

Freshmen Recruiting Class

This year's recruiting class saw 8 players declare for the NBA, but not the #1 recruit in Syracuse commit, DJ Walker. Walker had Syracuse sitting in the preseason top 15 after not making the tournament last year. Syracuse would secure the top recruiting class this year by signing PG Cash Thornwell and C Ben Lyons. Walker and Thornwell are two of the top 3 highest recruits to not go pro this year.

Duke had the 2nd best recruiting class with 5 commits in this class. Duke has brought in 4 guards and a center and they give Duke plenty of youth this year. Look for SG L'Jeron Blount to lead the scoring load.

All eyes are on Gerald Wiggington of Colorado after winning McDonald's All-American game MVP. He and Sam Pargo should combine and make Colorado a force this season.

UNC secured a commitment from PG Bud Welch. It will be interesting to see if he comes off the bench behind DeShaun Fogg, or if Fogg will be pushed into the 6th man role for consecutive seasons.

One of the most intriguing prospects in the class is Slovenia Center, Damekus Blazic. He is incredibly raw, but he is oozing with potential. Two words. Point-Center.

Below are the updated rankings for incoming freshmen excluding the players who declared for the NBA draft.

#1 DJ Walker

Position: Small Forward

School: Syracuse

Height: 6'9

Weight: 235

Profile: DJ Walker stunned America when he decided to honor his commitment to Syracuse, but he wanted the opportunity to play with his DC Premier teammate, Cash Thornwell one more time. DJ Has the ability to take over games in a variety of ways. He is the type of player who can put up big numbers even when his man is playing good defense. Loves the pick and roll game where he can pull up, or drive to the hole. Has an impressive jump shot but will take shots all over the floor. Elite in the ISO game. Fantastic crossover and can dribble very well for being 6'9. Could improve his 3 point shooting, but shoots plenty of them. Great first step and knows how to finish at the rim. Fantastic dunker and wants to dunk over you. Passes well and creates for others when he wants to, and can be flashy while doing so. Could improve on defense. Gives decent effort on the boards. Loves to jump in passing lanes. Has elite scoring potential. Truly at his best when he is driving to the rim.

NBA Comparison: Tracy McGrady

#2 Damekus Blazic

Position: Center

School: UCLA

Height: 7'0

Weight: 239

Profile: The Slovenia born big has some of the most potential in this freshman class, but he is incredibly raw. The first thing that sticks out about him is his insane wingspan, which is rumored to be 7'6. He is a typical modern day big who is an athletic center that can stretch his game out to the 3 point line. He is great at blocking shots, but he needs to refine his inside game. Could function very well in the pick and roll game, where he should be at the receiving end of some Jayce Selby lobs this year. Very solid free throw shooter which is not something you typically see of a young big. He definitely needs to bulk up as he can still get pushed around. Conditioning is a bit of an issue. Blazic is often out of position on defense but makes up for it with his length, but he might not be able to get away with that at the next level. Has shown the ability to bring the ball up the floor, but don't expect much of that with Selby running the point. Plenty of question marks for him, but he could really be something special.

NBA Comparison: Myles Turner

#3 Cassius "Cash" Thornwell

Position: Point Guard

School: Syracuse

Height: 6'3

Weight: 193

Profile: Physically, Cash has excellent size for the PG position at 6-3 and a good frame to put on more weight. His main draw is the fact that he's an outstanding athlete, being extremely quick and smooth in the open floor with a dynamite first step. He gets into the lane at the high school level whenever he pleases, elevating off one foot in the lane and hanging to finish fearlessly and creatively at the basket. Cash is a tough player who doesn't mind taking contact at the basket and still usually finishes strong, sometimes just rising over the top of his opponent and throwing down a strong dunk. Offensively, he is an excellent one on one player. He excels in the triple threat position and can get his shot off in many ways, even in tough situations (for good and for bad). His first step is excellent, and so is his 2nd and 3rd. His handle is just average for an NBA point guard at this point, but it's still very advanced for a player his age and will get better as long as he continues to work on it. His crossover is strong, and he's good at changing directions, being able to step back quickly and elevate for a pull up jumper. Has a solid 3 point shot, but struggles with consistency. The ball can stick in his hands as he can dribble too much. Will never lead the NBA in assists. Limited basketball IQ on both ends of the floor.

NBA Comparison: Monta Ellis

#4 Bud Welch

Position: Combo Guard

School: North Carolina

Height: 6'4

Weight: 187

Profile: Beautiful left handed shot. Bud is probably somewhere between Steve Kerr and Steph Curry on the 3 point PG spectrum, but probably closer to Kerr. Welch isn't the ball handler that Curry is, and can't create his own shot, but he has one of the smoothest strokes around. Should shoot north of 40% from behind the arc every year he is in the league. Above average passer. Runs the offense well and limits turnovers. Ball does not stick in his hands. Knock down free throw shooter but rarely gets to the line. Great height at the

PG position. Very tough for him to drive to the basket. Should be an elite college prospect, but might be limited to a 3 point specialist at the next level. Lacks elite athleticism most guards have at the next level. Could really help his draft stock if he can beat out junior PG DeShaun Fogg for the starting PG position.

NBA Comparison: Steve Kerr

#5 L'Jeron Blount

Position: Shooting Guard

School: Duke

Height: 6'7

Weight: 220

Profile: Very well rounded player. Deceptively athletic and very skilled. Nice first step and has good leaping ability. Possesses a great offensive skill set. Can score in a number of ways thanks to terrific body control. Very efficient shooter, rarely takes a bad shot. Great in the pick and roll and as a catch and shoot threat. Great passer, Very high basketball IQ. Has a very effective floater. Draws a ton of charges and gets his hands on a lot of passes. Reads passing lanes very well. Not a lockdown defender by any means, but plays sound defense. Might not do anything spectacular, but is all around solid.

NBA Comparison: Manu Ginobili

#6 Jamaal Pierce

Position: Point Guard

School: Duke

Height: 6'2

Weight: 189

Profile: An extremely quick and explosive guard. A natural scorer, plays at full throttle the entire game, constantly putting pressure on the defense. Has great open court speed and loves to push the ball in transition, where his skill set allows him to maneuver around defenders as well as finish at the rim. Has a killer instinct. Constantly changing up speed and direction makes him very unpredictable, and hard to contain. Extremely good at getting into the lane where he can find open teammates on drive & dish situations. Needs to work on his 3 point shot. Needs to bulk up. Not a true PG despite his good vision. Can be out of control. Forces the ball into bad situations. Turnover prone.

NBA Comparison: Jeff Teague

#7 Titus Riley

Position: Power Forward

School: Indiana

Height: 6'8

Weight: 245

Profile: Riley is an incredibly tough, aggressive player who will find a way to be productive. Might be able to shoulder the scoring load in the college level, but looks like he will be more of a complimentary offensive piece in the NBA. Absolute stud when it comes to rebounding. Majority of his scoring comes from offensive rebounds. Struggles when he has to put the ball on the floor. Will post up but isn't effective down there yet. Has shown flashes of a mid range game. Aggressive defender who puts a lot of effort in and takes pride in his play. Could defend most posts despite his height. Good lateral quickness. Can shut guys down but isn't a stat stuffer as far as blocks or steals go.

NBA Comparison: Taller Paul Millsap

#8 Nicolas Simien

Position: Wing

School: Kansas

Height: 6'7

Weight: 214

Profile: Big time athlete with elite level speed and athleticism. Shows the ability to score in a variety of ways, with spot up shooting as well as scoring off the dribble. Can finish at the rim with highlight dunks, and does a good job of utilizing his great body strength to absorb contact. Very dangerous in the open floor with his speed and leaping ability. Great basketball body with solid length and strength. Good 3 point shooter with a limited amount of shots. Can impact the game with points, assists, rebounds, steals, and blocks. Needs to become a more consistent player in what will likely be his only year in college. Not the best hustler. All around player but lacks anything that could make him elite.

NBA Comparison: Justise Winslow

#9 Rumeal Lever

Position: Power Forward

School: Ole Miss

Height: 6'8

Weight: 255

Profile: Strong and built like a tank. Decent athlete, but lacks a big time vertical. Works incredibly hard on the glass and will provide defensive intensity. Not a back to the basket big, but can take people off the dribble. Decent spot up shooter. Needs to get it more consistent this year in college. Almost always drives right as his left is not existent. Big time hustle player. If he has weaker defenders on him he will back them down. Might take more shots than he should. Not much of a passer. Very aggressive defender who gambles a lot. Blocks a decent amount of shots. Struggles to defend the perimeter. Could carve out a nice support role at the next level.

NBA Comparison: Kris Humphries

#10 Devon Brown

Position: Center

School: Duke

Height: 6'10

Weight: 233

Profile: An underrated athlete, despite lacking great explosiveness, he's extremely nimble and dexterous for such a huge man. His great hands and soft touch, along with his big wingspan, allow him to finish easily around the rim. His feet are very quick for a player with so much weight allowing him to react to plays very well. Has a diverse skill set offensively, to go along with great footwork in the paint that makes him much more than just a big body. He can create for himself with a variety of offensive moves whether it's facing up or with his back to the basket. He is capable of knocking down mid-range jumpers and with his huge wingspan can shoot it over just about anyone. Can block shots from all over the floor. Shows very solid passing ability and vision for a bigman. High school coach reported he lacks work ethic and drive. Can be a bit of a cancer in the locker room. Can lose his head while out on the floor, but there is no denying his talent.

NBA Comparison: Demarcus Cousins Lite

#11 Frank Alston

Position: Power Forward

School: Texas Tech

Height: 6'9

Profile: Stretch four. Very versatile on the offensive end. Can drive around most forward trying to guard him. Struggles on defense. Shot a respectable 39% from 3 point range in highschool.

#12 Ben Lyons

Position: Center

School: Syracuse

Height: 6'11

Profile: Big time defender. Should man the middle of the Syracuse zone. Very long and has a big time vertical for a big man. Has so much potential on the offensive end but hasn't put it together quite yet. Could lead the NCAA in blocked shots.

#13 LJ Salmons

Position: Shooting Guard

School: Kentucky

Height: 6'5

Profile: Athletic slasher. Big time vertical. Struggles with consistency on his jump shot. Solid defender thanks to his athleticism. Could improve basketball IQ. Above average passer.

#14 Dennis Glenn

Position: Small Forward

School: Arizona

Height: 6'9

Profile: Incredibly raw talent. Has a really smooth shot but lacks consistency with it. Has great height and athleticism. Has potential to really be something special, but it might take him a little bit to put it all together.

#15 Gerald Wiggington

Position: Small Forward

School: Colorado

Height: 6'7

Profile: Sharp shooter. Average athlete. Insanely quick release. Gets into passing lanes and should be able to lock up most guards and small forwards in college. Can hit from anywhere on the floor.

#16 Chase Fizer

Position: Center

School: Kansas

Height: 6'10

Profile: Great in the midrange. Good athlete. Struggles when he has to put the ball on the floor. Has flashed a 3 point shot but it is still developing. Could stand to be a better rebounder. Loves his baseline jumper.

#17 Leonydus Sloan

Position: Shooting Guard

School: Pittsburgh

Height: 6'5

Profile: Big time shooter. Might be the top shooter in this freshman class. Really struggles on the defensive end and is a bit one dimensional. Absolute money in the corner.

#18 Sam Pargo

Position: Post

School: Colorado

Height: 6'10

Profile: Big time post player. Best move is his drop step. Little bit heavy on his feet, and doesn't move laterally well, but he is a big presence in the lane. Could be a really solid post player if he adds more moves to his arsenal. Boxes out and rebounds well.

#19 Jett Tarlac

Position: Center

School: LSU

Height: 6'11

Profile: Tarlac is going to be a force on the defensive side of the ball. Limited to putbacks and alley oops for his scoring. Big time rebounder. Big time shot blocker. Moves well for a big man.

#20 Nathan Grant

Position: Shooting Guard

School: Arizona

Height: 6'5

Profile: Grant has the speed to get up and down the court quicker than most we have seen. Would expect a better vertical with this kind of speed. Not only is he fast, but he is quick. Could develop a better shot. Definitely a slasher.

#21 Dominick King

Position: Point Guard

School: Duke

Height: 6'1

Profile: King has crazy dribbling skills and can enter the lane with them whenever he wants. His height leaves a bit to be desired, but his quick release allows him to shoot over most defenders. Has a solid floater, but doesn't finish at the rim. Struggles to guard the perimeter with his height.

#22 Adam Babic

Position: Shooting Guard

School: Duke

Height: 6'5

Profile: Babic will be able to carve out a solid role with his ability to shoot and defend guards. Really struggles dribbling the ball and he can't go right at all. Very long. Doesn't finish at the rim coming through the lane, but he can throw down some alley oops when thrown his way.

#23 Kellan Snoop

Position: Point Guard

School: Michigan

Height: 5'7

Profile: If you can't get past the height, Snoop is not for you. Snoop is the quickest player in this class. Knock down shooter, and has an uncanny way to find players all around him. Steal machine. Could definitely be stronger.

#24 Alpha Eaton

Position: Point Guard

School: Ohio State

Height: 6'3

Profile: Great height for the PG position and is very long. Seems to have a little bit of Russell Westbrook in him. Just like Westbrook, he struggles shooting the ball and can be very hot or cold on the night.

#25 Clayton Bruan

Position: Shooting Guard

School: Kansas State

Height: 6'6

Profile: Shooter. Athlete. Lacks the elite basketball IQ and shot IQ to really take him to the next level. Could develop into something special with some time in college.

Top 10 Returning Players

#1 Seth Dixon

Position: Point Guard

School: Kansas

Height: 6'3

Class: Senior

Profile: Unlimited range, ability to facilitate, and a leader on the court is what you are getting with Seth Dixon. A former 5 star recruit and #13 player in the nation, Dixon has only gotten better during his time at Kansas. Dixon, who was disappointed in being upset in the Final 4 by Stanford last year, came back for his 4th and final year. Handles the ball fairly well. Uses quick, short dribbles and changes of direction/speed to keep defenders off balance. Is able to get in the paint at will, and is a crafty finisher around the rim. Aggressive in transition, always looking to make something happen. Might not be a true PG, but more of a shooting guard. Definitely looks to create his own shot first. Above average athlete. Has his holes on the defensive side of the ball despite strong steal numbers.

NBA Comparison: Damian Lillard

#2 Hadem Abdul-Wahad

Position: Wing

School: Iowa State

Height: 6'7

Class: Junior

Profile: After a bench role as a freshman, Abdul-Wahad erupted for the Cyclones as a sophomore. Creates his own shot very well. High elevation on his jump shot with a quick release. Deadly from range. Great rebounder from the wing. Big wingspan which helps with his average height. Needs to get stronger as well as work on his defense. Hadem has Iowa State positioned for a strong season. Does a great job of creating his own shot.

NBA Comparison: Robert Covington

#3 Jayce Selby

Position: Combo Guard

School: UCLA

Height: 6'5

Class: Junior

Profile: Jayce takes over the UCLA squad this year after his brother Jalen declared for the NBA. Jayce clearly was the #2 option in the offense last year, but all eyes will be on him this year as he takes over the facilitating lead. Has the ability to get anywhere he wants on the floor. He makes his teammates better while he is out on the floor, mainly with his drive and kick ability. Very physical and knows how to use his size. Doesn't move too well laterally, but has long strides which helps his open court speed. Struggles in the mid range, and needs to find more consistency from the outside, but he is a gym rat, something that his brother was not, so it would not be crazy to see his skills take a major leap after a few years in the league. Jayce, who had always been the better scorer of the two, was a bit upset last year after not leading the team in scoring. He has been putting in plenty of work all off season.

NBA Comparison: Taller Kyle Lowry

#4 Adili Brady

Position: Small Forward

School: Villanova

Height: 6'8

Class: Senior

Profile: Brady was a player who saw very minimal minutes as a freshman, and then showed flashes of greatness as a sophomore, but it was too sporadic. As a junior, he was just average, but once he got into conference play, Brady elevated his game to another level. During conference play, he shot nearly 50% from behind the 3 point line while averaging 22 points per game. Shiloh Moody got the best of Brady in the Sweet 16 last year, but that was just more motivation for Brady. Brady could play the 2, 3 or 4 at the next level and will be a mismatch at any. To go along with his shooting is a quick first step and a solid vertical leap. Shows an ability to get his teammates involved, but knows that he is the best player on his team. Lacks a left hand and is very predictable on offense. His defensive awareness is below average as well. We will need to see if Brady can remain as good as he was down the stretch last year.

NBA Comparison: Nicolas Batum

#5 Brian Newman

Position: Point Guard

School: Kentucky

Height: 6'5

Class: Sophomore

Profile: Newman likely would have been a late 1st round pick in last years draft, but Coach Cal promised him that if he came back he could work his way into the lottery. Newman was a very solid player last year, but didn't quite live up to expectations. Despite this, he is still one of the top players returning in the NCAA this year. He could take a major step forward this year with La'damion Babbitt gone as he will most likely be the go to scorer this year. This season he really needs to show that he can be a passer and stay at the PG position while limiting turnovers, or learn to be an elite scorer, otherwise he might not have a true position in the NBA.

NBA Comparison: Jrue Holiday

#6 David Law

Position: Point Guard

School: San Jose State

Height: 6'3

Class: Junior

Profile: David Law was on the radar as a freshman when he averaged 17 points a game, but it was against lackluster competition. He followed this up as a sophomore by averaging 17 points again and leading San Jose State to an 8 seed in the NCAA tournament. Call it a hunch, but we are calling a David Law breakout this year. Law's game is marked by "electricity" and explosiveness. Plays with an undefinable burst, seemingly moving in warp speed while everyone else is standing still-yet he remains for the most part under control, with the ball on a string. He is a master at creating space, using jab steps, crossovers and pump fakes to shed defenders. Highly creative with the rock in his hands and finishing at the rim. Despite his 33% 3 point percentage, he has more range than that number appears.

Like most scorers, he struggles on the defensive end of the floor. The lack of competition is a bit concerning as well, but we have seen stars who can score come out of smaller schools before.

NBA Comparison: Kemba Walker

#7 Da'mir Soloman

Position: Small Forward

School: Kentucky

Height: 6'8

Class: Sophomore

Profile: If there is one thing that jumped out to us last year other than Da'mir Soloman's athleticism, it is his non stop motor on both ends of the floor. He didn't show a mid range last year like he did in high school, so he will need to redevelop that if he wants to find himself in the lottery of this upcoming draft. At times, he can play out of control. You can tell last year was his first taste of real coaching, as he was frustrated at times with Coach Cal, but he has admitted that he knows it will help him in the long run. Great rebounder, and his scoring should see an increase as he is the #1 or #2 option for the Wildcats this year.

NBA Comparison: Rudy Gay

#8 Robby Love

Position: Center

School: Oregon

Height: 7'0

Class: Junior

Profile: If you have to match up against Robby Love, you better come ready to work. He is going to wear you down on the inside. Robby Love continues to add weight, and it doesn't look like bad weight either. He hasn't weighed in yet, but is rumored to be over 285 at this point. He is an absolute bruiser down low, but has been able to develop a decent spin move and drop step these past 2 years. His athleticism will surprise you, but he is not your typical modern NBA big. Shot blocking machine when he is in the paint, but will absolutely be exposed if you can get him away from the basket. Solid rebounder, and is excellent in the pick and roll game. Struggles at the freethrow line. Shoots a very high percentage but that is because he is very selective about his shots, never shooting from the mid range or 3 point line.

NBA Comparison: JaVale McGee with a better low post game

#9 Teejay Holcomb

Position: Point Guard

School: California

Height: 6'2

Class: Junior

Profile: Might be the quickest player in college basketball this year with a NBA ready first step and the best lateral quickness in the NCAA. He is an absolute nightmare in the open court after grabbing a rebound. Has a great ability to finish at the other end of the floor. Has one of the ebay verticals in the NCAA right now, and can dunk very well. While he has great athleticism, he is more than an athlete. Shot 35% from 3 point last season and has a smooth stroke that should improve. Struggles to pull in rebounds, but you don't expect that

from him as a guard. Not the best on ball defender, but does come up with a good amount of steals. Not a true PG but that is likely his position at the next level. Teejay struggles as a passer, which is not ideal for a PG. He makes accurate passes, but he just does not see the floor well.

NBA Comparison: Taller Nate Robinson

#10 Kwame Fox

Position: Wing

School: North Carolina

Height: 6'7

Class: Junior

Profile: The athletic slasher is the undisputed best player on this UNC squad that will be starting 5 juniors this year who have been together since their freshmen year. Fox still struggles when he has to put the ball on the floor, but his mid range has continued to be one of his best weapons, and he has shown potential from behind the arc. Has continued to show promise with his vision, but still leaves the passing to the PGs on his team. Has tons of energy and will always make the hustle play on either end of the floor. Very good in transition. He hasn't been as good of a defender in college as scouts were hoping.

NBA Comparison: Shawn Marion

Preseason Updates

Preseason Top 25

1. Kentucky-After an upset in the 2nd round, La'Damion Babbitt declared for the NBA, but Kentucky is definitely not left short handed. Sophomores Brian Newman and Da'mir Solomon will lead the squad from the PG and SF position, while SF Jackson Lamb will provide a solid veteran presence in the starting lineup as well. Freshman SG LJ Salmons could help take this team to the next level with his athleticism. Their downside could be their 3 point shooting, because outside of Lamb, they don't have a true shooter.

2. Kansas-Kansas is led by the best player in the country, and returning 1st Team All American in PG Seth Dixon. There is nothing Dixon cannot do for this team and not much else needs to be said about him. Supporting Dixon is freshman C Chase Fizer who has stretch 5 potential, as well as freshman wing, Nicolas Simien. Simien will be a great #2 to Dixon, but outside of Dixon, this is a very inexperienced squad, and they will be starting 4 underclassmen.

3. Louisville-Despite losing Quayvon Nader and Cyrus Faulk to the NBA, Louisville has a good chance to defend their title with a trio of PFs in sophomore Keegan Rose, senior Chyree Gomes, and jr Jarvis Chapman, with sophomore Leroy Small as PG. Smalls knows how to distribute the ball to his playmakers. This team does not have as much finesse down low as last year, but they will absolutely wear teams out.

4. North Carolina-The Tar Heels return 4 starters in SG Kwame Fox, SF Elmore Givens, PF Owen Dobbins, C Derrio Valentine, as well as 6th man PG DeShaun Fogg. Early reports thought Fogg would start at PG this year, but Coach Roy Williams is going with 6'4 freshman, Bud Welch. Williams said that Welch's shooting ability was too good to leave off the floor. This is the 2nd year in a row that Fogg was expected to be the starter and lost his job to a freshman. Fogg is the best 6th man in the country, with arguably the most complete starting 5 in the nation.

5. Oregon-Oregon was in and out of the top 25 last year before they upset Kentucky in the 2nd round of the tournament last year to advance to the Sweet 16 on a buzzer beater from PG Keaton Appling. Appling is joined by a monster of a post in Robby Love, who gives us Julius Walker (JB 2k20 class 1) vibes, and one of the best athletes in the nation in sophomore SG Saheem Hodge. It will be tough to key in on any one of them.

6. Villanova-Villanova made a run to the Sweet 16 last year behind SF, Adili Brady. Brady had been inconsistent for 2 and a half years before emerging as one of the countries' best players. He shot an insane 48% from 3 during conference play last year. Villanova returns 6 of their top 8 scorers from last year, as well as 4 of their 5 starters.

7. UCLA-Jalen Selby is gone to the NBA, but his brother Jaylen is back for his junior year. While Jaylen is more of a true scorer, he did not have the well rounded game to get him to the NBA last year like Jayce. Joining Selby is 5 star center Damekus Blazic. Blazic is one of the most interesting prospects we have seen in quite some time, but he is incredibly raw. Even without him on this UCLA team, Selby would be enough to keep them in the top 10.

8. Syracuse-We are a little surprised Syracuse isn't ranked higher, but being led by 3 freshmen has pollers keeping them down. DJ Walker might be the best player in the nation despite not playing a game yet. PG Cash Thorwell has great chemistry with Walker and they

could be one of the best combos in the NCAA this year. Finally, C Ben Lyons should be an anchor in the zone and he is a shot blocking machine.

9. Texas A&M-This team is led by upperclassmen in junior SF Melvin Haas, and 7 footer Tyrell Ryan. Haas is a slashing wing who finishes well at the rim, and defends well on the other side of the ball, while Ryan is a stretch 5 shot blocking machine. Ryan isn't the best athlete, but his length has led to many blocks. Sophomore C Russell Foster gives them a low post who can score in bunches down low.

10. Duke-This might end up being a down year for Duke, but they do not lack talent. Freshman SG L'Jeron Blount is an all around guard and will be the best player on this team, but his freshman PG running mate, Jamaal Pierce is pretty dang good as well. Junior C Hayden Rocks needs to be the upperclassmen presence for this team. Devon Brown, Dominic King, and Adam Babic round out the talented recruiting class, but no telling how this rotation will shake out as they are very guard heavy.

11. Arizona-This is going to be a boom or bust team starting 4 freshman and sophomores. Leading the bunch is SG Scooter Giddens who is likely a lottery pick next year. Sophomore PG Isaac Rogers was great last year backing up Darion Camby off the bench, but who knows how he will do in a starting role. He is a 3 and D point guard. Freshman SG Nathan Grant is lightning fast and finally SF Dennis Glenn could emerge as one of the Pac-12's best scorers this year, but we would not be surprised if it took him a few years until that happens.

12. California-Junior PG Teejay Holcomb is about as dynamic as they come in college basketball. Speed and athleticism will make him a coveted draft pick, and if he develops a shot, and it looks like he might, watch out. It will be interesting to see who steps up alongside Holcomb.

13. Indiana-Senior SG Diante Sanon is ready to take over the scoring lead after losing Donyell Phelps. Sanon was 2nd on the team in scoring last year. Sophomore C, Clifford Malone looks ready to take another step forward after averaging 9 points and 8 rebounds a game last year. Finally, freshman PF Titus Riley should come in and make an immediate impact as well.

14. Texas-Texas lost a ton of fire power to the NBA last season, but they return junior SF Zach Powers, who made a name for himself a couple years ago shutting down Jamon Tiggs in the national championship game. Lets see if sophomore C Lamar Leonard learned a thing or two from the Langford twins last year.

15. Iowa State-Iowa State has one of the best players in the nation in Hadem Abdul-Wahad, but they are pretty bare outside of him. Wahad will keep them in any game, but it will be tough if he gets shut down.

16. San Jose State-Similar to Iowa State, San Jose State has a great player in David Law, but not much else around him. San Jose State does have the luxury of playing in a lesser conference and should not have any issues with their schedule.

17. Butler-Butler C, Chandler Reed is one of the nation's best post players. Reed makes a living on the offensive glass and putting in easy buckets, but he also has a solid low post game.

18. Colorado-Sophomore SF Nigel Clarke is back and he showed plenty of promise after leading the Buffalos in scoring last year. To go along with Clarke, is McDonald's All American game MVP, Gerald Wiggington, who is not afraid to take the big shot.

19. Georgia-Georgia snuck into the tournament as an 11 seed despite losing Stafford Potter to an injury last season early. He and PF Treyvon Holt are two talented sophomores looking to make some noise this year. SF Ugo Dedmon should lead the team in scoring again this season as a slashing 3.

20. Michigan State-It seems like pollers are giving the Spartans the benefit of the doubt this year despite really only having sophomore John-Michael Sellers on their squad. This could be a down year for them.

21. Washington-Senior SF Tyler Anderson might be asked to play some PG this season with the lack of guard play for the Huskies, but he is a solid guy to play it. He led the Huskies in assists last year at 5 a game. Sophomore SF Demetrius Bean should help space the floor well as he can shoot it.

22. Creighton-Senior C, Garrett Griffin is a lob threat, he just needs to find a consistent PG to get him the ball.

23. Virginia-Virginia always has the potential with sound defense getting played here. They'll be starting 5 upperclassmen this season.

24. LSU-Senior SG Kevion Leaf gives LSU a chance every time they step on the floor. He can score with anyone in the country. Gives us Marshall Henderson vibes from Ole Miss a few years ago.

25. West Virginia-SF Byron Simms is a junior this year and is one of the most well rounded players in the Big-12. He is looking for a solid running mate this year.

November News

Syracuse and DJ Walker have been playing prime time game after prime time game, and even knocked off Duke in the Maui Invitational Championship this season. They are sitting at 8-0 and Walker is the reason why. He is leading the nation in scoring at 28 points per game as well as shots taken. He deserves the hype he is receiving and looks like a lock to go #1 this draft. His running mate Cash Thornwell is averaging 11 points a game to go along with his 5 assists.

Kentucky breezes through November undefeated and is sitting at 7-0. Jackson Lamb is shooting 41% from 3 this year and is the Wildcats leading scorer at 16 points per game. Da'mir Solomon has struggled a bit, but it could be because he is not getting enough shots up.

LSU is sitting at 5-2 and Kevion Leaf is averaging 24 points per game. He is an insane scorer but man does he need some help.

California is up to #5 in the country and Teejay Holcomb looks fantastic. Holcomb is averaging 17 points and 5 assists a game. It's still early, but he is currently shooting 39% from the 3 point line which is great for a player with his kind of athleticism.

Kansas still #1. Seth Dixon is still one of the best players in the nation. Not much else to see here.

Defending champ Louisville starts off on the wrong foot and struggles out of the gate to a 4-3 record. They need someone to step up and be the leading scorer, as they are all playing more like compliments.

Maybe Michigan State isn't going to have a down year after all? They are sitting at 6-1 with a win over UNC in a big non-conference matchup. They are getting their scoring from an unlikely source in senior SF, and former walk on, Ryan Thomas. Thomas reminds us a bit of Ron Baker of Wichita State a few years ago. He can get to the hoop, distribute, but his biggest asset is his shot. He won't blow you away with athleticism, but the kid can play.

Keep an eye on Utah State. Up to #20 in the polls and sitting at 7-0 with a win over a good Arizona State team. They have a matchup with California before heading into conference play, which we expect them to run through. Utah State is starting 5 seniors, with 2 more coming off the bench. PG Lyle Norris has been on radars for a bit now and is arguably the best distributor in the country, while PF Drevon Beck is one of the country's best scorers averaging 22 a game. Beck can score from anywhere on the floor.

December News

Syracuse is the real deal. They're still undefeated and while DJ Walker's scoring average is down to 24, he is still the undisputed best player in the country. He hit a game winner against Georgetown with no time left on the clock. We don't see a scenario where he is not the #1 pick in this year's draft. He should come into the league and instantly be better than any rookie we have seen in the last 5 years.

#8 UCLA has hovered around this ranking all year. They're sitting at 12-2 with a loss to California to kick off conference play. Jayce Selby is averaging 19 points and 4 assists a game and still knows how to score, but isn't a complete player. Damekus Blazic, the toolsy freshman center, has been a bit of a let down to this point. He is coming off the bench averaging 7 points, 4 rebounds, and 2 assists a game. He has shown flashes of being able to bring the ball up the floor, but he is still incredibly raw.

Arizona is struggling a bit, but has managed to give California their one loss on the season. It has been tough for Arizona to be consistent with their youth, but when they are on they can beat anyone.

Speaking of California, they survived a close one against Utah State. Utah State PF Dravon Beck missed a shot at the buzzer that would have sent the game to overtime. Beck and Lyle Norris have Utah State sitting at 13-1 and is ranked #13 in the country.

Iowa State SG Hadem Abdul-Wahad has been nothing short of amazing for the Cyclones this year. He has them sitting at 11-3 this year and #17 in the nation. He really needs someone to step up alongside him.

Duke has been quietly having a very sound season. SG L'Jeron Blount looks like a lottery pick in the upcoming draft while averaging 14 points per game for the #11 team in the country.

San Jose State remains undefeated and David Law looks like he has no limit to his range to start the year. He is still only shooting 35% from deep, but that might be because he is shooting from so far out. He still gets to the bucket well and has a solid mid range to go with it. Coming into the season his 3 point shot was a concern but he is pulling from deep this year with no issue.

Keep an eye on senior PG Heath Day of Wichita State. He isn't flashy, but he boasts the best assist to turnover ratio in the nation. He is averaging 6.8 assists a game while turning the ball over 9 times in 14 games. He plays smart basketball.

International Player Update

After the influx of international talent that entered the NBA last year, this will be a down year for the international class. Keep an eye out for future talent in Dimitris Diamantopoulos the shooter from Greece, and Nnanna Diawara the big 7 footer from Mali. Those are the top two international prospects right now, both of whom are 18 years old currently, but neither are entering the draft this season.

Below are the top 5 international prospects who have declared for the 2024 NBA draft.

#1 Filippo Sacchetti

Position: Center

Country: Italy

Height: 6'10

Age: 19

Profile: Filippo Sacchetti is incredibly lanky and definitely needs to add weight at 199. Filippo is one of the most unique players of this year's NBA Draft given his combination of size, feel and perimeter skill set. Sacchetti immediately showed that he possesses a high basketball IQ to go along with the ability to handle the ball and pass at a high level despite his size. He kept growing and now stands at 6'10 but his ability to control the ball, shoot from deep and run the break hasn't taken a step back. He's built a strong resume in FIBA competitions. He never put up fancy statistics because his thin body hasn't allowed him to be dominant against his peers, but showed how high his upside is if physicality ever catches up to his skill. Injuries have kept him off the floor recently, but he has a ton of potential, but this pick might take some time to develop. He won't come in be the most NBA ready pick from the international class, but he has more potential than the rest.

#2 Logan Vujacic

Position: Wing

Country: Canada

Height: 6'7

Age: 20

Profile: While Logan Vujacic is listed as a SG/SF he can really play any position 1-4. He has been nicknamed the Luka Doncic of Canada for his playmaking ability. While the nickname is fun, the comparison is a bit of a stretch. He is an above average athlete, and a great facilitator, but he is not at the same level Luka was when he came into the league, really not even close. Logan is a good ball handler for his size and uses a Euro step very effectively while driving to the basket. He has been playing professionally since the age of 16, and has made huge strides these last 2 years. Don't be surprised if a team falls in love with his unique skill set and takes a chance on him at the end of the lottery, but we see him more as a late 1st early 2nd type of player.

#3 Daniel Sosa

Position: Shooting Guard

Country: Mexico

Height: 6'8

Age: 22

Profile: The most NBA ready of the international prospects thanks to his 3 point shot. He has shown potential to get to the hoop thanks to his size, but he is most likely going to be a spot up shooter in the NBA. Sosa is an average athlete at best. His shot is set, but has a quick release, and he is money from the corner. Decent rebounder and not bad on defense, but his athleticism hurts him on that end of the floor.

#4 Bastal Sada**Position:** Point Guard**Country:** Nigeria**Height:** 6'4**Age:** 21

Profile: Sada is a plus athlete who can get to the rim pretty well. Does not have much of a shot, and struggles to distribute the ball despite being listed as a PG. Lacks a real basketball IQ, but has been shown to be pretty solid on the defensive side of the ball.

#5 Marko Fasenko**Position:** Power Forward**Country:** Ukraine**Height:** 6'9**Age:** 18

Profile: Age is on Fasenko's side, as he will just turn 18 before the season begins.

Unfortunately, he is not as good as you would like to see coming into the league. He has a solid 3 point shot, and is a rebounder. We see his ceiling as a Kevin Love type of role on a team, but it may take him a while to get to that point.

January News

North Carolina is the real deal. Freshman PG Bud Welch has meshed very well with the team and is leading the ACC in assists. SG Kwame Fox is averaging 16 points while leading the Tar Heels in scoring. They're currently sitting at 18-4 and ranked #7 in the country. When they are on they can't be stopped.

Syracuse and DJ Walker are up to #1 in the polls and are sitting at 20-2. Walker was held to less than 12 points in both of their two losses, but other than that he has been incredible all year. An absolute double double machine.

Colorado has been inconsistent this season, but when they're on, they're on. Freshman Gerald Wiggington had a 27 point game in a victory over UCLA this year. Colorado is sitting at 15-8, and is just outside the top 25.

#2 Kansas is 20-2 on the year. Seth Dixon is averaging 19 points and 6 assists a game, and has shown he can score in bunches. Freshman C Chase Fizer has been a pleasant surprise this year and is averaging 12 points, 9 rebounds a game, and is showing up in the 1st round of mock drafts.

Utah State continues to roll through their weak conference and is ranked #9 in the country. Dravon Beck is a scoring machine.

Arizona State and Arizona have had two high scoring matchups this year, and both times Arizona State junior SG Destin Bledsoe put on a show. Bledsoe had 24 points in the first matchup, then blew up for 37 in the rematch as it went to overtime. He has been a sharp shooter his entire career.

Xavier has been a bit of a surprise this year. They were not expected to be a good team this year, but they're sitting just inside the top 20 at #19. Junior SF Kjell Rollins has been using his athleticism to the best of his abilities. He looks very similar to Obi Toppin from Dayton.

Duke has been solid this year behind L'Jeron Blount and Jamaal Pierce has been a stud as well. Both could work their way into the lottery, with Blount possibly going in the top 10. Fellow freshmen Dominic King and Adam Babic have had a tough time finding the floor.

High School Class of 2025

#1 Dodge Demunyck

Position: Center

Height: 6'11

Profile: Here's a kid with all the talent in the world, but he could take some time to develop. If you're looking for an immediate impact, Domani Sasser should be your pick. Dodge, who moved to the United States at 15 from Germany, has only been playing basketball for 6 years now. What he has been able to showcase in such a short time has the looks of a future all star. He has range that extends out to the 3 point line, the ability to

distribute to his teammates, and can block shots very well with his height. Fantastic in the pick and pop game. He needs to add weight and round out the rest of his game, particularly his inside game, to really take a step forward.

#2 Domani Sasser

Position: PG

Height: 6'6

Profile: Domani Sasser can come in and make an immediate impact. Fantastic athleticism, and an ability to distribute are what make Sasser a good PG. He has good height, and has potential on the defensive end as well, but he needs time to improve. His jumpshot is definitely a work in progress, but he is not afraid to shoot it. Good, but not great dunker. Can be pretty loose with the ball. Has a good shot fake and uses it well.

#3 Tracy Keller

Position: PG

Height: 6'7

Profile: The first thing that jumps out to you about Keller is his height at the position. Incredibly long and he has a knack for finishing well at the rim. Doesn't really use his size to his advantage, as he would much rather go around contact than through it. He is an average athlete by NBA standards, but uses his long strides to get coast to coast quickly down the floor. Has a decent shot, but it could improve. Uses pass fakes very well.

#4 Torezz Outlaw

Position: Center

Height: 7'1

Profile: This kid has the potential to lead the NBA in blocks year after year. His potential as a defender is sky high. Does well when lobs get thrown his way on offense, and he knows how to clean up misses and put them back in the hoop, but he does not have an NBA ready offensive set. Like most bigs, he struggles when he has to put the ball on the floor. If he can just get good at one or two post moves, he could really take off.

#5 AJ Kent

Position: Forward

Height: 6'9

Profile: Big time rebounder who averaged 15 a game in highschool. Has a solid mid range game and can score in the low post. Does very well in the pick and roll and pick and pop. Below average athlete and really makes his game work thanks to his hard work and high basketball IQ.

#6 Lamont Meachem

Position: Point Forward

Height: 6'9

Profile: Lamont Meachem offers a unique skill set at 6'9. He is a slashing forward who can finish well at the rim, but he also has the ability to bring the ball up the floor and distribute the ball like a point guard. With players like this, they offer a high risk, high reward. Meachem stays away from his jumpshot, but he does have a nice euro step in the lane to go along with his floater. Meachem might find his way into the lottery, or mid first

round with this skill set, but he is definitely a project. Sitting behind another point forward for a year or two would really help his game evolve.

#7 Samari Kittles

Position: Shooting Guard

Height: 6'7

Profile: All world athletes here. Kittles knows how to put his athleticism on full display. Great hopstep in the lane, loves to go coast to coast, and might be one of the fastest players we have seen in the open court. Actually has an okay mid range, but does not have the range on his 3 point shot. Great elevation on his jump shot with a quick release. Low basketball IQ will hold him back.

#8 Tyquan Gist

Position: Shooting Guard

Height: 6'6

Profile: Gist is an all world shooter who can create his own shot. Incredibly quick release and very rarely has a shot blocked. Great dribbler who can stop and pop from anywhere on the floor. A little scrawny at this point, and he struggles to finish in the lane. He does have a solid floater in the lane. Doesn't move the best laterally. Not the best defender due to athleticism, but he makes up for it with a high IQ and always being in the right position.

#9 Donovan Workman

Position: Small Forward

Height: 6'8

Profile: Workman can score from all over the floor. Can hit from the outside, midrange, take guys in the low post, and finish at the rim. Sounds like a can't miss prospect right there, but he is a cancer in the locker room. His highschool coaches called him uncoachable. He takes very bad shots and will very rarely pass the ball no matter how open teammates are. He will not be the best player on the floor in the NBA, so who knows how he will adjust.

March News

Oregon finishes the season strong and makes a push for a one seed. Their 3 headed attack has been next to impossible to stop.

UCLA is right there with them, and it might come down to the Pac-12 tournament champion on who gets the 1 seed.

Villanova has been a steady force all season long. Currently sitting at #5 in the country behind Adili Brady, who has built on his momentum from last year.

It's a toss up on who the #1 overall seed will be. It's down to KU and Syracuse, who have identical records. Both will be #1 seeds.

Michigan State surprises everyone and wins the Big 10 regular season. Ryan Thomas has been a pleasant surprise all season long. He led the Big-10 in scoring this year at 22 points per game.

An update on one of our favorite names, Wofford SG Thatcher Dawkins. Dawkins cracked his way into the starting lineup this year, hit 4.2 threes per game, while shooting 43% from behind the arc. If he keeps this up, he has a chance to make a serious run at a 3 point record in the next couple years.

LSU and Kevion Leaf finish the year with 10 straight wins, and might be one of the hottest teams in the country. They are not someone you want to run into during the tournament.

As we head into March, outside of Kansas, Kentucky, and Syracuse, there are plenty of teams in the next tier that can make a serious run in the tournament. UNC, Oregon, UCLA, Villanova, Duke, Cal, and Michigan State all have a chance at making a run to the final 4, and this list doesn't even include some dark horse teams like Utah State, San Jose State, LSU and Texas A&M, who have some of the best players in the country on their teams. This will be a fun tournament.

Just like the tournament, there is a solid top 5 in this draft, and then anyone can go after that. Currently the top of the draft is looking like this.

1. DJ Walker
2. Seth Dixon
3. Robby Love
4. Jackson Lamb
5. Teejay Holcomb
6. L'Jeron Blount
7. Hadem Abdul-Waseem

After DJ Walker, those next 6 picks could go in any order based on the team needs. An interesting note, we will see a shift towards upperclassmen hearing their names called first. After those 7 picks, there is a big talent drop, but still plenty of exciting upside after pick 7. Bud Welch, David Law, Domani Sasser, Da'Mir Solomon, Dravon Beck, Dodge Demuncyk,

Torezz Outlaw, and Chase Fizer are all very intriguing names you can find in the lottery. Even after that, you have a lot of prospects that can make an impact on your team.

West Region Preview

#1 Oregon: Oregon had a very successful campaign behind their big 3. They are led by big man Robby Love who is a bully down low. He averaged 18 points and 11 rebounds this year while junior PG Keaton Appling has ran the offense very well. Appling has good height at 6'4 and is an athlete who can get to the rim very well, but he struggles when he has to shoot the ball. Saheem Hodge, the sophomore SG is the wildcard of the team. When he is on, this team doesn't lose. 3 point shooting could be this teams downfall.

#2 UCLA: Jayce Selby is one of the best scorers in the nation. He finished the year averaging 21 points and 4.5 assists per game this year. The exciting freshman, Damekus Blazic got better as the season went on, but he will likely be back for his sophomore year. He provides a big time impact off the bench.

#3 Duke: Duke is not short on talent. SG L'Jeron Blount didn't excite this season, but he quietly averaged 15 points a game while limiting his turnovers. He does everything pretty dang well. Jamaal Pierce was 2nd on the team in scoring at 13 points per game. Hayden Rocks, their lone upperclassmen who gets minutes, averaged 5 points and 9 rebounds a game.

#4 Xavier: One of the bigger surprises of the season has been junior SF Kjell Rollins who is a lob threat if we have ever seen one. He struggles when having to put the ball on the floor, but he is fantastic in transition. Big time dunker who loves to get the crowd involved.

#5 Georgia: Much better season from Georgia than they had last year. Junior SF Ugo Dedmon the slashing wing led the team in scoring at 14 points per game, but Trevon Holt and Stafford Potter were not far behind at 13 points each per game. Very well balanced team who can beat you multiple ways.

#6 Texas: Texas has fallen a long way from where they were last year, but they are still a very good team. SF Zach Powers, one of the best defensive players in the nation leads the team as a 6 seed while also hitting 38% of his 3's this year.

#7 West Virginia: West Virginia always poses threats with their up tempo pace and press. Byron Simms has been a very solid player all year and is leading their team in steals.

#8 Mississippi State: Cel'von Dunn has quietly been one of the best players in the country this year. The junior PF averaged 19 points per game while finishing 5th in the SEC. The stretch 4 is a solid defender. Could be a 3 and interior D type of player.

#9 Kansas State: Kansas State has one of the better bigs in the conference in Evan Hollis. He is a fantastic defender, but it will be tough for them to get by Mississippi State.

#10 BYU: 6'10 center Tom Gallagher is a pick and pop type of player who could carve out a solid role for an NBA team. Needs to be more aggressive down low.

#11 Texas Tech: Sophomore SG Kerrion Bird needs to take another step forward next year to live up to expectations, while SF Jamir Gordon averaged 15 points per game this year.

#12 Alabama: Leading scorer Baxter Chalmers, the junior SG, was named to 2nd team SEC this season. Solid scorer and defender.

#13 UMKC: Would not put money on UMKC making it passed Xavier.

#14 Northern Illinois: Good defending team who limits mistakes.

#15 UC Irvine: Not much here

#16 Liberty: No

Lundardi's Analysis

Final 4 Pick: Oregon

5 Best Players: Robby Love (Oregon), Keaton Appling (Oregon), Jayce Selby (UCLA),

L'Jeron Blount (Duke), Byron Simms (West Virginia)

Overseeded: Georgia

Under-seeded: Mississippi State

Don't Sleep on: West Virginia

On Upset Alert: UCLA

Midwest Region Preview

#1 Kansas: Seth Dixon has got a chance for Wooden POY this season. He finished the year on an insane scoring streak, scoring 25 points in his last 7 games. Chase Fizer, the freshman C turned it on as of late as well. Nicolas Simien was the higher rated recruit of the two, but Fizer has been the one scoring along side Dixon.

#2 Villanova: Villanova was in play for a 1 seed but just missed out. This is a very good basketball team led by a very good player in senior SF Adili Brady. He finished the year shooting 45% from 3 point range this year.

#3 Michigan State: One of the feel good stories this season has been senior Ryan Thomas. The former walk on has been the leading scorer for this team who won a Big 10 championship. John-Michael Sellers, the sophomore center has complimented Thomas and his range quite well.

#4 San Jose State: San Jose State lost a couple games in conference play they had no business losing, but they could make a run in this tournament thanks to David Law. He has some range on his shot and can make them from anywhere on the floor.

#5 Washington: Very sound team here, but a bit underwhelming. Tyler Anderson the senior SF led the team in points, rebounds, and assists this season, while Demetrius Bean was able to shoot over 40% from deep this year.

#6 Louisville: After struggling out of the gate, Louisville was able to recoup and get it together down the stretch. Keegan Rose stepped up and became their go to scorer down the stretch.

#7 Colorado: This is a team I would not want to play in the tournament. Incredibly raw, but they have some big wins on their resume against UCLA and Oregon this year. Nigel Clarke has been good all season long, but Gerald Wiggington has been everything you could ask for and more. He averaged 15 points per game this year as a freshman.

#8 St. Marys: PF Devine Samuels might be one of the hardest playing players in the nation. He led the nation in offensive rebounds at 6 per game. Could be a glass cleaner at the next level.

#9 Maryland: Junior C Kaz Huff is a strong presence down low who loves to rebound and defend while sophomore PG, Joey Williams led the team in scoring this season at 14 points per game. Could easily knock off St. Marys in the first round, but it would be tough to make it to the 2nd weekend of the tournament.

#10 Marquette: Junior center, De Singletary is a very athletic big who can drive and finish well at the rim. Can appear clumsy with his hands at time, and lacks a high basketball IQ, but he has some potential.

#11 Nebraska: Junior SF Venzo Hall led the Big 10 in 3 pointers made this season while sophomore PG Desure Rush was top 5 in assists. This team has potential in the coming years to take it up to the next level. Don't be surprised to see them give Louisville a game round 1.

#12 Wofford: It's always scary to play the best 3 point shooting team in the country. They have 4 players who are shooting over 40% from 3 this season.

#13 Northern Iowa: Senior PF Donald Kanter can do a little bit of everything as a scorer down low. Very good spin move, but can also take you off the dribble. Might be one of the best players in this region, but their team just isn't that good.

#14 Coppin State: Starts 5 seniors and could give MSU fits.

#15 Delaware: Nope.

#16 Vermont: Not a chance here.

Lundardi's Analysis

Final 4 Pick: Kansas

5 Best Players: Seth Dixon (Kansas), Adili Brady (Villanova), David Law (San Jose State), Gerald Wiggington (Colorado), Ryan Thomas (Michigan State)

Overseeded: Washington

Under-seeded: Colorado

Don't Sleep on: San Jose State

On Upset Alert: Louisville

South Region Preview

#1 Kentucky: Jackson Lamb stepped up in a big way this season. The senior leader averaged 18 points per game for the Wildcats this year while being very deadly from range. Brian Newman averaged 15 points per game and was very good all year, while LJ Salmons averaged 13 thanks to his athleticism. Their big 3 has been tough to slow down all year.

#2 California: Cal seemed to be the forgotten team in the Pac-12 this year behind Oregon and UCLA, but they are one of the best teams in the country thanks to PG Teejay Holcomb. Could he be a bit taller? Yeah, but he is the quickest player in college basketball. His hands have finally gotten a bit quicker as well and he led the Pac-12 in steals.

#3 Utah State: Utah State's lone loss came early in the year to California. The game was close the entire time before California broke it open in the final 3 minutes to win by 10. Utah State has one of the best scorers in the nation down low with Dravon Beck, and one of the best facilitators in Lyle Norris. This team has been together for 5 years now, and they have more combined starts among their 5 than any other team in the nation.

#4 LSU: This might be the hottest team in the country led by one of the hottest players in the country in Kevion Leaf. He can score from anywhere and he can do it in bunches, but if he is off in any game, LSU has no chance.

#5 Arizona: This is a team with all the potential in the world but they have been too inconsistent this year. Scooter Giddens led the team in scoring this year with 14 points per game. The rest of the bunch has been too inconsistent. They can beat any team in the country when they are all on, but they can also get blown out.

#6 Creighton: Senior C Garrett Griffin is great at finishing at the rim and putting shots back up, but he struggles to get much else going inside. Lacks a real post game, but thrives in the pick and roll where he loves finishing ally oops. He is a great players, but they don't have the firepower to make a serious run.

#7 Butler: Butler shoots the least amount of 3 pointers per game in the country, but it doesn't matter when you've got a scoring machine like Chandler Reed on the inside putting up points.

#8 Oklahoma State: Senior SG Blue Perkins is a fan favorite in Stillwater. The Stillwater native is a dynamite shooter with one of the fastest releases we have ever seen. They played Kansas and Iowa State very close both times, so they have proven they can hang with the big boys.

#9 Florida: Florida is a physical team who plays solid defense, but struggles to put up points. You do not want to run into center Adonis Mahorn. That dude is built like a brick wall. He has a tendency to foul pretty hard and has a reputation of playing dirty, but his teammates love his ability to scrap for rebounds.

#10 Tennessee: An average team led by a couple of solid juniors in PG Carlik Sharp and PF Kody Cook. Sharp is a bit undersized but can shoot pretty well, but has trouble finishing inside. Cook on the other hand is a slasher who can put the ball pretty well on the floor.

#11 Washington State: Sophomore guard Dondre Pinson who still struggles to run the point, but does a great job of finishing in the lane. Still lacks consistency and does not have much of a team around him.

#12 Iowa: Stretch 4 senior Mitchell Sanders led the team in scoring and assists this year with 19 points and 4 assists a game. Not much for putting the ball on the floor. Team lacks a big body inside and it hurts them when Sanders is out on the perimeter.

#13 Houston Baptist: Strong 3 point shooting team and might have the firepower to hang with LSU, especially if Kevion Leaf has an off game.

#14 Drake: Could they sneak up on Utah State?

#15 Youngstown State: No chance here

#16 Weber State: Can they cover the 37.5 point spread?

Lundardi's Analysis

Final 4 Pick: Kentucky

5 Best Players: Dravon Beck (Utah State), Jackson Lamb (Kentucky), Teejay Holcomb (California), Kevion Leaf (LSU), Brian Newman (Kentucky)

Overseeded: Arizona

Under-seeded: Utah State

Don't Sleep on: Oklahoma State

On Upset Alert: Arizona

East Region Preview

#1 Syracuse: Your number 1 overall seed has your number 1 overall pick in DJ Walker. What he did this year was one of the greatest seasons from a freshman we have ever seen. Averaging 25 points and 9 boards a game, with a block and steal per game as well. Cash Thronwell led the team with 7 assists a game while chipping in 11 points per game as well.

#2 North Carolina: This team can beat you so many different ways. From top to bottom, this team is the best in the country. Bud Welch looks ready to move on to the NBA after the shooting clinic he put on this year, but expect all other players to come back for their senior years. Deshaun Fogg was 3rd on the team in scoring behind Welch and Kwame Fox, despite coming off the bench.

#3 Texas A&M: Quietly one of the better teams in the country. Melvin Haas, Russell Foster, and Tyrell Ryan make it very hard for teams to key in on any one player. The height that Foster and Ryan bring to the table, make it very easy to get easy points inside. Haas led the team in scoring with 17 a game.

#4 Virginia: The best defensive team in the country in terms of scoring defense. They are

very experienced, but they do struggle to score. Virginia is always a tough out in the tournament.

#5 Iowa State: Hadem Abdul-Wahad was one of the countries best scorers this year at 23 points per game, but no one else on the team is averaging more than 9.8 points per game. Teams should be able to key in on him, but the future top 10 pick makes it difficult for them.

#6 Indiana: This Indiana team has some potential, especially next year. Big names with Titus Riley, Clifford Malone, Dante Sanon, and Jaleel Webster could surprise some teams this tournament. They should get A&M in round 2 and they have enough bigs to potentially give them fits.

#7 Wichita State: Senior PG Heath Day had one of the most efficient passing seasons ever this year. He had 14 turnovers all season while averaging 7.6 assists per game. His teammates capitalize on his passing.

#8 Wisconsin: Junior PF Lewis Oakley was a solid inside scoring presence for the Badgers this year. Wisconsin struggled in conference play this year, but does have a victory over Michigan State.

#9 Davidson: Junior SF Shyquan Parker has serious 3 and D potential at the next level. We would love to see him matchup against DJ Walker in round 2 to see how good he really is.

#10 Ole Miss: Freshman PF Rumeal Level finished a successful campaign by averaging 13 points and 10 rebounds. He is a very good player, but he struggles as the best player on the team. Could be a very good support player.

#11 Miami: Junior PG Travis Schmidt might be the fastest player in the open floor, and he does a great job of finishing at the rim. Not the best passer at the PG position.

#12 Texas Southern: Good defense, but that's about it.

#13 Georgia State: Pretty bear team outside of freshman post Popeye Dandridge. The kid can play and averaged 19 points this year.

#14 Bryant: No

#15 Monmouth: No

#16 UNC Asheville: And no

Lundardi's Analysis

Final 4 Pick: North Carolina

5 Best Players: DJ Walker (Syracuse), Kwame Fox (UNC), Bud Welch (UNC), Hadem Abdul-Wahad (Iowa State), Cash Thornwell (Syracuse)

Overseeded: Texas A&M

Under-seeded: Davidson

Don't Sleep on: Indiana

On Upset Alert: Virginia

Round of 64

West Region

#1 Oregon knocks off #16 Liberty with ease 79-51. Robby Love had 18 points, 15 of which came in the first half, while Keaton Appling had 17 of his own.

#9 Kansas State upsets #8 Mississippi State behind a big night from C Evan Hollis. Hollis had 22 points, 18 of which came in the paint, 4 from the line, while shutting down Mississippi State PF Cle'von Dunn. Kansa State moves on 63-57.

#4 Xavier dominates #13 UMKC 84-51. Kjell Rollins had 22 points in this one to help Xavier move on to the round of 32.

#5 Georgia moves past #12 Alabama 76-70 in a close game. SF Ugo Dedmon had an off game with only 7 points, but Trevon Holt picked it up with 23 points. Bama PG Baxter Chalmers had a game high 26 in the loss.

#3 Duke knocks off #14 Northern Illinois 65-57 in a closer than expected matchup. Northern Illinois did a pretty good job of limiting L'Jeron Blount and Jamaal Pierce. Those two combined for only 16 points, but Dominic King had a solid night of 17 points off the bench.

#11 Texas Tech upsets #6 Texas 85-77. Kerrion Bird showed what he was capable of when he scored 22 points, while Jamir Gordon had 24 of his own. Texas SF Zach Powers could only limit one of them at a time.

#7 West Virginia's press was too much for #10 BYU as the cruise past them 80-61. Byron Simms had 4 steals and 17 points to lead the Mountaineers.

#2 UCLA knocks off #15 UC Irvine 71-49. Jayce Selby had 18 points in this one.

Midwest Region

#1 Kansas easily handles Vermont 79-50. Chase Fizer continues to shoot up draft boards with a 22 point 11 rebound game.

#9 Maryland survives a 2OT thriller against St. Marys 94-91. Joey Williams, the sophomore PG hit a shot at the buzzer to send the game to OT, before missing another one to win it in double OT. Williams would finish with 33 points, and 9 assists. St. Mary's PF Devine Williams had a ridiculous 21 rebounds in this one to go along with his 25 points.

#4 San Jose State erupts for 100 points in this one to knock off #13 Northern Iowa 100-81. Not a lot of defense got played in this one as David Law went for 38 in this one.

#12 Wofford moves past #5 Washington 84-73. Wofford as a team would hit 14 3 pointers, 5 of which were hit by sophomore Thatcher Dawkins who had 25 in this one.

#3 Michigan State moves past #14 Coppin State 76-60 behind 17 points from C John-Michael Sellers. Michigan State SF Ryan Thomas was quiet here with 10 points.

#11 Nebraska upsets #6 Louisville 76-71. Nebraska looked pretty good in this one. Venzo Hall was 6-8 on 3 pointers while PG Desure Rush had 8 assists in this one. Louisville had a pretty disappointing year this season.

#7 Colorado looks ready to make a run after knocking off #10 Marquette 82-60. Nigel Clarke and Gerald Wiggington combine for 43 points.

#2 Villanova moves past #15 Delaware 78-61 with a strong from SF Adili Brady who had 24 points.

South Region

#1 Kentucky moves on to the next round as expected with a 79-52 #16 Weber State behind a big night from LJ Salmons. Salmons had his highest scoring night of the year with 27 points.

#8 Oklahoma State beats #9 Florida 66-58 behind 18 points from Blue Perkins.

#4 LSU moves on behind 26 points from Kevion Leaf. They knock off #13 Houston Baptist 76-54.

#12 Iowa surprises the nation by knocking off #5 Arizona 76-75. Michell Sanders hit a shot in the corner as time expired to upset the Wildcats. Sanders would finish with 21 points on the night.

#3 Utah State moves past #14 Drake 87-72. Big night from PF Dravon Beck as he had 32 points in the win.

#6 Creighton beats #11 Washington State with a 23 point 11 rebound double double from Garrett Griffin.

#7 Butler eliminates #10 Tennessee without hitting a single 3 pointer. Butler would win 62-54 with 18 points from Chandler Reed.

#2 Cal takes down #15 Youngstown State 81-62 with a 26 point night from Teejay Holcomb. He was 2 assists away from a double double.

East Region

#1 Syracuse takes care of business 80-54 against #16 UNC Asheville. DJ Walker led all scorers with 28 points.

#9 Davidson takes down #8 Wisconsin and holds them to just 47 points. Shyquan Parker put up 17 points in the game to lead Davidson to the 59-47 victory setting up a big time matchup between Parker and DJ Walker next round.

#13 Georgia State has the upset of the tournament by knocking off #4 Virginia 64-60. Virginia had no answer inside Popeye Dandridge. The freshman had 24 points and 14 rebounds.

#5 Iowa State take down #12 Texas Southern in a close matchup 76-69. Iowa State SG Hadem Abdul-Wahad had 31 points and refused to let the Cyclones lose.

#3 Texas A&M eliminates #14 Bryant 77-59. Texas A&M's big 3 combined for 62 of their 77 points in the game.

#6 Indiana takes down #11 Miami 86-84. Indiana needed a big block from Clifford Malone at the buzzer to stop Miami from sending this to OT. Titus Riley would lead the Hoosiers with 19 points, while Miami PG Travis Schmidt led all scorers with 23.

#7 Wichita State moves on over #10 Ole Miss 64-60. PG Heath Day had 13 points and 11 assists in this one.

#2 North Carolina crushes #15 Monmouth 85-51. North Carolina took a 54-18 point lead into halftime before taking their foot off the gas pedal.

Round of 32

West Region

#9 Kansas State upsets the first #1 seed Oregon 65-61. Keaton Appling struggled all night and shot 3-14 from the field, while Kansas State big Evan Hollis, held Robby Love to just 9 points. Hollis played a huge game and got physical with Love picking up 4 fouls, but Love was only 2-12 from the freethrow line in this one, an abysmal showing. Clayton Braun, the 4 star recruit for the wildcats was 5-8 from 3 in this one and finished with 22 points.

#4 Xaver knocks of #5 Georgia 78-71. Xavier had 5 scorers in double digits, with Kjell Rollins leading the way with 15 points. Georgia SF Ugo Dedmon had 14 points while PG Stafford Potter had 16 of his own in the loss.

#3 Duke makes easy work on #11 Texas Tech 81-65 behind a 21 point game from L'Jeron Blount. Blount was incredibly efficient on the night hitting 7-9 FGs.

#7 West Virginia knocks off #2 UCLA 83-72. Jayce Selby rolled his ankle early in the 2nd half of this game and without another strong ball handler, UCLA was not able to handle the press. Damekus Blazic had 6 turnovers in this one in just 16 minutes of play. He is coming back for his sophomore year. Byron Simms had 7 steals in the game and 15 points.

Midwest Region

#1 Kansas cruises past #9 Maryland 76-58. A big game from Seth Dixon, who had 27 points and 6 assists in the game. Joey Williams of Maryland really did not stand a chance in this one.

#4 San Jose State ends the cinderella run of #12 Wofford before it can even get started. David Law was far and away the best player on the floor in this one and he would score 31 points to lead San Jose State to a 84-76 victory. Wofford kept it close by fouling at the end, but this game was really only close in the final score.

#3 Michigan State knocks off #11 Nebraska for the 3rd time this year 78-73 behind a 21 point 5 assist night from senior Ryan Thomas. Michigan State finished the game on a 22-7 run in the final 8 minutes of the game. This Nebraska team could be a sneaky team next year.

Bad luck for the 2 seeds on this side of the bracket as #7 Colorado upsets #2 Villanova 72-69. Just as he did in the McDonalds All-American game, Colorado Freshman Gerald Wiggington hit a deep 3 with 2 seconds remaining to win the game. Villanova called a timeout to set up a shot for Adili Brady at the buzzer, and he might have been fouled but there was a no call and Colorado advanced.

South Region

#1 Kentucky breezes past #8 Oklahoma State 83-51 behind 21 from Jackson Lamb, along with 17 from Brian Newman. Kentucky looks very strong heading into the Sweet 16.

We might have our cinderella team this year as #12 Iowa upsets #4 LSU pretty handedly, 75-61 behind 19 points from Mitchell Sanders. The Iowa defense swarmed Kevion Leaf all night and forced him into bad shot after bad shot.

#3 Utah State advances to their first Sweet 16 since 1970 with a 77-70 win over #6 Creighton. Dravon Beck had a 21 point 9 rebound night while PG Lyle Norris had a big scoring night with 21 points of his own.

#2 Cal moves past #7 Butler 92-81 after Teejay Holcomb scores 29 points, 24 of which came in the 2nd half of the game.

East Region

#1 Syracuse knocks off #9 Davidson 76-64. The matchup everyone was looking forward to was DJ Walker vs Shyquan Parker and boy did they not disappoint. Things got a bit chippy early in the game when DJ Walker was at the receiving end of a Cash Thornwell alley oop over Shyquan Parker. Parker didn't like it much and the two had to be separated. For the most part, Parker did a pretty good job on Walker, holding him to just 15 points on the night, but the rest of the Syracuse team was too much.

#13 Georgia State upsets #5 Iowa State 75-71 to continue their surprising run. Freshman C Popeye Dandridge has proven to be one of the best players of this region with another big night, 27 points and 15 rebounds. Iowa State's best player, Hadem Abdul-Wahad had 25 points in the game. Hadem officially declared for the NBA draft after the game.

#3 Texas A&M takes down #6 Indiana 66-61 behind a strong game from SF Melvin Haas. Haas had his best game of the season with 28 points. This Indiana team could be very strong in the next couple years as their core will be back.

#2 North Carolina moves past #7 Wichita State 82-67. A perfectly balanced game for UNC that had 6 players score 11 points or more.

Sweet 16

West Region

#9 Kansas State continues their incredible run with a win over #4 Xavier, 62-59, and they are doing it with great defense. Evan Hollis had 15 points and 4 blocks for the Wildcats in this one.

#3 Duke advances to the Elite 8 with an easy 88-67 point victory over #7 West Virginia. Duke went with a 4 guard lineup tonight to help them easily break the press, and it made things incredibly easy for them. They finished the game with only 4 turnovers, and had no issues breaking the press all night long.

Midwest Region

#4 San Jose State opens up the region by knocking off #1 Kansas 89-87 in overtime. This one might go down as the best game of the year. Seth Dixon and David Law might be the 2 best PGs in the country and they did not disappoint one bit. Law would start the game with the first 7 points and would get out to a lead before KU started chipping away. KU was down by 7 points with 35 seconds left in the game when Seth Dixon hit a 3, got a steal off the end bound, dribbled back to the 3 point line despite having plenty of time, pump faking, drawing a foul and converting a 4 point play making up 7 points in 2 possessions. David Law would miss the game winning shot in regulation. In OT with time winding down David Law started on the right side of the key drove left and did the Kemba Walker step back which brought 2 defenders, he then squeezed a pass down low to a wide open Mark Donnis for an easy bucket. Kansas and Seth Dixon would miss the game winner at the other end. David Law finished with 37 points and 6 assists while Seth Dixon had 33 and 7. Chase Fizer was relatively quiet in this one with just 8 points.

#3 Michigan State moves past #7 Colorado 80-72 behind a big game from senior Ryan Thomas. Thomas would finish with 26 points here and refuses to go home early.

South Region

#1 Kentucky takes down #12 Iowa 84-67 to advance to the Elite 8. Crazy to think that a 17 point victory was their closest game of the tournament so far, but they are a very good team playing great basketball at the moment. Jackson Lamb would finish with 25 points and Da'mir Solomon would chip in 20 of his own.

#3 Utah State moves on with a 70-64 victory over #2 Cal. Dravon Beck led all scorers with 24 points in this one. Teejay Holcomb would finish with 23 points in the loss.

East Region

#1 Syracuse continues to roll with a 78-59 victory over #13 Georgia State. Freshman C, Ben Lyons did a good job of limiting Popeye Dandridge to just 16 points in this one. DJ Walker, per usual, was simply fantastic. 23 points, 11 rebounds, between the legs dunk on

the fast break. It's been awhile since we have had a slam dunk, no brainer #1 pick, but it is clearly DJ Walker.

#2 North Carolina moves past #3 Texas A&M 93-85 behind the best game of Bud Welch's young career. Welch showed off just how well he can score in this one by hitting 7 3 pointers, a career high, to finish with 31 total points.

Elite 8

#3 Duke ends the #9 Kansas State run 72-63 behind 18 points from L'Jeron Blount. Dominic King would chip in 11 off the bench as well. Evan Hollis did have 3 blocks in the loss for the Cats, but with the majority of the Duke points coming from outside the paint, Hollis couldn't make as much of an impact.

#4 San Jose State sends home #3 Michigan State 76-75 in another thriller. San Jose State looked visibly tired after their battle with Kansas last round and came out flat which allowed Michigan State to take a 12 point lead into halftime. David Law kicked it into another gear after half, and would finish with 23 2nd half points to finish with 29 on the night.

#1 Kentucky send #3 Utah State packing 83-72. Again their closest game of the tournament, but Kentucky still looks unstoppable. Da'Mir Solomon had 29 points.

#1 Syracuse advances to the Final 4 with a hard fought battle against #2 North Carolina 84-81. DJ Walker had to work for his 25 points tonight, as it took him 18 shots to get there. Cash Thornwell picked up the slack with 22. North Carolina got a big night from their 6th man, DeShaun Fogg with 22 points and 5 assists, while Bud Welch had an off night shooting the ball and would only finish with 6. You don't typically hear about SF Elmore Givens, but he was surprisingly solid in this one with 17 points despite only averaging 8 on the season.

After the game, Bud Welch declared for the NBA, but DeShaun Fogg, Kwame Fox, Elmore Givens, Owen Dobbins, and Derrio Valentine all said they will be back for their senior years. They all talked about the brotherhood they have formed over the last 3 years and they want to go out on top together. This is going to be an absolutely loaded team who has 40-0 potential as they have also added a pair of top 5 recruits in PF Jay-Jay McAdoo and SF Dontrell Izzo. They will have a legit 7 NBA prospects on their team next season.

Final 4

Duke would take on San Jose State in this Final 4 matchup. Duke would get out to a big 33-13 lead over the course of the first 10 minutes of the game. Duke could not miss, while San Jose State went ice cold from the floor. Over the course of the next 10 minutes, David Law was able to chip away at the lead, but Duke would still take a 13 point lead into halftime. The first 5 minutes of the 2nd half here really separated Duke from San Jose State, as L'Jeron Blount just took over. 12 of the next 15 points for Duke came from Blount as he would blow the game wide open. David Law saw constant double teams and hedging on every screen and could not get a thing going in this one. Duke would win this one pretty handedly, 88-69.

In a much more entertaining game, Syracuse would take on Kentucky. Both teams are incredibly young, but Kentucky has the luxury of having Jackson Lamb, the sharp shooting senior on their squad. Over the course of the first 15 minutes of the game, there were 8 lead changes and the largest lead was Kentucky by 5. After the under 4 timeout in the first half, DJ Walker and Syracuse would go on a bit of a run. Driving layup DJ Walker. Steal by Cash Thornwell with a layup at the other end. Block by Ben Lyons on Da'mir Solomon which led to a DJ Walker transition dunk. One more steal from Thornwell which led to a DJ Walker corner 3. 9 straight points from Syracuse which would help them go into half with a 7 point lead, 43-36. To start the 2nd half, Kentucky made it clear their plan was to get Jackson Lamb some open looks in this zone, and he would do just that. Back to back 3's to start the half. This continues throughout the half and at one point, they forced Syracuse to come out of their famous 2-3 Zone. With the game all tied up, and just 2 minutes left, it became clear this was a game of DJ Walker vs Jackson Lamb. Walker would help Syracuse take a 80-78 lead with a strong move in the low post. Back at the other end, Jackson Lamb got his man in the air, and jumped into him. He would go to the line and hit all 3 free throws. Walker and Lamb would then trade missed shots at both ends of the floor. 20 seconds left. Shot clock off with DJ Walker at the top of the key down 80-81. Down to 15, 10, down to 8, 7, 6 before he starts to go. DJ Walker was not going to let Kentucky touch the ball again. DJ Drives hard right with Lamb on him. Brian Newman slides over from the wing to cut him off and DJ spins left away from him and takes off, throws a shot high off the backboard. In. Game. Syracuse advances 82-81 behind DJ Walker and his 33 points.

Championship Game

In a rematch from earlier in the year, Syracuse takes on Duke. Syracuse was riding high from their last second win against Kentucky, while Duke had a very easy victory over San Jose State.

Duke would score the first points of the game on a Jamaal Pierce layup. Pierce has had an up and down season, but when he has gotten going early, he has been good. No surprise that DJ Walker scores the first 4 points for the Orange. A back and fourth game and you can easily tell that Duke is the better team, but they do not have the best player on the floor. DJ Walker would score 18 in the first half to keep Syracuse in the game. Duke takes a 33-30 lead into half time. The Syracuse zone is working much better this game than it did against Kentucky. To start off the 2nd half, DJ Walker would find Cash Thornwell in the corner in an attempt to get him scoring. Duke is making it clear that they want someone other than Walker to beat them. Double and triple teams start flowing his way anytime he touches the ball, and the crazy thing is he is still scoring out of them. Walker would have to work for every point in this one.

Down to 3 minutes left in the game, and Duke would have a 78-71 lead. A steal from Thornwell and a fast break ally-oop from Walker would cut the lead to 5 and energize the team. Jump ball thanks to Ben Lyons the next time down the floor and its Syracuse's ball. Walker would hit a deep 3 next time down the floor to close the lead to 2. Next possession, Jamaal Pierce would drive to the hoop just to have Cash Thornwell slide under him. Charge. 45 seconds left with Syracuse down 2. Who else but DJ Walker is taking a shot here? Walker drives right, doubled and throws up a bad shot on the baseline. Luckily, Ben Lyons picks up the easy board, and puts it back while getting fouled. Lyons, just a 54% freethrow shooter has a chance to put Syracuse ahead with under 30 seconds left and he does. With the shot clock turned off, Duke runs the clock down to 10 before setting an elevator screen for Blount. Blount gets the ball at the freethrow line for a wide open look. Back iron. DJ Walker picks up the rebound and is immediately fouled with 1.8 seconds left. Walker would hit one of two freethrows to extend the Syracuse lead to 80-78. Jamaal Pierce would get a pretty solid look from halfcourt, but all he hit there was backboard. Syracuse wins, 80-78.

DJ Walker would be named tournament MVP after scoring 34 points in the championship game. In his lone season of college basketball, there is nothing he did not accomplish.

NCAA Awards

1st Team All Americans

G-Seth Dixon, Kansas (Sr.)
G-David Law, San Jose State (Sr.)
F-DJ Walker, Syracuse (Fr.)
F-Dravon Beck, Utah State (Sr.)
F-Jackson Lamb, Kentucky (Sr.)

2nd Team All Americans

G-Teejay Holcomb, Cal (Sr.)
G-Kwame Fox, UNC (Jr.)
F-Kjell Rollins, Xavier (Jr.)
F-Adili Brady, Villanova (Sr.)
C-Robby Love, Oregon (Jr.)

3rd Team All Americans

G-Kevion Leaf, LSU (Sr.)
G-Hadem Abdul-Wahad, Iowa State (Jr.)
G-L'Jeron Blount, Duke (Fo.)
F-Ryan Thomas, Michigan State (Sr.)
C-Chandler Reed, BYU (Sr.)

All Defensive Team

G-L'Jeron Blount, Duke (Fr.)
G-Pervis Bailey, Utah (Jr.)
F-Byron Simms, West Virginia (Jr.)
F-Zach Powers, Texas (Jr.)
F-Cle'von Dunn, Mississippi State (Jr.)

All Freshman Team

G-Bud Welch, UNC
G-L'Jeron Blount, Duke
F-DJ Walker, Syracuse
F-Gerald Wiggington, Colorado
C-Chase Fizer, Kanas

National Awards

Wooden Award-DJ Walker, Syracuse (Fr.)
Bob Cousery-Seth Dixon, Kansas (Sr.)
Jerry West-Kevion Leaf, LSU (Sr.)
Julius Erving-DJ Walker, Syracuse (Fr.)
Karl Malone-Dravon Beck, Utah State (Sr.)
Abdul-Jabar-Robby Love, Oregon (Jr.)
Defensive POY-Cle'von Dunn, Mississippi State (Jr.)