to add no more than \$11.3 million in salary for the 2011-2012 season. ONLY your General Manager is involved in plans to meet salary cap requirements. *You should not consider the salary cap as part of this negotiation.*