

items at Antelope Valley College in Lancaster, Calif., and was arrested in Las Vegas his first year here before last spring's scandal.

But he was the No. 2 scorer in Division I last season with a 29.1 points per game average, he'll tell you.

"I don't think I get enough props (respect) in the Bay Area for the

things I've done athletically," Rider said. "If Jason Kidd (the Cal point guard who led his team past Duke in the tournament last year) ... got drafted I'm sure there would be a parade in Alameda.

"The day after the draft all the other ball players from different states were all over the Bay Area papers. I

**THE REBEL YELL** wasn't. It hurt my mom but it didn't hurt me because I've been going through it forever."

Rider says he is snubbed because of where he grew up, a part of Alameda considered the projects, hence the thug image.

"When I was growing up this was the part of Alameda where they stuck the people that

were struggling in poverty," he said.

But rather than feel contempt, Rider says he helps those closest to him.

"I've helped friends (in the Bay Area) by taking them down to Vegas with me to get them away from the rough life up here," he said. "Even when I was in Vegas I would go to

the West Side and just kick back and talk to the kids.

"The negative stuff I've gotten into has overshadowed the positive things ... I don't have to be told how great a basketball player I am. But if you're going to write all the dirt, yeah bring the positive in too. Make it a medium, balance it out ..."

Still, Rider said he realizes he may never get away from the bad boy image that has followed him from high school. Scouts say Rider, a 6-5, 220-pound college forward will be forced to play shooting guard in the NBA. But Rider denies he is the Charles Barkley-type, as some experts have compared him to.

"I don't consider myself a bad boy on the court," he said. "But I would never let anyone run over me. When I make a great shot or dunk on someone I'll yell in their face. That pumps me up. I'm not on the court bumping and trying to fight someone every other second.

"The things I've been into are terrible but those are things that people get into growing up. I play mean, aggressive and in-your-face basketball. But I'm not a bad boy out to fight or hurt anyone."

Coming in Part II - Rider speaks out on his feelings towards the UNLV administration, coaching staff and teammates as well as joining the Timberwolves.

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