



10/03/2007

## Price is right for Hughes' shooting

Bob Finnan , RFinnan@News-Herald.com

### Cavs great works with current guard to improve on his 40 percent mark

As the 2006-07 season progressed, Larry Hughes' jump shooting got progressively worse.

He ended up shooting 40 percent from the field after many 4-for-16 nights. On top of that, he developed a hitch in his shot.

The athletic shooting guard needed some help, and he found it in the form of shot doctor Mark Price, one of the top shooters in Cavaliers history. Price, recently hired as the Memphis Grizzlies' shooting coach, spent almost a week this summer working with the 6-foot-5, 185-pound Hughes.

"It went well," Hughes said Tuesday at Cleveland Clinic Courts after the second day of training camp. "It helped me out. (There were) things I can use throughout the season."

Price broke down Hughes' shot and tried to eliminate some bad habits he had acquired.

"It was mainly about balance," Hughes said. "I developed a little hitch and hesitation in my shot. (He tried) to get that out. It was mainly minor things, like squaring up to the basket."

The Cavs sent assistant coach John Kuester to Atlanta with Hughes this summer to work with Price.

"We as a staff asked Larry if he wanted to do it," Cavs coach Mike Brown said. "He said, 'Yes.' It was a suggestion, and he was all for it. We sent John Kuester down there with him for the four or five days."

Brown said he thinks the instruction should be a big help to Hughes.

"Mark Price was a terrific shooter," Brown said. (He was) one of the best shooters to ever play the game. I don't know him well, but I heard good things about him teaching how to shoot the ball correctly. I'm sure if you get some tips and pointers from a guy like that, the only thing it can do is help."

Hughes said he had a session scheduled with San Antonio assistant coach Chip Engelland, another noted shooting coach, but had to cancel when the player's wife, Carrie, suffered a brain aneurysm.

Hughes said Carrie is doing much better and is recovering in St. Louis.

The 28-year-old guard was plagued with a strained left plantar fascia, which forced him to miss Games 3 and 4 of the NBA Finals.

"The foot is feeling good," he said. "I took it easy (in the summer), took my time with it. (I didn't do) a lot of pounding. (I've had) no problems."

He injured his foot in the Eastern Conference finals against Detroit, but continued to play. He could do very little once the Cavs advanced to face San Antonio. It's hard enough guarding Spurs guard Tony Parker when a player is healthy. When a player is about 50 percent healthy, forget it.

"I was on one foot," Hughes said. "I couldn't not go out there and try. When I couldn't help the team, I knew it was time to shut it down."

"It was painful, but it might be an once-in-a-lifetime chance (to play in the Finals). I had to try to participate."

Advertisement

**440-953-1000**



**NEW 2008 LANCER**

AS LOW AS

**\$14,990**

**Mentor Mitsubishi** [www.mentormitsu.com](http://www.mentormitsu.com)

©The News-Herald 2007