3MW's Transfer Portal Fit Analysis

This is meant as a repository for all of the Weave's (Ky, Matt, Jim) 2025 transfer portal fit analysis. We'll try to hit on as many commitments + their new destinations as possible and leave them here as a place to revisit throughout the offseason.

NOTE: The document is generally in chronological order of commitment (not exactly, but close). Control+F for a player or your school is your friend!

If you are reading this document and are NOT currently subscribed to CBB Analytics, fix that today (use promo code "WEAVE" for $40 off your subscription when you sign up!).

1. **Joson Sanon — Arizona State to St. John's —** Big time scorer/shot maker. Filled it up early in the season for the Sun Devils (15.9 PPG in first nine games) and also late (18.8 PPG in final five), but he struggled in the middle of season, likely due to lingering injuries that caused him to miss time in January. Did not get to the rim often (only 9.5% of his shot attempts came there, via CBB Analytics) and was a bad finisher when he did (just 42.3%, brrrrrrr), but he's lethal on pull-ups, which are common in Pitino's offense. Not a great defender yet, so in that sense not a perfect fit, but he has a good frame and will be learning from the absolute master. —*Jim*

2. **Frank Mitchell — Minnesota to St. Bonaventure —** Total rebounding monster, but he was a little undersized for the Big Ten, even with his physicality. Will be super active inside for the Bonnies and back at a level that makes sense for him. He's not a big time "go get a bucket" scorer (won't replace Venning in that sense), more of a finisher through dump-offs/put-backs, and basically all he can do offensively is score at the rim (84% of his shot attempts, ranking in the 98th percentile in rim frequency per CBB Analytics). —*Jim*

   Sneaky underrated pickup for Schmidt, who's proven to find diamonds in the rough in the portal lately. Mitchell's return closer to his Canadian roots bode well for a bounceback campaign in a slightly lesser league - plus, he proved himself worthy against stiffer competition at both Canisius and Minnesota. However, the free throw woes (56-137 46% lifetime) are concerning if he is to emerge as a bigger part of the offensive equation in Olean. Also, this is another potential portal "eye test trap" - two years ago with Canisius, Mitchell played one of his best collegiate games against the Bonnies, which may be skewing Schmidt's evaluation here. — *Matt*

3. **Gabe Cupps — Indiana to Ohio State —** My first Mugatu-esque "I feel like I'm taking crazy pills!" moment of the 2025 transfer portal. Cupps leaving Indiana made sense, because he pretty clearly was not / is not a Big Ten caliber player…so another Big Ten school scoops him out of the pile? I don't get it. He's long and seems to try hard, but I

don't really know what he's good at offensively, unless somehow Jake Diebler instills him with Jon Diebler's shooting ability. Seems like an expensive end-of-bench guy, even if LeBron likes him (not totally following that connection, but apparently it exists). —*Jim*

I don't get it. Why? –*Ky*

4. **Bennett Stirtz — Drake to Iowa —** What is there to say here, really? Stirtz is going with the head coach that turned him into a star at two different schools already, so why not make it a third in the Big Ten? Any mild athleticism concerns for Stirtz at that level are mitigated by Ben McCollum's system, and Stirtz's heady playmaking, elite shot making and ability to control the pace are all perfect fits in a brutally patient attack. He is certainly a candidate to be an All-Big Ten player at Iowa. —*Jim*

   It's hard to underscore how important the point guard is to McCollum's system, as pointed out by former D-II foe Craig Doty (now at Houston Christian). The "others" may sacrifice their own scoring and playmaking freedom to make way for Stirtz but can also benefit via open cutting avenues, if embraced, especially when Stirtz attacks downhill off pick-n-roll —*Matt*

   1st Team All-Big Ten –*Ky*

5. **Owen Freeman — Iowa to Creighton —** The gem of the big man class is off the board to Creighton, giving McDermott his new anchor in the Bluejays' drop coverage. It's hard to gauge Freeman as a defender so far (Iowa was, as usual, a defensive disaster, so he had to deal with drivers coming at him a lot), but Freeman does grade out horrendously as a post defender (5th percentile last year on a smallish sample, per Synergy) — he's a lot more prone to fall for shot fakes than Kalkbrenner, the king of verticality, was. Freeman gets blocks, but his mobility is not great — playing in the drop should help a lot there, at least, as Iowa too often asked him to hedge or play at the level of the screen, or even scramble to the corners out of Iowa's funky zone. Offensively, he's immensely skilled with developing range, and he brings the same post-seal acumen/knowledge of angles that Iowa bigs so frequently possess (and Kalkbrenner became terrific at, as well). Great touch around the hoop, very good rebounder. Seems like a terrific fit for both sides between player + scheme. —*Jim*

6. **Obi Agbim — Wyoming to Baylor —** More of a scoring lead guard than a creator, Agbim carried the Wyoming offense when he was on the floor (14 points better per 100 possessions with him out there, per CBB Analytics). Tremendous shooter from basically everywhere, whether it be catch and shoot or off the dribble. Drew's offense has repeatedly featured scoring-type point guards (Akinjo, Flagler, Roach, etc.), so the offensive fit is strong. Defense is a concern, as that is not Agbim's strength, and he'll form a slight-framed duo with Rob Wright. —*Jim*

7. **Moe Odum — Pepperdine to Arizona State —** Outstanding ball screen creator as both a scorer and passer, also has plenty of speed to get out and lead the break (though his decision-making gets sloppier there). Exploded in the WCC tournament (21.5ppg, 9.3apg) while leading the Waves to an impressive four-game run through that behemoth of a bracket. He's small and thin, so he can get picked on defensively, and his career W/L record is abysmal. Bobby Hurley has consistently gravitated to stat producers for middling-to-bad teams, so this is right up his alley, but at least Odum has a clear transferable skill (PnR mastery). —*Jim*

8. **Jevon Porter — Loyola Marymount to Missouri —** Baggage included here, both on the floor (injury) and off the floor (he's a year removed from a DWI back home in Columbia), but the upside is semi-enticing, even at the SEC level. Depending on who Mizzou retains, the Tigers need a more potent "5" to pair with Mark Mitchell and alleviate his burden on both ends. At 6-11, Porter's length and mobility should immediately buoy Mizzou's defense, which was over reliant on Mitchell last year (especially when Josh Gray was off the floor). The advanced stats confirm Porter's perceived defensive impact (both EvanMiya and CBBAnalytics graded as one of LMU's top defenders last year), while also revealing the dreaded inefficient darkside of his offensive shortcomings. The key will be role acceptance on offense. Porter is smooth but still unrefined, and needs to willingly embrace his role as a rim running / pick-n-pop dual threat scorer in small doses, a far cry from the heavy usage do-it-all bellcow he was forged into last year in La La Land. — *Matt*

   He's a better Trent Pierce. Potential is out the ass. Didn't dominate the WCC. His splits against Tier A&B competition are bad. He's kind of soft. Not a bad get, but Mizzou fans are sick and tired of the Porters. –*Ky*

9. **Brock Harding — Iowa to TCU —** Good offensive player. Great passer, smooth shooter (though not a volume sniper like some Iowa guards). Strange home/away splits — at home, 45% of his FGAs come at the rim (a lot!), but on the road, that plummets to 19% (not many). I personally think his high steal rate masks him being a bad defender who is smallish and struggles to keep guards in front. Have to wonder how much of his game / his numbers are "Iowa-influenced", given how great the Hawkeye offense always is and how bad the defense is. He's a little fighter though, which should endear him to Jamie Dixon. And the shooting is a clear upgrade on Frankie Collins.

   I actually love this guy. He improved DRAMATICALLY from his FR season and proved he could run point at the power level. Great shooter, heady, tough. Dixon will work wonders with him. —*Ky*

10. **William Kyle III — UCLA to Syracuse —** I was checking whether he was a "II" or a "III", and Google auto-filled his name with the descriptor "athlete who plays basketball" — that's about as accurate as it gets. He can JUMP, a rangy athlete who is always bouncing around. Had over 100 dunks at South Dakota State in 2023-24. Different

player than Lampkin, who he is replacing. Not a post up threat, just a finisher (an elite one) who took 100% of his 54 field goal attempts at the rim or in the paint at UCLA (yes, 100%). Has a rather…unique free throw form, too. Better fit in an up-tempo system, which I'm not sure if Autry will use or not (their offensive APL slowed WAY down this year). —*Jim*

Loved him at SDSU, but he couldn't get on the floor at UCLA. Just might not be a power starter. Lampkin is an awful locker room / team presence from my point of view (see Colorado / TCU tenures where he called out coaches), so Kyle is an upgrade in that sense. I don't really think Autry is a developer or a roster elevator, so this is mostly a shrug get. —*Ky*

11. **Kam Williams — Tulane to Kentucky —** The Brea replacement has arrived! The pros: he's even bigger than Brea, and he has three years of eligibility left (TBD if that matters in a world of annual free agency). The cons: he's even more one-dimensional than Brea, and he was much worse shooting off screens/off movement compared to catch-and-shoot as a freshman. Fantastic scheme fit though with the way Pope's system tees up gunners, and it's pretty easy to envision his shooting stroke becoming a lethal threat within Kentucky's offense. He's more valuable for UK than he would be in many other systems, I think. Curious if he adds more to his game (he ran less than 50 PnRs all year in an *incredibly* PnR-heavy offense and he took just 20% of his shots at the rim / only 23 free throws). —*Jim*
    a. *Jim adding a note* – his release is a little slow-ish and a push from his shoulder. I don't love it! It might not matter since he's 6'8, but I do think it explains why he struggles to shoot off movement.

12. **Mason Miller — Creighton to Murray State —** Oh hellllllll yeah. Ryan Miller brings his nephew with him to Murray to usher in a new era and compete for an MVC title. This guy was born to play in the Valley. A 6-9 shooter with legit Big East experience? Sign me up! His confidence clearly waned this season after an impressive SO year at Creighton - I don't see that as a trend rather just a blip in the radar. He should have newfound confidence in the MVC and vie for being the best shooter in the league. —*Ky*

13. **Mason Williams — Eastern Washington to Iowa State —** Seems like a bet on size + projectable shooting stroke, because he wasn't very efficient in the Big Sky, which is not exactly a bastion of elite defensive squads. But he's a bigger, longer guard in the Curtis Jones mold, so I get the gamble. Biggest difference was Jones *never* turned it over at Buffalo, whereas Williams did a ton at EWU. He was solid in ball screens, which is rare to find with someone his size, and that makes in Otz's PnR-heavy system. Interesting stat note: he scored six total points on 26 drives to his left this year — 0.231 points per possession is bad bad. Watched them all: a lot of sloppy dribbling and terrible midrange pull-up bricks. Would be Priority 1 if I was developing his game - fix the left hand. —*Jim*

14. **Yame Butler — Drexel to Butler —** Looks like a really solid under-the-radar bargain add. Big and physical from a very good defensive system. Won't be a star, but he can shoot and grades out stunningly well in the PnR (96th percentile in efficiency as a ball-handler, per Synergy). Good finisher around the rim in the CAA, has the size to translate that up. Played only one game against higher-level competition (Penn State) and he was effective getting downhill. Shot 54% on corner 3s per CBB Analytics (only 26 attempts, but great number!). I like this move, not to mention the obvious "Butler playing for Butler" connection which I'm a sucker for. —*Jim*

15. **Donovan Dent — New Mexico to UCLA —** A magician in pick-n-roll, Dent's a transcendent floor general, obviously. Cronin will sleep easy with Dent at the head of his snake, on both ends - Dent's a pesky on ball defender with able size to check multiple guard spots on the other team. On offense, the laser quick pocket passes and slithery step throughs are standout traits. He's a crafty finisher, too, especially in the mid-paint area, where a quick trigger floater is effective and unpredictable. The convenient knock is his shooting, but Dent's proven to be an efficient shooter on low volume with time and space. Still, this marriage all boils down to the supporting cast. Cronin would be wise to pair Dent with a bouncy rim runner and / or reliable pick-n-pop as his primary big dance partner. His perimeter counterparts need not be long range snipers but they do need to be able floor stretchers, OR be willing and smart cutters to prevent off ball stagnation. At New Mexico two years ago, Dent was often rendered ineffective sharing the floor with other ball dominant ball stoppers, so Cronin would be wise to avoid this pitfall in reconstructing the roster for 2025-26. — *Matt*

~~***16. Treysen Eaglestaff — North Dakota to South Carolina** — Everyone remembers the 40-burger against Alabama and 50-burger against South Dakota State in the Summit tournament but Eaglestaff laid a couple of eggs in big games this year - notably, the 50 point hangover game against St. Thomas, in which Eaglestaff posted more turnovers (7) than points (6). Yes, the shotmaking profile is tremendous, and he can shoot off movement, but the scoring prowess is largely jumpshot reliant. He struggled to finish inside this season against subpar Summit frontlines - per CBBAnalytics, Eaglestaff's "at the rim" and "in the paint" percentages graded out in the 35th and 43rd percentile nationally. And then defensively, can he guard SEC caliber guards and wings? Maybe there's upside here as an off the pine microwave specialist of sorts but there's a nonzero chance his flaws limit his impact as a consistent contributor at this level. — Matt*~~

17. **Blake Buchanan — Virginia to Iowa State —** Numbers all depressed by UVA's system, but I loved his upside as a freshman. Some stagnation this year but it was a strange deal with the Bennett resignation. Moves well, physical, active on the glass on both ends. Could be a monster offensive rebounder in a system that actually promotes it. Needs to develop more touch away from the rim (18/48 non-rim paint attempts per CBB Analytics, not good), needs to improve FT shooting. But I think he'll be a good piece — potentially as good/better as Dishon Jackson was. —*Jim*

18. **Marcus Adams Jr. — CSUN to Arizona State —** Often a mental enigma, Adams' talent / versatility is undeniable, justified by his fringe 5-star recruiting pedigree coming out of high school. He did struggle against stiffer competition this year but we all know the Big West is no slouch of a league - thus, I think he can translate up to power conference without hitting a major wall. He also pops on the advanced defensive metric scales, and proved he can 'defend up' in small ball lineups (At 6-8, 200 pounds defended 4s and 5s mostly this year at CSUN). Still, I think Adams greatly benefited from a phenomenal fit at Northridge under Newman, so I remain somewhat skeptical he's all of a sudden ready for the Big-12 spotlight, despite last year's promising reincarnation — *Matt*

19. **Kobe Magee — Drexel to Florida St. —** Magee took a big step this year, fast-tracked by Drexel losing Garfield Turner to the season last offseason. He cemented his sharpshooting prowess on a healthy volume of triples, and flashed some broader scoring and facilitating ability. He wasn't an assertive alpha by any stretch but was the Dragons' steady hand from start to finish. There seems to be buzz about his defensive ability as well, though he was largely a beneficiary of a stingy supporting cast the last two seasons. — *Matt*

20. **Devon Pryor — Texas to Oregon —** I guess, whatever? Bench piece, has some real athletic upside as a long wing, but he's not much of a player right now to me. Not really sure what role he'll end up playing with Oregon, but if it's anything more than an 8th guy, I'd be a little worried. —*Jim*

21. **Bryce Hopkins — Providence to St. John's** — I'm sure Friar fans will greet him warmly at the Dunk next season! Obviously a super talented piece for Pitino, getting a big time scorer to slide into Aaron Scott's spot at the 4. With Sanon and Hopkins stepping in for Richmond and Scott, it seems pretty clear the Red Storm defense will take a sizable step back even with Ejiofor as the interior anchor, but the offense could be outstanding. Assuming he's fully healthy (an important assumption), Hopkins is such a skilled inside/out piece who can destroy mismatches in the mid-post/at the elbow, or he can space the court around primary action (when needed). He'll live at the free throw line under Pitino, who will let him punish smaller or slower defenders. St. John's is going to be loaded. —*Jim*

22. **Dedan Thomas — UNLV to LSU** — Sounds like Thomas' close family ties with LSU assistant David Patrick helped push this one over the edge. Alas, Matt McMahon finally has a point guard, which eluded him in each of the past three seasons. Thomas' steady decision making will eradicate the tumultuous turnover woes that plagued McMahon's offense in each of the last three years - that is, assuming Thomas returns to full form coming off a shoulder injury that kept him out the last seven games of the year. Moneyball maniacs will criticize his affinity for the mid range, and there's healthy skepticism about his defensive acumen, but finding a competent and reliable table setter was the main mission for LSU this summer and the staff delivered with Thomas.

— *Matt*

a. LSU badly needed a true PG, as Matt notes, but I worry about Thomas' size and shooting limitations showing up at the P5 level. His pinball, get-to-the-free-throw-line game could take a hit against SEC athletes, and he made less than one 3 per game at UNLV — you can under-screen him and force him to shoot. But he's an awesome decision-maker and has a stable of athletic bigs to feed. Just don't think LSU will be good enough for it to matter much. —*Jim*

23. **Michael Nwoko — Mississippi State to LSU —** Started 32 games with the Bulldogs this year but was more of a complementary piece, as they were better with KeShawn Murphy on the floor (or playing smallball). Nwoko is a tremendous offensive rebounder, and he mostly knows his limits on offense (which are: only shoot the ball at the rim, where he's an outstanding finisher). Solid SEC rotational addition up front to pair with what LSU already has (ideally, a healthy Jalen Reed off his torn ACL, plus Robert Miller and potentially Daimion Collins). Should enjoy playing with a stellar passer in Dedan Thomas — Nowko's Miss State tenure lacked a true PG that could feed him lobs. —*Jim*

24. **Jeremiah Oden — Charlotte/Wyoming to San Diego State —** Highly effective role player at Wyoming early in his career, particularly as a sophomore, who brings some floor spacing, athleticism, length and defense to the 4 spot. His efficiency cratered while stuck on a horrendous DePaul team in 23-24 before missing all of 24-25 (he's a Chicago native — going home isn't always the best option), but heading back out to the Mountain West intrigues me. Brian Dutcher will love his physical toolbox, Oden should return to being more of a complementary cutter, where he succeeded wildly for an NCAA Tournament Wyoming team back in 2021-22. He was a MUCH better rim finisher with the Cowboys, presumably because he was playing with significantly more talent. —*Jim*

25. **Oscar Cluff — South Dakota St. to Purdue —** The Jackrabbits led the entire country in post up frequency per Synergy, specifically because of the big Aussie, Cluff. He's a devastating scorer on the block, ranking in the 91st percentile in efficiency (particularly impressive on that volume), and now he's headed to the P5 offense that has best utilized the post over the past decade or so. Cluff should be a major weapon in Matt Painter's offense, and Braden Smith should be overjoyed to have another elite finisher to pass to. The fit with Trey Kaufman-Renn isn't perfect (TKR's production next to Edey was clearly stunted, as they want to occupy the same space near the rim), but Painter has had some tremendous offenses with two paint-bound bigs before, and Smith's passing optimizes everything. Defensively, Cluff is a terrific drop big man who avoids foul trouble well with verticality; while not a shot blocker, he's enormous and gets in the way of easy finishes. The Boilers' ability to force turnovers — led by Smith — helps offset TKR having to chase 4s around when he shares the floor with Cluff (or Dan Jacobsen). Love this fit overall. —*Jim*

26. **Lajae Jones — St. Bonaventure to Florida St. —** Good snipe by Loucks, really big fan of Jones as a winner and a quintessential connective piece. Can guard a bunch of different positions and hit shots (46% on corner 3s this year, per CBB Analytics). He won a national title his final JUCO season and was a quality piece on a pretty undermanned Bonnies squad that held its own in the A-10. Alarmingly low assist rate is a knock for sure, but I would not expect him to be asked to do a ton of playmaking. Have to dig in more on Loucks to figure out what style he'll play, so it's harder to comment on the fit explicitly, but I like Jones a lot as a supercharged role player in a vacuum. —*Jim*

27. **Noah Williamson — Bucknell to Alabama —** I'm of two minds here. Positive: he's an elite finisher inside (albeit mostly against smaller/inferior competition in the paint); his shot chart is all red right around the rim. He has some upside as a shooter too — his career 3P numbers aren't all that far from where Nate Sestina's were when he went from Bucknell to Kentucky (Sestina was a way better FT shooter though). He's also a solid force inside defensively and on the glass, if not a mega athlete shot blocker. On the other hand, a lot of his effectiveness derived from post ups (169 possessions last year, 86th percentile nationally in frequency), and Alabama never ever plays through the post (4th percentile last year). Solid pickup as a rotational big who probably won't really be optimized with Alabama, but will still be a positive contributor. —*Jim*

28. **Adrian Wooley — Kennesaw St. to Louisville** — A silky smooth southpaw with size, strength, skill and an innate change of pace trait as a creator off the dribble. His handle is still rounding into form, and his release is a little slow, but that's about all you can nitpick. From an all-around profile, Wooley is more dynamic offensively than anyone Louisville had last season, save Chucky Hepburn - he's probably not a 1-for-1 Chucky replacement, but he's crazy refined as a shotmaker and finisher for his age (and who knows how fast he develops under Kelsey, who revitalized Hepburn's game in one off season). Defensively, Wooley is sound, and should only get better with age and additional reps. As one of the earlier pickups in the cycle, I love the versatility Wooley presents as plug and play option with any combination of perimeter mates, depending on how Louisville's portal haul shakes out. — *Matt*

29. **Elliot Cadeau — UNC to Michigan —** And there's the "Tre Donaldson leaving" domino, which made the most sense with Cadeau coming to town. Cadeau will be the most ball-dominant point guard that Dusty May has had in the past few years; between Danny Wolf and Alijah Martin/Nelly Davis, he's had pretty decentralized playmaking in his offenses. But May has also shown to be an extremely flexible coach, tailoring his system to the players at hand, and having Cadeau means that it's time to run a ton of ball screens for a lead guard with outstanding vision. He's outstanding in those looks, ranking in the 77th percentile in efficiency in "PnRs including passes" per Synergy. His court vision is undeniable. He's a poor scorer/shooter at this stage, though, so he's not very useful when he doesn't have the ball, and he ranks horribly in transition (17th percentile — largely due to a 23.2% TO rate, nothing new for Michigan fans). Needs to be a better finisher at the rim, as well. —*Jim*

30. **Michael Rataj — Oregon St. to Baylor —** Rataj blossomed as a junior, seeing his efficiency climb while undergoing a massive usage spike — that's the ultimate indicator of improvement. He's a useful floor spacer, terrific rebounder, and smart passer who should pair well with so many scoring guards in Waco. He's not a shutdown defender by any means, but he moves fairly well and knows what he's doing (highest DBPR on Oregon State, per EvanMiya), and he'll allow the Bears to play two true bigs while not sacrificing spacing. If he can have anywhere near the year Tyler Bilodeau did at UCLA after leaving Corvallis, Baylor fans will be ecstatic (they aren't identical players, but similar enough to compare for a P5 transition). Filling a role akin to Matthew Mayer would be a huge win for Scott Drew and Baylor — gobble up defensive boards, fit in as an offensive puzzle piece next to the backcourt. —*Jim*

31. **Paul Otieno — Quinnipiac to Saint Louis** — Otieno really blossomed this year as a scorer and finisher. Though still a tad raw and robotic operating out of the post, it's hard to argue with his trajectory and on / off impact. Translating to Schertz' system, I'm interested to see if he can further develop as a post passer, handoff connector and pick n pop shooter. But, how does he play with Avila? That's the one concern, or question, I have but at minimum, he's a terrific Avila insurance policy, and managing Avila's workload after last year is critical. Schertz clearly underlined "frontline depth" on this offseason to-do list - he's close to crossing that off with Avila, Anya and Otieno in house. — *Matt*

32. **Jalen Jackson — Fort Wayne to Butler —** Bit of an unconventional up-transfer as a burly dowhill guard who can't shoot but instead overwhelms with physicality. I sometimes worry about how those guys translate. Probably best playing next to a bigger shooter who can also handle it some. Basically 75% of his shots were at the rim/in the paint (and he was a pretty good finisher in those areas!), lived at the FT line against Horizon competition — which does jive with Thad's approach last year, 45th nationally in FT rate. Would seem to have decent defensive potential with his quickness/strength combo, decent instincts....hasn't really played on a good defense, but FW has constantly chosen skill over athletes in the frontcourt which heavily influences the overall rankings. Good piece overall. —*Jim*

~~33. Magoon Gwath — San Diego St. to Kentucky —~~ *~~I assume this (and Morez) was a massive bidding war, won by deep-pocketed Big Blue. So much upside oozing out of Goon's game. The shot-blocking stands out the most right now, but he's so mobile and coordinated at his size. Obviously needs strength, that's a long journey ahead, but he's going to dominate the rim simply because he's so long. It's a little bit of an odd fit offensively because he is not a high-IQ passer at this point, and Pope definitely likes triggering the attack through his big men, but he's still pretty young in basketball and that could develop. Pope also knows how to adjust the attack for a non-distributing big (see the version of BYU that had Traore at center). The offensive upside is considerable too,~~*

~~*although his shot selection is pretty terrible to go with his mostly lacking passing vision. Pope/staff will probably be great teachers though. —Jim*~~

34. **Morez Johnson — Illinois to Michigan —** Just generally, I'm a massive fan of Johnson as a player. Relentless and physical, total animal on the glass on both ends, and he's probably only going to get stronger. Per Bart, only six players had more than 70 dunks this season, but I would not be shocked to see Johnson clear that number while playing with such an elite passer like Cadeau (along with his outstanding glass-cleaning for putbacks). He was pretty effective as a roll man in Illinois' PnR-heavy offense (74th percentile in efficiency) and I imagine he'll only get better. Graded out incredibly well in EvanMiya's DBPR as well (5th in the Big Ten). Seems like a home run get for Michigan. —*Jim*

35. **Ryan Conwell — Xavier to Louisville —** The theory with Conwell to Xavier was that he would be dominant in the open floor, and he mostly delivered. The Muskies ran a lot, and he ranked in the 72nd percentile in transition efficiency, per Synergy, and we know Pat Kelsey is going to want to go, go, go whenever he can. Conwell's lethal 3P shooting also fits perfectly into the Cardinals' system. He also was great out of Zoom action at Indiana State under Schertz, and Louisville ran dribble handoffs in the 89th percentile in frequency last year, so I fully expect Conwell to thrive in those looks, as well. Superstar player, fun scheme fit for him — excited to see it in action. —*Jim*

36. **Jonathan Powell — West Virginia to UNC —** Powell's archetype is super valuable (the epitome of 3-and-D), so bravo to Hubert for scooping him up early. Impressive to seize a starting role for an at-large-caliber (sorry WVU fans) team for the entirety of Big 12 play. Pretty odd stat profile: never gets assists, but also never turns it over, allergic to the rim and to the FT line and shot sub-50% when he got to the stripe, but he's long and showed real acumen from deep. CBB Analytics' shot chart shows him being scorching from the right side of the floor and frigid from the left — not sure if that's a lasting trend, but it's worth keeping an eye on. Assuming UNC lands a quality veteran PG, Powell is a perfect complementary piece. —*Jim*

37. **Filip Borovicanin — New Mexico to Xavier —** Not much to say on scheme fits for the guys following their coaches, should be pretty clean in that regard. Borovicanin is kind of a big skinny guard (maybe the baggy t-shirt just made him look skinny to me), not overly physical and a bad rim finisher, especially for his size, but he is a solid perimeter shooter. Talented but still realizing that upside. —*Jim*

38. **Langston Love — Baylor to Georgetown —** Immensely talented guard who has just struggled so badly to stay healthy that development hasn't gone smoothly. He was really good down the stretch of the season once he got back in the lineup, and he's shown willingness to defend bigger players. Unfortunately he doesn't help on the glass much at all for a big guard with his frame. Big believer in his shot, think he can be 40%+ on volume for the Hoyas, provided he's healthy, which will always be the concern with him.

Weird split stat: shot 61.5% in the paint at home, 25.0% on the road, per CBB Analytics. Might not mean anything but it's bizarre! —*Jim*

39. **Dailyn Swain — Xavier to Texas —** Another guy following his coach along the carousel ride, so the fit obviously makes sense. Swain is an athletic wing who can play 3 or 4 in some smallball looks, gets downhill well off the bounce and is a good cutter while also defending multiple positions. Ranked 10th in Big East in DBPR per EvanMiya (and 5th in the non-St. John's division). Shot is still not great but the elite FT shooting would suggest there's some untapped perimeter potential. I generally think he's a winning player who could get even better. —*Jim*

    This guy has so much potential. —*Ky*

40. **Nick Boyd — San Diego St. to Wisconsin —** Portalers noticing the offensive shift that happened in Madison? Sure seems that way, as Boyd goes from the chains of SDSU's consistently terrible offense to a system that really opened up last year and optimized its ballhandlers. Assuming Blackwell is staying, I like having him next to a primary point guard, allowing Blackwell to focus more on scoring (which he could blossom into an 18ppg guy next year). Boyd doesn't have quite the same burst that he used to (credit: Matt Cox eye test), but he's savvy as hell, knows how to get to his spots, and can hit open jumpers. Great snag for the Badgers. —*Jim*

41. **Cole Hargrove — Drexel to Providence —** Drexel is getting quite the love in the portal for finishing 184th in KenPom and going 9-9 in a pretty blah CAA. For his part, Hargrove is a solidly productive piece who knows his role as a finisher and offensive rebounder — shot 76% at the rim per CBB Analytics, 89th percentile nationally, he doesn't mess around. He was somewhat active as a shot blocker, though I'm a little skeptical on how that translates up (Drexel played essentially zero very good teams all season, just the one Penn State game). Solid per-minute guy off the bench, I'd imagine he's not getting asked to do much more than that. —*Jim*

42. **Lathan Sommerville — Rutgers to Washington —** The Paul Mulcahy Pipeline lives! Somerville has a ton of upside as a burly big with legitimate touch. His entire game is still coming along — getting into better shape, footwork on both ends, getting more confident in the jumper, playing with more physicality — but I liked him on eye test at Rutgers. Gave them a little offensive pop when they needed it beyond Harper/Ace. Wonder if he can play some 4 in two-big lineups, though his foot speed would probably suggest that's a bad idea. Good rotational prospect for Sprinkle, could be a starter right away if he develops well this offseason. —*Jim*

43. **Kael Combs — Drake to Iowa —** I trust Ben McCollum's talent evaluation, but I'm not a huge Combs guy. If you don't play much on a team with absolutely zero depth, it's hard to get SUPER excited about him, and he's not a shooter. But he's a bigger athletic wing that can definitely drive and play a little bigger than he is. —*Jim*

44. **Chauncey Wiggins — Clemson to Florida St. —** Awesome role player. Pretty rare to have a 6'10 guy who can shoot and also defend some on the perimeter as a 3, allowing for immense frontcourts. Not going to give you anything off the dribble or as a creator, and he's not a good athlete overall. But let him space it, and he should fit reasonably well in what I assume will be a pro-style system under Loucks. He, Magee and Jones form a sweet 2 / 3 / 4 pairing, but they will need creators at PG and C to help set them up. —*Jim*

45. **Sean Newman Jr. — Louisiana Tech to San Diego St. —** Erratic but talented point guard presence. Knows how to play with a lob threat (Batcho), so he'll serve up plenty of hammertimes for Goon Gwath. But he mostly drove me/us nuts for the Bulldogs because his decision-making is borderline insane, makes some crazy passes and takes some confounding shots. Decent defensive guard despite being kind of small, so not surprising Dutcher liked him, but other than his highlight passing, I'm not sure he's going to lift the Aztec offense much. —*Jim*

46. **Rashad King — Northeastern to LSU —** Bigger guard/wing who lives in the paint, but he can hit catch-and-shoot 3s too (much better on those). Will need to scale way down in usage in the SEC, and that could really help his efficiency (see; more catch-and-shoot). Has the requisite size to defend the wing, even in the SEC. Fits as a solid piece, not the best 3-and-D guy but nowhere near the worst. Should benefit from playing with a great passer in Dedan Thomas. —*Jim*

47. **All Wright — Valpo to Xavier —** Big time shooter who can get boiling lava hot from deep. Was really good in ball screens at Valpo, but specifically as a scorer — he's definitely looking to get buckets himself over being a distributor. Turned it over a lot more in ball screens when the defense overplayed (18.8% TO rate) than on general PnRs (8.8%) — definitely worried about the athleticism leap from MVC to Big East. But as a bench microwave combo guy, he could be deadly. —*Jim*

    Maannnnnnn….. He is not a power 5 player. He can shoot. He will shoot. He is not big enough / quick enough / strong enough to excel at the highest level. He could shut me up, he had 22 against Ohio State (the only power 5 game they played last year). Maybe he can be a microwave off the bench. But I am skeptical. If he's starting for Xavier, that is a bad thing. —*Ky*

48. **Daquan Davis — Florida St. to Providence —** Was in a tough spot at FSU as basically the only real guard on the roster with a bunch of big wings/forwards helping as ball-handler. Excellent FT shooting indicates some upside as a shooter compared to his poor 3P% as a rookie (though low volume also worrisome). He's kind of slight/small, and though he has quick hands, bigger guards could attack him in the Big East. Was an awful, awful finisher at the rim as a freshman, that kind of thing can develop but no

guarantee there with his lack of size. Fine bet on potential, but I'm not sure he's much better than Jayden Pierre? He at least has a higher upside, it seems. —*Jim*

49. **Conor Enright — DePaul to Indiana —** Enright back with his old Drake coach makes a ton of sense. He will very quickly endear himself to Indiana fans (and alienate other Big Ten fans) with his maniacal tenacity and general disposition. Gets into the lane really well as a driver, but he's a pretty poor finisher because he lacks P5 athleticism. Bulldog defender who is always getting deflections or trying to take a charge, etc. Overall happy to see the fit, he's a quality role player, just can't be your primary shot creator. —*Jim*

    > He's sort of like a Trey Galloway in that he's not a fantastic offensive player, but he just plays so freaking hard. Opposing fans will hate him. He'll get on the floor, make plays, steal some backup PG minutes. 29.8% TO rate at DePaul last year is… yikes. —*Ky*

50. **Malik Reneau — Indiana to Miami FL —** We don't know exactly what Jai Lucas will do offensively yet, so it's hard to address scheme fit here, but we do know Reneau's game. One of my favorite parts of it is his big-to-big passing; he fed Kel'El Ware for so many dunks in 23-24. If paired with Udeh as our great overlord has forecasted, that's a fun duo in the frontcourt for that reason. Of course, for spacing and footspeed on defense reasons, it's a different case — Indiana was almost always better when staggering Reneau and Ballo, and Udeh isn't the interior scoring threat that Ballo was. Lucas needs to rein in some of Reneau's bad shot selection and defensive habits to maximize him, because although he's really talented, the bball IQ is sometimes not great. —*Jim*

51. **Budd Clark — Merrimack to Seton Hall —** I'm a little concerned by how the previous Merrimack stars have translated (Minor at UVA, Derkack at Rutgers…even Edmead cratered when he left), the Joe Gallo defense is just such a unique system. Clark's shot diet is super mid-range reliant (over 30% of his shots, 97th percentile per CBB Analytics) and he can't really shoot the 3, but he's extremely dynamic on the ball and is quick enough to get to his spots. He's also a dynamite passer. Skeptical if he'll be a really good power conference scorer, but this is a great gamble for a team with limited NIL resources. —*Jim*

    He's one of my irrational "I love this guy" guys. Budd is electric. —*Ky*

52. **Nate Kingz — Oregon St. to Syracuse —** Matt's the Beaver Expert, but I love this pickup. I really liked Kingz the couple times I tuned in to OSU, and he grades out fantastically well statistically. Ridiculously efficient offense player (both as a shooter and decision-maker) who seems plenty capable to me defensively too. Not going to give you much off the bounce and only an OK finisher inside, but he's got a great shot diet regardless. Just needs to be around better creators, but to me he can be a positively-contributing role player at any level. —*Jim*

53. **Cam Manyawu — Drake to Iowa —** Unlike Combs, I am a massive fan of Manyawu and think he's a terrific Big Ten building block. He passed the eye test at Wyoming, and his per-minute numbers at Drake were dazzling despite the Bulldogs' slow tempo. Ridiculously active on the glass, impactful as a defender both at the rim and with his mobility. Good (though not elite) as a roll man in an offense that plays through that action more than any other in the entire country, per Synergy). Could certainly stand to improve his free throw shooting and cut down on fouling a bit — he'd be a perfect "know your role" big man if he did both of those. —*Jim*

54. **Kaleb Banks — Tulane to DePaul —** Indiana fans always begged for him to get more playing time, and reports seemed to indicate he deserved it. Cue a huge role in New Orleans and he broke out in a big way. More of a jumbo downhill scoring wing than a true forward (slight similarity to Keyshawn Hall? Though not nearly as shot-happy), he's got a great physical tool box and contributes in multiple ways. Definitely ups the athleticism/size quotient for a DePaul team that was built almost entirely on bargain bin shooting last year — that should help compete in the Big East. —*Jim*

55. **Cooper Schwieger — Valpo to Wake Forest —** Big, active guy with intriguing upside at the power conference level. Two of his five KenPom comps are Filip Rebraca and Ben Krikke, so perhaps he should have ended up at Iowa, but that at least tells me that his archetype can succeed. Does a little bit of everything and got significantly more physical (better on the glass, got to the FT line way more) as part of his freshman-to-sophomore development. Has great touch but the form from 3 is a little wonky. Steve Forbes' development track record with portal pieces is tremendous, and Schwieger could be the latest in the Jake LaRavia/Andrew Carr mold as skilled forwards with versatility. —*Jim*

56. **Keyshawn Hall — UCF to Auburn —** One of CBB's most prolific hired guns, Hall makes his fourth stop in as many seasons, fresh off a breakout campaign at UCF *(crazy how fast we forgot about the poaching drama at the end of his George Mason tenure that paved the way for the UCF explosion)*. Hall's 'power wing' prototype makes him a mismatch nightmare for 4s and 5s - the lefty wrinkle is part of it, but he's shockingly deft as a breakdown dribbler *(he looooves the between the legs combo move)* and excels as an isolation scorer in space. He can also shoot and pass, making him a potential offensive ignition switch even for an elite level offense. However, the mobility and strength don't translate as well to the defensive end, where his 'tweener' positional profile was picked on at times by Big-12 opponents - plus, he's not some crazy vertical athlete. Pearl's biggest challenge will be optimizing his fit defensively, while creating space on the other end to let Hall's triple-threat arsenal shine offensively — *Matt*

Hot take… This is not a good get. Hall is on his 4th school in 4 years. He's never played for a Tourney squad (not all his fault). He likes to be THE guy. Needs the ball in his hands. Pearl is a different breed of coach, and he's dealt with high egos before, so maybe it's a perfect spot for Hall. But I still have my doubts. If Hall buys into the system, he could be great. The talent is obvious. He's a 6-7 forward who can play multiple spots

on O and score. He makes dumb decisions sometimes, and he's not the best rim finisher. He's not the best defender either? But, yeah, he can put the ball in the hoop. Interesting fact: Per CBB Analytics, UCF was better when Hall was off the floor versus on… if you're into that sort of thing. —*Ky*

57. **Silas Demary — Georgia to UConn —** Have already had some pretty extensive discussion of him in the portal-analysis channel (including from both the Georgia and UConn sides), so make sure to check those out. But this system should be a better fit for him since he won't be responsible for creating shots for everyone else (the offense does the heavy lifting there). The shooting progress was really encouraging, and he can live at the free throw line. If he doesn't get fouled, though, he's a very very poor finisher for someone with his frame/athleticism (55% at the rim per CBB Analytics, 36th percentile nationally). Also only hit 28.6% from midrange (37th percentile). But a bigger creator on the ball with 3P upside makes a lot of sense in the UConn system, so I'd guess Hurley and Murray do a good job masking his weaknesses and emphasizing his strengths. —*Jim*

    Slam dunk. He's gonna be awesome for them. Hooray for the underdog Dan Hurley. —*Ky*

58. **Jayden Reid — South Florida to Northwestern —** Pops big time in terms of talent, though the efficiency suffers with his total lack of size. Legitimately terrible finisher in the paint (9th percentile at the rim), scaling up to Big Ten is pretty worrisome for him despite the quickness. Northwestern has had more success with bigger on-ball guards (Buie, Leach), so this is a pretty big zag for Collins. Ok in pick-and-roll, so that helps, but going to a system that hasn't played in transition much doesn't fit him very well. Lukewarm on this. —*Jim*

    Fascinating "fit" conundrum here. Reid may find himself playing some off the ball given last year's emergence of KJ Windham, or at least in a co-pilot / dual PG operation. Reid's 40% 3-point conversion rate (87/218) and 78% free throw clip might shine brightest if optimized as a scorer / shooter first and facilitator second — *Matt*

59. **Trey Green — Xavier to Saint Louis —** Very fun high-upside swing. Lack of size clearly hurt him in the Big East, but he's immensely talented as a backcourt firecracker who can take over games with both scoring and playmaking. I hate to even give a half-comparison to Swope, whose shotmaking is all-time great, but in the best case scenario, Green could maybe have a mildly similar impact as a pull-up weapon. People absolutely loved him as an underrated recruit and he dominated AAU stuff at times. Props to him going to the A10, hope he lets Schertz mold him into a stud. —*Jim*

60. **Jeremiah Wilkinson — Cal to Georgia —** Dynamic scoring guard with some legit bounce. Can really get downhill and showed fairly impressive finishing acumen inside for a freshman of his stature. Would expect the perimeter shooting to tick up also, he has a

good stroke and his free throw shooting was great. Didn't handle it a ton in ball screens at Cal, and he was generally better scoring (56th percentile in efficiency) than as a passer (41st percentile when adding in PnR + Passes). White's system is fairly heavy on those, so he'll get his chances. Think there's a fairly long way to go on defense, but his athleticism helps. —*Jim*

61. **Isaac McKneely — Virginia to Louisville —** Louisville is clearly loaded (with talent and money). They've gotten three fantastic players out of the portal already (from what I've heard, estimated cost of that trio is approaching $5M), all of whom seem to fit Kelsey's scheme fairly well. Major system whiplash for McKneely going from the UVA crawling mover-blocker, but he can shoot in any system, whether it's catch-and-shoot, on the move, off the bounce, etc. Reyne Smith basically ate a Mario mushroom here. He's going to be a massive threat, and though the defense isn't lockdown, he's got a little more size than you think and is strongish/smart. —*Jim*

62. **Christoph Tilly — Santa Clara to Ohio State —** Big and skilled, should be a terrific offensive piece. Can play on the block or on the perimeter, he has a budding jump shot and can be a dribble handoff initiator. Good passer. Scored in the 69th percentile as a roll man, 67th in post ups per Synergy, and he excelled at finding the right option when teams overhelped on him inside. That's a fairly new element to Ohio State outside of Royal pounding mismatches. Defensively is where the concerns are…he's big and gets in the way, but he's not overly fleet of foot and is not a true rim protector. Could see the Buckeyes having a bit of a down year on that end if he's the anchor. —*Jim*

63. **Kobe Knox — South Florida to South Carolina —** Not a huge fan, he's kind of a 3-and-D guy without the 3. But he's pretty solid as an attacker off the bounce and was very efficient at the rim (and smartly didn't take many non-rim 2s at all). Ranked in the 91st percentile on corner 3 frequency per CBB Analytics, but only made 33.9% of them (49th percentile). Has been pretty useless on the glass for three years running despite having some decent physical tools. Fine as a rotation guy, wouldn't expect a ton. —*Jim*

64. **Tre Donaldson — Michigan to Miami FL —** Not many transfers feel more like "we're hired guns" to me than this one. Critical player for a Sweet 16 team and Big Ten Tournament champ gets recruited over and runs to a paycheck in South Beach. BUT anyways — Donaldson is a very good player who really blossomed in a bigger offensive role at Michigan. He's still probably best with another initiator on the floor (see: Danny Wolf), but he can run an offense and get his when he needs to. Seems to have the clutch gene too (hey, I think it's real). Has some big men scorers to feed already, and it seems like Lucas has the checkbook to fill in the wings as well. The Hurricanes have talent, but whether that translates to winning rests pretty squarely on Lucas' ability to put it all together. —*Jim*

65. **JJ White — Nebraska Omaha to Baylor —** Two sides to this coin. Take note of the stark bump in White's production from non-conference to conference play. It's easy to

assume “he only looked good against weak Summit defenses” but an injury hobbled him to start the year - thus, the late emergence is at least somewhat real. Obviously Baylor is a big step up but White’s ‘sound and simple’ game could be a prime point guard placement with weapons flanking him on the wing. —*Matt*

~~***66. Amarri Monroe — Quinnipiac to Pittsburgh (not official) — I fear Monroe preyed on mid to low major athletes in the MAAC but he’s no doubt freakishly athletic himself - at minimum, his defensive disruption serves as a high floor in terms of overall impact. His offensive efficiency wasn’t great, which is concerning, but I bet he eliminates the high volume, highly contested shots from his shot diet, assuming he’s not ‘the guy’ next to superior talent. It really comes down to his shooting - the jury is still out on whether he’s a reliable catch and shoot threat from long distance. I’m no shot doctor but his quick release is somewhat negated by an awkwardly low release point. —Matt***~~

67. **Quimari Peterson — ETSU to Washington —** Alas, Sprinkle lands a heady, proven lead guard, a commodity he sorely needed last year. Above all, he’s an elite shotmaker, capable of bailing out broken possessions with a stepback or sidestep jumper. The Huskies were a roller coaster last year but it was clear they were categorically better with a healthy DJ Davis providing floor spacing (and Peterson is more dynamic). Yes, he’s a little undersized, but Peterson may find more room to maneuver at the next level, simply because he played alongside two non shooters in Karon Boyd and Allen Strothers last season. Is he a prototypical point guard? Debatable, but Sprinkle’s offense doesn’t really demand one. —*Matt*

68. **Jason Edwards — Vanderbilt to Providence —** Now you’re cooking, Kimmie. Edwards is a scoring dynamo, a long-range marksman who also knows how to get into gaps and draw contact despite a small frame. One of the elite off-the-dribble shooters in the game (90th percentile on high volume, per Synergy). He’s not a point guard, really, but he’s a devastating PnR guy (91st percentile in efficiency). Defensively, his lack of size can be a slight issue (he’s best when paired with a big-bodied ballhandler like Hoggard was), and that is not Daquan Davis. Love Edwards, great primary scoring option, just a little concerned about the fit/defensive downside of that duo. —*Jim*

69. **Josh Dix — Iowa to Creighton —** Eat your heart out, Greg McDermott! Another Iowa add, another highly skilled offensive weapon, and few coaches draw up better action to get shooters open in optimal spots than McDermott. Though he ranked in the 95th percentile in catch-and-shoot efficiency (Synergy), Dix is more than just a shooter, showing strong passing and ballhandling flashes, and his skill game will surely prosper in Omaha. Defensively, though, the red flags abound. Dix and Freeman were part of a defense that ranked 167th in the country per KenPom. Part of that may have been the system (Fran simply could not construct a competent defense), but part of the blame must fall on the players too. Creighton looks like it will be in plenty of shootouts. —*Jim*

70. **RJ Godfrey — Georgia to Clemson —-** Marfo! A triumphant homecoming for Godfrey after being a role guy in an extremely deep Georgia frontcourt. He's always passed my eye test as a physical force on the block, but he has yet to play true starters' minutes or get a big role on offense. I think he could have a big year back in Clemson's high-low attack with Nick Davidson (a great inside-out threat) and back with a coach he is familiar with. He also graded out extremely well in EvanMiya's DBPR, top 15ish defender in the SEC per that metric. At minimum, an extremely steady piece, and with Clemson also getting Davidson and Carter Welling, the frontcourt rotation will be stout. —*Jim*

71. **Nick Davidson — Nevada to Clemson —** *(Apologies, missed writing this one when it happened)* Perfect fit to backfill a frontcourt that has thrived on big, versatility pieces. Similar-ish to PJ Hall, if perhaps less effective inside, but he can space the floor at a very high level while still being able to mix it up against opposing bigs. Shot 72% at the rim last year (CBB Analytics), ranked in the 96th percentile in efficiency on spot ups (Synergy) — that's a pretty elite combination. Notably, those spot ups include pump-and-drive possessions, which he is tremendous at, really uses the threat of his jumper to get himself to the rim/to the FT line. Not a GREAT defensive big despite blocking some shots, but he can play some center, and he's skilled enough to pair with Carter Welling (a more true rim protector) for extended stretches, too. Seems like a very strong fit with how Brownell has used similar players. —*Jim*

72. **Carter Welling — Utah Valley to Clemson —** On paper, I love the fit and marriage potential with Welling, a former product of the UC Irvine big man assembly line, but his inability to finish inside was frustrating last year at Utah Valley. If his defense translates, it may not matter but Utah Valley only played 6 QI / QII games last year and Welling finished with a sub 50% field goal percentage in WAC play. — *Matt*

73. **Pryce Sandfort — Iowa to Nebraska —** It never hurts to add a sniper, and the Sandfort family can shoot the living hell out of the ball. Pryce was 40% from 3, and his 62.0% eFG would have ranked in the top 50 nationally had he played a few more minutes. Lethally efficient whether it be off the catch or the bounce, and he's going to an offense that ranked top 30 nationally in frequency of shot attempts off screens. Maybe slightly redundant with Connor Essegian, but he's bigger and likely a better shooter. Huskers can run their offense through a now-healthy Rienk Mast, and the big Dutchman will happily spray the ball to a gunner like Sandfort. —*Jim*

74. **Max Mackinnon — Portland to LSU —** Can only assume the David Patrick connection helped deliver this one. The Aussie Mackinnon may not profile as a Power-5 player coming from a forgettable Portland team but he really flipped a switch in conference play. He'll fit like a glove as a combo lead / off guard, with size, passing and scoring ability. He's used to playing alongside a traditional point guard as well - he shared the primary initiation duties at Elon and last year Portland - and should merge seamlessly with DJ Thomas, the presumed primary ball handler. Defensively, his 6-6 frame is useful, but

hasn't been tested at this level, which could be problematic slotted next to a smaller backcourt mate in Thomas*. — Matt*

75. **Nik Graves — Charlotte to Creighton —** I might like him as a 3rd or 4th banana at this level but even then, I don't totally believe he's a surefire asset as a starter. Graves is a smart lead guard who doesn't turn it over but he comes from an inverted system at Charlotte, where bigs are heavily used as passers, and guards play off that action. At minimum, Graves seems moldable into multiple roles, and I hope he settles into a lower usage super sub piece or complementary combo guard connector piece in the starting lineup. *—Matt*

76. Naithan George — Pitt to Syracuse — Really good get – don't look now but Red is building himself a roster! Starling / Kingz / George is reallllly intriguing. 'Cuse gets themselves a steady, veteran ball handler who is probably a bit of a better shooter than he's shown thru 2 years. He's not the most dynamic or quickest guard, but he's crafty and has a solid pullup game. He does not get to the rim or into the paint and settles for a ton of mid-rangers (but he's actually pretty darn good from there). There is definitely potential he and Starling just form a wildly inefficient backcourt… but I think George is talented enough and a good get. *—Ky*

77. **Henri Veesaar — Arizona to UNC —** Brutal loss for Tommy Lloyd, who identified Veesar's unique talent and developed him into a pivotal piece this season - without him, Arizona does not flip a switch in Big-12 play. He's super versatile and has some 'nasty' to his game as well. Not surprising he graded out as Arizona's best defender, per EvanMiya, as his presence at the rim made a world of a difference. If Veesar's perimeter touch continues to improve, he could be a deadly small-ball 5. *—Matt*

78. **Josh Pascarelli — Marist to Colorado St. —** Love the scheme marriage here. At Marist, John Dunne used a myriad of handoff and pin down actions to free Pascarelli for open looks, which Ali Farokhmanesh surely took note of on film. Pascarelli isn't lightning quick or ultra explosive but he's capable of creating space and separation to get his own off the bounce. Above all, he profiles as a malleable high IQ combo guard who can make tough, deep shots at a high clip (though, he's been prone to some streakiness through his first years at Marist) *—Matt*

79. **Kalifa Sakho — Sam Houston St. to Houston —** A rim rocking monster in pick-n-roll, Sakho has all the physical tools to be an instant impact 5-man under Sampson's tutelage. Defensively, the block rate jumps off the page but his violent rejections also come with awareness and positioning issues. It's somewhat concerning that he anchored the CUSA's worst defense this year - though, most of the Bearkats' defensive woes were not Sahko's fault. Gut says he's a frustrating project early on next year but eventually carves out a spot in the rotation by conference play. *—Matt*

80. **Jaylin Sellers — UCF to Providence —** Sellers isn't huge, but it's helpful for the Friars to get a bigger bodied guard after the Davis/Edwards start in the backcourt. He'll provide the rim pressure that Davis and Edwards cannot, as he's adept at using his strength to attack angles and finish inside. Gets to the free throw line a ton too. Assuming no hiccups after the injury-ruined 24-25, Sellers could be a sneaky solid snag for Providence. —*Jim*

81. **Anthony Robinson — Virginia to Xavier —** Big, physical rookie whose game pops on paper due to his rebounding, shotblocking, finishing and frequent free throw line visits. So, why didn't he play more on a Virginia team in desperate need of ACC talent? Well, he fouls a ton, and the mental side of the game is still in first gear. He had just two assists the entire season (both came in the same game), and positionally, he's got a ways to go (hence the fouling problems). It's easy to bet on the upside and remarkable per-minute production here, though, and hope the processing speed catches up to the college level. —*Jim*

82. **Isaiah Coleman — Seton Hall to Oklahoma St. —** Nature or nurture for Mr. Coleman? He was an awful shooter/finisher from basically everywhere on the court for the Pirates, but he was egregiously miscast as an offensive alpha on a team bereft of any shred of scoring talent. Ideally, he's a complementary slasher who is only taking catch-and-shoot triples, and the defensive ability is obvious. If he scales down in role next to chuckers like Kanye Clary and Anthony Roy, I firmly believe he can be a positive player, but that role transition could be rocky if he got too cozy being the go-to option. The entire Cowboy backcourt is a lab experiment, and Steve Lutz better crack open his chemistry textbook this offseason to make it all work.

83. **Dishon Jackson — Iowa St. to Pitt —** Finally, some interior girth for the Panthers. Jackson's beefy frame takes up a ton of space on the inside, and his physicality makes it impossible to not foul him (he racked up a 81% FT rate in league play last season). Yes, he's a little lumbering and methodical in the post on offense, but he's still a force that can collapse a defense. From my eye, Coach Otz used him perfectly this past season at Iowa State. After recovering from an injury-riddled start to his hoops career, Jackson is a thunderous 15-20 minute change of pace big, whether he starts or not, but do not bank on him clocking major minutes - though, it sounds like Capel believes he can stretch Jackson out for 25-30 minutes game, in line with his workload at Charlotte two year ago —*Matt*

84. **Pharrell Payne and Solomon Washington — Texas A&M to Maryland —** Pairing these guys together because they're both following Buzz. They're perfect players for his system, relentless physical specimens who embrace the offensive glass assault. Washington flashed an impressive scoring arsenal late in the 2023-24 season, but he got relegated to role player again this year with Zhuric Phelps firing away any time he could see the basket. Still think he could have another level offensively if he got more

touches. Payne, meanwhile, is just a pure ox. Impactful as a rim protector and carves out tons of space with his wide frame. Logical moves for both the players and for Buzz to bring them with. —*Jim*

85. **Austin Rapp — Portland to Wisconsin —**Big fan of Rapp's potential as a floor-stretching big. Portland was quite bad, and Rapp wasn't terribly efficient, but he passed the eye test for me and the shooting stroke could sparkle when he's getting better shots with way better teammates. His size helps offset some athleticism concerns, as he can at least influence would-be finishers at the rim, and he competes on the defensive glass. He's still a little soft though (never scores inside, bad finisher for his size when he does), so adding strength is a priority. Would have been a perfect fit in the old "invert the floor" flex, but even in Wisconsin's more open, ball screen-heavy offense, he could be devastating as a pick-and-pop weapon against the many drop coverages in the Big Ten. —*Jim*

86. **Cam Heide — Purdue to Texas —** I'm really surprised Heide left Purdue. Not only do the Boilers rarely lose a guy to the portal, but I imagine he was also gonna have a pretty big role next year. He's been nothing but efficient when given minutes. A 6-7 shooter with sneaky (just getting it's great) athleticism. Great / smart get for Miller. Big wing shooter adds yet another floor spacer to his growing roster. Maybe not a fantastic defender but who cares? —*Ky*

87. **Jayden Dawson — Loyola Chi to Kansas —** Valentine went to bat for him like none other, I think he's a quintessential winning player, intangibles, etc. —*Matt*

    He's pretty damn good. They collapsed when he got hurt in December (had a couple other injuries clustered too, so it wasn't ALL him, but he was the most important loss), and they got much better in A10 play when he really took off. Think he's a little more shooter than scorer, but he can do both. Seems ok enough on defense, has a little bit of size — *Jim*

88. **Xavier Booker — Michigan St. to UCLA —** Quintessential "the idea of him is significantly better than the actual player" guy. Izzo clearly did not trust him at all after two years, and it's somewhat easy to see why: he's soft and a traffic cone on the ball defensively, while also not being terribly aware off the ball. But he absolutely oozes physical tools with his length and bounce, and the lefty stroke *looks* like it should go in a lot (it does not). I cannot imagine Cronin loved his film, but if he can unlock more of a snarling fighter personality in Booker (the Cronin specialty), he has plenty of upside. A good gamble since UCLA is covered by Bilodeau, Jamerson and Dailey. —*Jim*

89. **Steven Jamerson — San Diego to UCLA —** One of my favorite pet bigs in CBB, Jamerson is a force when healthy. His offensive arsenal has blossomed under Earl Watson at San Diego but his rebounding and rim protection motor run hot at all times, an obvious turn on for Mr. Cronin. The prevailing assumption is that he'll be a backup but I

wouldn't rule out Jamerson outplaying Booker for the starting 5-spot, assuming Cronin wants to use them in platoon fashion, which makes the most sense next to Bilodeau, who needs defensive support, at the 4. —*Matt*

90. Yaxel Lendeborg — UAB to Michigan — Opposing frontcourts, you might want to invest in some helmets and shoulder pads before playing Michigan. Big Yax and Morez Johnson form one of the most imposing 4/5 combos I can remember, two physical warhammers who will pummel foes into submission inside. Lendeborg has more to his game than that, though, as he became one of the best passers in the American while also continuing to improve his jumper and impacting games as a defender. Just an outstanding basketball player, so I hope to see him suit up in Ann Arbor next year, rather than the pro rumors that abound. May clearly believes in having size at the P5 level; his roster builds have tilted heavily that way after winning with 4 guards a lot at FAU. —*Jim*

91. Anthony Roy — Green Bay to Oklahoma St. — Oh, I wonder who helped Roy go to OSU? This is a big gamble for Lutz. Roy is obviously ridiculously talented, but I'm not sure he's a "team" guy. He doesn't want to be in school, he wants money. He's been to four schools in four years; he was part of the NMSU disaster in 2023 under Heiar. I think Lutz is a great coach, but he has his work cut out for him getting Roy to lock into other aspects of the game besides "I shoot". Not somebody I would take. —*Ky*

92. **Riley Kugel — Mississippi St. to UCF —** This is such an obvious fit. Dawkins takes another questionable transfer, Kugel goes home to Orlando. Kugel's fall from grace after his awesome freshman year was stark and shocking. He clearly had some off-court / locker room issues at Florida his SO year after being hyped to the moon as a potential NBA pick. At Miss State he was just a guy – I honestly forgot he played for them for most of the year. He's yet to rediscover his outside shot. The talent tank isn't empty here, and Dawkins should play him >30 mpg as one of the cornerstones of the offense. He's big, strong, and can get to the rack. If he can find that outside shot again, he's a darkhorse All-Conference guy… but that's a big if… and I don't think he's necessarily a "winning player" —*Ky*

93. Jaland Lowe — Pittsburgh to Kentucky — The shooting splits are pretty easy to point and laugh at, but I'm a pretty big believer in Lowe's talent. He had to take a ton of bad jumpers once Damian Dunn got hurt, as Pitt's talent pool was severely drained, especially on offense beyond Lowe and Leggett. He ranked in just the 3rd percentile in catch-and-shoot frequency per Synergy, and though he was poor in that small sample, a shot diet that is 3:1 in terms of dribble jumpers vs C+S is usually going to be rough on the percentages. Now, he's going to a system where he'll get more opportunities to attack on the move via Zoom actions or get more comfortable spot up shots within the flow of Mark Pope's offense. He's made 88% of 235 career free throws and shot 41% from 3 in ACC play as a freshman; the stroke and touch is there. Add in the super versatile floor game — perceptive passing, contributions on the glass, herky jerky pace as a ball-handler — and Lowe is going to be a steal if the shooting progresses. —*Jim*

94. **Jacob Cofie — Virginia to USC —** One of the few bright spots in a messy Virginia season. Cofie has immense upside as a skilled 6'10 big man with potential to be an inside-out force. He's mobile and a menace defensively, and if the offense follows — the jumper especially — he's a star and an NBA player. Versatility has always been the name of the game for Musselman, and Cofie could be a premier mismatch option as he develops. Definitely one to watch in a more free-flowing system that can utilize more skills than Virginia's mover-blocker. —*Jim*

95. **Tre White —- USC to Kansas —** Self appears to be changing his portal strategy a bit, targeting very solid role players to fit around his stars. Dawson and White both fit these bills. White committed to KU out of HS before shipping off to USC… and then Louisville… and then Illinois. I don't love a guy who is on school four in four years… but White really impressed me this season at Illinois. He improved dramatically offensively while being a versatile wing / forward defender on the other end. He's still not the best shooter, but he's a very good rim attacker who can get to the line (and finish from there). —*Ky*

96. **Malique Ewin — Florida St. to Arkansas —** Quintessential Arkansas player - talented, long, athletic, 'toolsy' - but he was bothered by premier size / physicality in the few matchups he faced formidable frontlines (granted, there weren't many in the ACC this year). I'd expect some inconsistency early on… he takes some wild shots from 5-8 feet in, sometimes they look crazy creative, and other times, well, they look foolish. Still, hard to deny the head-turning talent with his size, skill and mobility at 6-11 —*Matt*

97. Amani Hansberry — West Virginia to Virginia Tech — A bit of a positional 'tweener, Hansberry is (in theory) a stretch 5 who can open up the floor for his teammates. The shot didn't really fall at West Virginia, though, and he doesn't protect the rim (more of a built rebounder type). If he starts knocking down threes, he'll be a valuable piece in Mike Young's motion and web of elaborate sets, and the fit next to Tobi Lawal is pretty ideal because they complement each other (Lawal is a mega-bouncy, rim-centric forward). The idea of Hansberry is intriguing, but he needs to be more efficient to fully realize his archetypal potential. —*Jim*

98. Sam Lewis — Toledo to Virginia — Legitimately elite shooter, ranked in the 99th percentile in catch-and-shoot efficiency last year per Synergy while also being lethal off the bounce (76th percentile). Shot diet features a ton of midrange, but when they go in as much as his shots do, it's not necessarily a bad thing. Ryan Odom has consistently weaponized shooters like Lewis, though many of them have had a little more versatility to their games, and Lewis doesn't offer a ton off the bounce or as a creator. Also a poor finisher at the rim. But 6'6, 45% 3P shooters do not grow on trees, and Lewis should be a tremendous complementary piece if his frame allows him to defend at an ACC level. —*Jim*

99. **Duncan Powell — Georgia Tech to Georgetown —** Powell's grown immensely since his highly anticipated collegiate debut back at NC A&T. I discounted his impact after watching Sacramento State get demonstrably better withOUT him during the 2023-24 stretch run, but he proved me wrong at Georgia Tech last season. He can be a black hole, but his touch and crafty scoring ability, which now extends well beyond the 3-point line, will be useful. He's definitely not a 5, but can be an asset if paired with the right 5 up front. Frankly, I fear he can be picked on defensively, since he's not crazy athletic or imposing at the rim. —*Matt*

100. Amarion Dickerson — Robert Morris to USC — Oh look, it's another 6'7 Swiss Army knife to add to Eric Musselman's collection! Dickerson is a mega-athlete, the Horizon Defensive Player of the Year and an elite finisher at the rim (52 dunks, shot 76.6% at the rim per CBB Analytics, putting him in the 90th percentile nationally). At just 185 pounds, he's a dominant shot blocker, bouncing quickly on first or second jumps to swat unsuspecting foes. His 25-point explosion against Alabama in the NCAA Tournament revealed his tantalizing abilities near the bucket, but the 1-for-8 shooting from 3 also displayed the limitations of his skill game. Still, he's a logical fit on the Muss Bus thanks to his overall versatility.

101. Keonte Jones — CSUN to USC — Super versatile 6'7 wing, meet the coach who adores super versatile 6'7 wings! Jones is a picture-perfect piece for Eric Musselman's obsession with having five identical clones on the floor. Though he's not much of a shooter (the form is ok, he's just low volume), Jones is good or great at basically everything else. He's everywhere on the glass and on defense, he lives in the lane on offense (97th percentile nationally in paint field attempt frequency, per CBB Analytics), and he's a terrific passer. Tremendous connector piece who should be a star in his role. Outstanding marriage of player and coach philosophy. —*Jim*

102. Zvonimir Ivisic — Arkansas to Illinois — Brothers unite in Champaign! Despite being twins, though, Big Z and Tomi have different enough games to make the pairing work. They'll surely stagger minutes and both play plenty as standalone 5 men, but when on the court together, they have enough shooting and passing ability to key a well-spaced attack, however the malleable Brad Underwood chooses to deploy them. Defensively, one of them chasing forwards around is pretty concerning, as Big Z can be cooked off the bounce and Tomi is far better as a drop man in ball screens. The Illini's rim defense will be elite, though, with these two skyscrapers patrolling the paint, even if one gets pulled out away from the bucket. —*Jim*

103. Marquel Sutton — Omaha to LSU — Sutton dominated the smaller, less athletic frontcourts of the Summit, proving to be completely unguardable as a mismatch nightmare in the mid-post or off the bounce from the perimeter. He lived at the free throw line and finished easily at the rim. I worry that the bully ball and out-athleting stuff won't translate well to the SEC, arguably the most athletic league in the country. He's a better athlete than Trey Townsend and Jyare Davis, but I could see him having similar

struggles entering a bigger conference. He's also not a great shooter and was especially poor against Omaha's best competition (5-of-34 from deep in 9 KenPom Tier A/B games). Useful piece but I'm wary of expecting too much simply because he carries a "Player of the Year" award with his name. —*Jim*

104. **Jayden Pierre — Providence to TCU —** Dynamic guard off the bounce who really excels in the floater/teardrop range in the paint, though he struggles to finish over size if he goes all the way to the rim. Good but not great shooter. Decent passer out of ball screens, but I think he's more of a scoring guard, so it makes sense to insulate him with a true PG like Jamie Dixon did with Brock Harding, though the lack of size in that duo is a major red flag defensively. The Horned Frogs' big men may be tested at the bucket frequently if Harding/Pierre get bullied or struggle to keep opposing guards in front. —*Jim*

105. **Myles Rice — Indiana to Maryland —** Sort of a surprising scoop for Buzz Williams given Rice's analytical profile: he's more turnover-prone than most Buzz guards (his style hinges on winning the turnover battle), and he doesn't create much chaos defensively (though his steal rate was much higher at Wazzu in 2023-24). Like most Buzz guards, though, he's not a great outside shooter, instead preferring to get into the midrange and pull-up — shots that are much easier to offensive rebound, which *does* fit the formula here. Rice may look better outside the confines of a Mike Woodson offense, as well, though he's once again going to be in an offense that does not space the floor. —*Jim*

106. **Ibrahim Souare — Georgia Tech to Syracuse —** There's some raw potential here, but his rebounding and block rates don't jump out whatsoever, and his horrific free throw shooting (31%) negates his strong finishing at the rim. And he doesn't offer anything else offensively (82% of his shots were at the rim). He's a fine project as a backup big behind William Kyle II, though, and he can run the floor. —*Jim*

107. **Quante Berry — Temple to Memphis —** Typical Penny, plucking a big contributor from a conference rival. Berry made huge strides from his freshman to sophomore seasons, settling into a role as a complementary wing scorer until injury felled him late in the year. Has more upside to unlock as well, and he should be an asset in transition in Penny's typically up-tempo scheme. A little worried about the turnover rate going into a team that constantly has issues with ball security. —*Jim*

108. **Sebastian Mack — UCLA to Missouri —** Very good downhill physical guard, kind of a bowling ball type. Lives in the lane and at the free throw line, efficient finisher at the rim. Can't shoot though and is definitely a score-first mindset. Seemed to fall a little out of favor with Mick Cronin at UCLA, which is mildly alarming, but he's unquestionably talented. Odd fit on a team that already has some downhill drivers and FT threats but badly needs perimeter spacing. Mack and Mitchell and Robinson are just going to be barreling into gaps that aren't really there. —*Jim*

109. **Matas Vokietaitis — FAU to Texas —** Vokietaitis garnered an absurd amount of hype last summer after dominating in Europe in the FIBA U20 circuit. At 7-foot with a refined touch and sturdy frame, Vokietaitis was a problem for opposing defenses, specifically in the low post and on the glass. However, like many young European prospects, Vokietaitis is still a major work in progress defensively. He fouls a ton and is shockingly unreliable in help side rim protection at his size. Granted, FAU did not surround him with stout defenders last season, so perhaps a more athletic supporting cast can mask Vokietaitis' defensive concerns, and he should improve demonstrably on his own in his second full collegiate season —*Matt*

110. **Michael Ajayi — Gonzaga to Butler —** I like this! Ajayi was just a dude for Gonzaga, but that's not necessarily an indictment on him. At Pepperdine he led the WCC in scoring and earned 1st Team All-Conference honors. And even though his 3P% mysteriously tanked from 46.8% to 18.2%, he still put up a 112.8 O-rating with the Zags and notched 13 starts. He's still a potential pro, has great size, can defend multiple spots, and can score in a variety of ways. Butler should welcome a dynamic forward like him. He could excel here. —*Ky*

111. **Tae Davis — Notre Dame to Oklahoma —** Long, athletic forward who really blossomed offensively as a junior. He's got strong handles for a 6'9 forward, allowing him to destroy slower bigs off the bounce and helping him live at the line. He did struggle to finish in the paint if he couldn't get all the way to the bucket, though. His perimeter shot started to come along this year, as well, and he's looking more and more like a complete player. Sneaky all-conference potential if Moser features him offensively, and though the competition is a step up in the SEC (sorry ACC fans, it's true), he has the athleticism and strength to maintain his success. —*Jim*

112. **Myles Colvin — Purdue to Wake Forest —** Perfect 3-and-D type wing piece who has a ton of bubbling athleticism under the surface. Somewhat concerning that he did not seize a starting role as a sophomore, and his 3P shooting fell 10% as a sophomore despite getting a ton of open looks while defenses hounded Purdue's Big 3, but I am a big believer in the form (Shot Doctor license is pending). Maybe also a little concerning that he left such a perfect role/environment, and if he's hoping for way more on-ball reps offensively, that may not go terribly well. Forbes' previously invincible reputation with transfer guards took a hit this season (Ty-Laur Johnson did not improve much), but he's still worked wonders with multiple players before, and Colvin has plenty of moldable clay. —*Jim*

113. **Jestin Porter — Middle Tennessee to Arizona St. —** For a team / program that is often perceived as erratic, Porter's maturity should serve as a stabilizing presence in Bobby Hurley's backcourt. However, Porter's scoring has been 'feast or famine' for multiple years now, given he leans heavily on his long range jumper to get going. Still, he generally makes smart decisions offensively (read: doesn't turn it over). A notable

milestone in Porter's development was sliding over to point guard two years ago, forced by the untimely injury to teammate Cam Weston. Porter looked much more comfortable off the ball last season with Weston and Jlynn Counter owning the bulk of the handling responsibilities, but I like the fact that he has experience as a full time handler under his belt, albeit two years back. My guess is Porter goes for 25+ on a few occasions next year, and single handedly wins ASU a game or two - when he's hot, he's lava hot. —*Matt*

114. Brenen Lorient — North Texas to West Virginia — After leaving FAU, Lorient had a huge year as a go-to scorer off the bench in Denton. He's long and athletic with a surprising post up arsenal, and he's also terrific off the bounce if an opposing big man is sloppy/lazy on a closeout. Smart to follow the coach (Ross Hodge) who catalyzed his big breakout, and Lorient has the tools to be a very useful rotation piece in the Big 12. —*Jim*

115. Jaylen Carey — Vanderbilt to Tennessee — Carey has a lot of potential, especially within the Rick Barnes School of Big Men. He's a load at 6-8 265 lbs and led the SEC on OR% this past year. He is developing his outside shot but it's not quite there yet; he's more of a post-up/roll-man/put-back type big at this point. Carey isn't a rim protector on the other end, he graded out as "average" defending post-ups per Synergy… but he's a hell of a rebounder, which of course fits the Vol mantra. —*Ky*

116. Kerr Kriisa — Kentucky to Cincinnati — Year 6 for Kerr somehow. I'm still baffled by his decision to transfer from Arizona in the first place. Thought he went there because he loved Steve Kerr, and Tommy Lloyd is like the international player whisperer. Kriisa is a pretty well known commodity by now - he's played 108 games and his O-Rating across five years has held steady in a tight 102.5 - 108.1 range. He's shown he can be an elite shooter (42% at WVU), but he's also shown he can be extremely streaky. He's a big personality who Bearcat fans should love. Just not sure he makes this team much better. —*Ky*

117. **Sencire Harris — West Virginia to Cincinnati** — Another semi-weird get for Cincy on the heels of the Kriisa commitment. One of Cincy's biggest problems last year was outside shooting, and let's just say Harris would've fit in on last year's team like a glove. He's a career 19/94 (20.2%) from 3 against D-I competition. He's bouncy and long, mainly a basket attacker / cutting threat offensively, though he has some ball skills. He's a better defender than offensive weapon, and his length will be a good fit for Miller's defensive scheme. But, Cincy's backcourt is downgraded from last year with replacing Lukosius/Skillings with Kriisa & Harris. —*Ky*

118. Jalil Bethea — Miami FL to Alabama — Nate Oats looks to reform another blue chipper coming off a disappointing freshman year. Aden Holloway was terrific this season; can Bethea bounce back in similar fashion? Bethea just seemed like he didn't know how to coexist in a team function last year. He took so many tough shots – 97th percentile in mid-range FGA%, 96th percentile in guarded catch-and-shoot shots taken, 82nd percentile in shots taken off the bounce. He is clearly talented, long, smooth. It's

easy to see why he was a top 10 recruit just looking at the way he glides. But, he wasn't good last year, and maybe that was partially being on a dysfunctional Miami team that ended up with a new coach midway through the year. Oats is one of the best coaches in the country, and he knows how to develop talent. Bethea is in good hands, he has all the tools, we'll see if he can actually use them effectively this time. —*Ky*

a. Seems like a smart gamble to go after a dynamo scorer that got stuck in the shitfest that was Miami this year. Oats is going to have to refine the shot selection that Ky cited, but Bethea could flourish in the Tide's up-tempo system. —*Jim*

119. Jacari White — NDSU to Virginia — Few players in the country have improved as much in three years as White. He is a LEGIT scorer and shooter who should be a weapon even at the power level. He's a career 40.8% from 3 against D-I competition on nearly 450 attempts, and his 27-point performance against Butler in the non-con this season was jaw-dropping. There are times when nobody on the floor can stop him, and he notched a 122.3 O-rating in 5 games against Tier A+B competition this year. White is just 6-3, but he's fairly long and should have no trouble getting shots off against ACC comp this season – he can score from all three levels but his strength next year will be shooting. He scored 1.25 PPP on catch-and-shoot jumpers this past year, good for the 89th percentile in the country. Defense is not his forte - NDSU was brutal in all 3 years he played there - but this isn't Tony Bennett's UVA anymore. Odom brought in White & Sam Lewis so far… the 3s will rain. —*Ky*

120. Nijel Pack — Miami FL to Oklahoma — Hooray for Porter! He got a really good transfer. Pack experienced all the highs and lows at Miami – a Final Four and also rock bottom in the ACC. He only played 9 games this past year due to injury, so the almighty NCAA has bestowed upon him a 6th season. In Pack, OU gets an experienced, proven ball handler and shooter. He's played 121 games… he has shot over 40% on 771 freaking 3PA against D-I competition… and he's always had very acceptable-to-low turnover rates. He can be a ball dominant #1 scoring option or a table setting point guard. His defense is non-existent, but he's an offensive thoroughbred who will help ease the pain of losing Fears. —*Ky*

121. Mo Dioubate — Alabama to Kentucky — I'm a huge Dioubate fan. Elite defender who can defend basically anyone and impacts winning offensively with his cutting, offensive rebounding and finishing. Snug fit as a connector between Kentucky's perimeter bombers and their centers, and he can probably play some smallball 5 because of how well he rebounds. He's shown enough passing chops to potentially be a fulcrum in Mark Pope's plethora of dribble handoffs — interested to see the development there, though Oats has said he did not always know the Tide's playbook, so the mental side must match his physical contributions. Overall, I think he's a major positive player who will help Kentucky stay near the top of the SEC. —*Jim*

~~*122.* ***Duke Miles — Oklahoma to Virginia —*** *A long time pet favorite of mine, Miles has been the apple of my eye since his days at Troy (when his game to game availability was*~~

~~*a perpetual mystery). His health, for starters, is a risk, mainly because he plays so damn hard (he lost multiple teeth diving for loose balls last season) but he did start and play in every game last season at OU. On paper, Miles is a perfect piece for the new Ryan Odom regime turning the page. He can play on or off the ball, which should make him a vital veteran 'utility' type guard for the Hoos. —Matt*~~

123. Abdi Bashir — Monmouth to Kansas State — He's gonna be an interesting study. Volcanic shooter, but he doesn't do much else and is basically a stick figure in stature, so the defense is bad. If he's launching a ton of shots every game, I'm not sure that's a great sign for a Big 12 offense, but I also don't know if he's gonna be willing to scale down into a complementary role. His usage was so freaking high at Monmouth. He's one-dimensional as a scorer too; he never gets to the rim or into the paint, and when he does, he is a heinously bad finisher (45% at the rim per CBB Analytics, kind of unfathomably bad until you remember that he's a stick figure). I like him because he's a fun bomber, but I'm wary about the translation to Big 12 hoops. —*Jim*

124. Jeremy Lorenz — Wofford to DePaul — Wisconsin native coming back closer to home, as seemingly every Wisconsin-to-Wofford recruit does (one of the more bizarre but consistent pipelines you'll find out there — Klesmit, Paveletzke, Lorenz, etc.). Unfortunately, that's about the only reason this makes sense, though I imagine Lorenz is well aware of the tiny role he'll likely play. He's a poor rebounder for a big man, he doesn't make enough shots to be a stretch 4. Decent passing acumen though. As a fourth big man in a rotation, sure, I guess. —*Jim*

125. **Bobby Durkin — Davidson to Minnesota —** Tough projection, but overall a relatively 'safe', high floor add for Medved to build early roster momentum. Big fan of Durkin's schematic fit with Medved, who probably puts a premium on high IQ dudes who come from more complex off ball movement systems. I'm not entirely sure why but Durkin wore down late in both of his first two seasons so that's something to keep an eye on perhaps. Yes, he's "versatile" but he needs to make shots to truly be an asset at this level (which he did not do during the late dog days of conference play last year) —*Matt*

126. **Darren Buchanan — George Washington to Rutgers —** Steve Pikiell had three items on his offseason wish list: wing scorer, rim protector and a combo guard, per the Jersey Jumpshot podcast. Buchanan clearly checks the wing scorer box. The relentless rim attacker struggled after a lower body injury in early January, and never reclaimed his spot in the starting lineup. Still, the burst, strength and overall talent are clearly power conference caliber, and the marriage with Pikiell, who recruited him out of high school, makes total sense. However, the annual, "oh no, who is making shots?" concern lingers with Rutgers, as Buchanan is NOT a shooter —*Matt*

127. Jacob Ognacevic — Lipscomb to Washington — One of the most efficient high-volume post players in the country, Ognacevic should be able to score inside in the Big Ten thanks to his touch and crafty footwork, despite some size deficiencies. He shot

an absurd 77% at the rim and 56% on non-rim paint 2s, per CBB Analytics. He was also a 40% 3P shooter on legitimate volume, though, so he can be an asset even if he's not the Huskies' interior fulcrum the way he was at Lipscomb. The concern is who he guards defensively, as the size will be a problem against true posts and his footspeed will be a huge worry if he's chasing 4s around. It's possible he's a glaring neon liability on that end. He's such a ludicrously skilled player that it's a smart take for Danny Sprinkle, but he will need to be deployed carefully (against the right matchups) to maximize his effectiveness in the Big Ten. —*Jim*

> Easy to see the sales pitch from Sprinkle, who's deployed multiple playmaking bigs at the epicenter of his offense over the last three seasons. With Chris Conway medically retiring from basketball (major bummer), the Huskies are probably still a big short but Sommerville / Ognacevic is a decent 1-2 foundation —*Matt*

128. Brandon Noel — Wright St. to Ohio St. — It feels like déjà vu writing Noel immediately after Jacob Ognacevic, as the two are similar players: skilled forwards who were devastatingly efficient offensive engines while playing in mid-major leagues that generally lack athleticism. Noel, aka the Ginger Hammer (my own nickname, trademark pending), can move inside or out as a major chess piece for the offense. He's a killer as a post scorer and a clever finisher inside from the dunker spot (despite not being a huge dunker). Wright State did not play many top foes, and Noel only tallied 25 points on 28 field goal attempts combined in games against Kentucky and South Florida. Defensively, he's been the interior "anchor" of two sub-300 units, so I don't have much hope for him translating well on that end, whether he's running around as a stretch 4 or moonlighting as an undersized 5. Mixed bag here. —*Jim*

129. David Coit — Kansas to Maryland — At the mid-major level while at NIU, Coit was an offense unto himself, using his quickness and the threat of his potent perimeter stroke to get wherever he wanted on the court. At Kansas, though, Coit devolved into a one-trick pony as a long-range gunner. He took just 12 free throws in 526 minutes, and over 67% of his field goal attempts were above-the-break 3s (99th percentile in frequency, per CBB Analytics). Unsurprisingly for a 5'11, 175-pound guard, he's a target on defense, as well. He can serve a purpose because his shooting stroke is pure, and obviously Buzz Williams teams are typically starved for shot making, but he's such a zero in other areas that this is a bizarre fit for both parties. —*Jim*

130. Jayden Quaintance — Arizona St. to Kentucky — Immense athlete and truly elite rim protector…when he's healthy. The concern is a late-February ACL tear, and with his rehab only just getting started, it's basically impossible to pinpoint a return date (despite the optimistic reports that he'll be cleared for contact by September). High-risk, high-reward add for Pope and Big Blue Nation. Not the general fit you think of for a Pope big (he's painfully lacking in skill, as his 48% FT shooting will attest to), but he is a monster finisher with authority around the bucket. And considering how much UK has

emphasized skill on the perimeter, having a back line barrier like Quaintance makes sense defensively. Impossible to know how this will go until the health stuff gets more sorted out. —*Jim*

131. **Taylor Bol Bowen — Florida St. to Alabama —** Seemingly part of Nate Oats' response to shortcomings against Florida, Duke, etc. The Tide are really scaling up in size with Bol Bowen, Williamson, Aiden Sherrell, and (seemingly for now?) Jarin Stevenson all on the squad. Two true big lineups are all the rage now. Of course, Bol Bowen has more versatility than that, flashing a 40% 3P stroke (low volume) to pair with legitimate shotblocking instincts. In that sense, he's a perfect fit with Oats, who looks hellbent on not sacrificing spacing even while keeping a ton of size on the floor. Bol Bowen has some real warts: he shot a disgusting 35% from *inside* the arc in 15 games against KenPom Tier A+B competition, and he went an unfathomable 5-of-27 (18.5%) from 2 over the final nine games after sitting out two contests with a concussion. He definitely still needs strength. But you don't find many shotblocker/3P shooter combos out there, and Oats clearly values that archetype. —*Jim*

132. **Pop Isaacs — Creighton to Houston —** very divisive player between the analytics crowd and the "he's a baller" crowd. He's a useful archetype as a shot making self-creator, but was the efficiency spike early at Creighton a result of positive jump shot variance in a small sample, or a boost from playing for an offensive mastermind in Doug McDermott, or actual marked improvement from Isaacs as a shooter and decision-maker? Hard to say at this point, choose your own adventure on that answer. His finishing inside the arc also got better – again, sample or system or actual improvement? His ball security is shaky, so he would make sense as an LJ Cryer scoring replacement next to a bigger lead guard like Milos Uzan – if Uzan is not back, this fit gets way worse. The other big question mark is in the attitude/defensive department. Will he fully buy in on the maniacal effort needed to fit in the Houston scheme? You'd think he knows what he's getting into considering how widely renowned Houston is for its defense (and he played against it twice at TTU), but thinking you can play that way vs. actually doing so on every possession are two different stories. Cryer's tremendous progress as a defender after transferring from Baylor should serve as a blueprint for Isaacs. Think this could go a lot of different ways. Makes sense in theory with Cryer leaving, but their actual productions/career efficiency have a pretty huge gap. —*Jim*

133. **Kaleb Glenn — FAU to Michigan St. —** Bigger wing who shot the lights out in Boca Raton last year (on decent, but not high, volume), showed great year-to-year improvement while stepping into a bigger role. Makes sense as a transition weapon too with how Izzo wants to push when he can, Glenn grades out as elite there. Concerns would be: he seems to struggle when he has to put the ball on the floor (92nd percentile in jump shot efficiency per Synergy, but only 29th percentile in Spot Ups, which includes drives off the catch — that's a weird chasm only really explained by being terrible any time he drives), he's a total zero as a passer and is going to a team that consistently ranks among the elite in assist rate / relies heavily on ball movement, and he grades out

poorly in EvanMiya's defensive ranks (2nd worst on FAU last year). He certainly has the physical traits to be a lot better there though, and Izzo can really coach them up on that end. —*Jim*

134. **Tru Washington — New Mexico to Miami FL —** Physically imposing southpaw guard who can burrow his way to the rim and completely swallow up opponents defensively. Shooting stroke isn't great, but it's not broken either. Fits the profile of what Lucas has gotten so far in terms of positional size and physicality. Spacing is an issue for the Canes, but it's still very early in the roster building stage. Washington's defense will ensure he always has value, and if the shooting progresses a little more to go with his driving, he'll be a major asset. Curious how he looks if he gets more on-ball reps, as Dent had the rock so frequently that other Lobo guards could be untapped in that regard. —*Jim*

135. **Tyeree Bryan — Santa Clara to Texas Tech —** Lethally efficient long-range shooter who looks like a perfect replacement for Kerwin Walton (they're even both 6'5, 210 pounds). His 35-point, seven-triple detonation at the Kennel helped Santa Clara beat Gonzaga, so he can play against top competition. Shot selection is an analytical dream, as over 90% of his FGAs came from 3 or at the rim. Not a great finisher inside but he's got more pop off the dribble than Walton did (low bar to clear, admittedly). Not as great on defense as you'd want from a 3-and-D type, but he's serviceable and has the physical tools to be a little better. He'd have fit just about anywhere, and slotting him in between gravitational offensive threats in Christian Anderson and JT Toppin should allow his catch-and-shoot game to thrive. —*Jim*

136. **Rob Wright — Baylor to BYU —** Anyone who knows me has heard me wax poetic about Wright, a tough-as-nails PG with a preternatural feel for the game. He gets into the paint at will, his passing vision is great (though perhaps sub-elite) and he can knock down jump shots (despite a slump in Big 12 play). However, his small frame is a limitation on defense, and his finishing once inside is only so-so, again likely due to his size. Vastly different look at PG for BYU compared to the towering Egor Demin. Graded out poorly as a pick-and-roll scorer (25th percentile), and he badly needs to refine his runner/floater game (98th percentile frequency, 29th percentile efficiency), as it is a huge part of his game against taller defenders. Still, he's a gamer who has won a ton already in his career and played with superstars like Dybantsa (Flagg in high school, Edgecombe in college, etc.) and has plenty more upside as he continues to acclimate to the college game. —*Jim*

137. **Dallin Hall — BYU to Virginia —** Easy to see the appeal here for Ryan Odom. Hall is a bigger ball-handler who can knock down shots and create for others. He's more methodical and change-of-pacey than ultra-dynamic, but he can get into gaps if there's space, and there likely will be with the shooters Odom has assembled in Charlottesville. There's enough Max Shulga here to be very optimistic about the fit. Where Hall falls short of Shulga is in his decision-making (sometimes a little more suspect, though Hall

did have a pristine 2.56 assist-to-turnover ratio) and on the defensive end, where Shulga weaponized his length extremely well and had better instincts. Overall, though, a logical fit for a coach who has done very well with bigger playmaking guards. —*Jim*

138. **Quincy Ballard — Wichita St. to Mississippi St. —** One of my favorite fit signings of the cycle so far. I'm a big Ballard guy, and I wonder if Jans longed for another space eating beast like Tolu Smith or Jimmy Bell to gum up the paint in the wake of last season's defensive regression - not that Miss State was 'bad' on defense last year but finishing 10th in adjusted defensive efficiency among the SEC exposed a slightly more skill-leaning roster. Ballard is a defensive monster, shockingly durable at his size, and a reliable finisher. He can score occasionally with his back to the basket against the right mismatches but you're not signing Ballard to score 20 - you're signing him to rule the rim with an iron fist and gobble up the glass at an elite rate. Skeptics will cite Ballard's lack of lateral agility, which can be a problem if drawn away from the rim in ball screen action - thus, there could be specific counters for opponents to exploit Ballard when he's parked inside. That's my only concern, especially in the SEC, which looks more and more like the NBA with up tempo offenses, pro-caliber guard shotmakers and skilled, stretchier bigs. —*Matt*

139. **Frankie Collins — TCU to Vanderbilt —** TCU's season was reset when Collins got hurt this year, which reportedly gives him two potential years of eligibility left on the clock (including an unused medical redshirt) - don't take my word on that, or anything related to the rules of eligibility. In short, Collins is a frenetic speed demon, and pesky on-ball defender, but he can get caught in overdrive at times, and will take some tough low percentage shots inside the arc. Early in his career at Arizona State, Collins was able to draw enough fouls to offset his erratic finishing but that tapered off the last two seasons. Not to overharp on his interior scoring but given his long range shooting limitations, he has to be a semi efficient threat to score in some capacity. His passing and defensive ball pressure are useful traits but I'm worried where the shooting / floor spacing is coming from in Byington's retooled backcourt (though I'm sure there's more dominoes to fall, writing this on 4/10/25) —*Matt*

140. Jasper Floyd — North Texas to West Virginia — Like Brenen Lorient, Floyd is following Ross Hodge from Denton to Morgantown. Floyd is a bigger lead guard who helped nail down the point of attack for the Mean Green's stingy defense. Yes, he gets steals, but he's even better as a positional defender who can absorb contacts from smaller guards. Offensively, he's not overly dynamic as a creator or shooter, but he's solid and knows Hodge's scheme. —*Jim*

141. TK Simpkins — Elon to Oregon — Always have to double check which of the twins I'm referring to, but I think he's solid (the slightly more offensive / shooter of the two twins). Good frame, decent shot maker (strong float game from what I've seen, and CBB Analytics shot chart backs that up). Also, I'm sure Altman took note that Elon played a

myriad of defensive schemes. Billy Taylor didn't run much extended pressure but I saw some 3/4 court stuff, with the Simpkins bros spearheading. —*Matt*

142. **Ja'Borri McGhee — UAB to Mississippi St. —** Bruising point guard who impressively beat out Tyren Moore for the starting PG job in Birmingham. Lives in the midrange, even though he can hit the 3 or use his shoulders to separate and draw contact (low volume on both of those, relative to pulling up inside the arc). Strong and feisty enough to be a solid on-ball defender. You'd probably like more height as the primary handler next to Josh Hubbard, but McGhee is a solid option because he can play on or off the ball. No surprise that Chris Jans liked a guard who would ace the "get off the bus" test. —*Jim*

143. **KJ Lewis — Arizona to Georgetown —** Big, strong wing athlete who cannot be stopped rolling downhill off the bounce. Broad-shouldered frame makes him a solid finisher and elite drawer of contact. That frame also makes him a terrific wing defender, as opponents cannot knock him off his line and he's plenty quick enough to stay in front. Per Tommy Lloyd, he came off the bench in Tucson largely because he got in foul trouble pretty often, but it was also because he is a walking brick from the outside and Arizona needed spacing. That should be less of a problem in DC playing alongside Jayden Epps, Malik Mack and Langston Love (who I noted earlier in this doc is a much better shooter than his % shows, in my eyes). Lewis fits the Ed Cooley mold of Alpha Diallo, Isaiah Jackson, etc — the old Providence guys. —*Jim*

144. **DeShawn Harris-Smith — Maryland to Georgetown —** I've always described DHS as a power forward in a guard's body. He wants to get near the hoop and use his strength and width and herky jerky lefty pace to live at the bucket, but that really did not work in the Big Ten, and he also cannot make a jump shot (but he thinks he can). He's also somehow a bad offensive rebounder for his position despite being a tank. Has defensive upside because of his big bag of physical tools, but he had the lowest DBPR in Maryland's top nine (per EvanMiya). Aggressively not a fan of him as a player, but maybe a change of scenery will help, and as noted above in the KJ Lewis section, Cooley has found success with players like him, using their physicality to attack mismatches inside. —*Jim*

145. **Wesley Yates III — USC to Washington —** A fun boomerang here with Yates returning to where his college career started (albeit just a redshirt year) after blossoming during a quick trip down to LA. He was especially impressive in Big Ten play, burying 3s at a high rate (47.6%) while also scoring inside and getting to the line. He has a physical frame and, in a somewhat rare occurrence especially for a young player, he was better against USC's top competition. The Huskies badly needed perimeter punch after last year's debacle, and Yates and Quimari Peterson add that. Plus, Yates is the kind of big-bodied wing you'd want next to Peterson, and having two elite shooters next to hyper-athletic Zoom Diallo makes sense too. Yates has legit star upside, so this is a bigtime coup for Sprinkle to get him back to Seattle. —*Jim*

146. Kyan Evans — Colorado St. to UNC — Big time knockdown shooter who also has really strong feel for the game as a passer/creator. No surprise, but he ranked in the 95th percentile nationally in efficiency on Catch and Shoot jumpers, per Synergy. Important to note that the Colorado State offense produces open looks often, and playing alongside an All-American-type wing in Nique Clifford helped, but Evans is savvy and smooth enough to remain a positive contributor in the ACC. Not much rim pressure though, as he's somewhat slight and generally only scores inside if he's wide open. Probably not a *true* PG, more of a shooter who can also pass it. —*Jim*

147. Andrew Rohde — Virginia to Wisconsin — I perceive him as a better fit to old school Wisconsin rather than the new look because he's not very explosive, but the smart ball movement and vastly improved shot making fit very well. And hey, maybe he's better off the bounce than he got a chance to show in a cramped system that mostly neuters drivers. He clearly caught up to the speed of P5 basketball in his second year, and that improvement is encouraging. Alarmingly poor finisher at the rim (46.8% per CBB Analytics, 14th percentile nationally), and there are some defensive concerns laterally. —*Jim*

148. **Justin Bailey — Wofford to Georgia —** Smaller wing/2-guard who can shoot the cover off the ball. Size/frame definitely give some defensive concerns heading to the SEC, and he could take a bit of time to acclimate because the athleticism gap between SoCon and P5 (especially the SEC) is enormous (Trey Bonham is a solid reference point — this will also apply to tiny Honor Huff wherever he goes, Quimari Peterson at Washington, etc.). Good rotational add though as a specialist with a clear high-level skill. —*Jim*

149. Aday Mara — UCLA to Michigan — Moves strangely because he's so long, but he's very effective in his minutes spurts. He's spindly and like 99% limbs, but he's a legitimately plus passer (not Danny Wolf, but good out of the post are at the top of the key), tougher than he looks, ok in the post with half hooks (ranked in the 81st percentile nationally as a post up scorer, per Synergy). He's an absolute monster rim protector because of his height/length, mobility not good but a clear plus defensively. Very efficient finisher as a roll man in ball screens, which makes sense playing with an astute passer like Cadeau. Spacing on offense will be bad if he plays with Cadeau and Morez Johnson, but two of them will be involved in primary action, which helps. —*Jim*

150. Jaden Brownell — Samford to USC — Extremely efficient inside-out scoring forward who led the entire SoCon in % of shots taken while on the court. Helps as a rim protector as well. He's not the athlete that Achor Achor was, and thus not the rebounder, but they played similar roles as offensive fulcrums in around 20mpg within Bucky's frenetic style. He gives Muss another malleable piece on offense without sacrificing any size on defense, as the Trojans are really loading up on highly flexible rotation pieces.

Whether there's enough high-end quality is debatable, but there's no doubt USC will reflect Muss' vision. —*Jim*

151. **Corey Chest — LSU to Ole Miss —** Big time athlete, but an undersized center. Great finisher around the rim with almost no offensive game outside of that (87% of his field goal attempts were at the rim, 99th percentile in frequency per CBB Analytics). Truly abominable FT shooter. He easily graded out as the top defender on LSU, probably partially due to his terrific defensive rebounding and block rates. He's not as built as him, but he has a little Jason Maxiell to his game. Fun defensive project for Chris Beard. —*Jim*

152. **Devin Tillis — UC Irvine to Virginia —** Positionally, Tillis is a weird projection at this level. He's smart, sturdy and skilled but he's not overly athletic, which warrants concerns about his rim protection at the 4-position - the key is who Odom slots alongside him at the 5. Even with leaping limitations, Tillis is well schooled in defensive awareness and positioning, and he's long enough to contest bigger posts and rim attackers inside - plus, he rebounds at a better clip than most 5s. Offensively, he can be a unique crossmatch weapon, via pick-n-pops or targeted post ups, where he's a terrific interior passer. Granted, I do worry how his inside scoring translates against longer, more athletic defenders but I tend to trust super cerebral players like Tillis to adapt and that they'll just 'figure it out' as they move up. —*Matt*

~~***153. Bryce Lindsay — JMU to Maryland —*** *It's abundantly clear Buzz wants to restore balance to his offense, which became too rim reliant the last two years at A&M (in large part due to rim-over-everything guards who couldn't shoot). Remember his offenses at Virginia Tech? VT was top-100 in 3PA rate Buzz's last three years, coinciding with three consecutive top-30 offenses, per KenPom. No, Justin Robinson or Nickeil Alexander-Walker aren't walking through that door- but Lindsay is a clear stepping stone back to that blueprint. Per CBBAnalytics, 35% of Lindsays shots last year were 'long range 3s' - he takes bombs, and can hit them at an elite rate. Lindsay's more dynamic than just a standstill sniper, too, though he relinquished ball handling duties last year to Mark Freeman and Xavier Brown, two more traditional 'point guards'. In short, if Buzz can get Lindsay to guard, the reunion here is a no brainer —Matt*~~

154. **Isaiah Watts — Wazzu to Maryland —** Watts reunites with Myles Rice, who he spelled briefly as a rookie during Washington State's run to the Round of 32. Under a new regime last season, Watts blossomed early on until an ill-timed injury derailed his sophomore breakout campaign (and also somewhat coincided with Washington State's conference struggles). His offensive and defensive instincts are excellent, he just needs to get a little stronger, which should buoy his confidence as he steps up in competition. As a bonafide starter in the Big Ten, this could be a lofty projection but the upside is there. —*Matt*

155. **Honor Huff — Chattanooga to West Virginia —** Huff is electric when he gets going. He's a long range driller with jet quick speed in the open floor. However, the size limitations are notable at this level. Fortunately, Hodge brings a bigger, more rugged guard in Floyd to flank him, but likely needs another rangy, shutdown wing to slot at the 3. A well schooled defensive unit can probably hide a defensive liability risk on the perimeter. UNT fared just fine with 5-11 Tylor Perry for two years and 6-0 Jason Edwards the season after, so this is not uncharted waters for Hodge and his staff. —*Matt*

156. Elijah Saunders — Virginia to Maryland — Powerful, skilled forward with a smooth perimeter stroke that projects much better than his career 3P numbers indicate (in my opinion — 35% last year is solid, but defenses need to guard him). Sort of an odd fit with Buzz Williams because he isn't an offensive glass demon, but he has the solid frame to rewire his mindset and become an asset there if/when Buzz pushes that envelope. Never turns it over (zero in his final four games) which certainly fits Buzz's "win the extras" mandate. Shot diet can be somewhat midrange heavy, which likely gets exacerbated in Buzz's system that has few shot selection guardrails, but he should be a solid 20-25mpg guy rotating in with Washington, Payne and probably another name to be identified later in the Terps' active frontcourt. —*Jim*

157. Tre Carroll — FAU to Xavier — Super skilled lefty who can score inside or out, smooth dude. He can really get downhill (going left) if defenders over-extend when closing out on his jumper, which went in more than enough last year to force those closeouts. Should be a very capable stretch 4 in the Big East, though his usage should probably tick down. I think he's a pretty huge defensive liability, or he was at least which fully limited his minutes while Dusty was there (and EvanMiya's DBPR would support that notion, despite his decent block and steal rates). It seemed like he improved a little last year as he got a bigger role, but I think he's always going to struggle some on that end. As user ZipEmUpX noted, it will help playing next to one of Robinson or N'Diaye as some cover at the rim, though I think Carroll's lateral footspeed is probably a bigger issue. —*Jim*

158. Gabriel Pozzato — Evansville to Xavier — Eye test monster, though stats don't match it. He's an electric scorer and tremendous finisher at the bucket who can get up a dunk on heads when he gets to the paint. His efficiency tanked a little after a midseason injury, and his jumper did not really go in as often as expected based on the mechanics. Falls in love with the jumper a little too much also considering how great he is at the bucket. Doesn't contribute as much in other areas (rebounding, passing) as you might hope, and the defense could be an issue (doesn't grade out well there). But he's on professional radars because of his scoring and athleticism, and he could realize his upside quickly with better teammates around him (Evansville was pretty bleak while he was hurt) and as he gets more familiar with the D1 game. —*Jim*

159. Bryce Ford — Toledo to Arizona St. — Smallish off-guard who can shoot, though the lack of volume (just one made 3 per game) hurts the appeal somewhat. He can

succeed as a specialist in that role, especially with fellow Sun Devil commit Moe Odum darting all over the court and setting him up, but Ford doesn't bring a whole lot else to the table besides the threat of his jumper. Likely a depth piece in the Big 12, but after Bobby Hurley was running his walk-on son out in games late in the season, some competent depth is a welcome sign in Tempe. —*Jim*

160. **Jalen Haynes — George Mason to Cincinnati —** Haynes is one of the rare players who opted to sit out and redshirt all of 2023-24 after transferring, even after the NCAA blanket ruling that deemed all transfers eligible. That patience was rewarded with a huge 24-25 campaign, as he became the Patriots' engine offensively as a bullying, hyper-physical post up threat with impressive touch. He's simply too strong to keep away from the rim for an entire game, whether it be on the glass or establishing deep post position. He also brings a nasty streak (complete with shit-talking) that should quickly endear him to the Cincinnati fan base. The Bearcats sorely lacked any semblance of interior scoring last season, and Haynes' game will be a welcome respite to that. He's not a true shot blocker on defense, but he's a space eater who anchored a top 10 defense in 2P% allowed. —*Jim*

161. **Jordan Burks — Georgetown to UCF —** "Know your role" type of forward who can defend multiple positions and smartly picks his spots offensively. He flashed a respectable jumper this season, and he could be a big asset on the offensive glass with his effort and activity level. He nearly fell out of the rotation in late January (partially because Cooley could not take Micah Peavy off the floor), but he clawed his way back into being a pivotal piece down the stretch and acquitted himself well in the Crown when Peavy sat. UCF is a completely unmolded ball of clay right now, especially after Dawkins shifted styles fairly drastically last year, but Burks should fill a role as an effective defensive expert who can run the floor. —*Jim*

162. **Jacari Lane — North Alabama to Texas A&M —** Bucky Ball's first big piece is North Alabama's go, go, go point guard, Jacari Lane. The two-time ASUN first-teamer showed off a much-improved jumper as a junior, evolving from more of a "bomb the rim" driver to a three-level dynamo, and that progression should allow him to more easily translate to SEC basketball (though his size will still be a question mark at times, especially on defense and as a finisher inside). UNA slowed things down last year, but Lane has played up-tempo ball in his career, and his speed should be an asset assuming Bucky keeps the gas pedal down in College Station. Plenty more dominoes to fall at Texas A&M, but at minimum, Lane is a fun scorer at the helm of Bucky's attack a la Rylan Jones at Samford. —*Jim*

163. **TJ Simpkins — Elon to Seton Hall —** The more physical, downhill, defensively-inclined of the Simpkins twins, TJ got banged up down the stretch, contributing quite a bit to Elon losing its final five games (TJ missed four of them). He lives at the free throw line, and he should be able to drive off the myriad handoffs and ball screens in Shaheen Holloway's system. The issue for the Pirates right now is

spacing, as a Budd Clark/TJ Simpkins backcourt is utterly bereft of perimeter potency, and opponents are going to continue begging Garwey Dual to fire away. The driving gaps could be extremely tight. But this group has tantalizing defensive upside, and Holloway has repeatedly proven his ability to coach up a team on that end of the floor. —*Jim*

164. Tavion Banks — Drake to Iowa — Like Cam Manyawu, Banks is another ultra-active glass-eating forward following Ben McCollum from Des Moines to Iowa City. He's proven to be a solid pick-and-roll partner with Bennett Stirtz, ranking in the 96th percentile nationally in roll man frequency, and he has a good feel for navigating tight spaces around the rim to create finishing angles or draw fouls. Banks is a little undersized for the Big Ten, but he acquitted himself well in the paint against Mizzou (before getting repeatedly buried by JT Toppin and Darrion Williams in Round 2, showing the reasons for defensive worry). Really good player who clearly fits into his role in McCollum's system, but for Iowa's defense, he probably should play more 4 in the Big Ten, which would require playing alongside Manyawu more frequently and adding another true big man to the rotational stable. —*Jim*

165. **Jackson Fields — Troy to West Virginia —** Fields may be undersized for power conference, but he flashed some pick-n-pop value last season as a shooter, which was a sneaky big bonus development. That alone incites optimism he could fit like a glove as an athletic, defensive 4-man for Hodge while also providing some floor spacing on the offensive end. As of 4/13, it looks like Hodge could settle on a three-big rotation with Lorient, Obioha and Fields sharing the 4 and 5 spots. Fields distinguishes himself from the other two in his semi-proven floor stretching ability but he's still a bouncy rim wrecking forward at his core. Again, he's not a 5 but he doesn't need to be with either Obioha and Lorient on the floor —*Matt*

166. Max Green — Holy Cross to Northwestern — Clearly a brainiac who loves the color purple. A stiff breeze might blow him over, but Green can shoot the crap out of the ball and has really good instincts. If he can add more strength, he'll be a good P5 guy, though he'll likely be more of a specialist at that level until he does get more meat on his bones (he ran a lot of PnR for HC and was a deadeye shooter off the bounce). I think he will be a solid contributor next year as a shooter, and then will evolve with Collins and be a very good piece when he's a senior. —*Jim*

167. LeJuan Watts — Wazzu to Texas Tech — Rarely are transfers so clearly a one-for-one replacement for a departing piece, but LeJuan Watts is a terrific facsimile of the outstanding Darrion Williams, particularly offensively. Both are powerful mismatch forwards who can serve as playmaking fulcrums in the post. Watts ranked in the 91st percentile in post up efficiency, per Synergy, doing so in a Wazzu offense that preyed on mismatches. And like Williams, he's also an outstanding passer and highly capable long-range shooter on lower volume. Watts is probably not quite on Williams' level as a defender (Williams came ready-made as a hugely positive contributor on that end), but

he has the awareness and tools to be impactful. One of the best fits of portal season so far. —*Jim*

168. **Malik Moore — Montana to Xavier —** A silky smooth shotmaker with length and some wiggle off the dribble, I have minimal reservation about Moore translating offensively up a level, especially in a less featured role. It's fair to worry about his defensive ability coming from the Big Sky and Montana, which ranked outside the top-250 in adjusted defensive efficiency, but I'll give him a pass coming off a shoulder injury (there was a chance he could miss all of last season because of the shoulder). At minimum, Moore's insertion in Montana's lineup gave the Griz a serious spark, partial evidence that Moore's intangibles can / will impact the bottom line —*Matt*

169. Gabe Dynes — Youngstown St. to USC — One look at Dynes and you know immediately where his value lies. The 7'3 behemoth is a game plan-wrecking defensive force at the rim, ranking 3rd in the entire country in block rate with go-go-gadget arms that extend into the stratosphere. He's more mobile than you might expect from a mid-major tower, too, and he finds value on offense with his offensive rebounding and "know your role" status (only takes dunks and layups). The downsides: he's a horrible free throw shooter, he can be foul-prone, and he's bully-able thanks to somewhat limited strength/heft. Even with his devastating rim protection abilities, he barely played over 20mpg in the Horizon League. The physicality and athleticism of the Big Ten could be a serious issue for him, though Musselman will assuredly use him as a specialist role guy, as he does not fit the typical Muss "hyper versatile big wing" prototype. —*Jim*

170. **Barry Dunning — South Alabama to Pitt —** Another college journeyman, Dunning checks in at his fourth stop in as many years. The lightbulb flicked on last year in a quasi homecoming for Dunning at USA (he's from Mobile, AL), and garnered major conference interest with a 46-point explosion against Texas State on February 22nd. At 6-6, Dunning's versatility should translate back to the power conference level, but don't be fooled into thinking he's a lights out sniper - most of his damage is done inside the arc, and he's a reliable finisher inside. His assist to turnover numbers prove he can be a useful connector piece on offense when not scoring. Defensively, it should be interesting how he adjusts after playing in one of the funkiest zones in college basketball last year - he has the physical makeup to be a very strong defender but there's always a slight concern when players make extreme stylistic system transitions (from man to zone, or vice versa) —*Matt*

171. Donovan Atwell — UNC Greensboro to Texas Tech — Purely a shooter, but a damn good one. Super high volume from deep, which happens because his lefty release is quick and smooth, barely needs any space. He won't give much beyond burying 3s — he never ever gets to the rim and he cannot finish when he does — but man, as a spacer around action w/ Toppin, Watts, Anderson, he's scary. Especially deadly from the corners (shot 50% from 3 there, per CBB Analytics). Smart add for a role guy with the

primary creators already clearly established. Not a difference-maker on defense but he's at least long. —*Jim*

172. **Juslin Bodo Bodo — High Point to Baylor —** Ultra active, bouncy big man who can really run the floor and move in space. Mega-elite two-way rebounder (top 10 nationally in both O and D rebound rates, per KenPom). Baylor has desperately needed this kind of rim-runner with size, and it's especially paramount with Josh Ojianwuna's recovery somewhat uncertain given the gruesome nature of his injury (and when it happened). Bodo Bodo is laughably raw on offense, but that means he will never command (or even ask for) touches, allowing the ball to remain in the hands of the Bears' talented guards while Bodo Bodo happily does the dirty work. —*Jim*
    a. That one seems like a no brainer fit, Baylor restores some rim verticality with a pogo stick leaper — Bodo Bodo is one of those late blooming bigs with a ton of room to develop as well, which offsets any of the competition gap concerns for me. —*Matt*

173. **Shawn Phillips Jr. — Arizona St. to Missouri —** The Tigers are trying again on the "journeyman center who started his career at LSU" model. Unlike Josh Gray, Phillips is a bouncy big man with real presence above the rim: for comparison, Gray was 10/11 on dunks last year; Phillips was 41/49 (he wants to hammertime whenever he can). On the downside, he lacks the positional awareness of Gray, and he is probably not as beloved by every teammate the way Gray was. Both Gray and Phillips fouled more than six times per 40 minutes, so it's all but inevitable Phillips spends a lot of time in foul trouble. In Dennis Gates' time in Columbia, the Tigers have not had a bouncy rim runner like Phillips, so seeing how he's used as a lob threat/vertical spacer will be interesting. —*Jim*

174. **Austin Swartz — Miami FL to Creighton —** Miami's disaster of a year cast a statistical stink on basically every Hurricane player, but it was particularly bad for Swartz, who ranked in the 4th percentile in the country in net on/off differential (a bad team became catastrophic when he played). Still, the eye test has to weigh more heavily here for a freshman in that wasteland, and he seemed solid to me. The shooting stroke is really smooth w/ some real range, and that's most of his game, he's a major bomber. I sort of think he's got a little shake to him but he never drove. Good gamble for Mr. McDermott on a high-upside wing who can shoot with some athleticism and pedigree. —*Jim*

175. **Zion Stanford — Temple to Villanova —** I liked him a lot a year ago and almost missed his late season boon, but he's another one, like Austin Swartz coming from Miami, where a weird team situation may have deflated his value (thus, a good buy low?). He played with Budd Clark in high school so I can't imagine he was comfortable in his role the last two years. Meaning, playing on a Temple team without a real PG, one of which was point shaving (Hysier Miller in 2023-24) and another who often hijacked the offensive flow (Jamal Mashburn in 2024-25). —*Matt*

176. **Kanon Catchings — BYU to Georgia —** The allure of Catchings is obvious: he's tall, athletic, long and can drill from deep, making him a clear NBA candidate given the archetypes that league craves. The reality is a little less inspiring, though, as he tends to just be a chucker the second he touches the ball, and his breakup with Purdue before the marriage every really started was the first red flag in his ability to fit into a team construct. The second was his benching down the stretch for BYU as the Cougars ascended from "bubble" to "Big 12 terror." On a team known for its outstanding ball movement, Catchings had just three assists in his final 18 game appearances. Back in the portal again, Catchings has the feel of a hired gun seeking shot attempts, but the talent and upside package still makes him a tempting addition. If Mike White can manage to get his compass pointed in a team-oriented direction, he could be a breakout star, but there are real risks here. —*Jim*

177. **Jarin Stevenson — Alabama to UNC —** Hubert's looking at a pretty crowded frontcourt if (Drake) Powell is staying and gonna play some 4, but not a bad problem to have. Between Stevenson, Veesaar, D Powell, Lubin and Caleb Wilson, that's a lot of mouths to feed. Stevenson can probably be better than he was at Bama if you take away the green light Oats gave him from 3 (he's just not a very good shooter IMO, and FT% supports this). Hubert and the UNC staff need to force him inside more / tell him if he doesn't grab more rebounds he's benched. Talented but seemingly mercurial guy. —*Jim*

178. **Izaiah Pasha — Delaware to Virginia Tech —** Highly productive as a freshman is a very intriguing starting point, as is his stout frame for a perimeter player. Low volume shooter, but he made an acceptable amount, and he's good at the free throw line, so he could eventually scale that up. But his biggest asset is clearly his driving ability, as he gets to the rim at will and has shown to be a strong finisher when he gets there (albeit with only one game of evidence against high-major athletes). Solid passer who racked up an extremely impressive 31 assists to just eight turnovers in the Blue Hens' five-game CAA Tourney run. Mike Young needed rim pressure to pair with Schutt / a bigger guard to play with Ben Hammond, and Pasha fits both bills. Solid fit, if a bit worried about the jumper still. —*Jim*

179. **Allen David Mukeba — Oakland to Arizona St. —** Should be useful even in the Big 12. Makes up for the height deficiency by being so wide in his shoulders and strong overall. He will definitely be active on the offensive glass, he works his ass off there. Not SUPER explosive vertically but he'll dunk or swat someone when he can. Oakland's offense was often best when they funneled through him and let him play bully ball against softer Horizon bigs (which then forced double-teams), but that part of his game may not translate up quite as well. No offensive game outside of the paint (~95% of his FGAs were there, so at least he knows that). Best guess is he's a solid role player as a rebounder/garbage man who can work a little bit in dribble handoffs where he gets downhill if his guy overplays the handoff. —*Jim*

180. **Efrem “Butta” Johnson — UAB to Clemson —** Apart from having one of the coolest nicknames in the sport, Butta has a pretty smooth game, as well. He hit a shooting slump this year from both 3 and midrange, but he is typically a respectable threat from deep and a killer on pull-ups/in the floater range. UAB had an odd year where a ton of talent just never fully meshed, but picking out individual parts and installing them into a different program framework could have some regenerative effects. Not a physical presence — won’t help on the glass or get to the line — but he takes care of the rock and can be a jump shooting asset. —*Jim*

181. **Langston Reynolds — Northern Colorado to Minnesota —** Power combo guard, huge fan. I won’t bet against a Steve Smiley-groomed product, but I do fear his strength / explosion inside may be neutralized in the B1G. I was a big fan of that UNC team this year, and he should pick up Medved’s system quickly. —*Matt*

182. **Lassina Traore — Xavier to Texas —** Big Lassina just wants to log a season playing for Sean Miller, inspiring stuff. He missed all of 2024-25 at Xavier, but when at Long Beach State, he did yeoman’s work as a two-way rebounding beast and effective interior scoring threat. Not an explosive big man (and he’s coming off a knee injury), but he will mix it up physically with SEC posts and has the size to do so. There’s value in bringing a guy who is familiar with Miller’s system, regimen, etc. also (to go with Swain in the same boat). —*Jim*

183. **Chansey Willis Jr. — Western Michigan to Minnesota —** It’s good to have a pure PG in the mix, though I don't LOVE Willis in a vacuum. The PGs that can't shoot are tough up-transfers, and he matches that description, but he does have great vision and maybe he'd have had a better year if the start of it hadn't been truncated. I did kinda like him on the eye test, he has a good floater game. Still, I think Minnesota's best perimeter lineup will be Asuma, Reynolds and Durkin, with Willis more a pinch hitter for 20mpg to let Asuma/Reynolds roam off ball and focus on scoring. —*Jim*

184. **Brendan Hausen — Kansas St. to Iowa —** Ludicrously good fit. I joked on Twitter that he’s just a Pokemon evolution of Mitch Mascari as the Ben McCollum 2 guard who will space the floor, bury some soul-crushing 3s late in the shot clock, and generally be a nuisance the instant an opponent focuses a little too much on Bennett Stirtz ball screens. Big time gunner with seemingly unlimited range. CBB Analytics also throws him a Reyne Smith comparison which feels spot on. Quirk per his shot chart: he is especially lethal on the left side of the court…I would be stunned if McCollum/Iowa does not zero in on that and get him tons of looks over there. Home run here. —*Jim*

185. **Damarco Minor — Oregon St. to Pitt —** Minor is Mr. Midrange, not quite as deadly as Bakersfield’s Jemel Jones, but a relatively reliable jump shooter from inside the arc. Still, he’s a pure pass first point guard and plays with a refreshing sense of unselfishness. He’s on the shorter end of the spectrum but a sturdy frame and elastic leaping ability helps offset the lack of height (on paper, he grades out as an average

overall defender and it's rare to find a point guard who rebounds as well as Minor). That said, I fear his fit with a myriad of versatile, unselfish pieces at Oregon State may have masked flaws that may be exposed in the ACC. For example, his free throw rate fell jumping from SIUE to Oregon State, and getting to the free throw line was a key hack to his efficiency early on in his career. Unfortunately, he's an easy 'go under' pick-n-roll candidate, so drop bigs may pick on his lack of long range shooting ability. —*Matt*

186. De'Shayne Montgomery — Georgia to Dayton — Bigger guard who is getting back to the right level, think he over-extended himself going from Mount to the SEC, especially since he was still only a soph (rather than a grad transfer like Leffew, his teammate who also went to Georgia, was). Injuries seemed to limit him, but even in his 24-25 form, he was most effective against mid-major opponents. Bigger guard who can use his frame when driving, and I'd expect the shot to tick back up with more confidence (though he's not like a high-volume sniper no matter what). Smart get for Grant I think. —*Jim*

187. Malachi Smith — Dayton to UConn — Big time playmaking guard who can control the pace of a game while expertly table-setting for others. Major injury issues in his career (primarily awful luck) and also has a smallish frame for the Big East. He should settle in as the Huskies' first guard off the bench, allowing Silas Demary to shift off the ball for stretches. The size concerns are obvious defensively (though I think he's more tenacious than Mahaney was), but they also show up in his struggles to finish at the rim. Was not a volume shooter at Dayton, but he was elite on catch-and-shoot attempts, and the Husky staff could unlock him as an even bigger threat there. Overqualified bench guard, talent-wise, and I trust the UConn staff to deploy him correctly as long as he stays healthy. —*Jim*

188. **Caden Powell — Rice to Baylor —** Curious who starts between Powell and Bodo. At minimum, Drew is building a serviceable platoon operation between the more athletic Bodo and Powell. I just don't buy Powell as a plus defender at this level, despite his 7-2 wingspan and strong block rate at Wyoming and Rice. The homecoming narrative is fun but I'd wager more big bodies are coming for Scott Drew and co. —*Matt*

a. I'm a little higher on Powell, really liked him on eye test at Wyoming (thought he and Manyawu would be twin towers for years to come under Linder — oh, how things can change). Maybe a little more strength would help, but I think this is a solid 5-man rotation for a perimeter-oriented offense. —*Jim*

189. **Jordan Derkack — Rutgers to Dayton —** Maybe water finds its level here. Derkack was too talented for the NEC but probably in over his head in the Big 10. It didn't help that he was in a miserable 'fit' situation last year either. He's simply not a shooter - though, his form looks much better than the results. On Rutgers, he found himself orbiting in no man's land around two generational talents trying to space the floor. At Dayton, I assume he'll be more of a creator, which will weaponize his passing and rim attacking. I love that he teams up with another Merrimack product, Javon Bennett, who

morphed into a knockdown shooter last year thanks to a subtle change in role (from more PG to shooting / combo guard) - this, in turn, could slot nicely with Derkack if Grant deploys Derkack as the primary facilitator and Bennett in more of a combo role, where he flourished last season. —*Matt*

190. Jake Wahlin — Utah to Clemson — Wahlin goes from one ultra-crowded frontcourt to another, joining RJ Godfrey, Carter Welling and Nick Davidson in a revamped Tiger big man group. Despite standing 6'10, Wahlin is more skill than brawn, adding another varied skill set to that stable of frontline versatility. He can run the floor and help on the glass (though not a true anchor there), and he's a solid secondary rim protector as a 4-man. He can even scale up to the 3 in some scenarios the way Brownell used Chauncey Wiggins last year. Not a breakout star or anything, but a solid add as a floor spacer in a system that has proven effective for players of his ilk. —*Jim*

191. Jaron Pierre — Jacksonville St. to SMU — If a giant tree falls in the woods when nobody's around, does it make a sound? Shocked how little notoriety this one got for such an awesome scorer and creator + definite plus shooter. I imagine he got a big ol' bag to end up in Dallas, lots of programs could use him. Big guard with size who was the Gamecocks' entire offense at times, and he got a ton of defensive attention in the C-USA as a result. Neither he nor Boopie Miller are pure PGs, but that should allow them to rotate duties and focus on scoring for stretches. Also good to have two solid (and different style) PnR threats in Enfield's offense. Should be a tough cover even stepping up to the ACC. —*Jim*

I mulled over Pierre for a while. I think it's a no-brainer home run splash for SMU, assuming he doesn't hijack the offense with a crazy high usage rate. No one watched the CUSA last season, especially Jacksonville State, and his efficiency isn't amazing but that's mostly a function of his shot diet. He's one of the best iso scorers in college basketball at any level, and proved he can facilitate for others when defenses shade his way. Enfield should set up possessions for him to catch at the top of the key or in the mid / pinch post, which is where he's especially deadly. Above all, Pierre's a great late shot clock or high leverage 'bail out' option to save broken possessions. —*Matt*

192. Garry Clark — Texas A&M Corpus Christi to Utah St. — Best player on a really good mid-major team, super effective around the rim as both a scorer/finisher and a rebounder. He plays really hard. Definitely not an explosive vertical guy, but he uses his body and angles really well. Hit a few 3s last year at an ok rate, but the shaky FT shooting has me thinking that was a mirage. One extra note: Calhoun and staffhave been amazing in the portal at two stops. Think they're very smart and calculated about who they target, so I'm basically always going to like what he/they are doing. —*Jim*

193. AJ Storr — Kansas to Ole Miss — One of the bigger experiments of the offseason here, with Storr moving to his fourth college in four years to be the Rebels' resident shot taker (whether he's a shot maker is TBD). Storr has been up and down so far in his

career, looking like a future all-conference player as a rookie at St. John's and then delivering on that star potential at Wisconsin. However, his shot selection declined badly by the end of his Madison tenure, and there was plenty of speculation that he was playing for a portal bag as the season winded down. He ended up at Kansas, where his minutes yo-yo'd wildly up and down as a strange fit next to the Jayhawks' trio of 5th-year seniors (Dickinson, Harris, Adams). He can be a big-time scorer, and right now, Ole Miss' roster needs that. He largely ignores every other aspect of the box score, and his defense is shaky at best, but Chris Beard has had success with similar score-first players before (Mac McClung at Texas Tech, Marcus Carr at Texas, basically last year's entire Ole Miss team). Huge range of outcomes here, but given what the Rebels need, I lean slightly towards this actually working out fairly well. Final note: Beard's offenses have ranked top 10 in Isolation frequency each of the last two years in Oxford (and that has been a staple of his system for years; AJ Storr rejoices at such freedom. —*Jim*

194. **Mike James — NC State to Vanderbilt —** Hard to be fired up about Vandy's backcourt right now. Multiple injury risks in James and Collins, neither of whom excite me even when healthy. There's some upside in Tanner, I guess, but he had a cushy situation playing next to Edwards and Hoggard last year. —*Matt*

195. **KeShawn Murphy — Mississippi State to Auburn —** Hard to disagree with the overwhelming consensus opinion that this is a glove like fit for Murphy, an Alabama native. Offensively, he knows his role as a finisher first and foremost - over half his shots came from within the restricted area last year. Murphy has more touch / skill than just a dunker, and there's a noticeable fluidity that implies Pearl and staff could unlock more from on offense. Still, his core value is on the defensive end, where his rebounding and rim protection prowess underpinned Chris Jans' defense for multiple years. He moves well laterally, too, so he isn't just a groundbound plodding 5-man. —*Matt*

196. Lamar Wilkerson — Sam Houston State to Indiana — One of my favorite players in the portal and one I thought could really fit on any team / any construct because he's so good at so many important things. Overqualified to be a 3-and-D guy, but he is an elite shooter with size and he can clamp down defensively. Can also go get his own off the bounce, getting to his spots in midrange to elevate over guys or into the paint to finish with touch. Doesn't really get ALL the way to the bucket, but it doesn't matter for him really. Didn't turn it over, particularly impressive last year when CUSA had a bunch of pressure defenses. SHSU had a weird season this year with injuries and getting unlucky in a really parity-driven league, but he did lead SHSU to a conf title in 2023-24 when the rotation wasn't in the infirmary, I'm not holding him at fault for the losses. DeVries is a pretty malleable coach, I have no doubt he'll use him quite well. I got a SLIGHT bad vibe from his "I didn't want to go to Kentucky and just be another guy" comment...Kentucky is good! Being a key piece on that team would have made them very good! Idk, I just didn't love the gist of it as a "make it about me" comment but I fully admit I may be reading too far into it. —*Jim*

197. **Drayton Jones — South Carolina State to Butler —** Jones fills a big need at the 5 on Butler's wing laden roster. He needs to evolve his game on the offensive end to accept a lower usage finishing role - he did not fare well against power conference frontlines in the few times SC State faced them last year. However, the defensive presence and rebounding production should translate. Still, Thad probably needs to add one to two more bigs to the arsenal before feeling good about his frontline depth. —*Matt*

198. **Kam Craft — Miami OH to Georgia Tech —** Super streaky scorer but Craft can fill it up in a hurry when he's on. Nice offensive system marriage here, as Travis Steele's modern offensive concepts will help Craft transition nicely into Stoudamire's offense - though, GT leans heavily on ball screen action, and the lack of a clear cut point guard is a tad concerning at this juncture (writing this 4/16). Still, Craft can stretch the floor from deep and make contested, guarded shots from the midrange. He also adds a veteran piece for a super young team that will presumably lean heavily on first and second year guys again this season. —*Matt*

199. **Nate Calmese — Wazzu to Wake Forest —** Calmese's breakout campaign last year caught me by surprise but it was clear he found an oasis playing in David Riley's system. Of all the Washington State defectors, Calmese is the one I remain slightly skeptical of. For one, he has a long way to go to prove he's a consistent long range shooter (and Wake fans learned the perils of relying on a non-shooting point guard last year). He's a much better shot maker than Johnson, so that's probably an unfair comparison. Still, the fit at Washington State was tailor made for his skill set. He's super crafty operating in ball screens but he's not crazy explosive, which is worrisome if defenders don't respect him as a shooter in the ACC. If he has to carry a heavy shot creation burden in Winston Salem, I fear his efficiency takes a nosedive. —*Matt*

200. **Mekhi Mason — Washington to Wake Forest —** Sure, Mason put up numbers at Washington after transferring up from Rice but it was mostly 'empty calorie' production. Still, posting his most efficient offensive season against the stiffest competition is an encouraging trajectory for what he'll be at Wake Forest. Frankly, Washington's positional alignments were all over the map last year, but clearly Mason looked more comfortable off the ball. No matter where he plays, he's got all the 'tools' - strong size and athleticism for a 2-guard, which drew some light NBA / pro interest a year or so ago in the younger years of his development. I still don't fully trust his jumpshot, but he's starting to get a better feel for the game, evidenced by the bump in percentages last year. —*Matt*

201. Nick Pringle — South Carolina to Arkansas — Active rebounding big man who thrives on physicality. He's on his third SEC school and fifth team (he played a year of junior college in 21-22 and thus has an extra year), and he's been similarly productive at every spot. Can be a little maddening with his motor (ran into issues there at Alabama), and our resident South Carolina fans report that he has stone hands. You'd like a little more rim protection from him, but he cut down his fouling to offset a decrease in blocks at South Carolina. In a glass-crashing big man rotation in Fayetteville with Malique Ewin

and Trevon Brazile (most likely?), plus bigger wings in Karter Knox and Billy Richmond III, Pringle should slide nicely into a 20ish MPG role. —*Jim*

202. Khamari McGriff — UNC Wilmington to Kansas St. — Loved him as a mid-major big, a little concerned if he's expected to be a Big 12 center because he's kinda thin to play that spot. Wouldn't mind him next to another big who can control the glass. But he was a really efficient post scorer (1.14 PPP) on high volume for a team that played through him (or Obioha, his much bigger platoon cohort) a ton inside, and he has good length/timing on the defensive end as a rim protector. Just not sure if the post up offense translates as well against Big 12 compared to CAA defenders. —*Jim*

203. Latrell Davis — San Jose St. to San Diego St. — Davis fits nicely as a role playing secondary scorer next to the Aztecs' bigger guns (Davis, Waters, Gwath, ideally Byrd too). He can shoot or plow his way to the rim/FT line with his strength, nice combo to have as an off-ball option. He shouldn't be asked to overextend himself as a playmaker, but it seems like that won't be the case at all with what SDSU has elsewhere. Seems ok defensively to me, but with his frame and with Gwath lurking at the rim + Dutcher's ability to teach defense, he has the tools to be really annoying getting into people on the outside. —*Jim*

204. Tayton Conerway — Troy to Indiana — Really curious how Conerway translates. I think the defense, even beyond the mega-elite steal rate, is really really good, he was a huge catalyst for Troy on that end, and he has P5 size for a PG. The offense is a little bit more questionable because he can't really shoot...he got wherever he wanted on the court against Sun Belt foes (totally thrashed them getting to the rim), but his efficiency reallllly cratered in the Trojans' seven-toughest games (Tier A/B per KenPom). Horrific numbers against Oregon, Arkansas, Houston early (admittedly, three extremely athletic teams, w/ one of them being Houston) and struggled against UK in the tourney when they turned him into a shooter. BUT, Troy had zero shooting at all, so against athletic teams, he was trying to drive into gaps that didn't exist. Could be more useful with better talent around him (like, say, Lamar Wilkerson and Tucker DeVries) because he's so hard to keep in front (and again, the defense is going to be very good). —*Jim*

205. Josh Reed — Cincinnati to Penn St. — Big 'tweener wing/forward who smartly picks his spots on offense. Can hit a jumper, but he's not lights out and is generally better attacking a closeout and getting to his (vastly) preferred left hand, though he lacks the true burst to get all the way to the rim. Should be an especially useful asset on the defensive end, where he can wreak a little havoc within Mike Rhoades pressure schemes and also defend the 4 men of the Big Ten. Good complementary piece who likely won't impact the game much on offense. —*Jim*

206. Melvin Council — St. Bonaventure to Kansas — Strong defender with a savvy floor game who can get into gaps. Lives in the paint. Can't really shoot / is somewhat unwilling to, which will be a limitation at most places, well-scouted foes will sag off. Out

of 1238 players who had at least 2.5 C+S opportunities per game (Council was 2.9), he ranked 1073rd in efficiency at 0.909 PPP, per Synergy. Good athlete. Need to watch more Peterson to get a better feeling for them together, but I'd guess Council would be worse than Dawson and (if fully healthy) Elmarko. Just an ok P5 guy to me, role player. He was his team's ENTIRE offense at injury-ravaged Wagner in 23-24, then a huge part of the offense at St. Bonaventure last year while never leaving the floor and having to shift to PG when Dasonte Bowen got hurt. He's led his conference in % of minutes played both of the last two years. He could be a total demon now that he'll be a 20-25mpg guy. —*Jim*

207. **Oziyah Sellers — Stanford to St. John's —** This one is pretty simple, as Rick himself said on Twitter. The Johnnies couldn't shoot when their lives depended on it, so they went out and got a sniper, with length / size, which Pitino surely believes can be molded into a serviceable defender at the other end. Still, the point guard spot will remain the premier position under the microscope for the rest of the offseason. —*Matt*

208. Jasai Miles — North Florida to Indiana — Miles is good but not elite, fortunately that's what IU needs now — guys who have specialist skills that are willing to play roles, and Miles should be that. Has good size on the wing and isn't shy of contact. I'd be inclined to say he's a better shooter than his percentage indicates, you don't take 230+ triples without some founded confidence (though that UNF system is definitely bombs away for whoever is in it), but his FT% is a little off-putting to me. Form seems good, slightly low release but it's compact and repeatable. Per Synergy, his C+S numbers are middle of the pack. I think he's good athletically but not elite. He had 9 dunks last year (most of which seem to be on designed lobs), which isn't a big number, and he doesn't seem to EXPLODE to me, just a 6'6 good athlete getting over the rim. UNF used to play a wonky extended 2-3 that made me very concerned about players translating defensively, but they played a ton more man last year and that should help. Has the size and physical tools to be solid on that end and DeVries is a very good teacher, in my opinion. —*Jim*

209. **Xaivian Lee — Princeton to Florida —** This almost feels like a 'buy low', if there's such a thing in this hyperinflated portal market. In other words, Lee's hype level cooled last year because Princeton's 19-11 season felt like a major disappointment. Honestly, all of Lee's 'flaws' are easily fixable with a deeper, more competent supporting cast. Last year, a number of Princeton players struggled, especially in the backcourt, which forced Lee into a superhero shot creator role, which manifested in an unhealthy shot diet of tough contested 2s. While he's not a great finisher against length / strength at the rim, he's a long, rangy shot maker and facilitator who understands 'data ball' (he RARELY settles for mid range pullups) and should fit neatly under Golden's regime. —*Matt*
    a. Love that he is a HS teammate of Haugh — this year's Florida team had such elite chemistry, getting a player of Lee's immense skill who should fit seamlessly into the locker room via that connection is a massive coup. —*Jim*

210. Ian Jackson — UNC to St. John's — Jackson is an interesting dichotomy of "holy crap, that guy is clearly talented and can make your jaw hit the floor" and "how sure are we that he's a truly winning player?" There's no debating his scoring package; he's lethal from deep on solid volume, and his athleticism explodes off the screen on certain finishes inside. However, he struggles to go left (and finish while going that direction), he lacks passing vision for a ball-dominant scorer, and he was a disaster defensively for the Heels, easily grading out as their worst rotational defender per EvanMiya's DBPR (and that matched the eye test for a young guy who could lose focus on that end). Fortunately, Rick Pitino is a master at extracting high-level defensive performance from players with the raw physical tools to bring it, and Jackson's lethal transition game should thrive in Pitino's opportunistic attack. Captain Jack's shot making will also be a major asset in the half court to go with that of fellow sophomore scorer Joson Sanon, though as of this writing (4/18), St. John's *badly* needs a creator whose mindset is not "score first, second and third." —*Jim*

211. **Tyler Harris — Washington to Vanderbilt —** I bought some Harris stock when I watched him play early on at Portland, where was a late bloomer and dealt with injuries his rookie year on a bad team. Last year, he flashed a titillating scoring arsenal from all three levels but was never consistent. For a guy that doesn't contribute in many other ways, his value is heavily tethered to "is he hot tonight?". I'm including a better, deeper breakdown from a Washington ballknower in the Discord (see below). As far as the Vandy fit, well, it seems like Byington is taking questionable swings on guys with higher risk profiles. —*Matt*

a. He just makes a lot of dumb mistakes that don't show up in the box score. Had a real propensity for fouling jump shooters particularly from the 3-pt line. Got blown past way more often on D than he should with his measurables. He had one of the lowest assist rates I've ever seen for a guy who wasn't just a post-up big (only one game with more than 1 assist (2). —*"maxvroom" in the Burner discord*

212. **Elijah Moore — Syracuse to Utah —** Who knows. I guess there's ample shot opportunities in Utah with a fairly thin roster being cobbled together post Craig Smith. Moore caught fire in a few marquee matchups this past season, so maybe there's breakout potential here. Still, Utah needs to stuff its remaining spots with more proven production —*Matt*

a. Good gamble here on upside by Jensen as he extricates Moore from the basketball mess that was Syracuse. As Matt noted, though, he was inconsistent despite some eye test "whoa!" moments. I also can't believe this is currently Utah's "headliner" add after firing Craig Smith for a regime that was supposedly going to better navigate the portal. Money still seems alarmingly short in Salt Lake. —*Jim*

213. **Carson Towt — Northern Arizona to Notre Dame —** Frankly, I'm not convinced he can play in the ACC but in terms of system fit, I see what Shrewsbury sees here. Towt is a skilled hybrid forward / big who can invert the floor offensively and operate away from

the lane. Towt could thrive as a trigger man in dribble handoffs and subsequent back cutting action. However, he's by no means a rim protector and the Irish sorely need athleticism at the 4 or 5 position to rectify last year's defensive limitations. —*Matt*

a. Double-double monster on the glass, relentless effort guy, should help Notre Dame with his physicality. I do have to add that he's never made a 3 (0/1 in his career) and shot 38.9% (!!!!!!!!) from the FT line last year. Woof. —*Jim*

214. **Dan Skillings — Cincinnati to Baylor —** Considered by some to be the heart and soul of Cincy's team the last two years, Skillings is a quintessential jack of all trades wing. He finally made outside shots in conference play this season (22/62, 35%, a far cry from his career average of 28%). but I wouldn't bet on that holding firm for an entire season - even a 34% low volume 3-point clip would open up the floor for Skillings to showcase his slashing ability. Scott Drew apparently pitched the opportunity for Skillings to be a multi-positional swiss army knife this year in Waco, including some reps as a quasi point guard in 'grab n go' situations off the defensive glass. He checks all the winning player boxes and may look more effective with a better stable of shooters around him. —*Matt*

215. **Barrington Hargress — UC Riverside to Colorado —** I'm a little surprised Hargress didn't garner a longer list of power conference suitors. Sure, he's small, and may not be a dogged defender (which goes against the Boyle Ball principles) but his shotmaking and playmaking should translate at this level. He loves to shake n bake to free himself up for 15-18 foot fallaways but he can make em (the CBBAnalytics.com shot chart backs this up) and he also has a nifty float game in his bag. Above all, his assist to turnover rate is remarkable for how much he had the ball in his hands at UCR, and with how much pressure opponents threw at him. If his 3-point jump shot continues to improve, he could be a thorn in the Big-12's side this year. From Boyle's perspective, a young unproven nucleus sorely needed an offensive bellcow like Hargress at the top of the pecking order. —*Matt*

216. Amier Ali — Arizona St. to Mississippi St. — Tough to judge Ali too harshly considering the injury-plagued situation in Tempe last season. He should have been a role player learning the ropes as a freshman, but to his credit, he actually performed relatively well when tossed into the deep end late in the season as the Sun Devils' roster disintegrated. Picked his spots, hit a few shots. Defensively it wasn't great, but again, the ASU season had collapsed and he was a freshman in the fire. Have to hope Chris Jans can unearth more upside there, and you'd think for a 6'8 wing, it's in there somewhere. —*Jim*

217. Bryce Lindsay — James Madison to Villanova — Matt's got the detail below on Lindsay's game (big time shooter, some playmaking juice that could blossom with more ballhandling duties). He's not a "best player on a Big East team" caliber guy in my mind though, so Kevin Willard really needs to keep adding talent. Like him a lot as like a third banana who can pick his spots and attack rotating defenses, so nabbing a guy like

Rodney Rice who can command defensive attention seems paramount. Plenty more to be done on the Main Line, but Lindsay is a strong add in a vacuum. —*Jim*

a. ***(from initial projection to Texas A&M)****...It's abundantly clear Buzz wants to restore balance to his offense, which became too rim reliant the last two years at A&M (in large part due to rim-over-everything guards who couldn't shoot). Remember his offenses at Virginia Tech? VT was top-100 in 3PA rate Buzz's last three years, coinciding with three consecutive top-30 offenses, per KenPom. No, Justin Robinson or Nickeil Alexander-Walker aren't walking through that door but Lindsay is a clear stepping stone back to that blueprint. Per CBBAnalytics, 35% of Lindsays shots last year were 'long range 3s' - he takes bombs, and can hit them at an elite rate. Lindsay's more dynamic than just a standstill sniper, too, though he relinquished ball handling duties last year to Mark Freeman and Xavier Brown, two more traditional 'point guards'. In short, if Buzz can get Lindsay to guard, the reunion here is a no brainer —Matt*

218. Sam Walters — Michigan to Mississippi St. — Walters is a big, rangy lefty shooter who is bouncing to his third school. It's somewhat concerning because both Alabama and Michigan had great seasons, but he appears to be seeking more minutes/shots after playing a key reserve role at both spots. He is absolutely lights-out from the corners (31/70 in his career per CBB Analytics, 44.3%), and surely Chris Jans will put him in spots to torch the nets from there. Walters' role has always been a little limited by his lack of dribble drive game, though (he only attempted 16 2s at Michigan this year). He's actually a pretty good defender, grading out well via both the Jim eye test and EvanMiya BPR in both of his seasons so far. That makes him an excellent 3-and-D piece, with the hope of Jans unlocking more from his long frame. —*Jim*

219. Kevin Overton — Texas Tech to Auburn — Steady Eddie southpaw guard/wing who is not elite in any one area, but he finds ways to contribute seemingly every game. He can shoot it a little bit, he can get downhill and is a terrific finisher with his left hand, and he's a solid perimeter defender thanks to his length and improving strength. Has played for two awesome coaches in Darian DeVries at Drake and then Grant McCasland, which I tend to like. Bruce Pearl is a king of giving his guards the confidence to be scorers, and he helped Denver Jones, Chad Baker-Mazara and Miles Kelly really elevate their games on that end of the floor. Overton could be his next breakout project. —*Jim*

220. **Duke Brennan — Grand Canyon to Villanova —** An elite two-way rebounder and precision interior finisher - seriously, his quick release touch with both hands is tremendous, and it really pops as a pick-n-roll receiver when diving to the rim. I'm not convinced he's a shutdown eraser defensively at this level but he's big / active enough to hold his own on that end. —*Matt*

221. **Mackenzie Mgbako — Indiana to Texas A&M —** Finally, Mgbako will get a shot at playing his natural position, the 4, after being caught in a game of position musical chairs

at Indiana. We'll see if he's up to the BuckyBall conditioning challenge but Mgbako could flourish in this system. Bucky was quietly a wing / forward whisperer at Samford, where he elevated guys like Jermaine Marshall, Logan Dye, and Achor Achor into SoCon superstars. The key is spacing and constant movement, which prevents opponents from doubling or sending help to clog airspace. Bucky also hunts targeted mismatch advantages for these versatile forward prototypes. The SEC isn't the SoCon but Mgbako's pedigree supersedes any player Bucky's ever coached. —*Matt*

222. **Isaiah Walker — Belmont to Xavier —** All Casey Alexander does is find, groom and launch mid-major prospects into power conference contributors. Walker may not be oozing with the same upside as some of his Bruin predecessors but he's rock solid and well schooled in modern concepts. He can slash, cut, defend and score / shoot to various degrees, making him a perfect, low risk / high versatility snag for Pitino - albeit, perhaps with a lowish ceiling as well. His shot is an awkward side strapped shot put, which doesn't exude confidence he'll make a high percentage long term, but he's a reliable rim attacker and finisher. —*Matt*

223. Chance Moore — St. Bonaventure to West Virginia — Ross Hodge is smarter than me, so I assume he's done due diligence on whether Moore will get a redshirt for 2021-22. To the best of my knowledge, he wasn't hurt and doesn't meet the regular redshirt rules, but I guess he's going to get an extra year? Sure. On the court, it's a logical fit alongside the smaller Honor Huff and a bigger PG in Jasper Floyd (will Treysen Eaglestaff be joining as the wing spacer/shooter? TBD). Moore is a long, athletic wing — Eric Musselman initial recruited him, so that gives a general idea of what the appeal is. He is not a good shooter (sub-30% from 3 for his career), and he won't create for others. But he is very tough to stop as a slasher who uses his frame to get to finish inside or get to the line. Really malleable defender too who competes hard on that end. Fills in what was a somewhat glaring void for a Big 12 roster, makes sense to me. —*Jim*

224. Sincere Parker — McNeese to Memphis — Big time bucket getter, really fills it up when he gets on the court. Usage has been astronomical the last two years at SLU and McNeese, I would expect him to fire away in Penny's offense. Doesn't contribute much elsewhere, though he actually grades out decently well on defense, which contrasts to the expectation that he just wants to launch. His 3P jumper has been really up and down, but he's really more "true scorer" than just a shooter. Wants to get into the midrange, but he shot 47% from there per CBB Analytics, so you can kind of live with that if he mixes in trips to the line and a few triples. With Haggerty gone, someone has to score in Memphis, and Parker could have a Dain Dainja-esque big time breakout if he plays 30mpg. —*Jim*

225. Trey Fort — Samford to Michigan State — Fort was a pet player of mine back on Mississippi State in 2023-24, though after a hot start, he hit a cold stretch, fell out of the rotation, and then got hurt right when he rediscovered his shooting stroke. He certainly found the range/confidence again while playing Bucky Ball this past year, posting seven

games of 4+ made triples despite Bucky's largely egalitarian minutes distribution in a deep rotation. With the Spartans, he should be a big time perimeter weapon who will be a constant threat to pour in transition 3s when the Spartans run, though he must earn Tom Izzo's trust on the defensive end. Good to see Izzo filling specific roles in the portal, the ol' ball coach is far from washed up. —*Jim*

226. Josiah Moseley — Villanova to Texas Tech — Athletic wing/forward type who Villanova fans seem generally disappointed to be losing / wish he played more last year (typically a good sign for the new school). Seemed pretty passive as a freshman alongside a veteran core that didn't go to its bench much, and he barely played down the stretch. But McCasland is banking on the pedigree, efficiency (in a tiny offensive role) and overall physical toolbox/activity for what should be a positive role player alongside the Red Raiders' big guns, with upside for a lot more down the line if he remains in Lubbock (never assumed these days). —*Jim*

227. Alvaro Folguieras — Robert Morris to Iowa — Ben McCollum needed to up the talent level a bit heading to the Big Ten, and this addition is a big boost to that. Folguieras is a terrific hyper-skilled forward; he is good at basically everything and is now a legitimate offensive linchpin to pair with Stirtz. Computer models adore him because he's an efficient scorer from everywhere with a near-perfect shot diet (his CBB Analytics shot chart is a Mona Lisa), he's gobbles up rebounds, and he racks up stocks defensively. Sliding in for Abreu is a ginormous upgrade; while solid, Abreu was just kinda there on offense, good cutter but not a true threat. Folguieras scores from everywhere and can pass too, meaning he'll draw a ton of attention. Athleticism is a slight concern, but I get some Igor Milicic vibes from him. —*Jim*

a. Folguieras has another offensive gear, and he is very underrated defensively because of his mobility… maybe he'll be beat up by bruising B1G bigs but that league is changing, the brute physicality isn't as important as it was 5 years ago. —*Matt*

228. Parsa Fallah — Oregon St. to Oklahoma St. — I think this is a step up too far for Fallah. He acquitted himself nicely in the WCC coming up from Southern Utah, but relying on him to be a starting 5 in the Big 12 is a different ball game. Fallah is a ground-bound, back-to-the-basket big with skill but not much athleticism. He's relatively strong but not a terrific rebounder. He is not a shot blocker or rim protector in any sense of the word. He tried a few 3s at SUU… let's just say Tinkle knew what he was doing parking him under the rim. I don't think Fallah is bad by any means – and maybe he's even useful as a post offense weapon for 15-18 minutes per game - but OSU relying on him as its potential starting 5 is a red flag (and he needs to play the 5, he will get blown up by quicker, more athletic 4s). —*Ky*

229. Achor Achor — Kansas St. to Mississippi St. — I don't know what happened at K-State (maybe Tang just had too many frontcourt mouths to feed), but Achor is a stud and a worthy contributor on a Power 5 team. Pick-n-pop big who can also post, earn

second chances, and provide a little rim protection on the other end. He had 23 & 8 against Kansas in the 2024 NCAA Tournament – that's a pretty good interview. He fits the Miss State length and athleticism theme and gives Jans a little more offensive pop in the frontcourt than he's had thus far in Starkville. —*Ky*

230. Liutauras Lelevicius — Oregon St. to TCU — Terrific role player who smartly picked his spots within the fabric of an Oregon State offense that had several other bigger offensive threats. Big and long, has a little "F you" physicality to him as a wing which surely caught Jamie Dixon's eye. Can play a little 4 at times which helps lineup flexibility. Very smooth shooter, though he's not a high-volume gunner, more of a "take it when it's very open" kind of contributor. Matt (our Beaver Whisperer) has expressed some concern about Oregon State guys seeing a slight dropoff outside of the super logical fit of that roster in Corvallis last year, but Lelevicius figures to play essentially the same role in Fort Worth. Per Synergy, he only finished 10 possessions all season in ball screens; he was basically never asked to do much off the bounce. He'll hit some shots and provide solid wing defense, though he does have a sneaky "pump fake and drive" game if defenders close out too hard. —*Jim*

YES —Ky

231. Bryson Tucker — Indiana to Washington — 2024-25 was kind of an ugly freshman campaign for someone of Tucker's pedigree, but he is not the first touted recruit to struggle mightily under Mike Woodson. Tamar Bates found success elsewhere, and maybe Mackenzie Mgbako will too. Tucker's physical tools are obvious, but he displayed zero confidence as a shooter and generally seemed lost on offense. He should be making a bigger impact defensively, as well. Measured gamble by Sprinkle to grab a former highly-regarded rookie, but Tucker has a long way to go to suddenly be a positively impactful Big Ten piece — especially if he's expected to play the 3, as Washington's roster construction would appear to dictate. —*Jim*

232. Martin Sommerville — UMass Lowell to Florida St. — I saw him go supernova on SLU in November, so I'm probably irrationally high on him, but he's a smart combo guard who can absolutely torch the nets when he gets going. Considering what Loucks seems to be assembling, that makes a lot of sense as a fit in Tallahassee. I'm not sure I want him or McCray as a full-time PG, but they can alternate handling duties while the other focuses on scoring, and the Noles' frontcourt has strong defenders to compensate for defensive issues (definitely an issue for Somerville). He struggled against Gonzaga and Washington early in the year, but he was a reserve then, and he eventually became a 40mpg "never leave the court" staple on a veteran team. P5 athleticism could bug him for a while, but I kinda trust him to adapt. —*Jim*

233. **Ezra Ausar — Utah to USC —** I've been overly critical of Ausar in the past, rooted in my frustration watching him at East Carolina, but he did expand his game in Smith's system last year in Utah - albeit, in no way did he impact the bottom line. His knack for drawing fouls is useful but it doesn't translate efficiently because he's a career 61% free

throw shooter. He can't space the floor, either, so his half court offensive impact is limited to paint touches. Ausar did look more comfortable out in transition, and he is a plus defender with his length, strength and agility but his offensive warts still turn me off from anointing him a key piece on a high major team. —*Matt*

234. **Adante' Holiman — Georgia Southern to Arizona St. —** Holiman brings injury baggage after missing major chunks of each of the last two years, but he's an electric scoring point guard when right. At this point, he's a hired gun, now at his fourth stop in four years but he's managed to find systems with unbounded freedom to play loose and free in the open floor. I see no reason why Bobby Hurley will put the restrictor plates on now, so this does feel like a proper marriage - though, I'm not convinced Holiman is a winning cog on a high major tournament caliber team, either. —*Matt*

235. Arrinten Page — Cincinnati to Northwestern — I was not a huge fan of Page as an addition for Cincinnati last year, and he plummeted out of the rotation in February, never to be heard from again. Contrary to my expectations, though, Page's per-minute production rose impressively in Big 12 play, to the point that two of his KenPom comps are Viktor Lahkin and Zuby Ejiofor (before they really broke out). Chris Collins is usually playing the bargain shopping game at Northwestern, so identifying breakout candidates like Page is the name of the game. It might not work out, but the big man is highly productive as a rebounder and shot blocker, and his offensive game has shown some flashes. Different player than Matt Nicholson aka Journalism Mutombo, but he could be a quality starter in the Big Ten. —*Jim*

236. Tyrell Ward — LSU to VCU — On the surface, I'm a little surprised Ward didn't garner more attention as a wing sniper with size and athleticism. He shot over 40% from 3 on solid volume for a decrepit LSU team in 2023-24 (46% in SEC play!), and he has all the tools to affect the game defensively (though admittedly, he graded out terribly on that end per EvanMiya's DBPR). The catch is that he mysteriously stepped away from the team right when the 2024-25 season started, citing mental health, and sat out the entire year. Add that to a pretty limited floor game as a passer and driver, and perhaps that made him too risky a bet for P5 squads. But for Phil Martelli Jr. in his first year in the A-10, why not swing at some huge upside SEC-caliber wing with two years of eligibility? Martelli's Bryant squad was a tremendous rehab ground for similar players. —*Jim*

237. **Adam Njie — Iona to Dayton —** Njie was sometimes a bumpy roller coaster ride for Iona fans but such is to be expected with teenage point guards asked to run a team from a day1. I love the projection up a level because his flaws could easily erode away with experience, particularly the ball security consistency and at-the-rim finishing. I'm quite bullish on his 3-point shooting improving significantly in large part due to the fact he was a relatively efficient mid range shooter, per CBBAnalytics. He also made 81% from the charity stripe in league play, another positive indicator the jumper won't be a hindrance on floor spacing. All in all, I like the makeup, there's a lot of projection but his pedigree and age make me a believer there's real upside here. Anecdotally, Iona fans seem to

love him last season, and the Gaels clearly shifted into top gear when Njie was at his best. —-*Matt*

238. **Corey Washington — Wichita St. to SMU —** Twas a huge fan of his coming out of Saint Peter's but his value was somewhat neutralized by bigger, better defenders moving to the AAC at Wichita. He's also somewhat of a black hole, now with three straight seasons of a sub 5% assist rate, per KenPom. He partly compensates for that with his defense but I'm torn on how much of a splash he makes at SMU. —*Matt*

239. **Deuce Jones — La Salle to Saint Joseph's —** Given I just wrote up Adam Njie going to Dayton, I couldn't help but compare that marriage with Jones, another tantalizing sophomore lead guard from the northeast staying in the A-10 arena - though, it's fair to assume Njie is slated to play a smaller role than Jones. Deuce was granted boundless freedom under Dunphy as a rookie, and La Salle, frankly, became too dependent on him down the stretch. It certainly wasn't all his fault - injuries, namely a depleted frontcourt, didn't help. I can see the talent / intrigue with Jones but I don't see him as a gamebreaking get, either. Circling back to the Njie comparison, I can see the gap between Njie and Jones being narrowed substantially this time next season. Maybe I'm just turned off by the sheer one-game eye test bias that's clearly playing some factor in this St. Joe's pursuit (Jones went for 27 points against the Hawks in the Fran Dunphy send off game in the regular season finale). I like that he puts real pressure on the rim but the shotmaking ability needs to improve demonstrably before I fall in love with this fit. —Matt

240. Nate Johnson — Akron to Kansas State — I think he's good but not great. It seems like everyone has a contractual obligation to say he's the MAC Player of the Year when they talk about him, but man, that league was pretty watered down (bad) this year, I think him winning spoke more to the lack of a great candidate than him being a Big 12 studmuffin. Not a great shooter, not an electric table-setter. But a very good defender and generally knows how to get downhill and score/use his big frame as a guard. Akron had really good spacing which helped him have places to drive into — that may not be the case in Manhattan. At least Bashir is an elite shooter and Johnson can help cover up Bashir's defensive shortcomings, that match makes some sense. —*Jim*

241. Treysen Eaglestaff — North Dakota to West Virginia — Matt's below writeup is terrific, not much to add for me here. Just a little more concern about Eaglestaff's defense fitting into Hodge's outstanding system on that end, and whether Eaglestaff's scoring package is strong enough to be more than a catch-and-shoot guy vs. Big 12 foes. He'll at least be a floor-spacing and shot making presence, though. —*Jim*

a. ***(From initial commitment to South Carolina):*** *Everyone remembers the 40-burger against Alabama and 50-burger against South Dakota State in the Summit tournament but Eaglestaff laid a couple of eggs in big games this year - notably, the 50 point hangover game against St. Thomas, in which Eaglestaff posted more turnovers (7) than points (6). Yes, the shotmaking profile is*

tremendous, and he can shoot off movement, but the scoring prowess is largely jumpshot reliant. He struggled to finish inside this season against subpar Summit frontlines - per CBBAnalytics, Eaglestaff's "at the rim" and "in the paint" percentages graded out in the 35th and 43rd percentile nationally. And then defensively, can he guard SEC caliber guards and wings? Maybe there's upside here as an off-the-pine microwave specialist of sorts but there's a nonzero chance his flaws limit his impact as a consistent contributor at this level. —Matt

242. **Tanner Toolson — Utah Valley to TCU —** A wing with playmaking ability, Toolson is someone I see as a true multi positional option on the perimeter. I sense a theme in Dixon's offseason priority list, with Toolson and Lelevicius touted as two strong passing wings, in addition to Harding and Pierre's combined 8.5 assists a game at their prior stops. Toolson's age / experience is also useful for an incumbent group composed of mostly sophomores. The key is his shooting. Toolson's severe shooting slump two years ago feels like an outlier after he canned 37% of his triples in conference play last year. He's not lightning quick off the dribble but he's got some sneaky explosiveness around the rim, and should be able to finish ably against bigger defenders when needed. One final note: per CBBAnalytics, Toolson was one of the elite corner 3 shooters in the country last year, a function of some targeted well designed sets by the UVU staff. *—Matt*

243. **Mike Sharavjamts — Utah to South Carolina —** Mongolian Mike's proven to be a useful utility piece on multiple teams. A true 6-8 guard, Mike can fit with any lineup combination, especially when he's knocking down outside shots. As a shooter, he's good, not great but competent enough to be a floor spacer when offensive action runs through others. Defensively, his Utes were exposed in the Big-12 last season but he's a plus on that end of the floor, and will benefit playing next to a more athletic supporting cast in Columbia. Fun prototype, quintessential high floor type pick up (but low ceiling as well). Above all, the Gamecocks' perimeter playmaking and ball movement was stagnant last season, and Mike will instantly improve that domain. *—Matt*

244. Moustapha Thiam — UCF to Cincinnati — Wes Miller needs his rim protector, and he got one with the high-upside Thiam. A solid Big 12 contributor after reclassifying, Thiam is huge and relatively mobile for his size. Per Hoop Explorer, opponents shot 55% at the rim when he was on the court vs. 60.5% when he sat, a notable gap that demonstrates his impact inside. He has more to learn positionally, as he definitely hunts blocks at times, but that should come with more experience. Offensively, he's a terrific interior finisher who basically played a "garbage man" role in a mega-isolation-heavy UCF offense last year. Surprisingly bombed 79 3s last year, but I wouldn't expect an immediate stretch 5, the UCF system was just hyper-liberal in letting guys shoot. Interesting center platoon for the Bearcats with Jalen Haynes being a terrific, burly interior scorer, while Thiam is the defensive ballhawk. *—Jim*

245. Jalen Celestine — Baylor to Cincinnati — I hope Cincy got a first round pick in the Dan Skillings/Jalen Celestine big lefty wing trade, because the better player by far is now in Waco. However, Celestine can be a useful piece as a versatile defender and occasional shot maker at this level. His limitations drove Baylor fans nuts at times — there's almost no off-the-bounce game here — but he was also weirdly miscast as a PF/smallball C and top 5ish player on a tourney team. He should be more of a rotational piece for the Bearcats, which fits his specific skill set. —*Jim*

246. Denzel Aberdeen — Florida to Kentucky — Very weird deal here. Aberdeen was pretty clearly in line for a huge role for the reigning national champs, but he played super hardball for $2M (per Matt Norlander) and Florida said no thanks. Kentucky's massive pockets were all too willing to pay, though. Kind of a red flag on him overall, for me. But on the court, Aberdeen is a big guard with a solid offensive game, can hit spot up 3s and gets to the bucket at a decent rate. Not super explosive off the bounce though and will settle for tough midrangers as a result, the shot diet is not Mark Pope-approved quite yet. Clearly the money meant more than a huge role, because if Otega Oweh comes back, he's likely the 3rd perimeter option in Lexington behind Oweh and Jaland Lowe. At least he's in an offense where he's not the PG (that's Lowe) and the system creates quality shots. Bizarre deal, good player with upside for more but the move to a more crowded team with less dribble-based offense is not my favorite. —*Jim*

247. Chase Forte — South Dakota to Boston College — South Dakota played what can only loosely be called "basketball" this year, so going from that to the ACC is going to be a jarring transition for Forte. The Coyotes pressed a ton, seemingly barely trying to play defense, and they wanted to break out to the rim in transition every time they got the ball. Forte was impressive within that wacky framework, but I think his numbers (even the per-minute / rate stats) are propped up by the wild scheme + Summit defenses. I am very curious to see how that works in the ACC, as he's not a shooter, but man, can he get downhill. —*Jim*

248. **Josh Rivera — Fordham to Seton Hall —** I really liked Rivera for the first few weeks of his Fordham tenure - his versatility was a big boost for that team for a stretch- but it's hard to deny he's been woefully inefficient and didn't impact winning on either end last season for an A-10 cellar dweller... I do think he might magically turn up a competent rotation piece for Sha next season but curb any higher expectations. This is one where there's a big gap between my eye test (fan) and the actual data (not so great). —*Matt*

249. Lazar Djokovic — Charleston to VCU — Very active glass-crasher who doesn't offer a ton beyond that. Huge enough to at least be a presence at the rim on both ends, efficient finisher but not a "feed him the ball" offensive option. With Fermin back and Keyshawn Mitchell coming in, this could be an enormous frontcourt trio rotating at center while also mixing some two towers lineups (Djokovic played alongside Brzovic at Charleston, Mitchell has some appealing mobile upside). —*Jim*

250. Jason Drake — Drexel to Indiana — Steady veteran PG option who should provide some shooting and stability off the bench. Strong enough to play alongside Conor Enright or Tayton Conerway if needed, I'd imagine he can play a little off the ball but he rarely got that chance at Drexel. Not a great finisher/driver (especially when forced left), but he won't be asked to bring that much in Bloomington / the Big Ten. As a 12-15mpg reserve guard, this seems like a very good snag. —*Jim*

251. Rodney Rice — Maryland to USC — After a strange start to his college career, Rice exploded last season, proving to be a fully capable three-level scorer in the Big Ten. He's especially lethal as a jump shooter, both from beyond the arc and in midrange (where he made a ridiculous 53.8% of his shots, per CBB Analytics – 94th percentile nationally). He has enough height and a quick enough release to simply torch smaller defenders. At USC, he could face plenty of those, as the Trojans' have a jumbo lineup at basically every spot, featuring 6'6 Des Claude at PG. Wesley Yates ended up scorching those mismatches last year, and this year, it's Rice's turn to pick on the opponent's smallest guard. He has demonstrated the ability to be a major scoring asset to a great team, and his prolific offensive repertoire further bolsters a USC roster oozing with depth and versatility. —*Jim*

252. AK Okereke — Cornell to Vanderbilt — Skilled forward with great strength and touch, also showed off impressive vision while attacking totally overmatched Ivy defenders off the bounce. The massive increase in athleticism jumping to the SEC could trouble his game a bit, but he's still 6'7, 240 pounds and has a solid handle. Cornell's system was simply fantastic at generating great looks, so it's tough to expect him to shoot 65% inside the arc again, but it's not like Byington is an offensive slouch. Should be a fun wild card offensively that other teams will have to prepare for. —*Jim*

253. Vasean Allette — TCU to Arizona State — Allette was miscast at TCU, operating as a primary scorer and creator for a Big 12 offense that sorely, desperately lacked shooting. The result was predictable: a laughably inefficient season of bricks with a bad shot diet (horrible finishing at the rim, lots of ugly midrangers), plus barely finishing with more assists than turnovers. Perhaps he can be a better scorer in a lesser role with more talent around him, but I'm not sure ASU is that place, especially in the Big 12. Plus, can't forget he got booted off ODU in late January of his freshman year. Not a fan of the player, really, and I don't think he ever becomes a satisfactory shooter, but at least he's clearly not playing PG in Tempe (that will be Moe Odum, maybe with a little Adante' Holiman). —*Jim*

254. Jestin Porter — Middle Tennessee to Clemson — Shooting guard in a point guard's body. Smallish shot maker who can go off at times, but the size is going to be a serious limitation in the ACC (already a bad finisher inside), and he's barely a passer. Brownell made the smaller SG thing work with Joe Girard, and Dillon Hunter is a decent complement as a bigger PG, but Girard was a god-tier shooter, and Porter is merely decent. He'll have a few big scoring games, but I generally am skeptical. If he's used as

a firecracker off the bench, that sounds better than banking on 28-30mpg, but Clemson's guard depth is currently shaky (written on 4/24). —*Jim*

255. **Duke Miles — Oklahoma to Texas A&M —** Regurgitating a lot of my prior writeup on Miles to Virginia. A long time pet favorite of mine, Miles has been the apple of my eye since his days at Troy (when his game to game availability was a perpetual mystery). His health, for starters, is a risk, mainly because he plays so damn hard (he lost multiple teeth diving for loose balls last season) but he did start and play in every game last season at OU. Bucky can't be picky with fit at this point in the portal cycle, which is why a utility cog like Miles can be a plug and play piece in the backcourt right away —*Matt*

256. **Dillon Mitchell — Cincinnati to St. John's —** Defensively, Mitchell is a gamechanger. A freakish athlete with boundless positional versatility, Pitino will fall head over heels for his impact on that side of the ball. Offensively, he's largely a finisher but CBBAnalytics shows he made 50% from the non-restricted area paint, which is in the upper quartile of all D-I players. Point being, there's ~some~ touch to his interior finishing ability but jump shooting is certainly not his forte. Mitchell's free throw futility sunk to new lows last year, which is worrisome from a long term confidence perspective. The advanced on / off metrics across multiple sites portray Mitchell's offensive impact as overwhelmingly positive but there are obvious limitations here. Still, on this roster, he just needs to be a reliable ball mover and constant cutter so his defender can't camp out in the paint and shrink the floor in the half court (Mitchell is far more effective in transition). —*Matt*

257. Ugonna Onyenso — Kansas St. to Virginia — Completely devoid of offensive skill, Onyenso is a lob threat / offensive stick-back guy only. He's much more valuable on the defensive end as a long rim protector with good mobility. He had 10 blocks against Ole Miss in Feb 2024 when he played with Kentucky (led the SEC in block rate). UVA needed size, so I actually like this pickup in terms of fit… just don't expect to run offense through him. Odom gets his Bamgboye 2.0? —*Ky*

258. **Aaron Bradshaw — Ohio St. to Memphis —** Assuming no Dainja this year, Penny had to get something, anything, to restock his frontline cupboard. Bradshaw would actually pair well with Dainja - a rim running pogo stick who can stretch, face up and shoot a little bit - but he might be the main attraction here this season. Bradshaw figures to pair well with Dug McDaneil in pick-n-roll action as a high flying lob threat, but needs to find more consistency with his jumpshot to make good on the 'inside-out versatility' prophecy we were all promised coming out of high school. He's also been far too timid mixing it up inside defensively - his rebounding production was quite poor on a per minute basis at Ohio State - but he's long and bouncy and should swat plenty of shots as a helpside rim protector. A fresh start, and presumably clean bill of health, could be just what the doctor ordered for the former 5-star recruit but Penny still has work to do up front from a bigger picture roster construction lens. —*Matt*

259. **Dug McDaniel — Kansas St. to Memphis —** This feels like it was written in the stars. Dug pinballing all over the court in transition with essentially zero guardrails, making a couple incredible plays intermixed with a bunch of insane passes and wild jumpers. Penny's best team had a small but mighty adult at PG (Kendric Davis); this could be a bad imitation of that. That was Hardaway's only Memphis team to rank inside the top 240 in TO rate; a Dug-led team feels likely to be his fifth outside the top 300. McDaniel *can* pass, and Sincere Parker will be waiting to fill it up, but I'm not sure Memphis' infrastructure is going to make that his first priority. He's speedy and gets to his spots, but his shot vanished last year and his size limits his finishing ability (he's especially bad if you force him left near the bucket). Not a huge believer in Dug unless his usage gets way reined in, which I don't believe will happen. Memphis will remain the most talented team in the American though. —*Jim*

260. **Andrej Stojakovic — California to Illinois —** Scoring wing who really developed as a sophomore, despite being on his second straight talent-starved Bay Area team. For being the son of Peja, the jumper isn't as pristine as you'd expect, but he's terrific getting downhill and using his size to draw contact or shoot over defenders. His shot diet isn't that great, but that's a Brad Underwood principle that could get fixed. Should have room to work inside with the Ivisic brothers helping invert the floor, and he should be playing with two elite passers (Tomislav and Petrovic). He needs to either improve from beyond the arc (and up volume) or at the rim to really jolt his scoring efficiency, but he has a solid floor because he's really tough to keep off the charity stripe and teams do fear his jumper. Should be a good player, I may have him overrated in my mind though. —*Jim*

261. **Steven Olowoniyi — Southern Indiana to Oregon St. —** Bouncy and extremely active big man. He stood out to me at VMI back in 2023-24 as a guy that seemed too athletic to be there, and he quickly translated that effectiveness to USI, where his rebounding, physicality and finishing all proved highly effective. His shortcomings are his size (he's a center but is only 6'8, 200 pounds) and lack of vision (kind of a black hole). But he fills a specific role, and in the WCC, his mobility and springy hops will compensate for his lack of size against most foes (maybe not Graham Ike, though). —*Jim*

262. **Marcus Allen — Missouri to Miami FL —** Huge fan of Allen's upside for a guy that was very in and out of Dennis Gates' absurdly inconsistent rotation. To me, he is basically guaranteed to be a monster defender capable of locking down four (possibly five) positions. Built like a tank, moves well laterally, competes with physicality. His overall impact will be determined by his offensive progress. Can he continue to use his frame to get downhill and get to the line, where he shot 88% (albeit on a small sample)? Does that free throw stroke hint at potential progress as an outside shooter? If both of those answers are yes, he has some all-conference potential down the road. If not, then he's still an extremely useful defensive force. —*Jim*

263. Chris Bell — Syracuse to California — Savvy reclamation project for Madsen getting Bell to come back home to California after his confidence clearly dipped in the filth vortex that has been Syracuse. He's a legitimately great shooter in my opinion (ended up at 44% in ACC play last year after a frigid nonconference, to back up 42% on high volume in 2024). Wasn't great defensively at Syracuse, but no one on that team really played defense / the scheme was a disaster, so perhaps Madsen can harvest his physical tools into something solid. Cal's shot creators are iffy, (not a big Dai Dai Ames guy), but Bell should be an asset as a floor spacer at minimum.

264. Nehemiah Turner — Central Arkansas to Minnesota — I love big Nemo, he's so fun, just one of the types of players I enjoy. Completely dominated once he got into the starting lineup, just WAY too big and smart for the ASUN (averaged 18.5ppg last 10). Despite being on a horrific team, I think he can compete in the B1G, he's big and strong enough to play in the paint there. Useful as a passer too, though he will attract fewer double-teams in the B1G. Interesting fit with Medved because Medved has made his mark with more versatile, mobile, stout bigs (like Mbemba and Roddy), so this does feel like an acknowledgement that the Big Ten will be a different beast requiring more true size. But Turner is a delightful gamble. Foot speed is a concern defensively — he will likely foul a lot unless they scheme well around him (which Medved has shown an ability to do, at least). —*Jim*

265. **Simeon Wilcher — St. John's to Texas —** Per Synergy, ~750 players attempted over 100 catch-and-shoot shots last season. Wilcher graded out in the bottom-50. Not that surprising when you look at his sub 30% 3-point conversion rate but interesting to note given Texas' lack of pure shooters, which raises minor concerns about floor spacing. Of the four guards intact - Pope, Mark, Weaver and Wilcher - Miller will probably lean on 2-man combinations with that foursome, to carve out minutes for Swain and presumably Heide (he's the only true gravitational floor spacer on the roster). Frankly, with Texas' resources, the 'worst case' scenario for Wilcher may be a backup to Weaver, who I remain stubbornly high on heading into next season. From that angle, depth can't hurt, and maybe Wilcher's jump shot comes around, but I'd prefer Sean Miller be hunting floor spacing with the roster he has assembled (as of 4/24). —*Matt*

266. AJ Brown — Ohio to Florida — Shocking… Todd Golden and staff made another smart transfer portal play. Brown fills a distinct role = shooting. He was wildly efficient last year, shooting 82/57/39 from FT/2/3 and 42% from 3 in MAC play. Per Synergy, he scored 1.22 PPS on catch-and-shoot jumpers (87th percentile). His comparisons per CBB Analytics are a favorable group of productive scorers / shooters, the top 3 being Khalif Battle, Tamar Bates, and Emanuel Sharp from last year. He doesn't need the ball, and he doesn't need to be a star (and in fact wasn't even named All-MAC despite 3 of his teammates earning those accolades). I don't love his shot release – it's kind of slow with a hitch – but hey it works. Brown's chief concern is likely health – he hasn't played a full season in any of his 3 years in college. Florida gets a shooting specialist to fill out its wing/guard depth. Smart. —*Ky*

267. Adam Miller — Arizona St. to Gonzaga — The Zags desperately needed a few more high-level pieces, and Miller is a start to filling in the blanks now that Graham Ike and Braden Huff are officially back as the team cornerstones. Miller is a lefty shooter who has been at his best as a lower-usage sniper; his efficiency has dropped almost one-to-one as his usage has risen through four years of his career. Solid guard/smaller wing defender who has been a part of a big winner before back in 2020-21, though that was before a torn ACL that forced him to miss 2021-22. Not much of a downhill player or creator for others, but he'll compete defensively and had by far his best shooting season of his career last year. Feels a lot like when Gonzaga grabbed Admon Gilder from Texas A&M six years ago, and I expect a similar year out of Miller in Spokane (efficient role player). —*Jim*

268. Terrance Arceneaux — Houston to N.C. State — This qualifies as an awesome get for Wade & the Pack. Arceneaux's numbers don't jump off the page, but his experience at Houston alone is enough to be excited. He's a big, versatile wing who can handle the ball, play small-ball 4, shoot (think he's better than 33% next year), and make plays. He has a nose for the ball defensively and off the glass and will be a menace in the ACC with his ability to guard 1 through 4. Being another year removed from his achilles tear in 2023-24 will help as well. —*Ky*

269. **BJ Freeman — Arizona State to UCF —** Johnny Dawkins is not shy about welcoming in portalers with checkered pasts. Freeman butted heads with his coach at Milwaukee, and then had an NIL fiasco behind the scenes at ARizona State, so he's 2-for-2 in off-the-court 'drama' at his first two stops. Freeman can certainly score, and is super underrated as a passer / facilitator, so I'd bet to see him deployed in the 'lead guard' creator fashion as well - defensively, we'll see, but he's at least disruptive in pressure-driven styles and schemes, which is what the new normal looks like in Orlando. Worth noting, if not aware, Freeman is now the third Knight to come via the Milwaukee Panther pipeline - Freeman did not play alongside Stillwelll and Fulks last year but ran with Fulks back at Dodge City on the JUCO circuit the year prior. That all may mean nothing but it does eradicate some chemistry / fit concerns, given two of UCF's primary perimeter contributors have familiarity playing together. —*Matt*

270. Carmelo Pacheco — Mount St. Mary's to UCF — One-trick pony who is admittedly elite at that one trick (bombing at a high volume from beyond the arc). He can contribute as a floor spacer, even in the Big 12, but it's pretty obvious what he is at this point. He only took 21 2s compared to 163 3s; he's not going to attack closeouts. Somewhat concerningly, Mount St. Mary's did not need him for its march through the MAAC Tournament, as his leaky defense was not missed. —*Jim*

271. **Nick Dorn — Elon to Indiana —** Dorn is one of those late bloomers (6-4 / 6-5 in high school), morphing from a combo guard into a wing / forward hybrid. He's renowned for his shooting but you can see the handle and 'wiggle' in his iso scoring skillset,

stemming from those earlier combo guard days. He reportedly shot 38% from 3-point range in high school on a whopping number of attempts so the shooting / shotmaking seems like a safe bet to translate. However, there's a lot of other holes in his game at this juncture (passing, finishing, defense, rebounding). He;s still young, clearly improving, but the immediate hope is to hide those flaws in the right lineup, which should be attainable with the depth and versatility DeVries has accumulated in this roster build. Even though his prototype as a shot-first scoring wing / forward carries higher 'bust' potential than others, I like his upside far more than other 'one trick pony' scorers / shooters, such as Bashir from Monmouth. —*Matt*

272. Sam Alexis — Florida to Indiana — Alexis was one of the first guys Florida took out of the portal, and I did not understand it at all. He ended up being solid in stretches but was clearly their 5th big by the end of the year (plus he hurt his ankle). He's much more valuable on the defensive end – he's long and earned SoCon All-Defense at Chattanooga. At Florida, his strong offensive rebounding rate translated. As a backup big, he's serviceable. He can't be counted on for offense and should definitely stop shooting 3s. One of those guys that could be an All-Conference level big at a mid-major but for some reason would prefer playing 10-20 mpg at a power school in a supporting role. IU needs the big man depth, but I think it's concerning if their planned 5-man platoon is Bailey/Alexis. That's not a Big Ten frontcourt. —*Ky*

273. Dylan Darling — Idaho St. to St. John's — Rick Pitino finally filled the point guard void on his roster with Darling, a savvy lead guard who was the driving force behind Idaho State's best offense in a decade. He can be a prolific scorer (six games of 28+ points), but against top competition, he's best as a distributor (top 30 nationally in assist rate, led the Big Sky in that category). That fits snugly with the Johnnies' roster, which is loaded with play finishers but was previously sorely lacking a willing and capable passer. Darling is solid in ball screens, and he can knock down open 3s as a spacer if the defense pays too much attention to St. John's other scorers. He even impressed as a finisher at the rim, converting 67% around the rim per CBB Analytics. He might frustrate Pitino defensively, as he's small and lacking a ton of athletic juice. The Red Storm has monster defenders in Zuby Ejiofor and Dillon Mitchell to help offset that, though, and Pitino is a master schemer and teacher on that end. Darling should be a great fit as a 20mpg or so guy / super bench option. —*Jim*

274. Luke Bamgboye — VCU to Texas Tech — Springy, long shot blocker who is a complete defensive force. When he was on the court, opponents shot 43.5% at the rim per Hoop Explorer, which is a stunningly low number and almost certainly would be the lowest mark in the country (gauging by the DARK shade of green in the site's conditional formatting). VCU's defense clearly took off when it stationed him in the paint, even if he's not great on the glass while hunting blocks (another added benefit is that he emboldens perimeter defenders because he covers everything up inside). Definitely needs strength on his thin frame still. Offensively, he's as raw as it gets: 26 of his 55 field goals were

dunks, and he was sub-50% at the FT line. At minimum, though, he's going to be a vertical threat as a roll man. Monster upside long-term, solid defensive contributor on the near-term. —*Jim*

275. **Jared Garcia — Tulsa to Nebraska —** Bruising post scorer who is taking his extra JUCO year to play a sixth year of college hoops in Lincoln. He battles well on the glass, and his strength and post footwork makes him a difficult matchup on the block. His physical edge likely diminishes in the Big Ten, though. Assuming Rienk Mast is fully healthy, Nebraska has solid post depth (Mast, Berke Buyuktuncel, Ugnius Jarusevicius), and adding Garcia as a fourth big man – probably the best interior scorer of the bunch — is a solid move. One of his CBB Analytics' comps is Malik Dia, and that makes sense to me: really high-usage interior scorer who is relentless physically. Garcia is a clear "discount version" compared to Dia, though. —*Jim*

276. **Braeden Carrington — Tulsa to Wisconsin —** I did not have two different Tulsa players committing to the Big Ten. But Carrington is a conference boomerang, crossing back over the Paul Bunyan Axe rivalry lines after beginning his career at Minnesota. Has been a poor shooter his whole career and has been awful scaling up to power competition. He has actual wing size and can provide some defensive help off the bench, but that's all he is. Fortunately, that's all he should need to be in Madison, as Greg Gard has done well to fill out the perimeter rotation already. If this is "John Blackwell to the NBA" insurance, it's a poor policy. —*Jim*

277. **Jayden Epps — Georgetown to Mississippi State —** Hey, this is a weird get for Jans! I don't know why any Power 5 team would want Epps. About as empty calorie of a stat guy as we currently have in the game. He's a career 39.8% from the floor (31.6% from 3, 47.3% from 2). He ranked in the 31st percentile in FG% at the rim last year. His closest player comps per CBB Analytics last year are a who's who of stars: Boogie Fland (depends on your opinion of him), Des Watson, Kory Mincy, Tre Dinkins, Justin Hohn, Jordan Ivy-Curry, Bradley Douglas, Jarred Hyder. Epps has had starring / key roles on Georgetown teams that went 10-30 in Big East play. Granted his efficiency did improve last year when Cooley moved him off the ball, but he still was an awful finisher inside the arc and notched a higher TO rate than assist rate. In theory he has creation / firepower chops capable of making him a dangerous crunchtime / late clock scorer. Maybe Jans just wanted another gun to pair with Hubbard, his ball dominant and far superior point guard. Based on the current roster build, Jans' gameplan appears to be: Hubbard and Epps chuck, everyone else crash the glass and rebound. Maybe it'll work… Jans rocks. —*Ky*

278. **Devin Askew — Long Beach State to Villanova —** Devin Askew: Honorable Mention All-Big West. Devin Askew: Star player and leader for the worst Long Beach squad in KenPom history, and one of the worst in the school's Division I history. Devin Askew: attender of four other schools. Devin Askew: somehow a top 40 recruit (4-year NBA vet Cade Cunningham was #1 – Askew reclassed). Here are Askew's offensive

ratings against Tier A+B (aka Good) competition, starting with this past year: 92.0, 104.9 (1 game), 97.0, 96.2, 83.6. Why the fuck did Villanova take this guy? Spin zone: He is technically a veteran point guard. He did shoot 37% from deep on high volume last year (and also 50% at the rim). That's kind of all the spin zone I got. He's probably going to start, and that should really bum Villanova fans out. —*Ky*

279. **Kennard Davis — Southern Illinois to BYU —** I seem to be on an island on Davis being a higher 'bust' risk at a bigger landing spot, but context matters - and the BYU monopoly money machine limits any significant downside. Davis is athletic, versatile and semi-skilled but I remain skeptical of his 3-point shooting numbers - though, he did make 82% from the charity stripe last season, so perhaps it's time to believe Davis truly is a plus shooter, and thus, could space the floor able in certain lineups under Young. Certainly the BYU staff took notice of his passing ability last year - he played a lot of point guard on the grassroots circuit - which makes him more viable to fit a ball moving role with other high usage stars already intact. Everyone seems to be convinced he's a plus defender, and I'm coming around to that notion but man the Salukis were routinely roasted off the dribble last season (Davis was not helped whatsoever by a lackluster supporting cast). —*Matt*

a. To add to Matt's points here – Davis played some PG last year too after Elijah Elliott went down early and generally acquitted himself fine (and he won't need to play PG at BYU w/ Wright there, just shows he has passing chops). I also think that made his shot diet tougher, a TON of his jumpers were off the bounce, so I'm even more impressed by his 3P%. I like the big, smart wing shooter fit. —*Jim*

280. **Jerry Deng — Florida State to N.C. State —** Role will determine whether this winds up being a "successful get" for Will Wade. He profiles as a quintessential stretch forward shooter but he can also handle as well - still, he's best as a catch and shoot floor spacer, so don't be fooled by the cool Twitter highlight clips, which shows some enticing off movement shooting (per Synergy, he was 4/17 on 3s off the bounce last year). Next to Arceneaux, the fit does make sense here but very curious to see where Wade lands on his 5-man, the notable position blank space on the roster as of late April. —*Matt*

281. Jaydon Young — Virginia Tech to UNC — Young is a bigger wing who struggled badly in a high-usage role for a Hokie team that really lacked shot creation. Bricked his way to sub-30% from deep (including an 0/11 atrocity in the season-ending OT loss to Cal) while also never getting to the free throw line. His form isn't broken, so it's possible he'd be a better shooter with more confidence and improved shot selection via more talent around him, though the Tar Heels currently have shot creation issues of their own, so Young's poor shot diet may not improve. Kyan Evans is a solid combo type but not a pure "lead the offense" creator. Young's overall impact is pretty limited, too: provides almost nothing on the glass, not a great defender despite his physical tools. He was headed to High Point before getting poached, which is likely more where he belonged. —*Jim*

282. **Yohan Traore — SMU to Butler —** Truthfully, I'm just not a Traore guy in a major conference. SMU bet on his production and pedigree to fill a key frontline role last year and he took a backseat by the time March rolled around - yes, injuries were a big part of that development but that's part of the calculus with Traore (he missed time at UCSB as well). As a matchup-specific backup big, Traore could thrive. He's a terrific low post scorer with size and touch but he doesn't offer enough value defensively or as a distributor to lean on him for major minutes. There may not be two more polar opposite big men than Drayton Jones and Yohan Traore in terms of offense vs. defense. At least Thad Matta has two options to use interchangeably but I'd strongly advise against playing them together. *—Matt*

283. **Nordin Kapic — UC San Diego to South Carolina —** Akin to other UC San Diego transfers, it's virtually impossible to project what Kapic looks like outside of that system, especially on the defensive end. He's probably a 4 in the SEC, which makes me question how valuable he'll be as a defender / rebounder but he's big enough and super sharp instinctually. I also like that he played some wing in prep school, so there's probably more perimeter skill and mobility than he showed last year as a lethal 'small ball' 5 for Olen (again, unique role on unique team but that points to his adaptability). All things considered, he's a great pickup as a HIGH floor role player due to his hoop IQ and subtle versatility. *—Matt*

284. **Christian Coleman — UAB to Oklahoma State —** Really like the fit here with Coleman, an athletic rim running big who can score as a complementary finisher, rather than an iso post up scorer. He's likely a 4 in the Big-12 but can certainly slide over and play some 5 in certain lineups. Coleman is best in transition or in space, when he has space to let his long strides gallop and explode to the rim. The fact that the bulk of his production came off free flowing action and not traditional back to basket possessions bodes well for his integration with OK State. The Pokes played out of the post a lot last year but I'm sure Lutz would prefer to see more fast break buckets with this refurbished roster, and Coleman's rim rocking finishing should be useful, at minimum. Anecdotally, it seems like athletic finishers and rebounders without glaring holes elsewhere are 'high floor' type gets. *—Matt*

285. **Seydou Traore — Iowa to Utah —** Traore showed real flashes last season during a tumultuous Iowa campaign but injuries ultimately derailed any true consistency. On a skill / shooting laden roster, Traore's swiss army knife value as a defender, slasher and ball mover was enormous. As of late April writing this, it's hard to project the 'fit' part of the equation for the Utes, who just need bodies at this juncture, but I'm in on Traore as being a somewhat of a 'buy low' after a roller coaster campaign likely deflated his allure in the portal. If the roster still looks light in a few months, I wouldn't be surprised to see Traore strut his stuff as a part time playmaker on a roster that sorely lacks shot creation. *—Matt*

286. **Dominick Nelson — Utah Valley to Iowa State —** It's hard to disparage the reigning WAC Player of the Year but as productive as Nelson was for a winning team, there are some concerns in how his game translates up a level. His long rangy strides and nifty body control in the paint helped him live at the charity stripe last year (he shot 10 free throws or more six different times in WAC play) but most of his interior dominance came in Q3 and Q4 games - per CBBAnalytics, his shot chart against Q1, Q2 and even Q3 opponents looks vastly different than against Q4 foes, which accounted for 14 of his games last season. He's not a great shooter, either, and greatly benefited playing alongside Toolson, an underrated wing creator / playmaker, and a dominant frontline fortress up front. If he adds muscle, he should be a stingy Clone defender, however, I'd prefer coach Otz add a traditional '3-and-D' prototype for this reserve role, rather than a slasher / defender like Nelson. —*Matt*

287. Baye Fall — Kansas State to Rutgers — High-pedigree big man who has been utterly buried behind deep frontcourts for both of his first two seasons. However, neither of those teams were good, so it's alarming that Fall could not crack the rotation even as his teams' seasons circled the drain. Steve Pikiell has developed physically gifted bigs before, so this finally feels like Fall picking a beneficial environment for his own future, but it's hard to actually expect much from a guy who has been on the bench for two full seasons. —*Jim*

288. Marcus Hill — NC State to Texas A&M — Bucky's gotten some solid pieces in the portal thus far, but I am not a fan of this one. Hill is a slasher who doesn't create for others and is a completely ineffective shooter from beyond the arc (will NOT be guarded whatsoever from there). He also doesn't draw as much contact as you'd like to see from a slasher, and I don't think he's much of a defender. He fits as a transition threat if Bucky is going to play up-and-down, and at least has some P5 experience (if you can call last year's ACC a P5 conference), but that was on an awful team that got its coach fired. This just seems like filler on a roster that needed bodies late. —*Jim*

289. Blake Harper — Howard to Creighton — I thought the market for Harper would be much hotter. Big, physically gifted guard/forward hybrid who annihilated MEAC opponents with his size/skill combo, living at the free throw line. That athletic edge mostly vanishes in the Big East, but his shooting stroke (40% on low volume) could become a huge weapon in a Greg McDermott/Alan Huss offense. He has some passing acumen too, willingly sharing it when defenses smartly sent doubles his way. He has some concerns defensively, for sure, and he will need to scale his offensive role down into a slightly more complementary piece, but he has major upside – few players are *that* productive with his efficiency as freshmen, no matter the league. —*Jim*

290. Chad Baker-Mazara — Auburn to USC — After Desmond Claude entered the portal at the 11th hour, it makes perfect sense that Eric Musselman would take a swing at an extremely talented but mega mercurial wing with outstanding ball skills like Baker-Mazara. The lefty is prone to emotional outbursts – strange for one of the oldest

players in the sport – but he can bury jumpers (and get boiling hot at times) or run the offense as a long and savvy passer. He also fits the switchable identity on defense; even though he's not tremendously strong, he competes and has size for a wing/big guard. He's well-traveled (Duquesne to SDSU to NW Florida State to Auburn), but betting on talent has typically gone well for the Muss Bus; last year's mid-major all-star team clearly came up short in that department beyond Claude and Wesley Yates. —*Jim*

291. **Jordan Ross — Saint Mary's to Georgia —** Very curious where Ross falls in the perimeter pecking order. There's a decent chance he ends up coming off the bench as a super sub, which speaks to the depth Mike White's roster could boast this year. I'm a huge Ross fan but that was largely rooted in his marriage with Randy Bennett, a mastermind at grooming lead guards in that system. Ross is a good athlete (though, not crazy explosive) with good enough size for SEC and just simply knows how to play. His assist-to-turnover rate is ridiculous, which gives him a high floor as an impact creator. He's a heady pick-n-roll initiator and an ok mid range shooter but I wonder how effective he can be as a catch and shoot floor spacer - per Synergy, he was 20/69 (29%) on spot up triples last year. Frankly, there's no need for White to put him in a corner with this roster, which consists of multiple knock down catch and shoot threats for Ross to spray the rock to when he's in there. —*Matt*

292. **Smurf Millender — UTSA to Georgia —** For a guy touted as a point guard coming into college at South Alabama, Smurf proved his worth could shatter such positional barriers. In the SEC, the size concern is real, but he's proven to be hyper efficient in multiple ways as an offensive player. Playing next to a ball dominant PG in Primo Spears last season, Smurf was dialed in from long distance. Per Synergy, no one made a higher share of catch and shoot jump shots from 3-point range last season: 57% (32/56). Most of his volume was off the dribble, however, but he was a plus efficiency guy there, too. He's automatic from the free throw line, and vastly improved as a ball handler, aided by sliding into a secondary creator role last season. Along with Cain, Wilkinson, Ross, and even Bailey from Wofford, Mike White has a lot of offensive bullets in his 1-2 guard spots to tinker with. —*Matt*

293. **Don McHenry — WKU to Utah —** A no-brainer bounce back candidate, McHenry is flying under the radar after a relatively underwhelming encore campaign last year. He's a transition titan, and a true 3-level scorer, but his efficiency dipped a tad last season. I'm not entirely certain why but the 'Tops depth dwindled late in the year and defenses began to key in on his southpaw tendencies. A slight positional adjustment (from primary ball handler to combo lead guard) led to some minor ebbs and flows, too. Ironically, I think he's best fit as a 'shooting guard' but he needs to get more comfortable as a catch and shoot threat, rather than shooting off the dribble. His touch is feathery so there's reason to believe the 28% 3-point clip in conference play last year is an outlier - CBBAnalytics' shot chart from the 2023-24 campaign is dotted with red from all over the floor, especially the mid paint area, where his float game can shine against bigger Big-12

defenders. Again, the key is style of play, and McHenry is at his best with space in the open floor. —*Matt*

294. Amaree Abram — Louisiana Tech to Tennessee — A “fourth school in four years” guy that somewhat found himself again at the mid-major level after an awful 23-24 season at Georgia Tech. Playing alongside a pure PG in Sean Newman, Abram focused mostly on scoring, and his impressive perimeter stroke helped Louisiana Tech space the floor around dominant center Daniel Batcho. He’ll again be in that kind of a role, as Ja’Kobi Gillespie can handle PG duties and the Vols’ deep frontcourt offers multiple options. Plus, Rick Barnes’ system is low on ball screen volume, and that’s not the strength of Abram’s game, so the fit makes sense. He’ll almost certainly struggle to make an impact inside the arc (he even struggled to finish inside in the less-athletic, smaller CUSA), but at this point in the offseason, this is a fine add as a shooter/tertiary ball-handler. —*Jim*

295. Derrion Reid — Alabama to Oklahoma — Immensely talented wing/forward who flashed his upside as a bench piece for a veteran Crimson Tide team but was limited by nagging injuries for much of the year. His shooting stroke is not there yet (though he apparently showed it somewhat in his pre-college days), so even his Nate Oats dream shot diet (took just two non-paint 2s all season) had some inefficiencies, and his bricky FT shooting (58%) further evidences that. However, he’s a very good athlete with some explosion lurking under the surface, and his biggest asset currently is probably his mismatch status as someone who can out-athlete and/or out-physical defenders to the rim from the mid-post. If he can extend that attacking range out past the 3-point line (not as a shooter per se, but able to put down multiple dribbles), he’ll be a freight train. Porter Moser should enjoy dual-wielding Reid and Tae Davis, both of whom thrive in those settings, and Reid especially fits warmly with Moser’s embrace of the transition game last season. Reid could be a great defender given his tools, too. I’d bet on this being a hit, with Moser helping Reid realize his great potential on both ends of the floor. —*Jim*

296. **AJ Staton-McCray — Miami (FL) to Seton Hall —** Smart addition for Sha and the Pirates to scoop a distressed asset off the Miami books. I always thought he was perfect at the MM level, where he's big / athletic enough to get away with playing a small ball 4 but he likely is stuck at the 3 in the Big East. That's fine, IF he makes shots, which is the big unknown with a guy I perceive as a good knockdown shooter. He was fed high quality looks on a silver platter two years ago for that awesome Samford team (and made 41% from distance). Last year, the shot quality suffered, and the percentages followed. I still believe he's a 36-37% guy on high volume but that's where his upside lies. Above all, he's a fairly high floor add as well because he defends and takes care of the ball, two redeemable traits he proved could translate last season moving up in class —*Matt*

297. **Cedric Coward — Washington St. to Duke —** Coward was a mid-major spirit animal for CBB diehards toward the end of his junior year at Eastern Washington, setting

the stage last year for a highly anticipated senior campaign. Sadly, it was unceremoniously derailed just 7 games in by a shoulder injury. He's a true '5-tool' type triple threat playmaking wing at 6-6. He's got a feathery pull up from long range and is a crafty finisher inside (and cuts extremely well without the ball, too). Perhaps I'm a sucker for David Riley groomed / developed players but Coward's feel and general basketball IQ is evident, as is his versatility on the offensive end. Defensively, the physical tools are mostly there but Coward's lack of lateral explosion could open him up to exposure at the power conference level, especially if he plays predominantly at the 2 and 3 spots. Coward's also been noticeably less efficient against premier competition on the offensive end, but I'm chalking that up to the youth and inexperience, and stark gap in competition rising quickly from the Big Sky to high major basketball. Long and short, I'm betting on the steep upward slope of his development trajectory, while ignoring the potential red flags lurking beneath the hype. —*Matt*

a. Quick addition to Matt's thoughts on his defense – Coward played a season as basically a center at D-III Willamette, which is kind of apparent in his lack of comfort defending the perimeter (but it also helps him pulverize guard/wing defenders as a mismatch monster on offense). It's a weakness now, but the IQ and tools Matt references could mean there's a ton of upside as he gains more familiarity with the perimeter game. Now he'll probably go to the NBA and all these words will be wasted! —*Jim*

298. **Dominick Harris — UCLA to Loyola Chicago —** Akin to the AJ Staton McCray breakdown I just wrote for Seton Hall, Valentine is betting on a confidence bounce back in Harris, a former highly touted prospect at Gonzaga who simply went ice cold at UCLA last year. He couldn't buy a bucket to start the year, and never found his footing in a super deep rotation. If he can shake an injury ridden curse and get ample opportunities to regain his confidence, the 'Blers may have stumbled into one of the league's best sharpshooters. Next to Deywilk Tavarez, Loyola could boast two dead eye shooters flanking Justin Moore, whose probably best deployed with floor spacers to thrive —*Matt*

299. PJ Carter — Memphis to LSU — Fairly simple breakdown here: Carter is a lights-out perimeter shooter who quite literally does nothing else. Won't create for others, won't put it on the floor (took 28 2s vs. 117 3s last year), won't contribute on the glass – but he also will not turn it over and is a good bet to shoot 40% on catch-and-shoot triples. Around LSU's monster bigs and alongside a PG of Dedan Thomas' caliber, he should be a productive role player (albeit in a very, very narrow role). —*Jim*

300. Fede Federiko — Texas Tech to Texas A&M — Big-time battler at center who is much more physical than his somewhat thin frame might indicate. Maniacal offensive rebounder; his sequence of rebounding a miss by all four of his teammates on the same possession against Arkansas and then scoring on a putback should be playing on loop in a basketball museum somewhere. Not a true shot blocker but he bothers opponents at the rim with his length. Terrific finisher inside in part because he knows what he cannot do (which means, score as a post up threat). His offensive limitations can be frustrating

at times, especially the horrific free throw shooting, but Federiko is a nice snag as an SEC-caliber center this late in portal season for Bucky, who badly needed P5 size. —*Jim*

301. Jaylen Curry — UMass to Oklahoma State — Smart addition by Steve Lutz to his chaotic backcourt. Curry is an adult in the room who never turns it over, and he could be an outstanding PG with a scaled-down scoring burden. His jump shot progressed big-time as a sophomore…the numbers vs. Tier A competition (4/23 from deep) and his FT shooting (64.5%) mean it could be fool's gold, but he did shoot it at decent volume (more than 1.5 makes per game). His bigger concerns are related to his teeny tiny size. He can't finish in the paint — 43% at the rim, which is legitimately horrific — and now he's moving to the more athletic Big 12. Plus, he simply isn't big enough to be a stout defender most of the time even if he is pesky. Can't imagine he's able to play much w/ Cleary, but he can be a steadying influence next to Anthony Roy, Isaiah Coleman and Vyctorius Miller. Plus, with how Lutz wants to play (fast), more ball-handlers are always beneficial. Still an odd roster, but this addition makes sense to me, generally speaking. —*Jim*

302. Jailen Bedford — UNLV to Virginia Tech — Didn't really have him as an ACC player, but Virginia Tech has largely been forced to shop carefully in the portal. Bedford provides a big, veteran role-playing wing who can at least knock down some shots. He graded out terribly as an "Off Screen" shooter, per Synergy, but it was a tiny sample – you'd hope he can do better there in Mike Young's set-based offense. Middling catch-and-shoot numbers. He was really high usage at UNLV but his shot diet is nowhere near efficient enough for that to work in the ACC (and he can't finish at the rim). If he slides into a complementary role this can work, but if he becomes ball-dominant, that's a problem. —*Jim*

303. Desmond Claude — USC to Florida — Smell ya later, Aberdeen – this is an upgrade for the Gators. Claude impressed while manning the PG spot in LA, posting a top 200 assist rate despite playing for a generally shooting- and interior finishing-starved team. Claude is a dominant driver who can really use his size to get going towards the rim and finish over/through contact, and he lived at the free throw line last year. Turnover issues plagued him as a PG, but next to Xaivian Lee, he should slide more off-ball and be a devastating secondary creator in a fairly balanced backcourt (it's not Walter Clayton/Alijah Martin, but it's a very good 1-2 punch). The biggest concern is his lack of a real perimeter jumper, especially when paired with more lineups where UF plays two true bigs + Haugh at the 3; spacing will be an issue there. TBD if the Gators are done now – are the freshmen, Klavzar, AJ Brown enough guard/wing depth? Claude's creation fills a major void, though, and he has the size/tools to be a solid defender. —*Jim*

304. **Rylan Griffen — Kansas to Texas A&M —** Being a role player alongside super experienced, accomplished players and a Hall of Fame coach at a premier blue blood is not easy. I tend to forgive those like Griffen who have failed in that pressure cooker, and then get a 'do-over' in a new destination. Bucky McMillan's keen eye for ability, and

versatility, are why he is where he is right now. Griffen, ironically, may be one of the few 'specialists' Bucky brings in, at least, relative to Bucky's standard forward prototype. Griffen can attack off the bounce against hard closeouts but an athletic wing shooter is what I'm assuming Bucky really wants in this marriage. Defensively, Griffen wasn't great at either Alabama or Kansas but maybe a havoc chaotic system will unlock a new level of engagement on that end. —*Matt*

305. Tyler Betsey — Cincinnati to Syracuse — Rejuvenation project for Mr. Autry, as Betsey got strangely buried amid a shaky Cincinnati season as the veterans struggled to play winning basketball. Has good size, but what is he? At 6-8, 225 pounds, he ranked in the 4th percentile nationally in rim frequency per CBB Analytics. As a rookie, he was basically a jumbo-sized standstill shooter, and he only made 32% of those attempts. The physical tools give him upside as a rebounder, but he's not a great athlete. Good pedigree (top 60 recruit) whose appeal has always mostly been "potential," so it's up to Syracuse to unlock that. —*Jim*

306. Lamar Washington — Pacific to Georgia Tech — Weird dude to evaluate for a multitude of reasons. A rangy southpaw creator, Washington is adept at getting into the teeth of the defense, and is a shockingly accurate mid-paint finisher (float game = strong). However, he takes some crazy shots when getting all the way to the rim, where he finished woefully under par this season, per CBBAnalytics. He's also a shaky shooter in general, which makes it easy to play drop / go under on ball screens when he's the initiator, thus, limiting his passing prowess (far and away his most redeeming skill). I was super high on Washington heading into Pacific, but now I find myself cooling on his prognosis until he improves either his long range shooting or his decision making - the turnovers have been a problem, too. —*Matt*

307. Hasan Abdul-Hakim — UTRGV to Memphis — More of a playmaking wing, Hakim is best when he can attack mismatches off the bounce - that is, in the half court. Out in the open floor is where he flourishes - his handle, bounce and length certainly caught Wisconsin and Creighton by surprise last fall. Those two games alone probably earned him a 6-figure payday but Kahlil Fennell's system also put him in prime position to thrive. From an individual lens, Penny's organized chaos should be a perfect placemat for Hakim to put up numbers (whether he comes off the bench or starts) but I worry this pick up did not check the "need" box. While his athleticism and versatility make him a fungible piece, Hakim will need to improve as an off ball mover and cutter to uphold floor spacing. As it currently stands, only one of Memphis' top-8 rotational players (excluding the JUCO addition Felipe Patino, who is regarded as a shooter) made more than 36% from 3-point range last year. —*Matt*

308. Morris Ugusuk — South Carolina to West Virginia — Low-usage spot up shooter who stays very bolted into that lane. That's not necessarily a negative, he's a "know your role" guard/wing, but it also makes him a relatively low-impact addition. He's excellent as a spacer – 1.238 PPP on catch-and-shoot possessions, per Synergy – which should

provide room for his teammates to operate, but he's not a great defender and won't do much against strong closeouts. WVU has to figure out shot creation – are Floyd, Huff, Moore enough? – but with Ugusuk, Eaglestaff and new recruit Jayden Forsythe (plus Huff himself), Ross Hodge has a lot of shooting to work with. —*Jim*

309. Jordan Marsh — UNC Asheville to USC —

310. Travis Perry — Kentucky to Ole Miss — The vision is clear here: look how well Sean Pedulla did in Oxford last year as an undersized shotmaking lead guard, so why not swipe one from a conference rival? Perry isn't at that level yet, as he must evolve a couple levels up the Pedulla life cycle to become such an MFer type from deep, but he impressed me with his moxie as a rookie at UK (playing more minutes than expected due to the Kriisa and Butler injuries at PG). Good insurance policy at Ole Miss for Koren Johnson's injury issues as well (and there's a *chance* Perry emerges as the better player). Good to have another possible shot creator in Chris Beard's isolation-heavy attack, and Perry has major upside if he remains in Oxford for his whole career. —*Jim*

311. Jayden Stone — West Virginia to Missouri —

312. Elijah Fisher — Pacific to Seton Hall — I keep getting fooled into thinking Fisher is good, but he's contributed to two really bad (performed well below expectations) teams the last two years at Pacific and then the DePaul nuclear meltdown in 23-24. I think he was fairly clearly the third best player on KenPom #284 last year, which is worrisome for a Big East player (I thought Washington and Ralph were better on my eye test, and EvanMiya's ratings agree). Fisher has big time physical tools though, and even in the Big East, he should be an asset as a slasher who lives at the FT line. It's a bummer he can't shoot, and I think the idea of him defensively (via his size/tools) is better than the actual performance, but that's a good package to give Holloway to work with, who excels at building stout defenses. —*Jim*

313. Vianney Salatchoum — FIU to TCU — Long shot-blocker, fills a role there...likely not a starter at that level, but seems like a solid bench piece. Only 3 dunks really surprised me, kinda painted him as a bouncier athlete in my brain. His shot diet last year was terrible, should get a lot better on offense by simply removing so many midrangers from his appetite (98th percentile in mid 2 frequency per CBB Analytics, took a ridiculous 145 "Far 2s" per Bart) —*Jim*

Maybe not a great system fit, but given how critical Udeh was as the backend rim protector, I get Dixon's focus for finding an expert in that same domain. He's not entirely devoid of offensive skill either, I liked him in a vacuum at FIU but I'm sure there's some injury risk under the hood —*Matt*

314. Sean Stewart — Ohio St. to Oregon vs Josh Ojianwuna — Baylor to Ohio St.

Matt: Sadly, it probably just boils down to who is healthier over the course of the season. I see Jim ranked Josh O a 9/10 and Stewart 8.5/10 in his rating scale, EvanMiya has Josh a little higher as well, that's probably the right order but I wouldn't be surprised to see Stewart's raw talent unlocked by Altman at Oregon.

Jim: I think Josh O is the better player but I would also rather have Stewart because I am really not sure Josh O will play this year. Think I'd take James Scott over either one (those 3 commitments all happened around the same time)

315. James Scott — Louisville to Ole Miss — I've adored Scott since his per minute dominance at Charleston in 2024. He's not 7-1, for the record, but he's smart, nimble and possesses enough verticality to anchor an upper half SEC caliber defense. Unlike the scarecrow shot blockers (namely Cisse and Sharp) Beard had two years back, Scott is positionally sound and should be more durable over the course of the season. Beard's defense climbed into the top-25 in KP's overall rankings last year but looked mortal against SEC competition (ranked 8th in conf adjusted efficiency). Ole Miss wasn't able to generate turnovers at the same rate against premier perimeter handlers, and the frontline wasn't as effective protecting the rim. At minimum, Scott will be a solid defensive backstop next to or behind Dia at the 5 and he's a savvy offensive interior connector and finisher growing up in a Pat Kelsey offense —Matt