

Robin Paul speaks out for special Q&A

I thought this would be a good week to interview a sports moms. Why not interview the mother of an athlete for Mother's Day weekend?

My favorite athlete is my main man Chris Paul. His mother, Robin Paul, definitely ranks up there with some of my favorite moms — especially in sports. She's also a big sports fan. I knew we could talk a little sports and have some fun. So, I caught up with her on Tuesday to see what her schedule was like. It was busy as usual. She was coming back to Winston-Salem from New Orleans. But she made some time for me later that day, and I enjoyed it.

Robin is a great person, with a huge heart. What's even better is the fact that she's so down to earth. It's easy to feel like you've known her for years after a few conversations because she's so easy to talk to and be around. I still hug her as if she's one of my family members when I see her out.

Earlier this week, we chatted about the NBA Playoffs, CP3, MVP, NBA players and gumbo. I also tried to see if I could get her to give me some CP3 shoes on the house. I couldn't get the shoes, but I did get a great conversation. Take a look at some of the things Mrs. Paul and I rapped about on Tuesday evening.

Anthony: (Smiles.) What's going on, Robin?

Robin: Not a whole lot. Just getting back from New Orleans.

Anthony: I hear that. And, CP and the guys are up 2-0 on the Spurs. You have to give me your thoughts on that.

Robin: Oh, that's very impressive. We're glad to be where we are right now.

Anthony: Let me ask you this.

Robin: OK.

Anthony: How does it make you feel to see Chris highlights, or watch the reaction of some of the fans when he does things during games?



Robin Paul, who's the mother of NBA star Chris Paul, poses with food diva Paula Deen.

Robin: I mean, we're blessed. It makes us feel very proud. But you have to realize that we're right there cheering with them. We're cheering for the same player and team.

Anthony: When did you realize that Chris was pretty good?

Robin: You have to realize that I just see Chris as being Chris. We all know that he has a great talent. I just look at it as being blessed overall. I can't say that I realized Chris was good after he did this or that. My husband knew before I did. He has a great talent, though.

Anthony: Today (Tuesday) is CP's birthday, right?

Robin: Today is his 23rd birthday. It sure is.

As a matter of fact, he just called the cell phone. (Giggles.) Charles is talking to him now. We did a big dinner for him while we were out there. He's real focused right now. He's on a mission.

Anthony: Sunday is Mother's Day. And, I am sure you're going to be in San

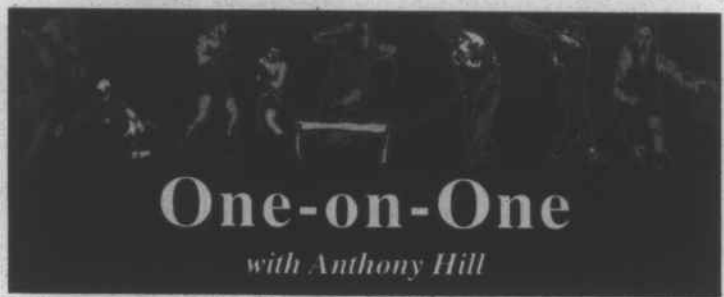
Antonio.

Robin: Yes, we'll be in San Antonio. I'm used to it. I've been in a gym through a lot of Mother's Days, dating back to AAU. We would be in

have to get your rest and be ready to roll.

Anthony: Where's the best place you visited within the last three years?

Robin: We don't go to a



a gym just about every Mother's Day. We used to go out and buy roses to give to the other mothers. I see this as being no different. We'll be in another gym this coming Sunday.

Anthony: How are you able to deal with the crazy travel schedule?

Robin: That part can get hard sometimes. Like this morning, we had to get up at 3:30 to catch an early flight. We're back and forth so much. (Giggles.) But you

lot of the away games. Mainly the home games.

Anthony: It doesn't have to be for basketball. Just name some of the places you've gone to and enjoyed.

Robin: Hmm. Let me think. I enjoyed Japan, when we went over with the Olympic team. That was another culture. I enjoyed that. Dallas, Salt Lake City and L.A.

Anthony: Have you met anyone that you've been in awe over? I know that you

recently met Paula Dean.

Robin: Yeah, that was great. There were a lot of stars at the game last night. We met Danny Glover, Forest Whitaker, Jackie Long (from "ATL") and Diana Ross' daughter (Tracee Ellis Ross). The one that's on "Girlfriends." We met her the night before last.

Anthony: Oh, OK.

Robin: All of them are just real down to earth people. They do what they have to during the day, and chill and come to the game at night.

Anthony: Cool. What is your favorite thing to eat nowadays?

Robin: It's probably gumbo. (Both laugh.)

Anthony: I know you make a killer dish of beans and weenies.

Robin: Beans, weenie and tuna. As a matter I cooked that on Friday when we were in New Orleans. I sure did. Friday night. Tony Parker came by the house and ate dinner with us. He enjoyed it.

Anthony: Do you have a good relationship with most of the players that Chris is friends with?

Robin: Yes, we do. We sure do.

Anthony: That's one of the biggest differences between the new and old NBA. Guys really used to not like each other back in the day. Now, some of the best players are friends.

Robin: Oh yeah, they're really close. This is their job. They have to get along with people they work with. It's no different than us with our coworkers.

Anthony: What else is new Mrs. Paul?

Robin: Oh, nothing else is really new. We just need to go ahead and win this championship.

Anthony: No doubt. Uh, they announced that Kobe won the MVP a little earlier today. Is that disappointing to you?

Robin: (Laughs.) We were glad that Chris' name

was even mentioned. Here he is in his third season, for him to be mentioned as MVP was a blessing. He'll always be the MVP in our eyes anyway. He'll get it one day.

Anthony: No doubt. Is Chris going to be able to make the Hall of Fame ceremony on Friday?

Robin: No, we will not be able to make it. But someone will be there to represent Chris. Chris would have loved to have been here. But he's got to be in San Antonio right now.

Anthony: That's understandable. Mrs. Paul, I need a pair of CP3's.

Robin: (Laughs.) OK. I need a pair too. They're all the mall.

Anthony: (Laughs.) Oh, I can't believe you're going to do me like that. OK, let me get a CP3 T-shirt or something.

Robin: We can do a T-shirt.

Anthony: (Smiles.) That sounds good to me. Um, let's finish with free association so you can enjoy the rest of your day.

Robin: Oh, man.

Anthony: It's gonna be easy.

Robin: OK.

Anthony: Hobart Jones.

Robin: My uncle and cousin.

Anthony: Charles Paul.

Robin: My husband and son.

Anthony: (Smiles.) Winston-Salem.

Robin: Hometown.

Anthony: Robin Paul.

Robin: Charles' wife. C.J. and Chris' mom. Rhonda's (Rhonda Richardson) sister.

Anthony: New Orleans.

Robin: Hornets.

Anthony: Charlotte Bobcats.

Robin: Raymond Felton and Michael Jordan.

Anthony: Favorite basketball player of all-time.

Robin: Michael Jordan.

Anthony: (Smiles.) All right. We're done.

WILKES & THE BOYS



Photo by Bea Harder

Former Carver head football coach Keith Wilkes, who will take over a program in Georgia, poses with several of his former coaches and players during a special celebration to honor his career last Saturday.

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