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Who's the one

With a roster full of young talent and **Quin Snyder** entering his third season as coach, there are several paths for the Jazz to go in this year's NBA draft

Mocking the draft with Tony Jones

Ben Simmons should go No. 1, but our NBA expert goes beyond that. **Page 58**



Long road to now for Joel Bolomboy

Perhaps lost in the spotlight on Jakob Poeltl is that Weber State will have a post player of its own drafted. **Page S17**



Jazz know how high the stakes are

From Gordon Hayward to the last man on the roster, Utah knows it's playoffs or bust next season. **Page S19**





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DEALING WITH REJECTION

The Jazz had a tough time getting higher-profile prospects to work out. One key reason may be a roster loaded with young, talented players. › **PAGE S3**

THE WORKOUT PROCESS

Among the dozens of prospects the Jazz brought to Salt Lake City for workouts, four stand out: Domantas Sabonis, Dejounte Murray, Denzel Valentine and Deyonta Davis. › **PAGES S4-7**

PREDICTING THE DRAFT

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FRANCISCO KJOLSETH | *Tribune file photo*

The trade with the Denver Nuggets that brought center Rudy Gobert to the Utah Jazz late in the first round of the 2013 draft is the crowning achievement of the Dennis Lindsey era so far.



Associated Press file photos

From left, NBA draft prospects Malachi Richardson of Syracuse, Jakob Poeltl of Utah, Denzel Valentine of Michigan State and Skal Labissiere of Kentucky.

Up close and personal? Not always

Jazz have had problems recently getting prospects to come in for workouts.

By **TONY JONES**

The Salt Lake Tribune

The process before the NBA draft amounts to an intriguing game of cat and mouse.

Teams want to work out the players, but agents want to steer the players to teams with favorable situations for their clients. Agents want players to land in the best spot, but teams want to take a look at as many prospects as possible.

It adds up to bartering behind the scenes. And for the Utah Jazz, getting elite players to come to Salt Lake City has been a chore.

"We've certainly had our problems bringing guys in over the last two years," Jazz VP of Player Personnel Walt Perrin admitted.

Roster composition has a lot to do with it. There isn't an easy path into the Jazz's starting lineup for prospects, and Gordon Hayward, at 26, is the eldest member of the

current core.

For a team picking in the lottery — the Jazz have the No. 12 selection in the draft — Utah's situation is favorable in the near future. The Jazz are expected to challenge for a playoff spot next season in the Western Conference. That means any prospective draft pick may have to wait his turn for a year or even longer.

That causes agents to try and steer their clients away from the Jazz. And it's the reality the Jazz have to fight, although they know it and embrace it in some ways.

Agents consistently look at the bottom line. A rookie comes in with a four-year contract — two of them guaranteed before teams hold options for two years. That means, in a lot of cases, a player has two years to make an impact, or he can risk being lost in the shuffle.

Former Jazz shooting guard Morris Almond is a prime example of this. He was

Getting a glimpse

Notable current players the Jazz worked out before the draft » Trey Burke, Trey Lyles, Rudy Gobert.

Notable players the Jazz drafted without working out beforehand » Dante Exum, Rodney Hood.

Utah's 2007 first-round pick. He got caught behind a lot of depth on the wings, played two years, and was let go by the team when his third-year option wasn't picked up.

"We have to be diligent about where to send our guys, because they have a tight window," said agent Stephen Pina, who works with ASM Sports. "It's natural to want our guys going to spots where they have a chance to contribute right away."

Pina represents Syracuse guard Malachi Richardson and Seton Hall guard Isaiah Whitehead, both of whom are expected to be drafted. Pina allowed Richardson to work out in Salt Lake City because

he feels Richardson would have a role on Utah's roster.

"The Jazz need shooting, and Malachi can shoot the ball," Pina said. "He brings something that they need, and the Jazz are a great organization."

Still, the Jazz have had their issues bringing in elite prospects. They were able to bring in two players projected in their range — Michigan State's Deyonta Davis and Gonzaga's Domantas Sabonis. Going into draft week, Utah had not been able to secure a workout from Kentucky big man Skal Labissiere, or University of Utah center Jakob Poeltl. And Davis and Sabonis were solo workouts, at the behest of their agents.

"Solo workouts in some cases are fine with us," Perrin said. "We're getting a look at the prospects, and that's important."

Utah as an organization understands that pre-draft power lies with agents. But as an organization, the Jazz are known to draft a prospect they haven't worked out with little hesitation.

In 2013, the Jazz traded for Trey Burke. In 2014, they drafted Dante Exum and Rodney Hood. The Jazz hadn't brought any of those guys in for a workout.

The vetting process is a bit more exhaustive and difficult in these cases. But the Jazz scouting department has seen many of the players they select as far back as high school. So they feel like they have the needed information to take players, even if they haven't seen them up close.

"It's all about doing the homework," Perrin said. "We talk to a bunch of people surrounding the player. We talk to their coaches, we talk to the strength and conditioning guys. We talk to the academic guys. If it's an international player, we talk to the staff and coaches on the club. In the case of Rodney and Dante, we felt comfortable taking both players. We knew they were good guys, good players and would add to our culture."

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Pair of Spartans bring intrigue



AL GOLDIS | Associated Press file photo

Michigan State's Denzel Valentine was the college player of the year, averaging nearly 20 points per game along with 7.5 rebounds and 7.8 assists.

Michigan State senior **Denzel Valentine** projected by many to be in the Jazz's sights at No. 12 ...

By **AARON FALK**

The Salt Lake Tribune

With less than a month to go until the draft, Denzel Valentine was picking his spots.

The former Michigan State star and college basketball's player of the year last season visited Salt Lake City for his first pre-draft workout with any NBA team on the last day of May. Valentine had only three other stops — Milwaukee, Chicago and Orlando — scheduled before the draft.

"His agent said he's not concerned about the number in terms of where he is in the draft. He's more concerned about a good fit," Jazz VP of Player Personnel Walt Perrin said.

Scour the internet's endless supply of mock drafts and you'll see that the 6-foot-5 Valentine is a popular choice for the Jazz's No. 12 pick. And after his workout, Perrin said he thought Valentine and the Jazz could indeed be a match.

"He would fit with our team structure and how we play and how he plays," Perrin said. "He's a pretty

good shooter and I think he's going to become better. He does pass the ball extremely well, which [head coach Quin Snyder] likes. And I think he would fit in in Salt Lake City."

Valentine, who shot 44 percent from 3 last season, said he could see himself playing both guard positions in Utah.

"I know they have [Dante] Exum at the point," he said. "Me and him could take turns. Or I could play off guard, just another guy who can play in pick-and-roll and be able to guard [multiple positions] as well and make plays that way."

A four-year player at Michigan State, the 22-year-old Valentine is among the older lottery hopefuls. But Valentine — who averaged 19.2 points, 7.5 rebounds and 7.8 assists a game last season — said his growth each season should be seen as a sign of better things to come.

"I plan to do that at the next level, too," he said.

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PAUL VERNON | Associated Press file photo

Michigan State's Deyonta Davis averaged 7.5 points per game in his one season with the Spartans. He shot nearly 60 percent from the field.

... but his teammate, **Deyonta Davis**, has the versatility that may make him more attractive.

By **TONY JONES**

The Salt Lake Tribune

If you listen to the phrases and the catchwords, you could close your eyes, think back six years and picture Derrick Favors.

That's how talented Michigan State's Deyonta Davis is. That's how quiet and reserved he was off the floor during a pre-draft workout with the Utah Jazz. That's the ceiling on his athleticism.

Like Favors, Davis is leaving college after a year. Like Favors, Davis has an expanded skillset that he wasn't able to show collegiately. Like Favors, Davis possesses a plethora of talent, makes the game look relatively easy and needs to figure out how to play hard 100 percent of the time.

"I thought I shot the ball well today," Davis said. "They wanted me to show my shooting, how I shoot the ball, my floaters. If being at Michigan State taught me anything, it's to treat every day like it's my last."

Davis played exclusively in the post with Michigan State, and took just four shots outside of the paint in

his freshman season. With the Jazz, he showed a jumper out to 18 feet.

"For a solo workout, he did well," Jazz VP of Player Personnel Walt Perrin said. "He showed stuff we didn't see at Michigan State. He has a pretty good shooting touch from 18 feet on in. He has the ability to eventually get out to 3-point range."

If the Jazz were to draft him, Davis would be a good candidate to slide into the role of the fourth big man, if Trevor Booker were to leave the team during free agency.

If Booker were to stay with the Jazz, Davis would likely find the path to playing time a lot more difficult. Davis sees himself as a stretch power forward, and the Jazz already have one of those in Trey Lyles. So Davis would likely have to play a lot at center if he were to be drafted by Utah.

Either way, the Jazz like Davis' talent and upside. If he's on the board when the No. 12 pick comes around, he could be a candidate for the Jazz.

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Murray shoots up draft board

Former Husky guard's improved form in workout makes him a potential prospect.

By **TONY JONES**

The Salt Lake Tribune

Walt Perrin is typically a master at the poker face.

As VP of Player Personnel for the Utah Jazz, Perrin has seen more pre-draft workouts than you can count. So if you ask how a player did on a particular day, you usually get a measured response.

Perrin's reaction to De-jounte Murray was different. "He looked good," Perrin said. "Real good. He shot the ball better than I expected."

Murray, a guard from the University of Washington, had an individual workout with the Jazz in early June. Perrin wouldn't confirm that Murray could be on the Jazz's big board when the team selects at No. 12, but there is no doubt he left impressed.

Murray's shooting was supposed to be a weakness, but he knocked down shots in drills. The Jazz have scouted Murray's game off the dribble, how he can get into the lane and could be a playmaker in Quin Snyder's offense. If he adds a jumper to his skillset, Murray becomes difficult to guard.

"When I came in, I just wanted to get a feel for the team and the process," Murray said. "I wanted to be confident, shoot the ball with confidence, learn different stuff, have fun and try to be good at everything I do."

Murray's stock has been rising because of his offensive potential. Murray wasn't highly regarded out of high school, but showed so much potential with the Huskies that he felt comfortable

Murray vs. Utah

Jan. 24, an 80-75 Utah win » 8 points on 4 of 16 shooting, 13 rebounds, 6 assists, 4 turnovers.
Feb. 10, a 90-82 Utah win » 4 points on 2 of 11 shooting, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 turnovers.

making the leap after one season. He looks to join a long list of guards from the Seattle area who have made it to the NBA, which includes former Huskies Brandon Roy, and Nate Robinson, plus Seattle natives Jamal Crawford, Tony Wroten, Terrence Ross and Jason Terry.

Perrin said Utah sees Murray as a point guard, but Murray spent a lot of his time at Washington playing off the ball. Perrin also said Murray and incumbent point guard Dante Exum have complementing abilities and can play together in the backcourt. Exum is 6-foot-6 and Murray is 6-5, so defensively the pairing would combine well.

"I have a lot to work on and I have a lot to get better at," Murray said. "As I got closer and closer to Jamal [Crawford], he told me to embrace the process. He told me to have fun, do it all and take your time. At the end of the day, have fun. I can't get too comfortable. I have to improve like everyone else. I just have to work hard and get better at everything, that's what I want to do."

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CHRIS DETRICK | Tribune file photo

Dejounte Murray left Washington after one impressive season and is a projected first-round pick.

Sabonis not just son of former star

Gonzaga big man, who tormented Utes and Cougars, is a first-round prospect himself.

By **AARON FALK**

The Salt Lake Tribune

Whether you bleed Ute red or Cougar blue, there's a good chance you have booed Domantas Sabonis recently.

The 6-foot-10 big man caused plenty of trouble for the Cougars in two seasons at Gonzaga and, last March, Sabonis helped boot the Utes from the NCAA tournament.

But, right now, Sabonis can envision a future in which basketball fans across the state actually cheer him.

"That'd be nice for once," Sabonis said with a laugh after working out for the Jazz.

The Jazz own the 12th pick in the NBA draft and the 20-year-old Sabonis can picture himself playing in Salt Lake City next season. The big man said his visit to Utah was the fourth and final workout he had scheduled.

"I'm just looking for a good fit," Sabonis said. "... I just know they're a great organization. They're a very young team with a lot of potential. They're rising very high and it's going to come soon."

Sabonis, who also made stops in Toronto, Boston and Phoenix, completed a solo workout. Still, the event was an opportunity for Jazz scouts to get an up-close look at an intriguing prospect.

"We had him shoot a couple threes and he looked comfortable shooting them," Jazz VP of Player Personnel Walt Perrin said. "He's pretty crafty around the basket with his footwork and his shot-making. He had a pretty good workout going against himself."

The Jazz currently have six big men on their roster. But forward Trevor Booker will be an unrestricted free agent come July and a young talent like Sabonis could potentially



SCOTT SOMMERDORF | Tribune file photo

Gonzaga's Domantas Sabonis passes against Utah during the second round of the NCAA Tournament in Denver in March. Gonzaga beat Utah 82-59, leaving Sabonis 3-1 against teams from Utah this past season after going 2-1 against BYU.

Sabonis vs. Utes and Cougars

Jan. 14 vs. BYU, a 69-68 Cougars win » 5 points on 2 of 6 shooting, 6 rebounds

Feb. 27 at BYU, a 71-68 Zags win » 15 points on 6 of 11 shooting, 14 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 blocks, 5 turnovers

March 7 vs. BYU, an 88-84 Zags win in the WCC Tournament » 18 points on 6 of 6 shooting, 14 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 block, 7 turnovers

March 19 vs. Utah, an 82-59 Zags win in the NCAA Tournament » 19 points on 8 of 12 shooting, 10 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 turnovers.

help plug that spot.

"I think he's a rotational guy [in the NBA]," Perrin said. "He could probably start in certain situations at times

and I think he's going to help some team win."

The son of basketball legend Arvydas Sabonis, the younger Sabonis said he's

been able to lean on his father as he's learned the game.

"I'm really proud of my dad," he said. "Just knowing I'm his son and having his name on the back of my jersey, it gives me that extra motivation."

But Sabonis knows his game can't match his father's. "To me, he's the best there was," the son said. "There's nobody like him ever again."

Still, the younger Sabonis offers plenty to like. The Lithuanian jumped from averaging 9 points a game as a freshman at Gonzaga to scoring more than 17 a game last season as a sophomore. Jazz

officials, meanwhile, believe he has room to grow and should be able to add 3-point shooting to his repertoire eventually. In the meantime, Sabonis can already impress with his skills as a passer and, more importantly, his motor.

"He naturally plays hard," Perrin said. "You would think everybody plays hard, but that's not necessarily the case. When you see a player that naturally plays hard, especially a big guy, you take notice of it."

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REMEMBER THESE NAMES? » UTAH JAZZ DRAFT HISTORY

Erick Green » Second-round draft pick in 2013 was traded on draft night to Denver for the rights to Rudy Gobert, now a Jazz star.



Dominique Wilkins » Was drafted by the Jazz, then traded months later to Atlanta for John Drew, Freeman Williams and cash.



Aleksander Belov » Jazz draft pick is better known for scoring the winning basket in disputed 1972 Olympic game between USSR and USA.



YEAR	RD.	NO.	PLAYER	PREVIOUS	YEAR	RD.	NO.	PLAYER	PREVIOUS	YEAR	RD.	NO.	PLAYER	PREVIOUS
2015	1	12	Trey Lyles	Kentucky	1987	3	61	Clarence Martin	Western Ky.	1980	6	118	Ken Cunningham	Western Michigan
2015	2	42	Olivier Hanlan	Boston College	1987	3	68	Billy Donovan	Providence	1980	7	140	Dave Colescott	North Carolina
2015	2	54	Dani Diez	Spain	1987	4	84	Reuben Holmes	Alabama State	1980	8	163	Jim Brandon	Saint Peter's
2014	1	5	Dante Exum	Australia	1987	5	107	Bart Kofoed	Nebraska-Kearney	1980	9	181	Paul Renfro	Texas-Arlington
2014	1	23	Rodney Hood	Duke	1987	6	130	Art Sabb	Bloomfield	1980	10	201	Leroy Coleman	Middle Tenn. State
2014	2	35	Jarnell Stokes	Tennessee	1987	7	153	Keith Webster	Harvard	1979	1	20	Larry Knight	Loyola (Chicago)
2013	1	14	Shabazz Muhammad	UCLA	1986	1	15	Dell Curry	Virginia Tech	1979	2	23	Tico Brown	Georgia Tech
2013	1	21	Gorgui Dieng	Louisville	1986	3	61	John Shasky	Minnesota	1979	3	45	Arvid Kramer	Augustana
2013	2	46	Erick Green	Virginia Tech	1986	3	63	Bill Breeding	Rocky Mountain	1979	4	67	Greg Deane	Utah
2012	2	47	Kevin Murphy	Tennessee Tech	1986	4	84	Marty Embry	DePaul	1979	5	89	Wolfe Perry	Stanford
2011	1	3	Enes Kanter	Turkey	1986	5	107	Kerry Boagni	Cal State-Fullerton	1979	6	109	Ernie Cobb	Boston University
2011	1	12	Alec Burks	Colorado	1986	6	130	Chuck Everson	Villanova	1979	7	129	Paul Poe	Louisiana College
2010	1	9	Gordon Hayward	Butler	1986	7	153	Mark Mitchell	Hartford	1979	8	148	Keith McDonald	Utah State
2010	2	55	Jeremy Evans	Western Ky.	1985	1	13	Karl Malone	Louisiana Tech	1979	9	167	Milt Huggins	Southern Illinois
2009	1	20	Eric Maynor	VCU	1985	2	37	Carey Scurry	Long Island	1979	10	185	Paul Dawkins	Northern Illinois
2009	2	50	Goran Suton	Michigan State	1985	4	83	Delaney Rudd	Wake Forest	1978	1	11	James Hardy	San Francisco
2008	1	23	Kosta Koufos	Ohio State	1985	5	105	Ray Hall	Canisius College	1978	2	35	Tommie Green	Southern
2008	2	44	Ante Tomic	Croatia	1985	6	129	Jim Miller	Virginia	1978	4	74	Mel Davis	North Texas
2008	2	53	Tadja Dragicevic	Serbia	1985	7	151	Mike Wacker	Texas-San Antonio	1978	4	75	Jeff Covington	Youngstown State
2007	1	25	Morris Almond	Rice	1984	1	16	John Stockton	Gonzaga	1978	5	96	Duck Williams	Notre Dame
2007	2	55	Herbert Hill	Providence	1984	3	62	David Pope	Norfolk State	1978	6	118	John Douglas	Kansas
2006	1	14	Ronnie Brewer	Arkansas	1984	4	86	Jim Rowinski	Purdue	1978	7	139	Willie Howard	New Mexico
2006	2	46	Dee Brown	Illinois	1984	5	108	Marcus Gaither	Fairleigh Dickinson	1978	8	158	Carl Kilpatrick	Louisiana-Monroe
2006	2	47	Paul Millsap	Louisiana Tech	1984	6	132	Chris Harrison	W.Va. Wesleyan	1978	9	175	Chad Nelson	Drake
2005	1	3	Deron Williams	Illinois	1984	7	154	Bob Evans	Southern Utah	1978	10	190	Rickey Williams	Cal-Long Beach
2005	2	34	C.J. Miles	Skyline HS (Texas)	1984	8	178	Eric Booker	UNLV	1977	2	44	Essie Hollis	St. Bonaventure
2005	2	51	Robert Whaley	Walsh	1984	9	199	Kelly Knight	Kansas	1977	3	50	Tony Hanson	Connecticut
2004	1	14	Kris Humphries	Minnesota	1984	10	222	Mike Curran	Niagara University	1977	4	72	Dennis Boyd	Detroit Mercy
2004	1	16	Kirk Snyder	Nevada	1983	1	7	Thurl Bailey	N.C. State	1977	5	94	Jim Grady	Gonzaga
2004	1	21	Pavel Podkolzin	Russia	1983	3	54	Bob Hansen	Iowa	1977	6	116	Wayne Golden	Tenn.-Chattanooga
2003	1	19	Sasha Pavlovic	Montenegro	1983	4	76	Doug Arnold	TCU	1977	7	137	Lusia Harris	Delta State
2003	2	47	Mo Williams	Alabama	1983	5	100	Matt Clark	Oklahoma State	1977	8	157	Dave Speicher	Toledo
2002	1	19	Ryan Humphrey	Notre Dame	1983	6	122	Fred Gilliam	Clemson	1976	2	26	Jacky Dorsey	Georgia
2002	2	46	Jamal Sampson	California	1983	7	146	Joe Kazanowski	Canada	1976	3	42	Steve Copp	San Diego State
2001	1	24	Raul Lopez	Spain	1983	8	168	Michael McCombs	Santa Fe	1976	4	58	John Service	UC-Santa Barbara
2001	2	52	Jarron Collins	Stanford	1983	9	191	Ron Webb	Okla. Christian	1976	5	74	Paul Griffin	Western Michigan
2000	1	23	DeShawn Stevenson	W. Union HS (Calif.)	1983	10	211	Odell Mosteller	Auburn	1976	6	94	Barnard Tomlin	Hofstra
2000	2	50	Kaniel Dickens	Idaho	1982	1	3	Dominique Wilkins	Georgia	1976	7	111	Andy Walker	Niagara
1999	1	19	Quincy Lewis	Minnesota	1982	3	49	Steve Trumbo	BYU	1976	8	128	Richard Bryant	Texas State
1999	1	24	Andrei Kirilenko	Russia	1982	3	55	Jerry Eaves	Louisville	1976	9	148	Calvin Robinson	Miss. Valley State
1999	1	28	Scott Padgett	Kentucky	1982	4	72	Mark Eaton	UCLA	1976	10	164	Art Johnson	Iowa State
1999	2	58	Eddie Lucas	Virginia Tech	1982	5	95	Mike McKay	Connecticut	1975	1	7	Rich Kelley	Stanford
1998	1	29	Nazr Mohammed	Kentucky	1982	6	118	Alvin Jackson	Southern	1975	3	37	Rudy Hackett	Syracuse
1998	2	57	Torrye Braggs	Xavier	1982	7	141	Thad Gardner	Michigan	1975	3	38	Jim McElroy	Central Michigan
1997	1	27	Jacque Vaughn	Kansas	1982	8	164	Rick Campbell	Middle Tenn. State	1975	4	55	Mack Coleman	Houston Baptist
1997	2	56	Nate Erdmann	Oklahoma	1982	9	187	Riley Clarida	Long Island	1975	5	73	Andre Hampton	Kentucky State
1996	1	25	Martin Muursepp	Romania	1982	10	208	Michael Edwards	New Orleans	1975	6	91	Rich Schmidt	Illinois
1996	2	54	Shandon Anderson	Georgia	1981	1	13	Danny Schayes	Syracuse	1975	7	109	Bill Higgins	Ashland
1995	1	28	Greg Ostertag	Kansas	1981	2	27	Howard Wood	Tennessee	1975	8	127	Harvey Carmichael	Kentucky State
1994	2	47	Jamie Watson	South Carolina	1981	4	73	George Torres	Sou. Nazarene	1975	9	145	Fred Stokes	Barber-Scotia
1993	1	18	Luther Wright	Seton Hall	1981	5	97	Mike Clark	Oregon	1975	10	161	Aleksander Belov	Russia
1993	2	45	Bryon Russell	Cal-Long Beach	1981	6	119	Kevin Sprewer	Loyola (Chicago)	1974	2	28	Aaron James	Grambling
1991	1	21	Eric Murdock	Providence	1981	7	143	Mike Robinson	Central Michigan	1974	3	46	Bruce King	Texas-Pan American
1991	2	48	Isaac Austin	Arizona State	1981	8	165	Bobby Cattage	Auburn	1974	4	64	Ray Price	Washington
1990	2	33	Walter Palmer	Dartmouth	1981	9	188	Ken Ollie	Wyoming	1974	5	82	Ed Searcy	St. John's
1989	1	21	Blue Edwards	East Carolina	1981	10	207	Joe Merten	Wisconsin-Eau Claire	1974	6	100	Lawrence McCray	Florida State
1989	2	48	Junie Lewis	South Alabama	1980	1	2	Darrell Griffith	Louisville	1974	7	118	Joel Copeland	Old Dominion
1988	2	42	Jeff Moe	Iowa	1980	1	19	John Duren	Georgetown	1974	8	136	Jay Piccola	Roanoke College
1988	3	67	Ricky Grace	Oklahoma	1980	4	72	Alan Taylor	BYU	1974	9	154	Ken Boyd	Boston University
1987	1	15	Jose Ortiz	Oregon State	1980	5	94	Wally West	Boston University	1974	10	171	Walt McGary	Tenn.-Chattanooga

TONY JONES' MOCK DRAFT » THE TRIBUNE'S EXPERT PREDICTS WHO GOES WHERE



No. 2
Brandon Ingram
Duke

No. 8
Jaylen Brown
California

No. 11
Skal Labissiere
Kentucky

1. PHILADELPHIA 76ERS

BEN SIMMONS, F, LSU
The best player in the draft and the one with a generational upside. You don't pass on that.

2. LOS ANGELES LAKERS

BRANDON INGRAM, F, DUKE
He isn't Kevin Durant, but has the chance to make multiple All-Star Games. Prototypical wing scorer.

3. BOSTON CELTICS

BUDDY HIELD, G, OKLAHOMA
The Celtics could trade this pick. If not, Hield is the best shooter in the draft, and Danny Ainge loves shooters.

4. PHOENIX SUNS

DRAGAN BENDER, F, CROATIA
Not as polished as Kristaps Porzingis, but has similar upside. Phoenix needs immediate help, but he is tough to pass up.

5. MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES

JAMAL MURRAY, G, KENTUCKY
Can play both guard spots, and his shooting will offer up free space for Karl-Anthony Towns and Andrew Wiggins to operate.

6. NEW ORLEANS PELICANS

KRIS DUNN, G, PROVIDENCE
Best point guard on the board. Can play alongside Jrue Holiday and cause nightmares for the opposition.

7. DENVER NUGGETS

MARQUESE CHRISS, F, WASHINGTON
Maybe the biggest upside prospect in the draft. Chriss has insane athleticism but is a project.

8. SACRAMENTO KINGS

JAYLEN BROWN, F, CALIFORNIA
Stanley Johnson with more athleticism. Brown has the chance to turn into a two-way stud down the road.

9. TORONTO RAPTORS

DEYONTA DAVIS, F, MICHIGAN STATE
With Bismack Biyombo likely leaving in free agency, the Raptors take Davis, who can help right away in the frontcourt.

10. MILWAUKEE BUCKS

JAKOB POELTL, C, UTAH
When Greg Monroe is your best hope for interior defense, you're in trouble. Poeltl would fit in well in Milwaukee.

11. ORLANDO MAGIC

SKAL LABISSIERE, C, KENTUCKY
Best player available on the board. His year at UK was a disappointment, but his gifts can't be ignored.

12. UTAH JAZZ

DEJOUNTE MURRAY, G, WASHINGTON
There's a chance the Jazz trade down. If they pick here, Murray's ability to create offense is a tipping point.

13. PHOENIX SUNS

FURKAN KORKMAZ, G, TURKEY
Tremendous athlete and shooter. Has the chance to be a good scorer. Is good value with this selection.

14. CHICAGO BULLS

MALACHI RICHARDSON, G, SYRACUSE
The Bulls need shooting. Richardson's stock is all over the board, but prevailing opinion says the Bulls are a potential landing spot.

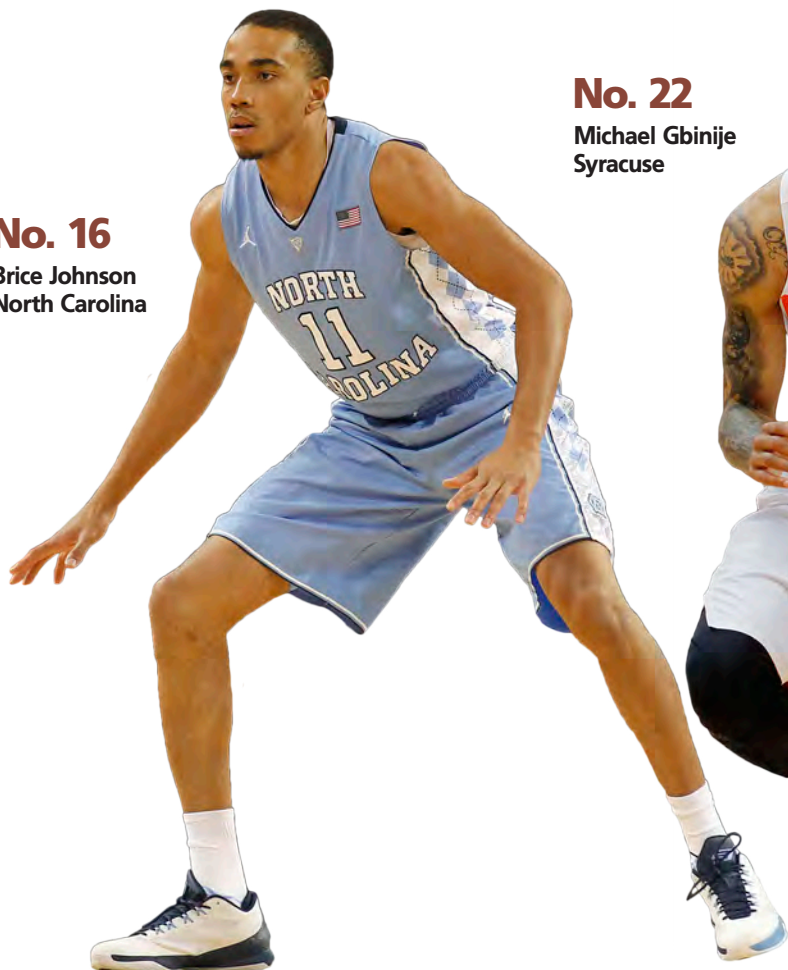
15. DENVER NUGGETS

MALIK BEASLEY, G, FLORIDA STATE
Can flat-out shoot the ball and score. Beasley is a wing scorer that Denver needs. Imagine he and Will Barton coming off the bench for the Nuggets.

TONY JONES' MOCK DRAFT » THE TRIBUNE'S EXPERT PREDICTS WHO GOES WHERE

No. 16

Brice Johnson
North Carolina



No. 22

Michael Gbinije
Syracuse



No. 26

DeAndre Bembry
St. Joseph's



16. BOSTON CELTICS

BRICE JOHNSON, F, NORTH CAROLINA

The Celtics need frontcourt athleticism. Johnson is one of the most athletic big men in draft.

17. MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES

WADE BALDWIN, G, VANDERBILT

6-foot-4 and athletic, Baldwin gives Memphis insurance in case Michael Conley leaves in free agency.

18. DETROIT PISTONS

DENZEL VALENTINE, G/F, MICHIGAN STATE

The kind of versatile threat the Pistons need off their bench. Can play any of the perimeter spots, and is ready to play from Day 1.

19. DENVER NUGGETS

DEMETRIUS JACKSON, G, NOTRE DAME

Not sure the Nuggets make three picks in the top 20. If they do, boosting that backup point guard slot is a must.

20. INDIANA PACERS

JUAN HERNANGOMEZ, F, SPAIN

Can shoot the ball and stretch the floor, which is the style Larry Bird wants to play. As Myles Turner develops, the Spainaird would be a good fit next to him.

21. ATLANTA HAWKS

PATRICK MCCAW, G/F, UNLV

One of the best defenders in the draft, McCaw compensates if the Hawks lose Kent Bazemore to free agency.

22. CHARLOTTE HORNETS

MICHAEL GBINJE, G, SYRACUSE

The Hornets could lose Nic Batum in free agency, and Gbinije can play all the perimeter spots.

23. BOSTON CELTICS

DAMIAN JONES, C, VANDERBILT

By this time, the Celtics could well have made a trade. Jones offers athleticism and rim protection up front. Boston needs both.

24. PHILADELPHIA 76ERS

HENRY ELLENSON, F, MARQUETTE

A smooth, skilled big man, Ellenson can play and has upside offensively.

25. LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS

TIMOTHE LUWAWU, G, FRANCE

Good defender. Still a bit of a project. But the Clippers need wing help, and they can afford to wait for him to develop.

26. PHILADELPHIA 76ERS

DEANDRE BEMBRY, G/F, ST. JOSEPH'S

Skilled all-around player who may be one of the best small forwards in the draft. He could contribute here from Day 1.

27. TORONTO RAPTORS

STEPHEN ZIMMERMAN, F, UNLV

Can shoot and has athleticism. Zimmerman is a project, but one worth taking a flyer on.

28. PHOENIX SUNS

TAUREAN PRINCE, F, BAYLOR

A rough and rugged combination forward. Plays the game with a chip on his shoulder. Has chance to be a rotational player.

29. SAN ANTONIO SPURS

THON MAKER, F, CANADA

Huge upside talent. Won't be ready to truly contribute for a few years. But is 7-foot-1, is athletic and has the potential to be a good shooter.

30. GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS

PASCAL SIAKAM, F, NEW MEXICO STATE

Has had good workouts and has impressed with his skill level and effort in the past month.

TONY JONES' TOP 5 POINT GUARDS »

1. KRIS DUNN

The Providence star reminds many of John Wall. He's 6-foot-4, he's a terrific defender and athlete, he's a great passer and has blinding speed in the open floor. He's by far the best point guard prospect in this draft. His big flaw is the need to develop a jumper. But he's a guy who can start in this league from Day 1. Don't be shocked to see Dunn in an All-Star Game somewhere down the line.



FILE PHOTO | The Associated Press

2. DEJOUNTE MURRAY

The one-year wonder from Washington is as dynamic a ball-handler as there is in this draft. His ability to create off the dribble is special, reminding some of Jamal Crawford. He has to develop a lot of other areas (defense, IQ), but he's a raw talent with the potential to be significant in this league.

3. WADE BALDWIN

Big and athletic at 6-foot-4, the Vanderbilt product certainly has upside, but his stock is all over the map. He could go as high as No. 8 to the Sacramento Kings, or he could slide into the 20s. He's someone who can finish above the rim, and someone who creates well off the dribble.

4. DEMETRIUS JACKSON

Jackson is a tremendous athlete, although the former Notre Damer is 6-foot-1 and stocky. He's built like a linebacker, but has no trouble attacking the rim off the dribble. He's another whose stock is all over the map. He's a potential first-rounder.

5. GARY PAYTON II

Like his father, he's a great lockdown defender. He's a terrific athlete, maybe even better than his father. He's nowhere near the offensive presence his father was, but he's definitely an NBA talent who can help a team in time.

TONY JONES' TOP 5 SHOOTING GUARDS »

1. JAMAL MURRAY

Offensively, he could be elite in this league. He's a great shooter, can score in the mid-range and can get to the basket. He's a plus athlete and has played on a big stage all his life. Defensively, he needs massive improvement. Still, he's a top-10 guy and someone who can help a team from Day 1.



FILE PHOTO | The Associated Press

2. BUDDY HIELD

He's another J.J. Redick, a knock-down shooter who is a master at moving without the ball. He's older, as a four-year player out of Oklahoma, and he's a guy who will be limited off the dribble. But his jumper is as pure as sunshine on a clear day. He's a leader, and he's a guy who will be in the league for a long time.

3. MALACHI RICHARDSON

Led Syracuse to the Final Four. Has a streaky jumper that got very hot during the NCAA Tournament. Can the jumper be consistent? Richardson can score, but has struggled in the past to finish around the hoop. If he can get to the right system, he has a bunch of upside. His strength is his ability to raise his game in important moments.

4. FURKAN KORKMAZ

Good shooter and good athlete out of Turkey. He's a guy whose stock has hung around the back end of the lottery for the past few months. Korkmaz needs strength, but he is fearless in both the halfcourt and in transition. His scoring upside is immense.

5. PATRICK MCCAWE

Has a chance to be the best wing defender in this draft. Out of UNLV, he is long, athletic, quick and wiry. He's a good passer and good in the open floor. Can he develop his offensive game? That's the big question with him. If he can, he turns into a nice two-way player. If he can't, he's a specialist.

TONY JONES' TOP 5 SMALL FORWARDS »



1. BRANDON INGRAM

Has great size at almost 6-foot-10 and a tremendous wingspan. He's a great shooter and showed terrific ball-handling and passing traits in his one season at Duke. He's rail-thin, however, and comparisons to Kevin Durant should be stopped immediately. Still, Ingram is a nice prospect, a potential All-Star. He will probably be the No. 2 pick and would be a centerpiece for the Los Angeles Lakers.

2. JAYLEN BROWN

Is similar to Stanley Johnson, the Detroit Pistons forward. Brown, who played one season at California, is compact at 6-foot-6 and 225 pounds. He's a great athlete, explosive in the open floor and has the chance to be a lockdown defender. He can certainly play in the NBA. How good will he be? That depends on whether he develops his jumper. If he does that, watch out.

3. DEANDRE BEMBRY

Smooth is the word to describe the St. Joseph's star. He does a bit of everything on the floor. He's a good facilitator, he can handle the ball and pass it. He's got that Philly toughness going for him and could be a steal by the end of the first round.

4. DENZEL VALENTINE

There's a lot to like about Valentine coming out of Michigan State. He is versatile. His basketball IQ is high. He can shoot it and pass it. But his upside is minimal. He could struggle defensively. He may or may not have a knee issue, as well, according to reports. His range in this draft has widened in the past month. He could fall on draft night.

5. TIMOTHE LUWAWU

An athlete coming out of France. Luwawu is explosive in the open floor, and a nice defender. He needs to develop on the offensive end and needs experience. But a team with a good player development staff could get good value from him down the line.

FILE PHOTO | The Associated Press

TONY JONES' TOP 5 POWER FORWARDS »



1. BEN SIMMONS

The LSU freshman is the best player and prospect in the draft. Simmons is 6-foot-10, 240 pounds and capable of playing four positions. He's left-handed, handles the ball like a guard and maybe the best pure passer in the draft. He's the one prospect in this draft who has a chance to be a generational talent. To get there, though, he has to develop a jumper. Simmons is ready to play from Day 1. Averaging something like 15 points, eight rebounds and six assists per game as a rookie wouldn't be a surprise.

FILE PHOTO | The Associated Press

2. MARQUESE CHRISS

Remember Tyrus Thomas from LSU about a decade ago? Chriss, out of Washington, reminds many of Thomas: Insanely athletic, maybe the best vertical athlete in the draft. He has so much potential. Thomas was the same way, but never fully developed his game. If Chriss can succeed where Thomas failed, he can be an All-Star. But he's got work to do.

3. DRAGAN BENDER

An athletic and skilled 7-footer, the Croatian has been on the NBA radar for a few years. He's a really polished ball-handler for a man his size. He thrives in transition and has been playing professionally overseas since 2013. He needs to add both weight and muscle tone. But he's a legitimate top-five prospect, and he's got the chance to be a productive player.

4. BRICE JOHNSON

Johnson is older, as he played four years at North Carolina. But he is such an athlete and so skilled in the post that it won't matter. Johnson will probably hear his name called somewhere in the middle of the first round. He is smooth and skilled on the block and is a good rebounder. He needs to be a better defender, but he's turned himself into an NBA player for sure.

5. DOMANTAS SABONIS

The Gonzaga star rebounds. He plays hard. He's a good passer. He can score. But Sabonis is someone who could have trouble scoring against NBA athletes. He's also not going to be a great defender, with a lack of athleticism and short arms. He's a good NBA prospect, but not a great one.

TONY JONES' TOP 5 CENTERS »



1. SKAL LABISSIERE

The Kentucky freshman is going to have to gain a bunch of strength. He needs to figure out how to play hard. But the skills, the athleticism, the size and the length for the position — this kid has it all in spades. Labissiere had a difficult season in college, but has shown a nice shooting touch in workouts. If he reaches his ceiling, we could all look back and wonder why he wasn't taken in the top three of this draft.

FILE PHOTO | The Associated Press

2. JAKOB POELTL

The Utah star is, by far, the most polished big man in this draft. Poeltl has all of the needed components to turn into a very effective two-way player in the NBA. He's skilled on the block and can score with both hands. He's a good rebounder who snatches boards in traffic and out of his area. He can block shots. He can guard on the perimeter. There is a ton to like about Poeltl. He needs to develop his shooting. But it's easy to see him being a consistent double-double guy.

3. DEYONTA DAVIS

The Michigan State freshman can play center or power forward, and reminds scouts a lot of Derrick Favors at the same stage. We'll put him at center, but he will almost certainly play both positions in his career. Scouts say he is naturally talented and can excel in a lot of facets. Offensively, he's athletic around the rim and has long arms that allow him to dunk in traffic. Defensively, he blocks shots. He's another big who can find himself in the top 10 of this draft.

4. IVICA ZUBAC

A name that has shot up draft boards in the last month. Zubac, who was born in Bosnia and represents Croatia, is long, rangy and athletic. He can shoot the ball out to 18 feet, and has a chance to extend that range to 3-point land. He also is a good shot-blocker and quick defensively. Word is Zubac has a promise from an unknown team in the first round. He was expected to be in the 2017 draft, so his desire to stay in this draft has been somewhat of a surprise.

5. DAMIAN JONES

He passes the looks test. Jones, from Vanderbilt, stands 7-feet tall. He's got an NBA body, and has a ton of skill on both ends. But he hasn't put it together yet. This kid should've dominated college basketball, but didn't. Still, he may be the best athlete among centers in this draft, and it's difficult to envision him falling completely out of the first round.



Looking for diamonds in the rough

In workouts, Jazz also keep eye out for D-League talent for the Stars.

By **AARON FALK**
The Salt Lake Tribune

TRENT NELSON | Tribune file photo
**Washington guard
Andrew Andrews.**

Former Notre Dame forward Zach Auguste has a type.

"I like watching LaMarcus Aldridge, Chris Bosh and Anthony Davis," the 6-foot-10 Auguste said after working out for the Jazz in May. "Biggs who aren't boxed in and confined. They're able to step out and do a little of everything."

The 22-year-old would love to join those players in the NBA ranks someday, but despite his terrific size and a productive college career, Auguste might have to take a longer path to his dream.

The same could be said for several other players who worked out in Salt Lake City. As Jazz scouts continued to comb through prospects ahead of the draft, team officials are looking high and low for candidates for their first- and second-round picks, but for their D-League club, too.

"Out of this group, there's probably one or two guys who could be NBA players," said Jazz VP of Player Personnel Walt Perrin on the day of Auguste's workout. "But we're looking for the Stars and the

Jazz."

The Jazz purchased the D-League Idaho Stampede last year and announced this spring a plan to move the team to Salt Lake City and rename it the Stars. The team will have a new name, but its mission remains the same: trying to develop raw ability into NBA talent.

As a senior at Washington last season, Andrew Andrews led the Huskies in scoring, putting up better than 20 points a game. He'll watch his younger teammates,

Marquese Chriss and De-jounte Murray, get picked on draft night. But, despite his collegiate success, Andrews has to prove that he can play point guard at the pro level.

"Just showing that I can do more than score," Andrews said after his workout with the Jazz. "Playing out of the pick-and-roll and making the pass at the right time. ... You see it now a days, a lot of guards are scoring guards but also great at facilitating. I want to show scouts I can do that also."

Andrews tried to leave a good impression with the Jazz's team of scouts. He also tried to leave an impression with Stars coach Dean Cooper, who was watching.

"It's important for him to be here," Perrin said of Cooper. "Some of those players we bring in here will be playing in the D-League and could be playing for the Stars. It's important to get his feel, his evaluation of players."

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Making a name for himself

Joel Bolomboy's athleticism has him on his way to joining Damian Lillard as former Weber State stars in the NBA.

By **TONY JONES**
The Salt Lake Tribune

Chicago » Purdue's Caleb Swanigan couldn't believe what he saw.

Taking a post entry pass, Weber State's Joel Bolomboy spun baseline past Kentucky's Marcus Lee. He jumped, and realized at the last second his shot was going to be blocked. So Bolomboy adjusted in mid-air, taking the ball underneath the rim and dunking it on the other side.

As the 6-foot-10 Bolomboy floated back down to the floor, those in attendance gasped at the most spectacular play of the first day at NBA pre-draft combine in May.

"I still don't know how he dunked it," Swanigan said.

Faced with the task of making a name for himself, Bolomboy turned heads the only way he knows how: with his athleticism, his rebounding and his ability to make hustle plays.

Bolomboy registered a vertical leap of 40.5 inches, fifth-best at the combine. He also went through interviews with multiple teams.

"I felt like I did all I could

with the minutes I received," Bolomboy said. "I thought the competition was really good, especially me being from Weber State. ... So it was good to get out here and experience something like this. This week is a blessing."

Bolomboy knows there are comparisons in the NBA to his style of play, notably Kenneth Faried of the Denver Nuggets.

The hunger in Bolomboy lies in him being under-recruited out of high school. Bolomboy said he chose Weber State because of the family atmosphere. It's a decision he'll always be glad he made.

"They made me feel like I was a part of the team," Bolomboy said. "The coaching staff and coach (Randy) Rahe was good to me. They told me that I could come in and be a big part of the rotation right away, all I had to do was come in and earn my minutes. It was either Weber State or New Mexico. The coach at New Mexico [Steve Alford] ended up leaving for UCLA."

Bolomboy is also aware of the example set by Damian Lillard, the all-star point

About Joel Bolomboy

» 6-foot-10 center was the Big Sky Player of the Year this season, leading Weber State to the NCAA Tournament.

» Two-time Big Sky Defensive Player of the Year is league's career leader in rebounds with 1,312, and also finished with 1,484 career points in 130 games.

» Was born in the Ukraine, where his mother is from; his father is from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

guard for the Portland Trail Blazers. He and Lillard speak as often as their schedules allow.

They have worked out together over the summer in the past, and Lillard has often spoke with Bolomboy on what to expect from the pre-draft process.

Bolomboy knows he has come a long way, yet he has more work to do. Either way, he impressed on Thursday.

"He's really athletic," Swanigan said. "He plays hard and you can tell how mature he is. He's quiet. He's a good player."

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CHARLIE RIEDEL | The Associated Press

Weber State's Joel Bolomboy shoots during practice before the Wildcats' NCAA Tournament game against Xavier. Bolomboy had 14 points and 10 rebounds for Weber State in a 71-53 loss.

JOEL BOLOMBOY » COLLEGE CAREER STATISTICS

PER GAME AVERAGES

Season	GP	Pts	FG	FGA	FG%	FTM	FTA	FT%	Off	Def	Reb	Asts	Stls	Blks	TOs	PFs
2015/16	30	17.1	5.8	10.4	55.4	4.9	7.2	68.8	3.3	9.4	12.6	1.1	0.6	1.1	2.5	2.4
2014/15	28	13.1	4.2	9.3	45.4	4.1	5.6	72.8	3.6	6.4	10.1	0.8	0.6	1.6	2.6	2.4
2013/14	29	8.9	2.8	5.7	49.4	3.2	4.4	72.4	3.6	7.3	11.0	0.6	0.5	0.8	1.4	2.6
2012/13	35	6.5	2.1	3.8	53.7	2.4	3.4	69.2	2.3	4.7	7.0	0.4	0.4	1.7	1.7	2.3

PER 40 MINUTES AVERAGE

Season	GP	Pts	FG	FGA	FG%	FTM	FTA	FT%	Off	Def	Reb	Asts	Stls	Blks	TOs	PFs
2015/16	30	20.8	7.0	12.7	55.4	6.0	8.7	68.8	4.0	11.4	15.4	1.4	0.8	1.4	3.1	2.9
2014/15	28	15.6	5.0	11.1	45.4	4.9	6.7	72.8	4.3	7.7	12.0	0.9	0.7	1.9	3.2	2.9
2013/14	29	11.7	3.7	7.5	49.4	4.2	5.8	72.4	4.8	9.7	14.4	0.8	0.6	1.0	1.8	3.5
2012/13	35	11.9	3.8	7.0	53.7	4.4	6.3	69.2	4.3	8.6	12.9	0.8	0.7	3.1	3.0	4.3

Joel Bolomboy set a Weber State program record with 26 double-doubles in his senior season and was named the Most Valuable Player at the Reese's College All-Star Classic in Houston held during Final Four weekend.



Poeltl goes from project to prospect



SCOTT SOMMERDORF | Tribune file photo

Jakob Poeltl directs the defense in Utah's 80-69 win over Fresno State in the NCAA tournament in Denver. Poeltl will be a lottery pick this week at the NBA draft, one year after the Utes' Delon Wright was picked in the first round by the Toronto Raptors.

With his size and athleticism, Utah center likely to make noise in the NBA.

By **TONY JONES**

The Salt Lake Tribune

Chicago » Jakob Poeltl could have been in this position last year.

Had he left the University of Utah, he may have been a lottery pick, according to many scouts. Some team in the first round would have taken a chance on his size, his athleticism and his skillset.

But he did what has become the unpopular thing among hot draft prospects — he came back to school to refine his game.

"I could've gone, but I didn't think I was ready," Poeltl said at the NBA pre-draft combine in May. "I felt I had a lot of improving to do."

Mainly, Poeltl wanted to prove he could be the focal point of a team. So, he led the Utes to a second-place finish in the Pac-12 and the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Poeltl wanted to show he

could be dominant on the collegiate level. So, he became an All-American and possibly the best natural big man in the country.

Poeltl wanted to improve his overall skills. So, he turned some of his negatives into strengths, like his free-throw shooting. He became a great rebounder.

Now, NBA general managers are impressed. Poeltl's now considered a lottery lock, with most projections having him going before the Utah Jazz pick at No. 12. Not bad for a 7-footer who came to Salt Lake City a little more than two years ago from Austria.

"We've really admired his progression, and how much he's improved," Jazz general manager Dennis Lindsey said in the spring. "We admire that he decided to come back, because he could've been a first-round pick last year. But he came back, he and the coaches went to work and he became a better

player. It speaks well of Jakob that he put in the time and the work. It was a great job by their staff to help him get to where he is now. So now, we're watching and we're anxious to see where he goes."

The Milwaukee Bucks, who are projected to pick 10th, are said to have a keen interest, as they've need a natural center since the days of Andrew Bogut, the current Golden State center who came from Utah and who Poeltl is compared to.

"I want to enjoy this process as much as possible," Poeltl said at the NBA pre-draft combine. "I truly think it's a once-in-a-lifetime kind of thing. At the same time I want to be good at it, and I know that the interviews are important. Teams have asked me about my background, because they know I come from Austria. They want to know how I got into basketball. They want to just get to know me."

Why is Poeltl so appealing? Obviously, his size has a lot to do with it. But his ability to move in space out on the floor has won him many fans

among scouts and general managers. In today's small-ball NBA, athletic big men are at a premium, and Poeltl is certainly athletic.

He runs the floor well, has good footwork, finishes above the rim and defensively he protects the rim. He emerged as a very good pick-and-roll defender this past season at Utah, and that's important because the league is littered with great point guards who create expertly off the dribble.

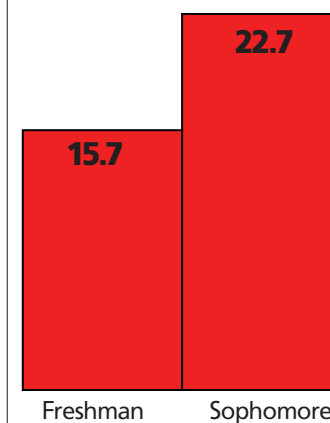
During his interview session, Poeltl seemed confident and at ease with himself. He was calm as he answered every question. It may not have been that way last year. But a more mature Poeltl has a better idea of what to expect.

"He's gotten a lot better," Jazz VP of Player Personnel Walt Perrin said. "He's matured on and off the floor, and it's made him a better prospect overall. He's shown growth, but at the same time, he still has a pretty good upside."

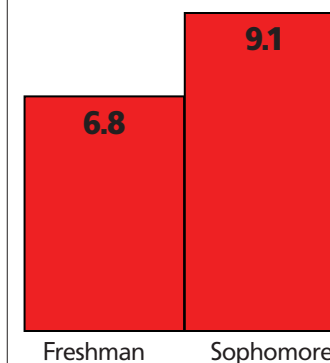
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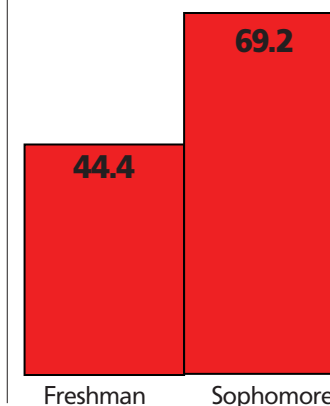
Points per game



Rebounds per game



Free-throw percentage





ONE LAST THING ... » GORDON MONSON

Jazz must make the most of No. 12 pick

After Lady Luck left the Jazz where she always leaves them — right where they left themselves with their play — in the draft lottery, firm at the No. 12 spot, Utah general manager Dennis Lindsey has decisions to make about what to do with that pick. It's not as though the man of metrics, analytics and numbers hadn't already planned for this reality.

Maybe the Jazz need some kind of shakeup that will gain the favor of the fates. Maybe

they need something more serious — say, a chosen shaman to take the curse off, a curse that has descended upon them every time they're in the lottery, putting themselves in the position of always hoping for more luck next time.

Even better, the Jazz could tell Lady Luck to take a flying leap by simply qualifying for the playoffs from here on out.

"We assumed that we were picking at 12 all along," Lindsey said. "That's what the odds told us. No big surprise. Not disappointed in the least. We're excited. ... There are quite a few good players. ... There's guards, there's wings, there's bigs, there's prospects who can help us now."

Or — ugh — help them later.

Utah needs depth all around, but what it really needs is an additional athletic wing who can shoot and score, a two-way player who can add firepower and defense, boosting what under so many injuries last season sagged in the face of adversity.

Lindsey said the Jazz could go for a more finished, limited player who can make an immediate contribution or identify someone with a high ceiling, with what he called an "anticipation pick," and patiently develop him into what

he's projected to become in a few seasons.

The problem with that is the Jazz still need a bona fide star, but they also can't wait much longer, the club already having been absent from the postseason for too long. The 2016-17 season may be one of the most important in franchise history, the fans having been patient in the past, but ready now to see a payoff.

In that vein, Lindsey also rolled out the anything-is-possible scenario in which the Jazz could go for a "dynamic

outcome. He also said they might settle for a "fundamental" one. Specific to what to do with the 12th pick, he swung the door completely open, saying: "We'll be active looking to trade up, to trade back, or to trade out."

Lindsey does have a mountain of research to plow through from his staff, compliments of lieutenants such as Walt Perrin, who has compiled books on all the prospective players, college and international, that include their strengths and weaknesses, their skills and handicaps, their mental and physical/medical assessments, and — who knows? — probably what television shows they like, what foods they prefer and the hours they keep.

It's that exhaustive.

If everything stands pat, Lindsey said he's hopeful the Jazz will come away with a pick at 12 that is the equal of last year's selection, Trey Lyles. If they trade the pick, and he knows as much, it had best lead to a quick boost in results in the season immediately ahead.

GORDON MONSON hosts "The Big Show" with Spence Checketts weekdays from 3-7 p.m. on 97.5 FM and 1280 AM The Zone. Twitter: @GordonMonson.



CHRIS DETRICK | Tribune file photo

Utah Jazz forward Trey Lyles drives to the basket against the Minnesota Timberwolves on April 1. Lyles was the No. 12 pick in last year's NBA draft by the Jazz, who have the 12th pick this week.

How to make it all fit

With the salary cap expanding to \$94 million this offseason, the Jazz will have plenty of room to add talent. Here's what they have committed in salaries and how much cap space they are projected to have.

