

EXHIBIT R-1

Bleacher Report: Updated mock draft and Round 1 NBA comparisons

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Jonathan Wasserman, Bleacher Report

2024 NBA Draft on B/R

Bleacher Report's Jonathan Wasserman tracks who's rising and who's falling in his latest mock draft.

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USC star Isaiah Collier is No. 3 in the latest Bleacher Report mock draft.

Editor's Note: Find more of Jonathan Wasserman's coverage of the 2024 Draft on [Bleacher Report](#) or to read this article on [BleacherReport.com](#), click [here](#).

(B/R) — NBA scouts have already had some excellent evaluation opportunities with all the non-conference tournaments taking place.

A handful of the high-profile freshmen have looked as advertised early. But we're also starting to see some surprising potential one-and-dones surface, a needed development with the G League Ignite's top prospect struggling and its other big name sidelined with an ankle injury.

It looks like a few players playing overseas will play big roles in this year's draft discussion. One has moved into our top-three projections while putting up huge scoring and playmaking numbers at 18 years old.

Biggest Risers and Fallers Since Last Mock Draft

Risers

- Kevin McCullar Jr., Kansas (No. 47 to No. 17)
- Carlton Carrington, Pittsburgh (Off the board to No. 10)
- Ryan Dunn, Virginia (Off the board to No. 14)
- Trey Alexander, Creighton (No. 41 to No. 21)
- KJ Lewis, Arizona (Off the board to No. 28)
- Reed Sheppard, Kentucky (Off the board to No. 36)

Fallers

- D.J. Wagner, Kentucky (No. 14 to No. 26)
- Justin Edwards, Kentucky (No. 7 to No. 18)
- Elmarko Jackson, Kansas (No. 21 to off the board)
- Mackenzie Mgbako, Indiana (No. 28 to off the board)
- Elliot Cadeau, North Carolina (No. 30 to off the board)

1. Detroit Pistons: Ron Holland

- **School/Team:** G League Ignite
- **Position:** SF
- **Age:** 18
- **Size:** 6-foot-6, 204 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Shawn Marion

Ron Holland and the G League Ignite are in a funk, and it's opened up the conversation about where the team's prospects stand in the draft discussion.

It's still too early to knock the 18-year-old off the No. 1 line, given what we saw in high school and how dangerous he previously looked in consecutive games against the NBL's Perth Wildcats.

A baseline projection pictures a Shawn Marion archetype who'll impact games with explosiveness, activity and defense, rather than creation, playmaking or shooting.

But there is still higher potential outcomes where Holland continues to improve his scoring and shooting. He's shown he can get to spots within a defense and separate off ball-handling counters and footwork plus burst, and he has looked capable (but inconsistent) with his jumper and floater.

Holland's erratic three-ball and turnovers *have* raised some questions, however, so scouts will continue to monitor his progress before deeming him a clear No. 1 overall favorite.

2. Washington Wizards: Nikola Topic

- **School/Team:** Mega MIS
- **Position:** PG
- **Age:** 18
- **Size:** 6-foot-6, 198 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Shai Gilgeous-Alexander

Nikola Topic's emergence has been one of this draft cycle's biggest storylines, and a needed one for a projected class looking for more worthy top-five picks.

The 6'6", 18-year-old point guard is averaging 19.2 points and 6.6 assists (Adriatic League and Supercup), consistently giving defenses problems with his dribble manipulation, clever passing, finishing craft and pull-up shotmaking.

He reminds of Shai Gilgeous-Alexander with how he creates using shiftiness, change of speed, tight handles and IQ over explosion, quickness or burst. Topic's playmaking upside is equally attractive, given how well he leverages his gravity, sees the floor and reads defenses in pick-and-roll situations.

NBA teams will ultimately start to look past his frame and athletic/defensive limitations if Topic continues to create advantages, finish around the basket and provide shotmaking firepower, even if his shooting accuracy fluctuates. There is too much to bet on with his positional size, production and age.

3. San Antonio Spurs: Isaiah Collier

- **School/Team:** USC
- **Position:** PG
- **Age:** 19, Freshman
- **Size:** 6-foot-5, 210 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Baron Davis

Isaiah Collier has had serious success creating advantages, blasting through gaps and finishing with both physicality and acrobatics.

Attacking and putting pressure on the rim will be his signature at the NBA level. The combination of ball-handling, burst and strength to knock defenders back has helped Collier rack up 16 buckets at the rim and 31 free-throw attempts in five games. But he's also an exciting passer willing to settle into a quarterback role and facilitate. The creativity and power resemble Baron Davis', though Collier isn't as explosive of a leaper.

He still has 21 turnovers to 15 assists, so his decision-making for a lead guard will be monitored closely over the next few months.

Decision-making and shooting will be the hot topics to debate when discussing Collier's NBA outlook.

4. Portland Trail Blazers: Alexandre Sarr

- **School/Team:** Perth Wildcats
- **Position:** PF/C
- **Age:** 18
- **Size:** 7-foot-1, 216 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Jaren Jackson Jr.

Alexandre Sarr's defensive flashes of rim protection, shot-contesting and foot speed have created the most excitement. But he wouldn't be in the No. 1 conversation without the 11 made threes, touch shots around the key and occasional drives into finishes.

The optimal outcome pictures the Frenchman morphing into another version of Jaren Jackson Jr. by continuing to improve his shooting and polishing up his face-up and post footwork.

Regardless, there isn't much uncertainty or risk tied to Sarr's defensive projection, given the strong likelihood that his 7-foot-1 size, athleticism, movement, aggression and NBL production translates to shot-blocking, pick-and-roll coverage and switchability.

5. Memphis Grizzlies: Zaccharie Risacher

- **School/Team:** JL Bourg
- **Position:** SF
- **Age:** 18
- **Size:** 6-foot-8, 204 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Harrison Barnes

Memories of a poor Nike Hook Summit week are being wiped away by Zaccharie Risacher's impressive start in LNB Pro A and EuroCup.

The 6-foot-8 forward is making a combined 41.5% of his 3-pointers, demonstrating a quick, high and confident release. While scouts may be skeptical of his ability to initiate offense in the half court, his shotmaking and slashing tools create translatable complementary scoring similar to Harrison Barnes'.

However, Risacher is a more explosive athlete whose ball-handling, long strides and leaping are ideal for attacking and finishing in open-floor situations.

Passing and defensive flashes suggest there will be more to the 18-year-old's game as he continues to develop.

6. Utah Jazz: Matas Buzelis

- **School/Team:** G League Ignite
- **Position:** SG/SF
- **Age:** 19
- **Size:** 6-foot-8, 209 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Franz Wagner

In the No. 1 overall discussion entering the season, Matas Buzelis has been sidelined by an ankle injury that has kept any draft buzz in check. The two exhibition games he played in Las Vegas drew mixed reviews that praised his shooting stroke, athleticism and fluidity but criticized his lack of aggression and defense.

Regardless of his consistency or production this season, his combination of positional size, ball-handling and shotmaking creates an archetype that mirrors Franz Wagner's.

Ideally, Buzelis will be able to operate in ball-screen situations, spot up from three, work from the post and finish at a high percentage from off the ball. Failing to make an obvious impact this year may knock him out of the No. 1 discussion, but his versatility and easily projected fit should prevent him from falling too far.

7. Charlotte Hornets: Stephon Castle

- **School/Team:** Connecticut
- **Position:** SG
- **Age:** 19, Sophomore
- **Size:** 6-foot-6, 215 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Jimmy Butler

A knee injury knocked Stephon Castle out early, but he looked as advertised in limited action. There is some of Jimmy Butler in his physicality, two-point scoring, point-wing passing skills and defensive toughness.

Playing at his own pace, he has shown he can find ways to separate without needing lightning quickness or high-flying explosion.

Expected back in December, Castle will be joining an undefeated, deep lineup, so it's reasonable to expect his role to remain limited.

In a draft lacking star power, however, the flashes, eye test and a coveted archetype should be enough to entice lottery and potentially top-five teams.

8. Chicago Bulls: Ja'Kobe Walter

- **School/Team:** Baylor
- **Position:** SG
- **Age:** 19, Freshman
- **Size:** 6-foot-5, 195 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Kentavious Caldwell-Pope

Ja'Kobe Walter's 18.0 points per game and one total assist reflect high-level shotmaking and limited creation/playmaking.

Early signs point to a Kentavious Caldwell-Pope type, built to score from off the ball and defend opposing teams' starting wings. He has an NBA frame, which he's used at both ends to finish through contact and disrupt opposing ball-handlers.

Walter has still relied on hitting touch jumpers/runners and free throws, so it will be interesting to see if he remains efficient during conference play. But given his success in high school, his hot start doesn't seem fluky.

9. Oklahoma City Thunder (via Clippers): Cody Williams

- **School/Team:** Colorado
- **Position:** SF
- **Age:** 19, Freshman
- **Size:** 6-foot-8, 190 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Jerami Grant

Cody Williams has made some strong first impressions with his open-floor finishing, slashing, touch around the basket and defensive effort.

His three-ball looks capable but shaky, and he needs to be stronger with the ball, weaknesses that suggest he's more of a longer-term project than an immediate upgrade for an NBA team.

At 6-foot-8, though, his potential scoring versatility and defensive tools could eventually mirror Jerami Grant's. Between the five-game sample size at Colorado and his big senior year in high school, Williams has flashed that always-enticing combo of guard skills and wing-stopper tools.

10. San Antonio Spurs (via Raptors): Carlton Carrington

- **School/Team:** Pittsburgh
- **Position:** PG/SG
- **Age:** 18, Freshman
- **Size:** 6-foot-5, 190 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Tyrese Maxey

Serious attention is being paid to Carlton Carrington's start at Pittsburgh, after he triple-doubled in his debut and hit 14 of his first 27 three-point attempts.

There is some Tyrese Maxey in his ability to create space with footwork, drill jumpers off the dribble and shoot from well beyond the arc.

Aside from the scoring versatility, Carrington has demonstrated impressive vision while handling the ball, making reads and delivering live-dribble passes.

Scouts are still in wait-and-see mode on his consistency, given the small sample size and their lack of familiarity with the four-star recruit.

However, the eye-test results have been extremely persuasive early, with Carrington having the size, self-creation, shotmaking and playmaking IQ of a full-package lead guard.

11. Atlanta Hawks: Kyle Filipowski

- **School/Team:** Duke
- **Position:** PF/C
- **Age:** 20, Sophomore
- **Size:** 7 feet, 248 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Moritz Wagner

While it doesn't appear Kyle Filipowski has added much, he's been tougher inside the arc using his effective combination of strength, footwork and touch.

The three-ball has been on and off early, but it's still a key part of his outlook and one the team that drafts him will be banking on.

He's not as fluid of a mover or shooter as Lauri Markkanen, but his physicality, skill and shotmaking could mirror Moritz Wagner's.

Like Wagner, Filipowski may be more useful in an offensive specialist role off the bench, given his lack of rim protection at the center position.

12. Houston Rockets (via Nets): Tyrese Proctor

- **School/Team:** Duke

- **Position:** PG
- **Age:** 19, Sophomore
- **Size:** 6-foot-5, 183 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Andrew Nembhard

While there still doesn't appear to be one aspect of Tyrese Proctor's game that has scouts drooling, well-roundedness and mature decision-making continue to be draws.

His assist-to-turnover ratio (27 assists, four turnovers), mid-range shotmaking and limited rim pressure/burst is reminiscent of Andrew Nembhard.

Though Proctor can have trouble against pressure, blowing by and getting to the free-throw line, he does have some shifty ball-handling moves to separate into drives and jumpers. And his passing IQ and vision off the dribble should see teams use him as a lead point guard.

Proctor should remain in the lottery conversation, as long as he raises last year's three-point volume and consistency.

13. Portland Trail Blazers (via Warriors): Donovan Clingan

- **School/Team:** Connecticut
- **Position:** C
- **Age:** 19, Sophomore
- **Size:** 7-foot-2, 280 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Jakob Poeltl

Coming off a summer foot injury, Donovan Clingan has looked similar to last year so far, playing to his strengths as a finisher and offensive rebounder.

Though it's early, it doesn't appear he's added much offensively, though he's still bound to draw top-20 interest for the translatable rim protection tied to his 7-foot-2 size, strength and anticipation.

He should still offer some offensive value as a roll man, high-percentage dump-off target and low-post scorer. His offensive effectiveness, role and defensive impact figure to be similar to Jakob Poeltl's.

Clingan did have some trouble against Kel'el Ware's length in the Indiana game, and foul trouble limited him to just 12 minutes against Texas. There are bound to be teams that question his NBA upside and fit with their roster, but certain ones may see him filling an important need with his physicality and ability to shut down the paint.

14. New Orleans Pelicans: Ryan Dunn

- **School/Team:** Virginia

- **Position:** SF/PF
- **Age:** 20, Sophomore
- **Size:** 6-foot-8, 216 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Herb Jones

At some point in this year's first round, a team is going to look past Ryan Dunn's offensive limitations to add his wild defensive playmaking and court coverage.

Certain front offices will feel they can afford to pass on better scorers and playmakers if a Herb Jones 2.0 is available.

Not many 6'8" forwards anticipate and move with as much speed and explosion as Dunn, who's made some incredible recovery plays, jumps passing lanes and rotates down for weakside contests at the rim.

An off-ball disruptor with the size and foot speed to guard bigs or wings, he can also provide complementary scoring with elite athleticism for play-finishing.

Any signs of shooting improvement this year should launch him into one of the draft's top tiers.

15. Oklahoma City Thunder (via Rockets): Kel'el Ware

- **School/Team:** Indiana
- **Position:** C
- **Age:** 19, Sophomore
- **Size:** 7 feet, 242 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Jarrett Allen

Kel'el Ware struggled offensively in his first big test against Connecticut, but his defense held 7-foot-2, 280-pound Donovan Clingan in check most of the game.

His scouting report is starting mirror Jarrett Allen's, with effective rim protection and finishing tools, some scoring touch around the key, struggles against physicality and a 3-point stroke that's been more of a tease than a reliable source for offense.

16. New Orleans Pelicans (via Lakers): Adem Bona

- **School/Team:** UCLA
- **Position:** C
- **Age:** 20, Sophomore
- **Size:** 6-foot-10, 245 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Isaiah Jackson

Averaging nearly 10 more points per 40 minutes this year, Adem Bona continues to overpower opponents around the basket with his explosiveness, strength and energy. But he's also been more effective scoring out of the post, and we've even seen flashes of face-up drives and mid-range jumpers, after he failed to make one jump shot all season as a freshman.

His NBA archetype and role will still be similar to Isaiah Jackson's. Bona will always be valued for his athleticism, motor and fearlessness at the basket for rim running, play-finishing and shot-blocking. That package alone should generate first-round interest from teams looking for frontcourt depth and defense.

Any more flashes of face-up play, footwork and touch will be deemed a bonus that could keep pushing him toward the lottery.

17. New York Knicks: Kevin McCullar Jr.

- **School/Team:** Kansas
- **Position:** SG/SF
- **Age:** 22, Senior
- **Size:** 6-foot-7, 214 lbs
- **Pro comparison:** Kenrich Williams

A borderline draft pick in 2023, Kevin McCullar Jr. has looked different this year, showing elevated creation, finishing and playmaking firepower.

Getting to his spots, scoring through contact and setting up teammates with stationary and live-dribble passes, he seemingly has a stronger command and control of each possession. He's triple-doubled twice in five games, and he's been outstanding defensively, guarding different archetypes and locking down ball-handlers.

A safe projection envisions another Kenrich Williams, who has the ability to make lineups better with his decision-making, shotmaking, rebounding, efficiency and defensive IQ.

This year, NBA teams may be quicker to settle on a projected role player like McCullar, as the perceived higher-upside talent seems likely to dry out earlier than normal in 2024.

18. Cleveland Cavaliers: Justin Edwards

- **School/Team:** Kentucky
- **Position:** SF
- **Age:** 19, Freshman
- **Size:** 6-foot-8, 203 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Olivier Maxence-Prosper

Justin Edwards still has time to improve his early scouting report, which depicts a high-level athlete and versatile, disruptive defender whose handle and jump shot need plenty of work.

At this point, it may be safer for teams to picture an Olivier Maxence-Prosper type who's valued for his play-finishing, transition game, activity around the rim and defense.

Edwards has shown flashes of spot-up shooting and a mid-range pull-up, but the eye test suggests they won't be reliable soon.

In the meantime, he's still been efficient scoring off the ball, and Kentucky will value his ability to guard and challenge wings or forwards.

19. Phoenix Suns: Izan Almansa

- **School/Team:** G League Ignite
- **Position:** PF
- **Age:** 18
- **Size:** 6-foot-10, 216 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Jabari Walker

Teams may start to think about Izan Almansa a little differently after his slow start for Ignite. His struggles creating and shooting have become evident, but there is still an appealing, likely trajectory tied to his inside scoring instincts, motor and defensive versatility.

The Spaniard is looking more like a play-finisher who will set screens and roll, crash the glass, post up, mix it up inside and occasionally spot up from three in a role similar to Jabari Walker's.

Unless his ball-handling totally evolves, Almansa's value will come in the form of mostly off-ball activity.

20. Atlanta Hawks (via Kings): Aday Mara

- **School/Team:** UCLA
- **Position:** C
- **Age:** 18, Freshman
- **Size:** 7-foot-3, 240 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Zydrunas Ilgauskas

While Aday Mara's minutes have fluctuated early, it's still been easy to detect his sharp post footwork, touch and mid-range shooting stroke.

Measuring similarly to two-time All-Star Zydrunas Ilgauskas, the Spaniard also has the skill level to command back-to-the-basket touches and pick-and-pops. He just isn't the quickest or most fluid moving his feet around the perimeter, which will limit his amount of NBA suitors.

But even if Mara's production and impact flicker at UCLA, and his fit/upside are questioned, his enormous size, various scoring methods, passing and shot-blocking should keep him locked into the first-round mix.

21. Indiana Pacers: Trey Alexander

- **School/Team:** Creighton
- **Position:** SG
- **Age:** 20, Junior
- **Size:** 6-foot-4, 190 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Donte DiVincenzo

There are extra layers to Trey Alexander's game and athleticism this year, with the senior averaging 6.5 assists and suddenly throwing down dunks.

He was already one of the nation's most versatile shooters last season, but at 6-foot-4, scouts wanted to see more playmaking and action around the basket. He's delivering on both requests so far.

Even if teams aren't convinced that Alexander's creation or improved bounce will translate to efficient NBA scoring, they could still eye him for a Donte DiVincenzo role that values his shotmaking, ball-moving and versatility to make plays on and off the ball.

He clearly looks different and more well-rounded to add more passing value and stronger finishing/rebounding.

22. New York Knicks (via Mavericks): Baba Miller

- **School/Team:** Florida State
- **Position:** SF/PF
- **Age:** 19, Sophomore
- **Size:** 6-foot-11, 204 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Jonathan Isaac

Baba Miller continues to play a secondary or supporting role for Florida State, despite a FIBA U19 World Cup showing with Spain over the summer that hinted at a breakout sophomore season.

At this stage, teams may detect more value in his defensive upside/versatility, which could be similar to Jonathan Isaac's.

Still, for this 19-year-old, the flashes of slashing and shotmaking continue to look enticing. Foul trouble has been an issue early, so there is a chance his minutes and aggression start to change.

His margin for error may be decreasing, though, as scouts look for more assertiveness and consistent results with his creation and shooting development.

23. Miami Heat: Kylan Boswell

- **School/Team:** Arizona
- **Position:** PG
- **Age:** 18, Sophomore
- **Size:** 6-foot-2, 195 lbs

Kylan Boswell is fighting off athletic concerns with ridiculous shotmaking accuracy, high-IQ plays and pesky defense.

He's started the season 15-of-22 on 3-pointers, though his 60 two-point percentage is equally comforting, given scouts' questions about his potential to separate and finish.

Even if it's difficult to picture upside, Boswell should have enough pluses on the scouting report deemed translatable, including his transition playmaking, shooting, positional strength, decision-making and toughness.

24. Orlando Magic: Bobi Klintman

- **School/Team:** Cairns Taipans
- **Position:** SF/PF
- **Age:** 20
- **Size:** 6-foot-8, 225 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** De'Andre Hunter

Despite not hitting 3-pointers at the same rate as last year, Bobi Klintman has looked like more of an NBA prospect in Australia with extra freedom and space to grab and go, put the ball down, score in the lane or pass off a live dribble.

Drafting him in the first round still means buying into his shot as well as his defensive tools. With a similar body to De'Andre Hunter, he could eventually serve as another three-and-D combo forward, though the play-finishing and playmaking flashes from this year create some extra layers of offense and cushion if his shooting development stalls.

25. Philadelphia 76ers: Robert Dillingham

- **School/Team:** Kentucky
- **Position:** PG/SG
- **Age:** 18, Freshman
- **Size:** 6-foot-3, 176 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Bones Hyland

Inefficient last year with Overtime Elite, Robert Dillingham is averaging 16 points in just 23 minutes on an outstanding 63.4 true shooting percentage with Kentucky.

Similar to Bones Hyland, he's an offensive lightning rod with self-creation and shotmaking that help compensate for such limited size, strength and athleticism.

Dillingham has been connecting on spot-up (44.4%) and dribble jumpers (43.8%), an encouraging sign that highlights his versatility as a combo who can score on and off the ball.

A 6-foot-3, 176-pound frame will still keep teams from reaching early on Dillingham, given the likely obstacles he'll face on defense and getting off clean looks against NBA 2-guards. But certain lineups will value his firepower off the bench, and he's even looked excellent playmaking for teammates in pick-and-roll situations.

26. Denver Nuggets: D.J. Wagner

- **School/Team:** Kentucky
- **Position:** PG/SG
- **Age:** 18, Freshman
- **Size:** 6-foot-4, 192 lbs
- **Pro comparison:** Cole Anthony

D.J. Wagner's 1-of-12 showing against Kansas raised red flags, as he struggled to create finishing angles or shots for teammates, convert against length or make jump shots.

The positive is that he's getting to his spots with a combination of shiftiness and burst.

The Kentucky product still has plenty of opportunities to alleviate scouts' concerns, and there is enough evidence that he has the handle, quick moves, craft at the rim and shotmaking skill to bounce back and look more like a serviceable NBA scorer.

His archetype is starting to look more like Cole Anthony's than a starting point guard's. Wagner offers some playmaking off his elusiveness, but he's clearly wired to score.

And like Anthony did in college, Wagner has struggled with decision-making and finishing.

27. Indiana Pacers (via Thunder): Trevon Brazile

- **School/Team:** Arkansas
- **Position:** PF/C
- **Age:** 20, Sophomore
- **Size:** 6-foot-10
- **Pro Comparison:** Obi Toppin

Trevon Brazile hasn't been as aggressive this year since returning from ACL surgery. But the athletic play-finishing and shot-blocking are still there, and he's made 5-of-11 3-pointers, developments that are ultimately more important than his creation, given the unlikelihood of it being used often at the next level.

Any flashes of drives past closeouts or floaters will be encouraging and point to other avenues toward upside. But his role and value will be similar to Obi Toppin's with the Indiana Pacers.

NBA teams will show an interest in Brazile's ability to pick up easy baskets and space the floor with pick-and-pop and spot-up shooting.

28. Milwaukee Bucks: KJ Lewis

- **School/Team:** Arizona
- **Position:** SG
- **Age:** 19, Freshman
- **Size:** 6-foot-4, 205 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Jae'Sean Tate

KJ Lewis might not need production to sell NBA teams for the 2024 draft. While teams will have to acknowledge that the freshman doesn't project as a high-volume scorer or playmaker, his signature strengths seem translatable, and they create an archetype that some may value.

He's going to play the Jae'Sean Tate role by impacting games on low usage with athleticism, energy and defense.

Lewis has had some outstanding defensive sequences that highlight his foot speed, processing and aggression making plays on the ball. But he's also proved to be a high-IQ passer who can facilitate out of pick-and-rolls.

Scouts will feel a lot more willing to reach early on Lewis if he delivers some signs of shooting potential.

29. Minnesota Timberwolves: Tristan da Silva

- **School/Team:** Colorado
- **Position:** SF/PF
- **Age:** 22, Senior
- **Size:** 6-foot-9, 220 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Kyle Kuzma

A consistent shooter over the previous two seasons, Tristan da Silva has started 10-of-23 from behind the arc with his smooth, projectable stroke.

The combination of 6-foot-9 size and shotmaking versatility are reminiscent of Kyle Kuzma. Effective off the catch or dribble, the Colorado product will earn his money around the perimeter or in the post, as he struggles making athletic plays attacking the basket.

Da Silva won't offer much outside of scoring, but in the right role, teams may envision a plug-and-play combo who'll step into jumpers and finish plays in space.

30. Boston Celtics: Aaron Bradshaw

- **School/Team:** Kentucky
- **Position:** C
- **Age:** 19, Freshman
- **Size:** 7-foot-1, 226 lbs
- **Pro Comparison:** Myles Turner

With Justin Edwards and DJ Wagner struggling for Kentucky, scouts remain eager for Aaron Bradshaw's debut.

There still aren't details available about his return from a foot injury, and Kentucky head coach John Calipari will presumably take it slow once the freshman is back.

The combination of 7-foot-1 size, shot-blocking and shotmaking could remind some of Myles Turner. And that coveted mix of rim protection and offensive floor-spacing will keep scouts patient.

However, Bradshaw still has some convincing to do with his offensive feel, shooting credibility and health/durability.

31. New York Knicks: Tadjana Salaun

- **School/Team:** Cholet
- **Position:** PF
- **Age:** 18
- **Size:** 6-foot-8, 212 lbs

Scouts will put more stock into Tadjana Salaun's flashes than his consistency, which has been up and down in LNB Pro A.

Evaluators will be patient with the 18-year-old, given the obvious long-term appeal to his combination of size, athletic ability and shotmaking. His shooting and feel for the game are still behind, however. Teams considering him won't be expecting any rookie contributions.

32. Detroit Pistons (via Wizards): Tyler Smith

- **School/Team:** G League Ignite

- **Position:** SF/PF
- **Age:** 19
- **Size:** 6-foot-11, 224 lbs

With Ron Holland struggling and Matas Buzelis injured, Tyler Smith has been Ignite's most productive draft-eligible prospect early. He's off to a ridiculous start from 3-point range, making 11-of-17 attempts, an eye-catching development given his size and age.

Smith hasn't showcased much creation, passing or shot-blocking, so there will be a lot riding on his jump shot. But if the hot shooting turns out to be real/consistent, he'll have a chance to move into the first-round mix.

33. San Antonio Spurs: Jarin Stevenson

- **School/Team:** Alabama
- **Position:** PF
- **Age:** 18, Freshman
- **Size:** 6-foot-11, 210 lbs

There could be a path toward the first round for Jarin Stevenson if he continues to hit threes and finish.

NBA teams are going to be tempted by his age and archetype, which should earn the 18-year-old a pass if he goes through quiet offensive stretches this season.

At 6-foot-11, his floor-spacing shooting in spot-up and pick-and-pop situations, plus his tools around the basket, hint at an eventual NBA fit.

34. Milwaukee Bucks (via Blazers): Oso Ighodaro

- **School/Team:** Marquette
- **Position:** C
- **Age:** 21, Senior
- **Size:** 6-foot-11, 235 lbs

A two-way impact player for one of the nation's premier teams, Oso Ighodaro is becoming a major talking point in the draft discussion.

He's somewhat out-of-the-box without a center's shot-blocking numbers or a forward's shooting ability, but the 6-foot-11 Ighodaro has become super interesting for his ball-handling, passing and paint touch.

A chunk of Marquette's offense runs through its big man, who can facilitate from the top of the key. He's been more disruptive defensively this year as well.

NBA teams could eventually see value in the 20s with Ighodaro if they're willing to settle on a likely reserve who lacks exciting upside.

35. Minnesota Timberwolves (via Grizzlies): Zvonimir Ivišić

- **School/Team:** Kentucky
- **Position:** PF/C
- **Age:** 20, Freshman
- **Size:** 7-foot-2, 234 lbs

Scouts and Kentucky are still waiting on the NCAA to clear Zvonimir Ivišić, though it's expected to happen at some point.

There has been a buildup of anticipation for his college debut after he averaged 11.4 points, 3.4 blocks and 1.6 threes for Croatia at the U20 European Championship. At 7-foot-2, his flashes of open-floor ball-handling, drives from the arc and shooting point to enticing upside.

Scouts just want a better feel for how realistic it is, and how legitimate his range, defensive mobility and feel for the game are.

36. New York Knicks (via Jazz): Reed Sheppard

- **School/Team:** Kentucky
- **Position:** SG
- **Age:** 19, Freshman
- **Size:** 6-foot-3, 187 lbs

The eye test matches the stat that says Reed Sheppard leads Kentucky in box plus-minus.

Lethal from three, making 12 of his first 18 attempts, he's also made his lineups better with his IQ and quickness used to set up teammates and force turnovers.

If Sheppard continues to light it up from deep, add playmaking and create events on defense, scouts are bound to look past his physical profile, which isn't even that underwhelming.

A 6-foot-3, 187-pound frame should be able to hold up for a player with his shotmaking and intangibles.

37. Portland Trail Blazers (via Hornets): Wooga Poplar

- **School/Team:** Miami
- **Position:** SG
- **Age:** 20, Junior
- **Size:** 6-foot-5, 197 lbs

The basket must look like an ocean to Wooga Poplar, who's already made 19-of-32 3-pointers (59.4%) through five games. It's a potentially significant development, given his previous lack of three-point volume, and what a consistent jumper could do for such an explosive athlete.

He's also shown more comfort with a floater, giving Poplar a more complete look for a potential NBA scoring 2-guard.

38. Boston Celtics (via Bulls): Riley Kugel

- **School/Team:** Florida
- **Position:** SG
- **Age:** 19, Sophomore
- **Size:** 6-foot-5, 207 lbs

Riley Kugel's highlights show an exceptional athlete and three-level shotmaker who can create long strides, elevation or dribble moves.

Inconsistency has made him less persuasive, and a lack of playmaking reduces his margin for error. But there is clear first-round potential tied to Kugel's tools, explosion, isolation moves and streaky shot.

39. Los Angeles Lakers (via Clippers): Dalton Knecht

- **School/team:** Tennessee
- **Position:** SF
- **Age:** 22, Senior
- **Size:** 6-foot-6, 204 lbs

Dalton Knecht has been highly convincing with his 6'6" frame, clean shooting and tough finishes.

While questionable creation, athleticism and defensive potential could prevent the 22-year-old from soaring up boards, he has the type of game scouts could see plugging right into a spot-up scoring role with off-ball shotmaking versatility, line-driving and cutting.

40. LA Clippers (via Raptors): Melvin Ajinca

- **School/Team:** Saint-Quentin
- **Position:** SG/SF
- **Age:** 19, Freshman
- **Size:** 6-foot-7

Averaging 8.3 points with 19 3-pointers in 12 games, Melvin Ajinca has been mildly productive for a 19-year-old in LNB Pro A.

He hasn't fully capitalized on the extra eyes he's drawn following his breakout U19 World Cup performance for France. But the combination of 6-foot-7 size and confident shotmaking should keep interest alive, despite his lack of playmaking and early struggles inside the arc.

41. Houston Rockets (via Nets): Yves Missi

- **School/Team:** Baylor
- **Position:** C
- **Age:** 19, Freshman
- **Size:** 7 feet, 235 lbs

Scouts initially watching Baylor for Ja'Kobe Walter have come away talking about Yves Missi. And while there isn't anything overly unique about his game or potential trajectory, the 7'0" freshman has consistently used his physical tools and mobility for picking up easy baskets and protecting the rim.

Missi possesses the type of body and movement for scouts to see the offensive rebounding and tremendous shot-blocking rate (2.8 in 19.5 minutes) translating.

42. Portland Trail Blazers (via Hawks): Matthew Cleveland

- **School/Team:** Miami
- **Position:** SF
- **Age:** 21, Junior
- **Size:** 6-foot-7, 208 lbs

Scouts waiting on Matthew Cleveland's shooting have to be encouraged by his fresh start with Miami. He's made 7-of-14 3-pointers in five games while also delivering a higher rate of creation and passing flashes than we saw at Florida State.

Even if scouts don't see the on-ball stuff carrying over, an improved shot plus Cleveland's athleticism, short-range touch and motor could be enough for off-ball scoring at the next level.

43. Houston Rockets (via Warriors): Judah Mintz

- **School/Team:** Syracuse
- **Position:** PG/SG
- **Age:** 20, Sophomore
- **Size:** 6-foot-4, 185 lbs

Aside from adding needed muscle, Judah Mintz looks similar to the mid-range scorer and playmaker he was last season.

With four 20-point games in Syracuse's last five, he continues to slice through defenses and elevate into jumpers around the key.

Mintz did struggle to separate against Tennessee on Monday, and despite making a pair of threes against Gonzaga on Tuesday, he's still appears uncomfortable shooting from deep.

However, his ability to apply rim pressure, pull up inside the arc, set up teammates and create turnovers should be enough to draw second-round interest.

44. Oklahoma City Thunder (via Rockets): Trentyn Flowers

- **School/Team:** Adelaide 36ers
- **Position:** SG
- **Age:** 18
- **Size:** 6-foot-8, 205 lbs

The NBL game has slowed down for Trentyn Flowers, as he's now at 49.2% from the floor and 43.5% on 3-pointers this season.

The point guard experiment didn't go well, but his shooting stroke is highly convincing, and that combination of 6-foot-8 size, shotmaking and athleticism doesn't require high-level creation or decision-making for an off-ball scoring role.

45. New Orleans Pelicans: Alex Karaban

- **School/Team:** Connecticut
- **Position:** PF
- **Age:** 21, Sophomore
- **Size:** 6-foot-8, 220 lbs

Alex Karaban's shotmaking has popped during Connecticut's 5-0 start, with the 6-foot-8, 220-pound sophomore looking a potential stretch-4 fit for the next level.

Aside from shooting 40.7% on 3-pointers, he's also 19-of-23 inside the arc, negating some concerns over his athletic limitations by making contested jumpers, touch shots and tougher finishes.

46. LA Clippers (via Cavs): Dillon Jones

- **School/Team:** Weber State
- **Position:** SG/SF
- **Age:** 22, Junior
- **Size:** 6-foot-6, 235 lbs

Averaging 22 points on 65.1% true shooting, Dillon Jones is off to an eye-opening start that's highlighting his unique mix of physicality, ball-handling and pull-up shotmaking.

Scouts may question his fit and whether he'll be useful enough off the ball or elusive enough creating. But he's become an interesting second-round option with his ability to navigate off the dribble at 235 pounds, finish with power or adjustments, win rebounding battles and defend different archetypes.

47. Washington Wizards (via Suns): Berke Buyuktuncel

- **School/Team:** UCLA
- **Position:** SF
- **Age:** 19, Freshman
- **Size:** 6-foot-9, 245 lbs

Berke Buyuktuncel was just ruled eligible, so a rough first two games weren't surprising. Once he gets comfortable, NBA teams are bound to admire his mix of shotmaking and passing for a 6'9", 19-year-old forward.

As long as his athletic limitations don't raise serious red flags, his U20 European Championship performance with Turkey, his archetype and UCLA flashes should be enough to get him drafted.

48. Philadelphia 76ers (via Knicks): Kobe Johnson

- **School/Team:** USC
- **Position:** SG/SF
- **Age:** 20, Junior
- **Size:** 6-foot-6, 200 lbs

Kobe Johnson has the glue-guy skill set and intangibles with his passing, defense and off-ball finishing.

Early signs point to the junior being focused on showcasing more creation and shooting range. He should be able to generate extra attention this year as the key cog on a talented USC team.

49. San Antonio Spurs (via Lakers): Tyler Kolek

- **School/Team:** Marquette
- **Position:** PG
- **Age:** 22, Junior
- **Size:** 6-foot-3, 195 lbs

NBA teams searching for more playmaking could target Tyler Kolek in the second round. While he has obvious athletic and defensive limitations, his pace, passing IQ and finishing touch are excellent and could translate to effective pick-and-roll offense at the level.

With an accurate shooting stroke off the catch and dribble, Kolek should have enough in his bag to convince teams to look past his physical flaws.

50. Indiana Pacers: Nikola Djuric

- **School/Team:** Mega MIS
- **Position:** SG/SF
- **Age:** 19
- **Size:** 6-foot-7, 214 lbs

Nikola Djuric is still struggling with shooting consistency, but there aren't any questions about his shotmaking capability, and he's still providing impressive playmaking ability that helps separate him from other 6-foot-8 wings.

Though it would be difficult to draw first-round interest after another season shooting below 30% on 3-pointers, a 19-year-old with potential shoot-dribble-pass connector skills should still seem like an appealing second-round gamble.

51. Sacramento Kings: Terrence Shannon Jr.

- **School/Team:** Illinois
- **Position:** SG/SF
- **Age:** 23, Senior
- **Size:** 6-foot-6, 215 lbs

Terrence Shannon Jr. is on pace to up his 3-point attempts and assist percentage for the fourth consecutive season.

Scouts have wanted to see more consistent shooting and functional playmaking to complement his 6'6" size and athleticism for slashing and defense.

Shannon appears on track to offer enough shotmaking and secondary creation to justify wide-ranging NBA interest.

52. Orlando Magic: Reece Beekman

- **School/Team:** Virginia
- **Position:** PG
- **Age:** 22, Senior
- **Size:** 6-foot-3, 194 lbs

Moving up draft boards will require Reece Beekman to show some shooting improvement. He's still an interesting second-round option for his two-way playmaking. Some teams could find use for his passing IQ to run offense and pesky defense around the perimeter.

He'll really help himself by looking more confident with his pull-up and three-ball. Right now, it's difficult to picture him self-creating or scoring at the next level, which is a potential issue in today's NBA for a lead guard.

53. Atlanta Hawks (via Heat): AJ Johnson

- **School/Team:** Illawarra Hawks
- **Position:** SG
- **Age:** 18
- **Size:** 6-foot-5, 161 lbs

Playing just 7.6 minutes per game, AJ Johnson may already be looking forward to predraft workouts, where he'll have a better opportunity to sell teams on his positional size and shotmaking.

He could be the NBA's youngest player next year, turning 19 on December 1. So he'd presumably spend next season getting reps in the G League.

Johnson has obvious talent and some scoring and playmaking skill, but his execution, physicality and decision-making are lagging.

54. Boston Celtics (via Mavs): Hunter Sallis

- **School/Team:** Wake Forest
- **Position:** SG
- **Age:** 21, Junior
- **Size:** 6-foot-7, 208 lbs

Wake Forest has helped unlock some of Hunter Sallis' creation and confidence that was seemingly masked at Gonzaga. With extra freedom, he's delivered more three-level scoring with his slashing and shotmaking.

His athleticism has popped around the rim on finishes and blocked shots as well. It's pretty clear Sallis won't offer much playmaking, which means he'll be boxed into one backcourt position.

If the improved shooting is real, though, it could be enough for an NBA 2-guard when paired with his tools and bounce .

55. Indiana Pacers (via Bucks): Dillon Mitchell

- **School/Team:** Texas
- **Position:** PF
- **Age:** 20, Sophomore
- **Size:** 6-foot-8, 205 lbs

A breakout 21-point game against Connecticut highlighted Dillon Mitchell's ability to make an impact with bounce and aggression around the basket.

But he also flashed some intriguing mid-range shotmaking, which would give him a needed, extra dimension of offense to threaten defenses with.

Still, if a team is going to take a chance on Mitchell, it will be for an off-ball energizer role that calls on him to finish, crash the glass and make plays defensively.

56. Houston Rockets (via Thunder): Antonio Reeves

- **School/Team:** Kentucky
- **Position:** SG
- **Age:** 23, Senior
- **Size:** 6-foot-6, 195 lbs

Late in the second round, a team may forget about Antonio Reeves' age and roll the dice on a 6'6" guard with special shotmaking ability.

He could have enough size and scoring confidence to compete for an instant-offense scoring role off a bench.

57. Denver Nuggets (via Timberwolves): Zach Edey

- **School/Team:** Purdue
- **Position:** Center
- **Age:** 21, Senior
- **Size:** 7-foot-4, 300 lbs

Zach Edey aced his first real test with 25 points and 14 boards against Gonzaga on Monday. Early on, he's blocking more shots (3.7 per game) and shooting better from the free-throw line (80%), both promising developments for his potential to earn NBA minutes despite lacking any perimeter skill or defensive switchability.

Listed at 300 pounds, he would be the heaviest player in the league as a rookie.

58. Charlotte Hornets (via Celtics): DaRon Holmes II

- **School/Team:** Dayton
- **Position:** C
- **Age:** 21, Junior
- **Size:** 6-foot-10, 235 lbs

DaRon Holmes II has already attempted 10 3-pointers in five games, a sign he's trying to show scouts a more modernized skill set. Trying to showcase new versatility has come at a cost, as he hasn't been as efficient scoring early on.

Teams could deem his finishing, rebounding and shot-blocking tools worth drafting, though starting hit jumpers and putting the ball down will be key to moving up boards.

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Jonathan Wasserman is the lead scout and NBA Draft analyst for Bleacher Report. You can follow him on [X](#), formerly known as Twitter. The views on this page do not necessarily reflect the views of the NBA, its clubs or Warner Brothers Discovery.

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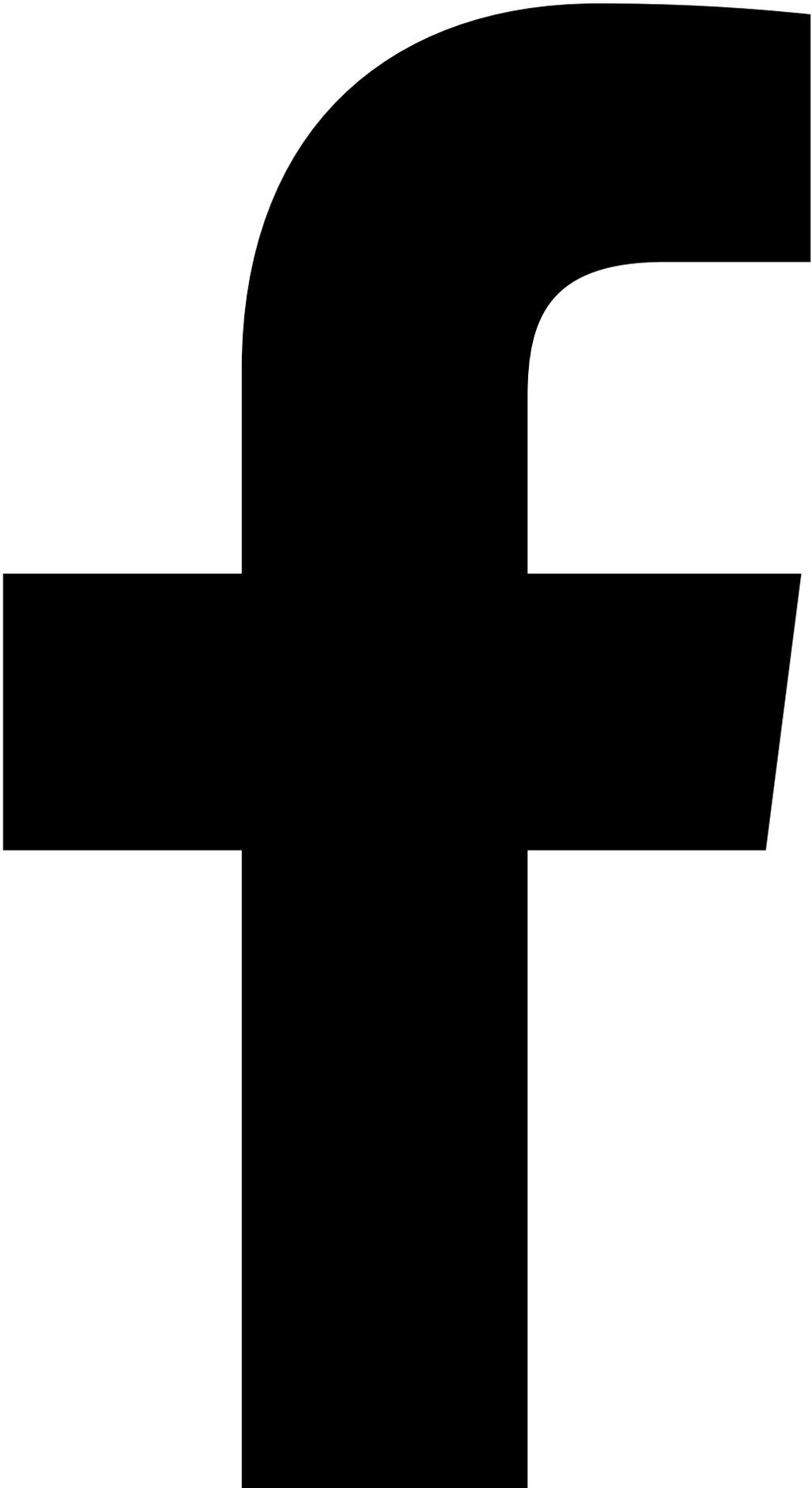
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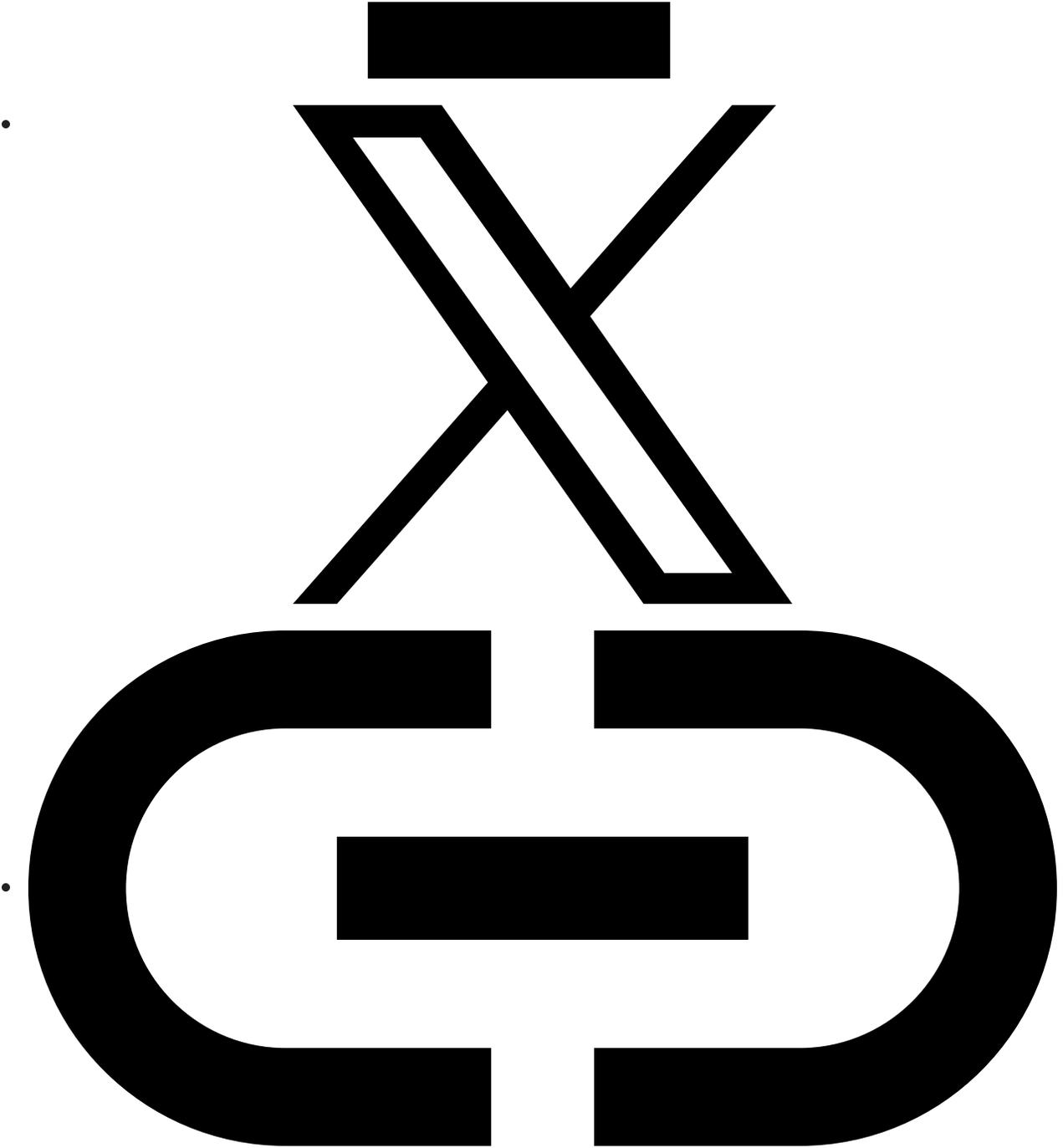
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Jonathan Wasserman





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Jonathan Wasserman December 21, 2023

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Ron Holland, Matas Buzelis of G League Ignite Ethan Miller/Getty Images

With the G League Showcase and NCAA conference play underway, Bleacher Report's updated NBA mock draft has a new No. 1 prospect.

Scouts' level of confidence in their top player has sounded unusually low this deep into the season. And unless something major changes, that uncertainty figures to follow the draft conversation deep into June, which could make for an unpredictable yet

entertaining night.

The No. 1 overall conversation has also seemingly added another contender, though an injury will keep him out for the next month.

Otherwise, the high-profile international prospects continue to produce to keep this projected lottery interesting.

1. Detroit Pistons: Matas Buzelis

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Matas Buzelis, G League Ignite David Becker/NBAE via Getty Images

Stock: Up

Previous mock draft spot: No. 5

School/Team: Ignite

Position: SG/SF

Age: 19

Size: 6'8", 209 lbs

Pro comparison: Franz Wagner

In seven games since returning from an ankle injury, Matas Buzelis has turned heads with a combination of shotmaking, face-up fluidity, finishing and on-ball defense. For a 6'8" wing, that mix creates a coveted archetype and an easy-to-picture fit, a trait that will hold extra value in a draft that's lacking sure things at the top of the board.

Ignite are also 4-3 since he's been back, winning last week's game on a Buzelis buzzer-beater that gave him 25 points.

Buzelis lost momentum in the draft discussion early, mostly due to his injury and passivity in a spot-up heavy role. But he's regaining scouts' confidence with his positional size, skill versatility and plays around the rim. And he's still finding ways to score despite not shooting to his potential, as Buzelis shot 43.1 percent from three and 50.0 percent on dribble jumpers at Sunrise Christian his senior year.

While he isn't viewed as a normal No. 1 overall candidate, he's building back steam toward the top spot on boards with the other top names struggling to convince.

2. San Antonio Spurs: Nikola Topić

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Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 2

Team/Nationality: Mega MIS/Serbian

Position: PG

Age: 18

Size: 6'6", 198 lbs

Pro Comparison: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander

Practically good for at least 15 points or five assists in every game, Nikola Topić has consistently proved that his creativity, passing skill, finishing craft and streak shotmaking are highly effective in the Adriatic League. The conversation is becoming less about what's left to learn about his game, and more about what's actually translatable to the NBA.

The easiest to project carrying over right now is the playmaking, as Topić consistently delivers high-level assists off transition opportunities, ball screens, penetration and from standstill position quarterbacking from behind the arc.

The big question is whether he'll continue to have NBA success beating defenders off the dribble, shooting over them and scoring around the basket. He's currently converting 50.0 percent of his isolation possessions and 67.0 percent of his rim attempts.

There will be skeptics who question his inconsistent jump shot and lack of vertical explosion for the next level. But there will also be teams who will try to avoid overthinking and just buy into his current effectiveness as a 6'6" 18-year-old in a pro league overseas.

3. Washington Wizards: Ron Holland

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Ron Holland, IgniteScott Audette/NBAE via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 6

School/Team: G League Ignite

Position: SF

Age: 18

Size: 6'6", 204 lbs

Pro Comparison: Cam Whitmore

While new questions have popped up on Ron Holland since his Ignite debut, it doesn't sound like scouts will nitpick too hard. His explosion and motor create a high floor, and he's still delivered enough glimpses of ball-handling for drives and streak shotmaking to average 19.8 points on 48.8 percent.

His shooting range, pull-up game and decision-making have been problematic and raise the biggest questions regarding his ability to be a lead NBA option. But a worst-case outcome still shows a useful contributor for his transition attack, rim pressure, defensive quickness and overall energy/competitiveness.

The case for Holland to go top-three right now says his strengths are translatable, his shot is improvable and his turnovers will decrease as his usage drops next year from 30.0 percent.

4. Portland Trail Blazers: Alexandre Sarr

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Alex Sarr, Perth Wildcats Paul Kane/Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 1

Team/Nationality: Perth Wildcats/French

Position: PF/C

Age: 18

Size: 7'1", 216 lbs

Pro comparison: Jaren Jackson Jr.

Eighteen games into the NBL season, and Alexandre Sarr's strengths and weaknesses are mostly well-defined. Whoever drafts him will be banking on defensive versatility, rim protection and easy baskets powered by his 7'1" size and athleticism.

The gamble would be on his offensive development, with Sarr just 18 years old, showing shooting range and some limited ability to handle in space, attack closeouts or make touch shots around the key.

But at this stage, he isn't advanced offensively in any one area, which does make him a risky pick at No. 1. No obvious All-Star among the pack should keep Sarr locked into this first tier of prospects, with his defensive upside creating a high floor and his room to grow as a face-up weapon and shotmaking fueling the upside.

5. Memphis Grizzlies: Cody Williams

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Cody Williams, Colorado Aaron Ontiveroz/The Denver Post

Stock status: Up

Previous mock draft spot: No. 9

School/Team: Colorado

Position: SF

Age: 19, Freshman

Size: 6'8", 190 lbs

Pro comparison: Jerami Grant

There isn't a more efficient, projected one-and-done freshman than Cody Williams. Despite lacking high-level creation skill or shooting ability, he's averaging 14.0 points on 62.3 percent, mostly by picking his spots wisely, capitalizing on driving lanes, using his positional size to finish, moving without the ball, making rhythm threes and playing hard.

He's now expected to miss a month with a wrist injury, which came after consecutive 21-point games.

A coveted archetype (6'9" scoring wing), efficient offense, strong intangibles and defensive effort have put Williams in the same conversation as any other projected top-five pick.

Scouts will want to see more perimeter shotmaking (six threes in seven games) before considering Williams in the No. 1 overall discussion. But he could have a chance of getting in there, particularly with Alexandre Sarr's offensive questions and the poor shooting and decision-making from Ron Holland and Isaiah Collier.

6. Charlotte Hornets: Zaccharie Risacher

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Zaccharie Risacher, JL Bourg/Cyril Lestage/Euroleague Basketball via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 4

Team/Nationality: JL Bourg/French

Position: SF

Age: 18

Size: 6'8", 204 lbs

Pro comparison: Michael Porter Jr.

Now up to 46.9 percent from three on the year, Zaccharie Risacher is shooting his way into the top-three mix. While we haven't seen much growth with his creation or playmaking—something his play last year in France's U21 League suggested we might—he's blossomed into one of the top shotmakers, a comforting development for an explosive, 6'8", 18-year-old.

He's starting to fall into the safe category of prospects, given the expected translatability tied to his positional tools, athleticism and shooting. It's a combination that creates a high floor, though his age and flashes of ball-handling, passing and defense hint that there's a more well-rounded player for Risacher to develop into.

7. Utah Jazz: Ja'Kobe Walter

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Ja'Kobe Walter, Baylor/Lance King/Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 7

School/Team: Baylor

Position: SG

Age: 19, Freshman

Size: 6'5", 195 lbs

Pro Comparison: Moses Moody

In a heavily scouted game at Madison Square Garden against Duke on Wednesday, Ja'Kobe Walter put up a signature performance that highlighted his shot-making versatility and driving tools. The ability to shoot off deep spot-ups and from three paints the freshman as a plug-and-play wing at the next level, particularly with his strong defensive frame.

There still isn't a lot of creation or playmaking to his game, which makes it difficult to think of Walter as a top-five pick. But he's fair game after that, where teams should see a three-and-D, starting-caliber 2-guard.

8. Chicago Bulls: Isaiah Collier

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Isaiah Collier, USC Michael Wade/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Down

Previous mock draft spot: No. 3

School/Team: USC

Position: PG

Age: 19, Freshman

Size: 6'5", 210 lbs

Pro comparison: Ty Lawson

The allure to Isaiah Collier is fading behind his free-falling three-point percentage (30.3 percent, 3.0 3PTA), a sky-high turnover rate (4.1 per game) and too many USC losses. It's becoming difficult to make a No. 1 overall or top-five case for a point guard who isn't a shooter or strong decision-maker.

While it's difficult to imagine him running an NBA starting lineup next season, his positional strength, ball-handling, shiftiness, finishing and passing skill should still translate to rim pressure and playmaking. He's averaging 16.1 points and 4.3 assists, converting 61.9 percent of his attempts around the basket. Scouts may be better off thinking about what ways Collier can help their rotation, which he should be able to do in the right role that limits his quarterback responsibility and values his ability to attack defenses, get to the rim and set up teammates.

The hope longer term will be for the game to slow down for Collier, and for his shotmaking to gradually improve.

9. San Antonio Spurs (via Raptors): Stephon Castle

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Stephon Castle, ConnecticutWilliams Paul/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 7

School/Team: Connecticut

Position: SG

Age: 19, Freshman

Size: 6'6", 215 lbs

Quiet through three games since returning from injury, Stephon Castle is still trying to find some rhythm in a deep rotation that has a pair of veteran guards (Tristan Newton, Cam Spencer) who are difficult to take off the floor.

He's going to require heavy eye-test scouting on the flashes, assuming he won't have the same opportunities or production as the other top prospects. His ability to get to spots, change speeds, pass off a live dribble and pressure defensively have been evident. A 27.1 assist percentage reflects playmaking ability that separates him from other wings and fuels a potential point-wing archetype.

He's also had some bad misses from outside, however. His jump shot looks stiff and not conducive to shooting from deep.

10. Atlanta Hawks: Rob Dillingham

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Rob Dillingham, KentuckyKevin C. Cox/Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 11

School/Team: Kentucky

Position: PG/SG

Age: 18, Freshman

Size: 6'3", 176 lbs

Pro Comparison: Kemba Walker

Rob Dillingham's numbers have inevitably started falling back to earth, but the excitement around his shotmaking and ball-handling for creation is still there.

He's been highly efficient in ball-screen situations, making strong reads as a driver and passer and hitting his pull-up opportunities. The fact that he's shooting 51.5 percent in spot-up situations is equally as appealing, given the likelihood he winds up on a team that has a franchise starting point guard. Whether he projects as a 1, 2 or combo is starting to seem irrelevant, as teams should just think about Dillingham as an interchangeable offensive weapon.

The biggest questions focus on how his limited physical tools and athleticism will affect him as a finisher (47.6 percent on layups) and defender.

11. Portland Trail Blazers (via Warriors): Tidjane Salaun

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Stock status: Up

Previous mock draft spot: No. 30

Team/Nationality: Cholet/France

Position: PF

Age: 18

Size: 6'8", 212 lbs

Pro comparison: Obi Toppin

Tidjane Salaun instantly pops when he's hitting threes, and he's found his range lately with 13 triples over Cholet's last four games.

Otherwise, he does lean heavily on tools and athleticism to make plays as a finisher and disruptor on defense, as he hasn't showcased creation, passing or shot-blocking. But the combination of 6'8" size, shotmaking, explosion and age is starting to look too tempting after the first two tiers of prospects.

12. Houston Rockets (via Rockets): Ryan Dunn

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Ryan Dunn, Virginia Ryan M. Kelly/Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 10

School/Team: Virginia

Position: SF/PF

Age: 20, Sophomore

Size: 6'8", 216 lbs

Pro comparison: Herbert Jones

Ryan Dunn's easy-basket explosion and outrageous defensive movement/playmaking will help scouts look past his inability to create or shoot.

The question is where he's worth taking. Team fit figures to play a key role with Dunn, who'll likely only generate interest from general managers with rosters that are looking for a specific injection of his defensive energy.

His 4-of-21 mark from three may be deemed problematic, though he'll have conference play and predraft workouts to convince scouts that there is still untapped shooting potential to unlock.

13. Phoenix Suns: Donovan Clingan

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Donovan Clingan, Connecticut Conor Courtney/Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: 13th

School/Team: Connecticut

Position: C

Age: 19, Sophomore

Size: 7'2", 280 lbs

Pro Comparison: Jakob Poeltl

After struggling offensively against North Carolina, Kansas and Indiana, Donovan Clingan overwhelmed Gonzaga's front line with his powerful body and soft hands.

Still, the Bulldogs didn't have a starter over 6'9", and there are obvious questions about the offensive value of a 280-pound big who doesn't shoot or dribble. But he's still going to have suitors interested in adding rim protection, as Clingan takes up a lot of space defensively, affects drivers' decision-making and blocks 2.1 shots in 21.4 minutes.

He's going to give an NBA team a new element of physicality around the basket. It will likely just take a specific roster with defensive needs to covet a one-position player like Clingan.

14. Oklahoma City Thunder (via Rockets): Terrence Shannon Jr.

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Terrence Shannon, Illinois Michael Allio/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 12

School/Team: Illinois

Position: SG/SF

Age: 23, Senior

Size: 6'6", 215 lbs

Pro comparison: Kelly Oubre Jr.

Shooting 41.5 percent on 6.5 three-point attempts, Terrence Shannon Jr. is complementing his open-floor speed and half-court slashing with shotmaking that's helping to diminish concerns about his scoring versatility for the NBA.

We've seen hot streaks from him before, so he'll want to keep it up through conference play to avoid scouts questioning his shooting legitimacy. But the increased three-point volume is a promising sign, and there isn't much to question about Shannon's ability to explode in transition, blow by, finish and defend wings.

15. Indiana Pacers: Reed Sheppard

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Reed Sheppard, Kentucky/Rich von Biberstein/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 17

School/Team: Kentucky

Position: SG

Age: 19, Freshman

Size: 6'3", 187 lbs

Pro comparison: Donte DiVincenzo

While scouts acknowledge that physical and creation limitations will restrict Reed Sheppard's scoring at the next level, his shooting efficiency, passing IQ and defensive instincts remain highly convincing and translatable to a connector role.

He currently grades in the 100th percentile in both pick-and-roll ball-handling and spot-up situations, an outrageous statistic, although it is on fewer possessions compared to most draft prospects. Aside from shooting 59.4 percent off the catch, he's making his pull-ups (12-of-24) and enough basic reads finding teammates off the dribble.

Meanwhile, he's still rocking a 5.9 steal percentage and 4.0 block percentage, wild defensive playmaking rates that highlight his quick hands and anticipation.

Sheppard doesn't get to the rim or free-throw line often, and he hasn't showcased any real self-creation. However, without many obvious high-upside prospects available outside the top 10, NBA teams will have no problem settling on higher-floor, projected role players like Sheppard.

16. New York Knicks: Kyle Filipowski

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Kyle Filipowski, DuekLance King/Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 16

School/Team: Duke

Position: PF/C

Age: 20, Sophomore

Size: 7'0", 248 lbs

Kyle Filipowski's scoring versatility remains attractive, but it's the transition ball-handling, passing and defensive foot speed that make him interesting. While it's worth questioning whether he'll be able to blow by or overwhelm down low like he can now, he'll separate himself at the next level with the ability to initiate fast breaks, facilitate from the post, stretch the floor, switch and rebound.

Otherwise, he looks mostly similar to how he did last year, except that he's using his gravity and IQ more to find/set up teammates (20.4 assist percentage).

17. Miami Heat: Kevin McCullar Jr.

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Kevin McCullar, KansasJoe Robbins/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 15

School/Team: Kansas

Position: SG/SF

Age: 22, Senior

Size: 6'7", 214 lbs

Pro comparison: Alex Caruso

Taking more threes, free throws and averaging a career-best 4.9 assists, Kevin McCullar Jr. continues to play with a different level of aggression this year. He's taking full advantage of a major usage spike, which is up to 27.4 percent from 19.5 percent.

He'll go back to playing a more supporting role next year, however, and it's reasonable to remain skeptical about his improved scoring translating. But pairing his outstanding defensive tools/instincts with a more comfortable-looking three-point shot (38.1 percent) and added playmaking feel is still key for his role-player potential in the NBA.

18. Cleveland Cavaliers: D.J. Wagner

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DJ Wagner, Kentucky Rich von Biberstein/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Up

Previous mock draft spot: No. 26

School/Team: Kentucky

Position: PG/SG

Age: 18, Freshman

Size: 6'4", 192 lbs

Pro comparison: Collin Sexton

D.J. Wagner has delivered more perimeter shotmaking and playmaking flashes as of late—positive signs heading into conference play.

His value to Kentucky and NBA scouts still revolves around his ability to put pressure on the rim with quick, tight ball-handling moves and a knack for identifying gaps and slicing through them.

Scouts still have questions about his finishing tools and floater game. But he'll help diminish those concerns by continuing to show growth as a shooter and passer.

19. New Orleans Pelicans: Yves Missi

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Yves Missi, Baylor Rich Graessle/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Up

Previous mock draft spot: No. 35

School/team: Baylor

Position: C

Age: 19, Freshman

Size: 7'0", 235 lbs

Pro comparison: Mark Williams

With a double-double and five blocks against Duke, Yves Missi helped himself in a heavily scouted matchup.

He made it difficult for Kyle Filipowski to get any clean looks around the rim. He showed good foot speed sliding with drivers and contesting their finishes. And at the other end, Missi played lob target and cleanup man with his outstanding physical tools, hands and athleticism.

Teams that could use more rim protection figure to see a sure thing in Missi, even if he's a limited offensive player.

20. New York Knicks: Kel'el Ware

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Kel'el Ware, Indiana Joe Robbins/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 19

School/Team: Indiana

Position: C

Age: 19, Sophomore

Size: 7'0", 242 lbs

Pro Comparison: Jarrett Allen

Kel'el Ware's impact comes and goes, which is why he won't be the consensus lottery pick that his size, athleticism and skill level suggests he should be. Talent and the potential to evolve into a stretch-shooting shot-blocker should still be enough for him to go in the teens in a draft where there aren't obvious best-player-available options outside the top 10.

Despite a recent slump, Ware is still averaging 15.5 points and 9.5 rebounds with a strong defensive showing against Connecticut's 280-pound Donovan Clingan. With excellent finishing and shot-blocking tools, and enticing shotmaking ability around the post and out to the arc, certain teams may be willing to give Ware a pass for the inconsistency at 19 years old.

21. New York Knicks (via Mavs): Dalton Knecht

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Dalton Knecht, Tennessee Bryan Lynn/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 20

School/Team: Tennessee

Position: SF

Age: 22, Senior

Size: 6'6", 204 lbs

Pro comparison: Max Strus

NBA scouts are buying into Dalton Knecht's shooting and ability to earn two-point buckets by slashing through contact and cutting off the ball.

There may be some questions about how much of his game at both ends will translate to the next level. But in a draft where there aren't as many enticing high-upside teenagers available, Knecht could start to look like a persuasive shotmaker and tough role player in the late first round.

22. Oklahoma City Thunder (via Clippers): Tristan da Silva

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Tristan da Silva, ColoradoLeon Bennett/Getty Images

Stock status: Up

Previous mock draft spot: No. 28

School/Team: Colorado

Position: SF/PF

Age: 22, Senior

Size: 6'9", 220 lbs

Pro comparison: Jake LaRavia

Tristan da Silva's 22-point, 10-rebound, nine-assist game against Miami highlighted some extra versatility that's not always easy to spot.

Shotmaking will still be the senior's NBA moneymaker. Making 40.0 percent of his threes, the Colorado forward has also made seven-of-nine off-screen jumpers and 10-of-17 post-ups. But he's also averaging a career-best 3.0 assists, and he's had some promising sequences that show defensive IQ and tools.

Age and athletic limitations may hint at a lower ceiling, but his skill set and style could be suited for an immediate supporting role at the next level.

23. Orlando Magic: Bobi Klintman

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Bobi Klintman, Cairns TaipansChris Hyde/Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 22

Team/Nationality: Cairns Taipans/Swedish

Position: SF/PF

Age: 20

Size: 6'8", 225 lbs

Pro Comparison: De'Andre Hunter

Bobi Klinton trades productive weeks with quiet ones, which is partly due to a strict, off-ball role that calls for spotting up and cutting. A lack of consistent touches and shots means scouts putting more stock into the flashes. He's hit 20 threes in 17 games while showing some comfort level attacking closeouts and scoring on the move in the lane.

His upside pops the most in transition, where he's a comfortable live-dribble passer and currently seven-of-seven converting himself as a ball-handler.

There figure to be skeptics who question Klinton's bankable NBA skill, while optimists could see versatility tied to his potential as a shotmaker, driver, coast-to-coast threat and multiposition defender.

24. Atlanta Hawks (via Kings): Trevon Brazile

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Trevon Brazile, Arkansas/Wesley Hitt/Getty Images

Stock status: Down

Previous mock draft spot: No. 14

School/Team: Arkansas

Position: PF/C

Age: 20, Sophomore

Size: 6'10"

Pro comparison: Thomas Bryant

Trevon Brazile has had some disappointing offensive games and trouble generating his own scoring chances. Playing mostly a spot-up role, his production is bound to fluctuate, but there will still be interest in an athletic 6'10" forward with elite finishing potential and three-point range.

The visions of a high-upside prospect come and go, and a role-player outcome is clearly more realistic. But teams looking for frontcourt depth could target Brazile for his explosion around the basket, floor-spacing and some flashes of face-up play that suggest he could become a threat to attack closeouts.

25. Denver Nuggets: Ajay Mitchell

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Ajay Mitchell, Santa Barbara Zac BonDurant/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 21

School/Team: Santa Barbara

Position: PG

Age: 21, Junior

Size: 6'5", 190 lbs

Believers in Ajay Mitchell will buy his production, knack for getting to spots and impressive finishing craft used to compensate for limited athletic ability. Skeptics question his three-point shooting, potential to beat/separate from NBA defenders and a Santa Barbara schedule that lacks credible opponents.

The recent success of slower, below-the-rim point guards in the NBA could help teams look past his underwhelming explosion. The biggest issue may be his 6-of-20 mark on pull-ups.

Still, one team figures to put stock into Mitchell's consistent success using change of speed/direction, his command in ball-screen situations and improved catch-and-shoot stroke to start the season.

26. Indiana Pacers (via Thunder): Oso Ighodaro

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Oso Ighodaro, MarquettePatrick McDermott/Getty Images

Stock status: Up

Previous mock draft spot: No. 32

School/team: Marquette

Position: C

Age: 21, Senior

Size: 6'11", 225 lbs

Pro comparison: Brandon Clarke

Though a non-shooter with limited shot-blocking numbers, Oso Igodaro has entered outlier territory with his unique skills and consistent impact. Coming off consecutive 20-point games, he continues to score with his timing and athleticism (31-of-34 on rolls and cuts) and signature one-handed touch on floaters and hooks (combined 22-of-31).

NBA coaches figure to be very interested in his ball-moving, short-roll game, ball-handling to attack space and his defensive versatility.

27. Philadelphia 76ers: Wooga Poplar

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Wooga Poplar, Miami Samuel Lewis/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 33

School/team: Miami

Position: SG

Age: 20, Junior

Size: 6'5", 197 lbs

Through 10 games, Wooga Poplar is shooting 51.0 percent on 4.9 three-point attempts per game. It's starting to look more like legitimate, needle-moving improvement, rather than just a hot shooting streak to start the season.

When paired with Poplar's athletic ability, the shotmaking, both off the catch and dribble, could be enough for him to overcome his limitations as a guard creator.

28. Milwaukee Bucks: Justin Edwards

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Justin Edwards, Kentucky Jeff Moreland/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Down

Previous mock draft spot: No. 27

School/team: Kentucky

Position: SF

Age: 19, Freshman

Size: 6'8", 203 lbs

Pro comparison: Olivier Maxence-Prosper

It's become difficult to identify an above-average skill for Justin Edwards, who's down to 25.0 percent from three, averaging 0.9 assists and struggling mightily to finish plays in transition (5-of-17). Scouts will be hoping to see his jump shot start to fall more often during conference play. The combo of 6'8" size and athletic ability for finishing and defensive playmaking should buy him time.

29. Boston Celtics: Tyrese Proctor

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Tyrese Proctor, DukeRich von Biberstein/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 24

School/Team: Duke

Position: PG

Age: 19, Sophomore

Size: 6'5", 183 lbs

Pro comparison: Shake Milton

Underwhelming offensive performances against Duke's quality opponents have kept scouts from getting excited about any improvement Tyrese Proctor has made with his playmaking or two-point efficiency.

There are still reasons to see a future NBA role player, with the 19-year-old's foundational skill set still including shotmaking, some perimeter self-creation and passing. At 6'5", he still has the tools, IQ, playmaking feel and range to play either guard spot.

But Proctor has to assert himself more and shoot better (whenever he returns from injury) to avoid a slide into the late 20s or 30s.

30. Minnesota Timberwolves: Baba Miller



Baba Miller, Florida State Joe Robbins/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 26

School/team: Florida State

Position: SF/PF

Age: 19, Sophomore

Size: 6'11", 204 lbs

Pro comparison: Jonathan Isaac

As promising as Baba Miller's flashes of shotmaking, slashing and defense continue to look, the lack of aggression and production continue to make him difficult to fully buy into. Improved shooting, plus the idea of a 6'11" wing who can handle, finish and disrupt, could be enough to draw first-round interest. And he should have a chance to resell himself better during predraft workouts. But 7.8 points and 6.2 field-goal attempts haven't been raising scouts' confidence during his second season.

31. New York Knicks (via Pistons): Kylan Boswell



Kylan Boswell, Arizona Michael Hickey/Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 34

School/team: Arizona

Position: PG/SG

Age: 18, Sophomore

Size: 6'2", 200lbs

Kylan Boswell had his first truly forgettable game of the season in Arizona's loss to Purdue. That also speaks to his steadiness coming in, as he'd consistently given the Wildcats efficient shooting, decision-making and pressure defense.

There are valid questions about Boswell's ability to create and finish against NBA defenders. But his size/athletic limitations might not matter as much in a connector role that values his shotmaking, passing and toughness.

32. Detroit Pistons (via Wizards): Tyler Smith

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Tyler Smith, G League IgniteDavid Becker/NBAE via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 31

Team: Ignite

Position: PF

Age: 19

Size: 6'11", 224 lbs

It seemed inevitable that Tyler Smith would cool off from three, and now that he has, his offense has unsurprisingly sputtered. For a 6'11" 19-year-old, the flashes should still hold more weight, as Smith clearly has a smooth stroke to go with strong physical tools and a live motor for finishing.

It's been difficult to get too excited about his defense, however, so Smith's early shooting success has to be a genuine indicator if he's going to offer a rotation anything different or valuable.

33. San Antonio Spurs: Carlton Carrington

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Carlton Carrington, PittsburghGregory Shamus/Getty Images

Stock status: Down

Previous mock draft spot: No. 16

School/Team: Pittsburgh

Position: PG/SG

Age: 18, Freshman

Size: 6'5", 190 lbs

Carlton Carrington's hot start is starting to look a bit fluky, but the tough shotmaking and playmaking feel have still popped.

Concerns about his burst and athleticism for penetrating and defending are the most valid. However, he doesn't turn 19 until after the draft, and at 6'5", he's averaging 5.7 assists with 38 made pull-ups (44.2 percent). Teams could still see an offensive weapon who can make a living in pick-and-roll situations and knocking down jumpers.

34. Minnesota Timberwolves (via Grizzlies): Adem Bona

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Adem Bona, UCLA Kevin C. Cox/Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 29

School/team: UCLA

Position: C

Age: 20, Sophomore

Size: 6'10", 245 lbs

Pro comparison: Isaiah Jackson

Motor and athleticism for play-finishing and shot-blocking will always be behind the appeal to Adem Bona. The flashes of post play are encouraging, but NBA teams will consider drafting him to pick up easy baskets, second-chance points, play pick-and-roll defense and protect the rim. He also continues to have trouble avoiding fouls, which is raising more questions about his awareness in an area where he needs to be above average to earn NBA minutes.

35. Milwaukee Bucks (via Blazers): Caleb Foster

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Caleb Foster, Duke Rich Graessle/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 23

School/team: Duke

Position: PG/SG

Age: 19, Freshman

Size: 6'5", 197 lbs

With just a 17.7 percentage usage, Caleb Foster has still been able to show off his ball-handling wiggle for getting into the lane. His combination of floater touch and strength at the rim has been highly effective for paint scoring.

He's also at 38.5 percent from three, taking mostly quality attempts without hunting them down.

The lack of playmaking and volume shooting will just keep scouts from reaching too high. Returning for a sophomore year may make the most sense, considering none of Duke's recruits high-profile recruits are point guards.

36. Portland Trail Blazers (via Hornets): Melvin Ajinca

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Melvin Ajinca, Saint-QuentinDavid Grau/Euroleague Basketball via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 41

Team/nationality: Saint-Quentin/France

Position: SG/SF

Age: 19

Size: 6'7"

With 10 threes over Saint-Quinten's last three games, Melvin Ajinca has been able to showcase a stroke that he's going to try to ride into the first round. He's almost exclusively a catch-and-shoot wing, but he's also hit 10-of-19 jumpers off screens, and despite offering minimal creation or playmaking, teams could potentially see a 6'7", plug-and-play shotmaker.

37. New York Knicks (via Jazz): Aaron Bradshaw



Aaron Bradshaw, KentuckyRich von Biberstein/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Up

Previous mock draft spot: No 47

School/team: Kentucky

Position: C

Age: 19, Freshman

Size: 7'1", 226 lbs

Pro comparison: Mohamed Bamba

Aaron Bradshaw has had some encouraging stretches during his first three games, giving Kentucky another finisher, energy under the basket and a shotmaking threat. With a high center of gravity, he's looked easy to move inside, which does raise some questions about his potential to anchor a team's defensive paint at center. Making jump shots will presumably be the key to Bradshaw separating himself, as he doesn't do much post scoring or passing.

38. Boston Celtics (via Bulls): Devin Carter



Devin Carter, ProvidenceM. Anthony Nesmith/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Up

Previous mock draft spot: Off the board

School/team: Providence:

Position: PG/SG

Age: 21, Junior

Size: 6'3", 195 lbs

Pro comparison: Jose Alvarado

Devin Carter has always been a suffocating defender with his quick feet, anticipation and signature intensity. At 6'3", he's already up to 15 blocks, giving him 60 total as a guard in 74 career games.

But now he's turning a corner as a shooter, up to 27 threes on the season after making five in Providence's win over Marquette. Scouts are taking notice, and despite his limitations as a high-level creator, a threatening three-ball and flashy passing could be enough for Carter offensively while he earns his NBA paychecks applying defensive pressure and forcing turnovers.

39. Portland Trail Blazers (via Hawks): Izan Almansa

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Izan Almansa, G League Ignite David Becker/NBAE via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 36

Team: Ignite

Position: PF/C

Age: 18

Size: 6'10", 230lbs

Pro comparison: Jabari Walker

Izan Almansa will have a difficult time luring first-round suitors without any translatable half-court creation, shooting or plus athletic traits. His age should buy him time with some scouts, but the most realistic outlook pictures an energy big valued for instincts and hustle for play-finishing and earning second-chance points.

40. Los Angeles Clippers (via Raptors): Kobe Johnson

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Kobe Johnson, USC Brian Rothmuller/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 40

School/team: USC

Position: SF

Age: 20, Junior

Size: 6'6", 200 lbs

Pro comparison: Kent Bazemore

Improved shooting would unlock easy-fit versatility for Kobe Johnson, a high-instinct wing defender, ball-mover and effective slasher. He's currently in the rough slump from behind the arc, however, but he is attempting more threes after starting the season 8-of-19.

A team may see a second-round bet worth taking on Johnson's shooting development, given what it could do for a 6'6", athletic two-way forward who can check the "makes teammates better" box with his passing and intangibles.

41. Houston Rockets (via Warriors): Trey Alexander

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Trey Alexander, Creighton Mitchell Layton/Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 38

School/team: Creighton

Position: SG

Age: 20, Junior

Size: 6'4", 190lbs

Pro comparison: E'Twaun Moore

Trey Alexander's shooting numbers are down and playmaking rate is up. It's more important he gets his three-point stroke back on track, given his projected off-ball role at the next level. But his shotmaking was sharp enough last year to believe he'll start knocking down jumpers more consistently. And if that happens and he continues to flash more creativity and passing, it should result in more teams interested in Alexander in 2024 than there were last June.

42. Houston Rockets (via Nets): Alex Karaban

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Alex Karaban, ConnecticutG Fiume/Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 42

School/team: Connecticut

Position: PF

Age: 21, Sophomore

Size: 6'8", 220lbs

Shotmaking at 6'8", 220lbs should get Alex Karaban drafted, though he's also been an effective cutter and plus defender. Despite offering minimal creation or athletic ability, he checks the right boxes for an NBA stretch 4 with his size, shooting and foot speed to guard away from the basket.

43. Washington Wizards (via Suns): Zach Edey

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Zach Edey, PurdueMichael Hickey/Getty Images

Stock status: Up

Previous mock draft spot: No. 52

School/team: Purdue

Position: C

Age: 21, Senior

Size: 7'4", 300lbs

Defenses have had no answer for Zach Edey's unmatched size, ability to get into hook shots and touch around the paint. And this year, he's raised his free-throw percentage and shot-blocking rate, developments that only improve his chances of staying on an NBA floor for longer stretches.

44. Los Angeles Clippers (via Pacers): Tyler Kolek

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Tyle Kolek, MarquettePatrick McDermott/Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 43

School/team: Marquette

Position: PG

Age: 22, Junior

Size: 6'3", 195 lbs

Even with an early schedule that's included matchups against Purdue, Kansas, Illinois, Wisconsin and Texas, Tyler Kolek has a 66.7 true shooting percentage with 65 assists to 29 turnovers. NBA teams will see a pick-and-roll specialist who's finding enough ways to compensate for physical/athletic limitations with body-controlled finishing, touch and shotmaking.

45. Oklahoma City Thunder (via Rockets): Judah Mintz

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Judah Mintz, Syracuse Mitchell Layton/Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 45

School/team: Syracuse

Position: PG/SG

Age: 20, Sophomore

Size: 6'4", 185 lbs

Pro comparison: Judah Mintz

While Judah Mintz's bread-and-butter remains the same—attacking open floor and ball screens and getting to the free-throw line—he's been far more efficient slashing and shooting from off the ball this year. Though still streaky from behind the arc, he's 14-of-34, and even marginal improvement could be enough for the next level when considering his translatable rim pressure and two-way playmaking.

46. Indiana Pacers (via Cavaliers): Jaxson Robinson

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Jaxson Robinson, BYUBoyd Ivey/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Up

Previous mock draft spot: Off the board

School/team: BYU

Position: SF

Age: 21, Senior

Size: 6'7", 190lbs

Jaxson Robinson is turning heads with his shooting, having connected on 43.4 percent on 7.5 three-point attempts per game. The eye test on his 6'7" size, quick release and ability to hit off-screen and pull-up jumpers has looked very convincing, though scouts are still monitoring Robinson's legitimacy through a small 11-game sample size after three years of putting up mediocre to average percentages.

47. Miami Heat: Reece Beekman

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Reece Beekman, VirginiaRyan M. Kelly/Getty Images

Stock status: No. 50

Previous mock draft spot: Steady

School/team: Virginia

Position: PG

Age: 22, Senior

Size: 6'3", 194lbs

Pro comparison: Jevon Carter

Reece Beekman's scoring limitations are well-documented, but teams could picture a Jevon Carter type valued for two-way playmaking and the ability to pressure ball-handlers on defense. He is coming off his first 20-point game of the season on Saturday, so any bonus signs of rising offensive confidence could help keep Beekman on draft boards.

48. San Antonio Spurs (via Lakers): Zvonimir Ivisic

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Zvonimir Ivisic, KentuckyAP Photo/James Crisp

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 51

School/team: Kentucky

Position: PF/C

Age: 20, Freshman

Size: 7'2", 234lbs

Scouts and Kentucky are still waiting on the debut of Zvonimir Ivišić, who's missed time due to sickness after eligibility issues initially caused a delay.

There has been a buildup of anticipation after he averaged 11.4 points, 3.4 blocks and 1.6 threes for Croatia at the U20 European Championship. At 7'2", his flashes of open-floor ball-handling, drives from the arc and shooting point to enticing upside.

Scouts just want a better feel for how realistic it is, and how legitimate his range, defensive mobility and feel for the game are.

49. New Orleans Pelicans: Trentyn Flowers

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Trentyn Flowers, Adelaide 36ersFiona Goodall/Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 46

Team/nationality: Adelaide 36ers/USA

Position: SG/SF

Age: 18

Size: 6'8", 205lbs

Trentyn Flowers' minutes and production have fluctuated in the NBL, but he's still been able to sell an enticing package of positional size, athleticism and shotmaking. He should be able to himself more in the predraft process, and a team willing to take a riskier swing on upside figures to see a second-round gamble worth making.

50. Philadelphia 76ers (via Knicks): Aday Mara

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Aday Mara, UCLARich von Biberstein/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Down

Previous mock draft spot: No. 44

School/team: UCLA

Position: C

Age: 18, Freshman

Size: 7'3", 240lbs

Aday Mara has dug himself an early hole, looking too slow and outdated for a first-round center, particularly after a 1-of-6 effort in a loss to Ohio State. He still has time to build a second-round case around 7'3" size, post skill, passing and shot-blocking.

51. Los Angeles Lakers (via Clippers): Bronny James

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Bronny James, USCKatelyn Mulcahy/Getty Images

Stock status: Up

Previous mock draft spot: Off the board

School/team: USC

Position: SG

Age: 19

Size: 6'4", 210lbs

Pro comparison: De'Anthony Melton

Bronny James' early results aren't as meaningful as the fact that he's back on the floor after suffering from cardiac arrest. He's going to play a limited, spot-up role, especially in a lineup with Isaiah Collier, Kobe Johnson and Boogie Ellis. While his touches and confidence figure to increase over the next few months, there is enough high school evidence of James' shooting stroke, defensive playmaking/IQ and decision-making to warrant second-round looks. He does struggle to create for himself in the half court, and moving into the first-round mix likely means being able to showcase some off-the-dribble burst and two-point offense. In the meantime, James' sales pitch to NBA teams will revolve around his three-and-D archetype and intangibles.

52. Boston Celtics (via Mavs): Mantas Rubstavicius

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Mantas Rubstavicius, New Zealand Breakers Kai Schwoerer/Getty Images

Stock status: Up

Previous mock draft spot: Off the board

Team/nationality: New Zealand Breakers, Lithuanian

Size: 6'5", 196lbs

Age: 21

Mantas Rubstavicius just went for 21 points in his first start after consecutive double-digit scoring games. He's trending upward following an early-season injury, looking more comfortable with the type of positional size, shooting and passing that should catch scouts' attention if he continues to produce.

53. Sacramento Kings: Matthew Cleveland

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Matthew Cleveland, MiamiSamuel Lewis/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 53

School/team: Miami

Position: SF

Age: 21, Junior

Size: 6'7", 208lbs

Pro comparison: Otto Porter Jr.

Shooting will always be Matthew Cleveland's key swing skill, given his lack of self-creation and playmaking. Now 10-of-25 from three, he's off to the best start of his career while continuing to produce off athletic plays, instincts and mid-range shotmaking (70.5 percent 2PT).

54. Orlando Magic: Nikola Djuriscic

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Nikola Djuriscic, Mega MISDavid Grau/Euroleague Basketball via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 54

Team: Mega MIS, Serbian/Belgian

Position: SG/SF

Age: 19

Size: 6'7", 214lbs

Nikola Djuriscic has strung together five consecutive double-digit scoring games while regularly flashing needed playmaking ability to help separate him from other second-round wing prospects.

The inconsistency has been frustrating, but for a 6'7", 19-year-old wing, teams should find his positional size, ball-handling and shotmaking worth betting on coming together at some point.

55. Houston Rockets (via Thunder) Hunter Sallis)

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Hunter Sallis, Wake Forest Mitchell Layton/Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 39

School/team: Wake Forest

Position: SG

Age: 21, Junior

Size: 6'5", 185lbs

More freedom at Wake Forest has unlocked Hunter Sallis' confidence and three-level scoring. He's been highly effective with his pull-up (48.7 percent) and ability to slash off the catch, though improving his catch-and-shoot game will make it easier to picture an NBA fit.

56. Indiana Pacers (via Bucks): PJ Hall

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PJ Hall, Clemson Pamela Smith/Getty Images

Stock status: Up

Previous mock draft spot: Off the board

School/team: Clemson

Position: PF/C

Age: 21

Size: 6'10", 238lbs

Pro comparison: Jeremiah-Robinson Earl

An invite to G League Elite Camp last year confirmed NBA interest in Hall. He's taken another step forward this season, now looking like a pro prospect with a strong enough package of finishing, post skill, shooting and shot-blocking for a stretch 4 or 5.

57. Charlotte Hornets (via Celtics): Harrison Ingram

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Harrison Ingram, North CarolinaRich von Biberstein/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 55

School/team: North Carolina

Position: SF

Age: 21, Junior

Size: 6'7", 235 lbs

Harrison Ingram is up to 43.2 percent on 4.4 three-point attempts, an interesting development for a 6'7", 235-pound forward who showed more playmaking at Stanford when he wasn't sharing a ball with RJ Davis and Elliot Cadeau. He's also looked quicker on certain defensive possessions, and his 2.5 steal rate is noticeably higher.

There is connector potential tied to his shotmaking and passing, though the improved shooting has to be real for Ingram to have a realistic chance.

58. Denver Nuggets (via Wolves): Pacome Dadiet

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Pacome Dadiet, Ratiopharm UlmDavid Grau/Euroleague Basketball via Getty Images

Stock status: Steady

Previous mock draft spot: No. 57

Team/nationality: Ratiopharm Ulm/France

Position: SF

Age: 18

Size: 6'6", 187lbs

Teams looking for late draft-and-stash or sleeper options will highlight Pacome Dadiet, a 6'8" wing who's been scouted at FIBA and Basketball Without Borders before this season. Despite his limited role in the German BBL and EuroCup, flashes of finishing, defensive movement and shotmaking potential could entice a team in the second round.

EXHIBIT R-3

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NBADraft.net

2024 Mock Draft

Updated: 2024-01-05 17:21:14

- **Score:** 0
- **Rank:** 0

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#	Team	Player	H	W	P	School	C
1	*Detroit	Cody Williams	6-8	190	SF	Colorado	Fr.
2	San Antonio	Ja'Kobe Walter	6-5	180	SG	Baylor	Fr.
3	*Washington	Zaccharie Risacher	6-9	200	SF/PF	France	Intl.
4	*Charlotte	Carlton Carrington	6-6	190	PG/SG	Pittsburgh	Fr.
5	*Portland	Aaron Bradshaw	7-1	225	PF	Kentucky	Fr.
6	Memphis	Matas Buzelis	6-10	210	SF	G-League	Fr.
7	*San Antonio	Alexandre Sarr	7-1	205	C	France	Intl.
8	Chicago	Tyler Smith	6-11	215	PF	G-League	Fr.
9	Atlanta	Wooga Poplar	6-5	195	SG	Miami	Jr.
10	*Houston	Isaiah Collier	6-5	210	PG	USC	Fr.
11	*Utah	Kanaan Carlyle	6-3	185	PG/SG	Stanford	Fr.
12	*Memphis	Adama Bal	6-7	190	PG/SG	Santa Clara	Jr.
13	*New Orleans	Jaxson Robinson	6-7	190	SG/SF	BYU	Sr.

#	Team	Player	H	W	P	School	C
14	*Phoenix	<u>Hunter Sallis</u>	6-5	185	SG	Wake Forest	Jr.
15	*Oklahoma Cty.	<u>Bobi Klintman</u>	6-10	225	PF/C	Sweden	Intl.
16	New York	<u>Caleb Foster</u>	6-5	195	PG	Duke	Fr.
17	Cleveland	<u>Kevin McCullar</u>	6-7	210	SG	Kansas	Sr.
18	Orlando	<u>Tyrese Proctor</u>	6-5	185	PG	Duke	So.
19	*New York	<u>Tidjane Salaun</u>	6-9	207	PF	France	Intl.
20	Indiana	<u>Nikola Topic</u>	6-6	200	PG	Serbia	Intl.
21	Miami	<u>Ronald Holland</u>	6-8	205	SF	G-League	Fr.
22	New Orleans	<u>Dalton Knecht</u>	6-6	215	SG	Tennessee	Sr.
23	*Atlanta	<u>Ulrich Chomche</u>	6-11	235	C	Cameroon	Intl.
24	*Oklahoma Cty.	<u>Rob Dillingham</u>	6-3	175	PG	Kentucky	Fr.
25	Denver	<u>Ryan Dunn</u>	6-8	216	SF/PF	Virginia	So.
26	Philadelphia	<u>Kel'el Ware</u>	7-0	230	C	Indiana	So.
27	Oklahoma Cty	<u>Melvin Ajinca</u>	6-8	200	SF	France	Intl.
28	*Milwaukee	<u>Izan Almansa</u>	6-10	230	PF	G-League	Intl.
29	Minnesota	<u>Kylan Boswell</u>	6-2	195	PG	Arizona	So.
30	Boston	<u>Trey Alexander</u>	6-4	190	SG	Creighton	Jr.

#	Team	Player	H	W	P	School	C
31	*Toronto	<u>Terrence Shannon</u>	6-6	225	SG	Illinois	Sr.
32	*San Antonio	<u>Justin Edwards</u>	6-8	205	SG	Kentucky	Fr.
33	*Detroit	<u>Kyle Filipowski</u>	7-0	250	C	Duke	So.
34	*Portland	<u>Jared McCain</u>	6-3	195	PG/SG	Duke	Fr.
35	*Milwaukee	<u>Trentyn Flowers</u>	6-9	180	SG	USA	Intl.
36	Memphis	<u>PJ Hall</u>	6-10	245	C	Clemson	Sr.

#	Team	Player	H	W	P	School	C
37	*LA Clippers	<u>Trevon Brazile</u>	6-10	220	PF	Arkansas	So.
38	*San Antonio	<u>Oso Ighodaro</u>	6-11	235	PF	Marquette	Sr.
39	*Portland	<u>DJ Wagner</u>	6-4	190	PG/SG	Kentucky	Fr.
40	*Houston	<u>Jaylen Forbes</u>	6-5	195	SG	Tulane	Sr.
41	*New York	<u>Antonio Reeves</u>	6-6	195	SG	Kentucky	Sr.
42	*Houston	<u>Kam Jones</u>	6-5	200	PG/SG	Marquette	Jr.
43	*San Antonio	<u>Dillon Mitchell</u>	6-8	205	SF	Texas	So.
44	*Washington	<u>Kalib Boone</u>	6-9	200	PF	Oklahoma State	Sr.
45	*Oklahoma Cty.	<u>Zach Edey</u>	7-4	300	C	Purdue	Sr.
46	*Philadelphia	<u>Donovan Clingan</u>	7-2	280	C	UConn	So.
47	*Indiana	<u>Tristan da Silva</u>	6-9	220	PF	Colorado	Sr.
48	Orlando	<u>Pacome Dadiet</u>	6-8	210	PF	France	Intl.
49	*Sacramento	<u>Adem Bona</u>	6-10	245	PF/C	UCLA	So.
50	*LA Clippers	<u>Branden Carlson</u>	7-0	220	C	Utah	Sr.
51	*Miami	<u>AJ Johnson</u>	6-5	160	PG/SG	USA	Intl.
52	*New Orleans	<u>Tyler Thomas</u>	6-3	200	SG	Hofstra	Sr.
53	Sacramento	<u>Dillon Jones</u>	6-6	235	SF	Weber St.	Jr.
54	*LA Lakers	<u>Ousmane Ndiaye</u>	6-9	210	PF/C	Senegal	Intl.
55	*Orlando	<u>Micah Peavy</u>	6-8	215	SG	TCU	Sr.
56	*Philadelphia	<u>Jesse Edwards</u>	6-11	240	C	West Virginia	Sr.
57	*Houston	<u>Hunter Dickinson</u>	7-2	260	C	Kansas	Sr.
58	*Indiana	<u>KJ Simpson</u>	6-2	190	PG	Colorado	Jr.
59	*Oklahoma Cty.	<u>Matthew Murrell</u>	6-4	200	SG	Mississippi	Sr.
60	*Charlotte	<u>Keshad Johnson</u>	6-7	225	SF	Arizona	Sr.



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EXHIBIT R-4

NBA Rookie Scale - RealGM

 basketball.realgm.com/nba/info/rookie_scale

-

- Analysis
 - Featured Writers
 - Colin McGowan
 - John Wilmes
 - Micah Wimmer
 - More Contributors
 - Zachary Cohen
 - Wes Goldberg
 - RealGM Staff Report
 - Jack Tien-Dana
 - Kevin Yeung

The Ja Morant Moral Panic Is Back

by John Wilmes

If Ja Morant is endangering himself or others, that's an issue that needs addressing, but when it comes to how he wants to be, well, that's up to him, and it looks as though he's decided for now that his freedom to speak and signal as he does matters more to him than maximizing his branding opportunities.

The Only Substantial Hope For The Pistons

by Colin McGowan

For now the Pistons have Cade Cunningham, ambling forth from the horizon, more sharply defined with each step. He is at a wonderful basketball age, where he's proven some but can still, maybe, do a lot more.

The Clippers Thing Is Working

by Wes Goldberg

The combination of a strong halfcourt defense, elite one-on-one offense and championship experience of Tyronn Lue and Kawhi Leonard is a formula that makes the Clippers legitimate contenders in the West.

Zion Is Still Here

by John Wilmes

You don't have to squint too much to see how, through all the deflated hype and underwhelming results, Zion Williamson remains indomitable enough pull his team through the postseason.

- [Scores](#)

1:00 PM ET

[San Antonio](#) at [Cleveland](#)

[\(5-29\)](#)

[\(20-15\)](#)

[Preview](#) [Regular Season](#)

3:00 PM ET

[Portland](#) at [Brooklyn](#)

[\(9-25\)](#)

[\(16-20\)](#)

[Preview](#) [Regular Season](#)

6:00 PM ET

[New Orleans](#) at [Sacramento](#)

[\(21-15\)](#)

[\(21-13\)](#)

[Preview](#) [Regular Season](#)

6:00 PM ET

[Atlanta](#) at [Orlando](#)

[\(14-20\)](#)

[\(20-15\)](#)

[Preview](#) [Regular Season](#)

7:30 PM ET

Minnesota at Dallas
(25-9) (21-15)

Preview Regular Season

8:00 PM ET

Detroit at Denver
(3-32) (25-12)

Preview Regular Season

- [Trade Checker](#)

RealGM Trade Checker™

- *Step 1: Select the Teams* Choose at least two teams from the menus below to start your trade.
- *Step 2: Choose the Players* Select the players you wish to trade from the rosters below.
- *Step 3: Verify the Trade* Confirm that your trade proposal is valid according to the NBA collective bargaining agreement.

Team One *

Select the first team from the drop down menu.

Team Two *

Select the second team from the drop down menu.

Team Three

Select the third team from the drop down menu.

Team Four

Select the fourth team from the drop down menu.

- [Tickets](#)
- [Odds](#)

2023-2024 NBA Rookie Scale

Change season?

* First round picks can sign for as much as 120% and as little as 80% of the rookie scale.

Pick	1st Year Salary	2nd Year Salary	3rd Year Option Salary	4th Year Option: Percentage Increased Over 3rd Year Salary	Qualifying Offer: Percentage Increase Over 4th Year Salary
1	\$10,133,900	\$10,640,800	\$11,147,400	26.1%	40.0%
2	\$9,067,000	\$9,520,500	\$9,974,000	26.2%	40.5%
3	\$8,142,400	\$8,549,300	\$8,956,700	26.4%	41.2%
4	\$7,341,100	\$7,708,300	\$8,075,500	26.5%	41.9%
5	\$6,647,900	\$6,980,000	\$7,312,500	26.7%	42.6%
6	\$6,037,900	\$6,339,800	\$6,641,900	26.8%	43.4%
7	\$5,511,900	\$5,787,700	\$6,063,000	27.0%	44.1%
8	\$5,049,600	\$5,302,100	\$5,554,600	27.2%	44.8%
9	\$4,641,600	\$4,873,900	\$5,105,900	27.4%	45.5%
10	\$4,409,500	\$4,629,900	\$4,850,200	27.5%	46.2%
11	\$4,189,000	\$4,398,600	\$4,608,100	32.7%	46.9%
12	\$3,979,700	\$4,178,800	\$4,377,800	37.8%	47.6%
13	\$3,780,600	\$3,969,800	\$4,158,800	42.9%	48.3%
14	\$3,591,800	\$3,771,400	\$3,951,100	48.1%	49.1%
15	\$3,411,900	\$3,582,500	\$3,753,100	53.3%	49.8%
16	\$3,241,500	\$3,403,500	\$3,565,800	53.4%	50.5%
17	\$3,079,200	\$3,233,200	\$3,387,200	53.6%	51.2%
18	\$2,925,500	\$3,071,500	\$3,218,000	53.8%	51.9%
19	\$2,793,700	\$2,933,300	\$3,073,300	54.0%	52.6%
20	\$2,681,800	\$2,815,900	\$2,949,800	54.2%	53.3%
21	\$2,574,600	\$2,703,400	\$2,832,200	59.3%	54.1%

Pick	1st Year Salary	2nd Year Salary	3rd Year Option Salary	4th Year Option: Percentage Increased Over 3rd Year Salary	Qualifying Offer: Percentage Increase Over 4th Year Salary
22	\$2,471,700	\$2,595,200	\$2,718,800	64.5%	54.8%
23	\$2,372,900	\$2,491,700	\$2,610,000	69.7%	55.5%
24	\$2,278,100	\$2,392,000	\$2,505,900	74.9%	56.2%
25	\$2,186,700	\$2,295,900	\$2,405,600	80.1%	56.9%
26	\$2,114,300	\$2,219,900	\$2,325,600	80.3%	57.6%
27	\$2,053,300	\$2,156,000	\$2,258,900	80.4%	58.3%
28	\$2,040,500	\$2,142,900	\$2,244,800	80.5%	59.0%
29	\$2,025,900	\$2,127,100	\$2,228,500	80.5%	60.0%
30	\$2,011,100	\$2,111,600	\$2,212,400	80.5%	60.0%

EXHIBIT S

VERIFIED STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF TERRENCE SHANNON JR.

Pursuant to Section 1-109 of the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure I declare under penalties of perjury as follows:

1. I am over 18 years of age and competent to make this statement, which is based on my personal, first-hand knowledge. I write this in support of Terrence Shannon Jr's ("TJ") motion for temporary restraining order and other relief.
2. I received my undergraduate degree from Northwestern University, my law degree with a concentration in sports and entertainment law from Loyola University of Chicago, and my Master's of Business Administration from the Gies College of Business at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
3. I was a sports agent representing athletes and coaches from approximately 2010 through 2022, including several years at IMG, a well-known agency firm. In that capacity, I became intimately familiar with professional sports-related contracts and the dynamics that drive them.
4. I have reviewed the current situation involving TJ, including his suspension from the University of Illinois men's basketball team until the resolution of his criminal charges. I am also familiar with TJ's performance on the basketball court this season, prior to his suspension.
5. In my opinion, TJ had a high chance of being selected as a National Basketball Association ("NBA") lottery pick in the NBA's 2024 draft, currently scheduled for June 24, 2024. A lottery pick is in the top 14 picks of the NBA draft.
6. In my opinion, TJ's continuing suspension, missing any more games, let alone the rest of the current college basketball season, will be negatively seen by NBA teams and will almost certainly cause many, if not all, of them not to draft TJ.

7. In my opinion, allowing TJ to resume playing on the University of Illinois basketball team this season will allow him to continue to showcase his skills and highly increases his likelihood of being drafted by an NBA team this year. I understand that the criminal charges of him may or may remain pending during relevant times. Allowing TJ to resume play, however, in my opinion will be critical if TJ is exonerated. Otherwise, in my opinion, he will lose nearly a full season of play leading up to the NBA draft. His inability to play any more college games will not allow him to adequately showcase his skills.

8. I hold the above opinions to a reasonable degree of certainty, and base these opinions on my personal, technical knowledge of the sports industry, as well as a review of the background to TJ's season, career, and the charges against him.



Matthew Smith

Date: January 3, 2024

EXHIBIT T

University of Illinois Athletics

2023-24 Men's Basketball Schedule

SEATGEEK

Overall	PCT	Conf	PCT
11-3	.786	2-1	.667
Streak	Home	Away	Neutral
L1	8-1	1-2	2-0



All dates subject to change.

Date	Time	At	Opponent	Location	TV	Radio	Tournament	Result
October 20, 2023 (Friday)	8 pm CT	Home	Ottawa (Exh.)	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	B1G+ (Stream)	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		W, 116-65
October 29, 2023 (Sunday)	5 pm CT	Home	Kansas (Exh.)	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	BTN	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network	Maui Strong Relief Matchup	W, 82-75
November 6, 2023 (Monday)	7 pm CT	Home	Eastern Illinois	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	B1G+ (Stream)	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		W, 80-52
November 10, 2023 (Friday)	7 pm CT	Home	Oakland	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	B1G+ (Stream)	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		W, 64-53
November 14, 2023 (Tuesday)	7 pm CT	Home	Marquette	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	FS1	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network	Gavitt Tipoff Games	L, 64-71
November 17, 2023 (Friday)	7 pm CT	Home	Valparaiso	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	B1G+ (Stream)	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		W, 87-64
November 19, 2023 (Sunday)	7 pm CT	Home	Southern	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	BTN	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		W, 88-60

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>At</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>TV</i>	<i>Radio</i>	<i>Tournament</i>	<i>Result</i>
November 24, 2023 (Friday)	8 pm CT	Home	Western Illinois	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	BTN	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		W, 84-52
December 2, 2023 (Saturday)	3 pm CT	Away	Rutgers	Piscataway, N.J.	BTN	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		W, 76-58
December 5, 2023 (Tuesday)	5:30 pm CT	Neutral	Florida Atlantic	New York, N.Y. / Madison Square Garden	ESPN	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network	Jimmy V Classic	W, 98-89
December 9, 2023 (Saturday)	11 am CT	Away	Tennessee	Knoxville, Tenn.	CBS	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		L, 79-86
December 17, 2023 (Sunday)	12 pm CT	Home	Colgate	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	BTN	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		W, 74-57
December 22, 2023 (Friday)	8 pm CT	Neutral	Missouri	St. Louis, Mo. / Enterprise Center	FS1	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network	McBride Homes Braggin' Rights	W, 97-73
December 29, 2023 (Friday)	8 pm CT	Home	Fairleigh Dickinson	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	BTN	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		W, 104-71
January 2, 2024 (Tuesday)	8 pm CT	Home	Northwestern	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	BTN	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		W, 96-66
January 5, 2024 (Friday)	7:30 pm CT	Away	Purdue	West Lafayette, Ind.	FS1	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		L, 78-83
January 11, 2024 (Thursday)	8 pm CT	Home	Michigan State	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	FS1	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		
January 14, 2024 (Sunday)	1/5 pm CT	Home	Maryland	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	BTN	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		
January 18, 2024 (Thursday)	7:30 pm CT	Away	Michigan	Ann Arbor, Mich.	FS1	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		
January 21, 2024 (Sunday)	12 pm CT	Home	Rutgers	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	BTN	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		
January 24, 2024 (Wednesday)	8 pm CT	Away	Northwestern	Evanston, Ill.	BTN	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		
January 27, 2024 (Saturday)	2 pm CT	Home	Indiana	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	FOX	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		
January 30, 2024 (Tuesday)	6 pm CT	Away	Ohio State	Columbus, Ohio	Peacock (Stream)	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>At</i>	<i>Opponent</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>TV</i>	<i>Radio</i>	<i>Tournament</i>	<i>Result</i>
February 4, 2024 (Sunday)	5:30 pm CT	Home	Nebraska	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	BTN	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		
February 10, 2024 (Saturday)	1 pm CT	Away	Michigan State	East Lansing, Mich.	CBS	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		
February 13, 2024 (Tuesday)	6 pm CT	Home	Michigan	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	Peacock (Stream)	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		
February 17, 2024 (Saturday)	4:30 pm CT	Away	Maryland	College Park, Md.	FOX	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		
February 21, 2024 (Wednesday)	5:30 pm CT	Away	Penn State	University Park, Pa.	BTN	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		
February 24, 2024 (Saturday)	1:15 pm CT	Home	Iowa	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	BTN	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		
February 28, 2024 (Wednesday)	8 pm CT	Home	Minnesota	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	BTN	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		
March 2, 2024 (Saturday)	12 pm CT	Away	Wisconsin	Madison, Wis.	BTN	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		
March 5, 2024 (Tuesday)	6 pm CT	Home	Purdue	Champaign, Ill. / State Farm Center	Peacock (Stream)	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		
March 10, 2024 (Sunday)	6 pm CT	Away	Iowa	Iowa City, Iowa	FS1	Busey Bank Illini Sports Network		
March 13, 2024 (Wednesday)	TBA	Neutral	Big Ten Tournament	Minneapolis, Minn. / Target Center		Busey Bank Illini Sports Network	Big Ten Tournament	
March 19, 2024 (Tuesday)	TBA	Neutral	NCAA Tournament	TBA		Busey Bank Illini Sports Network	NCAA Tournament	