

HOOPS DRAFTOLOGY 2009

A collective presentation of
FANTASYDRAFTHelp.COM,
THE FDH LOUNGE,
SPORTSOLOGY &
CARD CORNER CLUB



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Jason Jones/Rick Morris/Russ Cohen

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**Welcome to the most
comprehensive pro
hoops draft guide
available anywhere!**

Welcome! In these pages, you'll be able to read our rankings, both overall and by position. You'll be privy to a list of team needs. You'll be able to read rankings of the talent available in this draft. You'll be able to check out other excellent features, including links to prospect highlight videos. And you'll also be able to peruse two mock drafts from FantasyDrafthelp.com and you'll be able to fill out one of your own! All this, and much more, here in HOOPS DRAFTOLOGY 2009!

2009 NBA Draft Talent Overview: Griffin Aside, Mighty Bleak Indeed!

In an NBA Draft this depleted in terms of sure-fire stars, it's almost fitting that the only legitimate one is headed for a SoCal-based team responsible for crushing more hopes and dreams than the Hollywood casting couch.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

2009 NBA Draft Talent Overview: Griffin Aside, Mighty Bleak Indeed!

(Continued From Page 1)

Oklahoma PF Blake Griffin possesses undeniable franchise-player ability, but his ability to develop further will be seriously challenged by the Clippers' logjam at forward — as well as the very concept of being drafted by the Clippers themselves. He heads up an average power forward class that will see only one other player designated as a certain lottery pick (Arizona's Jordan Hill). Two other players trying to shake the damning-with-faint-praise description as "great college players," UNC's Tyler Hansbrough and Pittsburgh's DeJuan Blair, should go in the ear-

Strength of draft by position

Outstanding: none

Very Good: none

Good: Point Guard, Shooting Guard

Average: Power Forward

Not So Good: Small Forward

Poor: none

Horrible: Center

ly part of the non-lottery portion of the proceedings. They do project as excellent rotation players over the long haul and are the only other ones who can rest easy that their names will be called during the first round.

If the marquee player's position in this bad draft qualifies as the average one in the event, how do the other ones rate? In a nutshell, the backcourt positions are both a tad better, while the other frontcourt positions are either a little worse (small forward) or much, much worse (center).

^ **Point Guard:** Spain's Ricky Rubio is the keynote talent here and would likely be tagged as the second overall pick in the draft had a team other than Memphis landed in the spot. Syracuse's Jonny Flynn and high-schooler-turned-Europro Brandon Jennings bring lottery-quality flash and upside to the position, while tweener Stephen Curry is turning enough heads with his shooting and his bloodlines to be certain of a Top 10 slotting. UCLA's Jrue Holliday may also sneak into the lottery, despite his rawness. Later in the round, low-ceiling-but-safe Ty Lawson from UNC should end up in a nice situation with a good team, while Wake Forest's Jeff Teague seems very likely to go in the first round. UCLA's Darren Collison and VCU's Eric Maynor also have a chance to be taken before the end of the first round.

^ **Shooting Guard:** Arizona State's James Hardin is a lock to be the first "2" taken off the board, somewhere in the top four overall, with USC's DeMar DeRosan and Memphis's Tyreke Evans trailing close behind. Duke's Gerald Henderson could crack the lottery, as could Arizona's Chase Budinger (less likely), with a host of other shooting guards looking to drop between picks 20-30 (Louisville's Terrence Williams, LSU's Marcus Thornton, UNC's Wayne Ellington, Temple's Dionte Christmas and Florida State's Toney Douglas)

^ **Shooting Forward:** Few if any NBA teams can count on an impact upgrade from this position and it is possible that there will not be a "3" taken with a lottery pick. Wake Forest's James Johnson could well be the first to go based on potential, with Louisville's Earl Clark, Gonzaga's Austin Daye and potentially Pittsburgh's Sam Young being drafted in that vicinity. Other than Israel's Omar Casspi, there are no other first round near-locks.

^ **Center:** The toughest position in terms of finding talent year in and year out is truly a "black hole of suckage" in 2009. UConn's Hasheem Thabeet will go between picks 2-4 overall and is being compared to Dikembe Mutombo in terms of UPSIDE! 'Nuff said. Other than him, only Ohio State's BJ Mullins, an offensively-talented 7-footer coming off of a disappointing freshman year, can count on a first-round selection.

The dropoff from Griffin to the next player, likely Rubio, is severe in terms of projecting numerous certain All-Star selections — which, health permitting, would in a normal year be quite likely for at least a few high lottery picks. There are potentially 8-10 players in this draft capable of pulling intermittent All-Star designations during their career if they go through an immense amount of development. It is scant exaggeration to say that most of the players in the top ten would be going at least five slots lower in a normal year and players beyond the top ten would be going no less than ten slots lower in a normal year. In a league that tries to use the draft process to even out the overall talent distribution, this year's class won't even come close to accomplishing that.

Jason Jones' Top 75 Players Overall with Relevant Comparisons

| Player | Relevant comparison if any |
|---------------------|---|
| 1 Blake Griffin | Potential would indicate a top-flight NBA talent. LeBron's speed, power & elusiveness in the paint + Bosh's mid-range game + KG on defense=Griffin. |
| 2 Ricky Rubio | Could prove to be as good and effective in all aspects of the PG position as, say, Tony Parker meets Steve Nash. Very high praise for a Euro. |
| 3 Jordan Hill | A not-necessarily NBA ready version of Chris Bosh, while being light in the pants...he may take a season or two to figure it all out |
| 4 DeMar DeRozan | His name should be "Sick McNasty". O.J. Mayo meets Toronto Raptors Vince Carter. On the very, very high side -- Dwayne Wade Jr |
| 5 James Harden | Most comparisons are high even for my standards. Similar to Brandon Roy's skill set, but he's no Brandon Roy. |
| 6 Jonny Flynn | |
| 7 Hasheem Thabeet | Let's call this what it is; in the '07 draft,, he'd be a 15-25 pick. Basically, Dikembe Mutumbo. |
| 8 Gerald Henderson | Andre Iguodala meets a poor man's T-Mac, but thicker. |
| 9 Brandon Jennings | A shorter and skinnier unpolished Derrick Rose. |
| 10 Tyreke Evans | A young Tracy McGrady. All of the good parts...and yes, all of the bad ones too (poor technique and body control). A very good "potential/upside" pick. |
| 11 Earl Clark | Think of Lamar Odom right out of Providence without the extreme versatility...very dynamic around the basket. |
| 12 Jeff Teague | Tayshaun Prince if he were a PG. |
| 13 Jrue Holiday | Jameer Nelson at 6'4. |
| 14 Tyler Hansbrough | The clean-cut, white-bread version of Chris "Birdman" Anderson with a polished midrange game. Will be a great asset to a team that utilizes him properly. |
| 15 Chase Budinger | Shane Battier. |
| 16 Ty Lawson | A poor man's Chris Paul (much less in the scoring department) meets Derek Fisher with Olympic track speed. |
| 17 Stephen Curry | Juan Dixon...maybe even DaJuan Wagner, if Wagner was exclusively a jump shooter. Ideally, a specialist coming off the bench. No PG skills...at all. |
| 18 Wayne Ellington | Potentially Paul Pierce if he were only the #3 scoring option at best. |
| 19 Eric Maynor | A very, very skinny version of Jerryd Bayless. |
| 20 B.J. Mullens | Dwight Howard as a sophomore in high school. Great length and athleticism. Good defensive instincts, but no real offensive post game at the next level. |
| 21 DeJuan Blair | |
| 22 Patrick Mills | Randy Foye minus the athleticism. |
| 23 Darren Collison | Rajon Rondo...less offensive game, better decision-making and leadership skills. |
| 24 Derrick Brown | |
| 25 Sam Young | A shorter Charlie Villanueva with added "wiggle". Very impressive inside of 12 feet. |

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Jason Jones' Top 75 Players Overall with Relevant Comparisons

| Player | Relevant comparison if any |
|----------------------|--|
| 26 DaJuan Summers | |
| 27 James Johnson | Rudy Gay. |
| 28 Terrence Williams | |
| 29 Austin Daye | Lamar Odom's versatility minus Odom's high-end scoring ability. Daye is nice, but will never be an elite player. |
| 30 Taj Gibson | A poor man's Thabeet. Long and defensively strong...but offensively just a "garbage man." |
| 31 Jodie Meeks | Jason Richardson. |
| 32 Marcus Thornton | |
| 33 Dionte Christmas | Michael Redd. |
| 34 Tyler Smith | |
| 35 Danny Green | As ironic as it sounds...I compare him to his second cousin, Gerald Green. |
| 36 Toney Douglas | |
| 37 Robert Dozier | Hakim Warrick. |
| 38 Jermaine Taylor | |
| 39 A.J. Price | |
| 40 Jeff Pendergraph | |
| 41 Curtis Jerrells | |
| 42 Jonas Jerebko | |
| 43 Dante Cunningham | |
| 44 Josh Heytvelt | |
| 45 Jeff Adrien | |
| 46 Dwayne Collins | |
| 47 Chris Johnson | |
| 48 DeMarre Carroll | |
| 49 Garret Siler | |
| 50 Greivis Vasquez | |

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Jason Jones' Top 75 Players Overall with Relevant Comparisons

NOTE: If I were an NBA GM, I would have little to no interest in anyone below #63 on this list.

Player

- 51 Micha Downs
- 52 Josh Shipp
- 53 Jerel McNeal
- 54 Victor Claver
- 55 Vladimir Dasic
- 56 Leo Lyons
- 57 Tyrese Rice
- 58 Paulao Prestes
- 59 Rodrigue Beaubois
- 60 Ater Majok
- 61 Nick Calathes
- 62 Jeremy Pargo
- 63 Sergio Llull
- 64 Milenko Tepic
- 65 Emir Preldzic
- 66 Wesley Matthews
- 67 Boban Marjanovic
- 68 Josh Akognon
- 69 Alade Aminu
- 70 Courtney Fells
- 71 Jon Brockman
- 72 Lee Cumnard
- 73 Alex Ruoff
- 74 Brandon Costner
- 75 Nando De Colo

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Center rankings

| Player | Dimensions | Origin |
|-----------------------|------------|---------------|
| 1 Hasheem Thabeet | 7-2/267 | UConn |
| 2 B.J. Mullens | 7-0/258 | Ohio St |
| 3 Garret Siler | 6-11/305 | Augusta St |
| 4 Paulao Prestes | 6-10/275 | International |
| 5 Boban Marjanovic | 7-4/275 | International |
| 6 Vyacheslav Kravtsov | 7-0/235 | International |
| 7 Miroslav Raduljica | 6-11/240 | International |
| 8 Aboubakar Zaki | 7-1/230 | International |
| 9 Russell Hicks | 7-0/255 | FIU |
| 10 Luke Nevill | 7-1/265 | Utah |
| 11 Marcus Cousin | 6-11/250 | Houston |
| 12 Aron Baynes | 6-10/270 | Washington St |
| 13 Bamba Fall | 7-0/225 | SMU |
| 14 Anatoly Kashirov | 7-1/220 | International |
| 15 Oguz Savas | 6-11/287 | International |

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Links to Highlight Videos of Top Prospects

Truly, we live in a wondrous day and age when videos of so many top players are readily available on the Internet. Here are links to some of the best players of the '09 Draft in action.

Stephen Curry
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9vmoQ5WABU>

DeMar DeRozan
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1nxZ0wBaEU>

Tyreke Evans
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cblnz4fujSQ>

Jonny Flynn
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37pw9QoJ-Ws>

Blake Griffin
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_zlAgFKdtg

James Hardin
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABw4d_sw1M0

Jordan Hill
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gagpTFv4UpM>

James Johnson
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwn-COdPBvA>

Ricky Rubio
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSBLKrZckeU>

Hasheem Thabeet
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKmqwcpAAU>

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Power Forward rankings

| Player | Dimensions | Origin |
|--------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1 Blake Griffin | 6-10/250 | Oklahoma |
| 2 Jordan Hill | 6-10/232 | Arizona |
| 3 Gani Lawal | 6-9/230 | Georgia Tech |
| 4 Tyler Hansbrough | 6-9/235 | UNC |
| 5 DeJuan Blair | 6-6/227 | Pittsburgh |
| 6 Taj Gibson | 6-10/215 | USC |
| 7 Josh Heytvelt | 6-11/246 | Gonzaga |
| 8 Robert Dozier | 6-10/215 | Memphis |
| 9 Jeff Pendergraph | 6-10/240 | Arizona St |
| 10 Jeff Adrien | 6-6/235 | Uconn |
| 11 Chris Johnson | 6-11/205 | LSU |
| 12 Jon Brockman | 6-7/255 | Washington |
| 13 Taylor Griffin | 6-7/238 | Oklahoma |
| 14 Leo Lyons | 6-9/235 | Missouri |
| 15 Dwayne Collins | 6-8/240 | Miami |

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Sportsology.info/wrestleology

Small forward rankings

| Player | Dimensions | Origin |
|---------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1 Earl Clark | 6-10/226 | Louisville |
| 2 James Johnson | 6-8/257 | Wake Forest |
| 3 DeJuan Summers | 6-8/243 | Georgetown |
| 4 Derrick Brown | 6-8/225 | Xavier |
| 5 Austin Daye | 6-11/192 | Gonzaga |
| 6 Sam Young | 6-6/223 | Pittsburgh |
| 7 Tyler Smith | 6-6/212 | Tennessee |
| 8 DeMarre Carroll | 6-8/207 | Missouri |
| 9 Micah Downs | 6-7/180 | Gonzaga |
| 10 Dante Cunningham | 6-8/227 | Villanova |
| 11 Danny Green | 6-6/208 | UNC |
| 12 Jonas Jerebko | 6-9/220 | Italy |
| 13 Victor Claver | 6-9/236 | Italy |
| 14 Magnum Rolle | 6-10/215 | Louisville Tech |
| 15 Ater Majok | 6-9/215 | UConn |

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Shooting guard rankings

| Player | Dimensions | Origin |
|---------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1 James Hardin | 6-5/222 | Arizona St |
| 2 DeMar DeRozan | 6-7/211 | USC |
| 3 Gerald Henderson | 6-5/215 | Duke |
| 4 Tyreke Evans | 6-5/221 | Memphis |
| 5 Chase Budinger | 6-7/206 | Arizona |
| 6 Wayne Ellington | 6-5/215 | UNC |
| 7 Terrence Williams | 6-6/213 | Louisville |
| 8 Dionte Christmas | 6-5/211 | Temple |
| 9 Marcus Thornton | 6-4/195 | LSU |
| 10 Jerel McNeal | 6-3/180 | Marquette |
| 11 Courtney Fells | 6-6/210 | N.C. State |
| 12 Wesley Matthews | 6-5/215 | Marquette |
| 13 Jack McClinton | 6-1/185 | Miami |
| 14 Josh Shipp | 6-5/200 | UCLA |
| 15 Jermaine Taylor | 6-5/207 | Cen. Florida |

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Point guard rankings

| Player | Dimensions | Origin |
|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1 Ricky Rubio | 6-3/180 | Spain |
| 2 Jonny Flynn | 6-0/195 | Syracuse |
| 3 Brandon Jennings | 6-1/170 | Italy |
| 4 Jeff Teague | 6-2/175 | Wake Forest |
| 5 Jrue Holiday | 6-4/199 | UCLA |
| 6 Ty Lawson | 6-0/197 | UNC |
| 7 Stephen Curry | 6-3/180* | Davidson |
| 8 Eric Maynor | 6-3/165 | VCU |
| 9 Patrick Mills | 6-0/175 | St. Mary's (CA) |
| 10 Darren Collison | 6-1/166 | UCLA |
| 11 Toney Douglas | 6-2/183 | Florida St |
| 12 A.J Abrams | 5-11/155 | Texas |
| 13 A.J. Price | 6-2/193 | Uconn |
| 14 Curtis Jerrells | 6-1/195 | Baylor |
| 15 Rodrigue Beaubois | 6-2/182 | Euro |

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Team needs

NOTE: Needs are prioritized in order of urgency. Anytime "Swingman" is used as a designation, the team in question has roughly equal needs at SF and SG.

| Team | Needs |
|--------|--------------|
| 1 LAC | PF, Swingman |
| 2 MEM | C, PF |
| 3 OKC | SG, C |
| 4 SAC | C, PG, SF |
| 5 WAS | SG, C |
| 6 MIN | PG, C |
| 7 GS | PF, Swingman |
| 8 NYK | SF, C |
| 9 TOR | SG, SF |
| 10 MIL | PG, SG |
| 11 NJN | PF, SF |
| 12 CHA | PF, SG |
| 13 IND | C, PG |
| 14 PHO | SF, C |
| 15 DET | PF, C |
| 16 CHI | C, Swingman |
| 17 PHI | C, PF |
| 18 MIA | PG, SF, C |
| 19 ATL | SF, SG |
| 20 UTA | SF, SG |
| 21 NO | C, SG |
| 22 DAL | C, PG |
| 23 HOU | PF, SF |
| 24 POR | SF |
| 25 SAN | C, Swingman |
| 26 DEN | C, Swingman |
| 27 ORL | SF, SG |
| 28 BOS | C, Swingman |
| 29 LAL | PG, SF |
| 30 CLE | PF, C, SG |

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FDH Idea for Ultimate Hoops Tournament

Forget what you witnessed with the Olympic basketball tournament last year. Forget anything you think you've seen in terms of previous basketball tournaments. We propose a concept for the NBA to utilize (they can take this free of charge; we're simple folk who need not their bags and bags of cash) that would create the Ultimate Hoops Tournament and lead to a shortened, more-meaningful regular season.

First, let's discuss the regular season. It would consist of 66 games, down from the present 82, with the following breakdown:

^ 4 games apiece against every rival in-division

^ 2 games apiece against every other team in the league

Granted, the only additional games in-conference (as opposed to non-conference) would be the ones in-division, but we question how lopping off some Clippers-TWolves tilts would affect the survival of Western Civilization. The regular season would start later (mid-November, as opposed to the start of November) and end earlier (start of April, as opposed to mid-April) and the playoffs would end at the start of June instead of mid-to-late June. This would allow for the tournament to be played in July and August.

Now, this proposal lops 240 games off of the NBA calendar, about one-fifth of the season. The main reason that the season hasn't been shortened prior to now is a straight cash grab, the unwillingness of owners and players alike to give up that one-fifth of the year's revenue from the gate, merchandising and perhaps above all else, TV. Because David Stern and Company are among the greatest marketers in the world, we are convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that that revenue could be recouped through this tournament -- if participation for healthy players was deemed mandatory. Of course, all of this would have to be collectively bargained.

This tournament also would benefit the entire sports world, since it would fall during the deadest time on the calendar, from the day after the MLB All-Star Game until August. ESPN wouldn't have to hold us hostage with more round-the-clock gaga like what Brett Favre had for breakfast if that time were legitimately occupied with something special.

So here's the tournament parameters:

^ Nine all-star squads, formulated based on where players went to college -- if they went to college. There would be teams formed with players who used to play in the SEC, the ACC, the Big East, the Big 10, the Big 12 and the Pac 10. Additionally, there would be an international all-star squad (not counting players who played college basketball in this country), a team made up of mid-major/small school players and a "high school" team (comprised of players who did not attend college). The proposed rosters are listed below, in this order, with a starting lineup, remainder of a rotation and remainder of a bench unit proposed for each team.

^ Games would be played from the day after the MLB All-Star Game until the first week of August, all across the country. Each of the nine teams would play every other team, before being seeded into a single-elimination final tournament with quarterfinals, semifinals and the championship game. There would be 43 games in all, replacing roughly 1/6 the number of NBA games sacrificed to bring this event into existence.

Clearly, the NCAA would have to be cut in on the monetary action, but again, if there's not enough scratch to go around with a cash cow like this, then we've grossly underestimated the NBA marketing machine. Even with an interruption of the summer vacation, the players would still play fewer games, they'd have a longer break and they'd be super-energized for this tournament. Unlike the Olympics, in which the star power is concentrated onto very few teams, the great players would be distributed far more evenly (more akin to Olympic hockey, in which there are seven super-teams largely comprised of NHL players). In short, this would be exactly what we say it is: the Ultimate Hoops Tournament.

Ultimate Hoops Tournament rosters

| A | B | Bench | C | D |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| SEC | ACC | M Dunleavy | Big East | Big 10 |
| C S O'Neal | C T Duncan | DUKE | C E Okafor | C G Oden |
| LSU | WAKE | J Stackhouse | UCONN | OSU |
| PF A Horford | PF C Bosh | R Mason | PF T Murphy | PF Z Randolph |
| FLORIDA | GA TECH | VIRGINIA | NOTRE | MSU |
| SF T Prince | SF L Deng | S Battier | SF C Anthony | SF J Richardson |
| KENTUCKY | DUKE | DUKE | SYRACUSE | MSU |
| SG J Johnson | SG V Carter | J Crittendon | SG D Wade | SG M Redd |
| ARKANSAS | UNC | GA TECH | MARQUETTE | OSU |
| PG M Williams | PG C Paul | M Harpring | PG A Iverson | PG D Williams |
| ALABAMA | WAKE | GA TECH | GEORGE. | ILLINOIS |

Rotate R Rondo
KENTUCKY
G Wallace
ALABAMA
M Miller
FLORIDA
D Lee
FLORIDA
J Noah
FLORIDA

Rotate A Jamison
UNC
E Brand
DUKE
C Boozer
DUKE
J Howard
WAKE
S Marbury
GA TECH
C Maggette
DUKE

R Wallace
UNC
R Felton
UNC
B Haywood
UNC
C Wilcox
MARYLAND
S Williams
UNC
G Hill
DUKE
B Wright
UNC
M Williams
UNC

Rotate R Artest
ST JOHN'S
C Butler
UCONN
R Gay
UCONN
R Hamilton
UCONN
R Allen
UCONN
B Gordon
UCONN

Rotate J Crawford
MICHIGAN
D Harris
WISCONSIN
M Conley
OSU
B Miller
PURDUE
M Finley
WISCONSIN

Bench A McDyess
ALABAMA
R Brewer
ARKANSAS
G Davis
LSU
T Green
FLORIDA
C Brewer
FLORIDA

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Bench J Green
GEORGE.
R Foye
VILLANOVA
J Maxielle
CINCY
J Boone
UCONN
K Martin
CINCY
S Williams
BC
S Dalembert
SETON HALL
D Mutombo
GEORGE.
H Warrick
SYRACUSE
C Villanueva
UCONN

Bench M Peterson
MSU
R Davis
IOWA

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Ultimate Hoops Tournament rosters

| E | F | G | H | Bench |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Big 12 | Pac 10 | International | MM/Small | J Nelson |
| C L Aldridge TEXAS | C K Love UCLA | C Y Ming | C C Kaman | ST JOE'S |
| PF M BEASLEY KSU | PF C Frye ARIZONA | PF D Nowitzki | C MICHIGAN | M James |
| SF K Durant TEXAS | SF R Jefferson ARIZONA | SF P Stojakovic | PF D West | DUQUESNE |
| SG P Pierce KANSAS | SG B Roy WASHINGTON | SG M Ginobili | PF XAVIER | D West |
| PG C Billups COLORADO | PG G Arenas ARIZONA | PG T Parker | SF S Marion | ST JOE'S |
| | | | UNLV | R Bell |
| Rotate D Gooden KANSAS | Rotate J Kidd CAL | Rotate P Gasol | SG K Martin | FIU |
| D Gibson TEXAS | B Davis UCLA | Z Ilgauskas | W CALI | L Hughes |
| J Rush KANSAS | OJ Mayo USC | H Turkoglu | PG S Nash | ST LOUIS |
| K Hinrich KANSAS | A Iguodala ARIZONA | J Calderon | S CLARA | W Szczerbiak |
| N Collison KANSAS | SA Rahim CAL | A Nocioni | | MIAMI OH |
| TJ Ford TEXAS | M Bibby ARIZONA | L Scola | Rotate L Odom | A Daniels |
| | | | URI | BGSU |
| Bench J Tinsley ISU | Bench J Kapono UCLA | Bench B Udrih | D Granger | B Wells |
| | L Walton ARIZONA | L Barbosa | N MEXICO | BALL STATE |
| | L Ridnour OREGON | G Giricek | J Posey | S Jackson |
| | J Farmar UCLA | S Pavlovic | XAVIER | JUCO |
| | N Robinson WASHINGTON | B Diaw | A Bogut | B Wallace |
| | | A Kirilenko | UTAH | VCU |
| | | Nene | D Rose | D Fisher |
| | | N Krstic | MEMPHIS | ARK-LR |
| | | A Varejao | B Bowen | Eddie Jones |
| | | D Milicic | CSF | TEMPLE |
| | | Y Jianlian | | Jamario Moon |
| | | | | JUCO |
| | | | | Rafer Alston |
| | | | | FRESNO ST |
| | | | | Kyle Korver |
| | | | | CREIGHTON |
| | | | | Cuttino Mobley |
| | | | | URI |
| | | | | Andre Miller |
| | | | | UTAH |
| | | | | M Camby |
| | | | | UMASS |
| | | | | Ku Thomas |
| | | | | TCU |
| | | | | Ke Thomas |
| | | | | N MEXICO |
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Ultimate Hoops Tournament hypothetical schedule for '09

Wednesday July 15

SEC/ACC (Atlanta)
International/MMSmall (New Orleans)

Thursday July 16

Big East/Big 10 (Chicago)
Big 12/Pac 10 (Las Vegas)

Friday July 17

SEC/Big East (Cincinnati)
Big 12/International (Phoenix)

Saturday July 18

International/High School (San Antonio)
ACC/Big East (Philadelphia)

Sunday July 19

SEC/Big 10 (Cleveland)
Big 12/MMSmall (Denver)

Monday July 20

Pac 10/High School (Salt Lake City)
ACC/International (Houston)

Tuesday July 21

Big East/Big 12 (Minnesota)
Big 10/MMSmall (Detroit)

Wednesday July 22

SEC/High School (Memphis)
ACC/Pac 10 (Las Vegas)

Thursday July 23

Big 10/Big 12 (St Louis)

Friday July 24

Big East/Pac 10 (Portland)
MMSmall/High School (Indianapolis)

Saturday July 25

SEC/Big 12 (Oklahoma City)
ACC/Big 10 (Chicago)

Sunday July 26

International/Big East (Oakland)
Pac 10/MMSmall (Milwaukee)

Monday July 27

Big 12/High School (San Antonio)

Tuesday July 28

ACC/MMSmall (Toronto)
SEC/Pac 10 (Dallas)

Wednesday July 29

Big East/High School (Sacramento)
Big 10/International (Columbus)

Thursday July 30

SEC/MMSmall (Miami)
ACC/Big 12 (Charlotte)

Friday July 31

Pac 10/International (Anaheim)
Big 10/High School (D.C.)

Saturday August 1

Big East/MMSmall (Houston)

Sunday August 2

Big 10/Pac 10 (Los Angeles)
SEC/International (Orlando)

Monday August 3

ACC/High School (Raleigh)

Tuesday August 4

no games

Wednesday August 5

QUARTERFINALS (St. Louis)
QUARTERFINALS (Indianapolis)

Thursday August 6

QUARTERFINALS (Atlanta)
QUARTERFINALS (Detroit)

Friday August 7

no games

Saturday August 8

SEMIFINALS (Syracuse)
SEMIFINALS (Philadelphia)

Sunday August 9

no games

Monday August 10

FINALS (New York)

Ultimate Hoops Tournament rosters

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| I | High School |
| C | D Howard |
| PF | K Garnett |
| SF | T McGrady |
| SG | K Bryant |
| PG | L James |

Rotate A Jefferson
A Stoudamire
A Bynum
M Ellis
R Lewis
Josh Smith

Bench A Harrington
J O'Neal
T Chandler
E Curry
T Outlaw
JR Smith

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NBA Names Panini Exclusive Trading Card Partner

Submitted By Russ Cohen/Card Corner Club

NEW YORK – The National Basketball Association (NBA) announced a new exclusive, multiyear licensing agreement with The Panini Group – the leading global publisher of collectibles. The new partnership will focus on redefining the domestic NBA trading card category by enhancing the relationship with existing NBA card enthusiasts, cultivating a new generation of collectors, supporting hobby shops and retailers, and by creating new product growth opportunities worldwide.

As the NBA's exclusive trading card and sticker partner, Panini will produce NBA trading cards, stickers and sticker albums beginning with the 2009-10 NBA season. Together with the NBA, Panini will provide significant retail marketing and promotional support including TV, print and on-line initiatives and in-store events for both hobby shops and retailers.

"Over the years, NBA trading cards have served as an important source to connect fans of all ages with our game," said Sal LaRocca, Executive Vice President, NBA Global Merchandising Group. "As we look to the future of our trading card business, there is general consensus, including with our current partners, Topps and Upper Deck, that moving forward with an exclusive partner is the best way for us to energize the category on a worldwide basis. We are fortunate to have had three outstanding companies interested in our trading card business and believe Panini's position as the leading global company in this industry aligns best with our global growth strategy."

LaRocca continued, "Our exclusive partnership with Panini provides us with the best opportunity to recreate the trading card market by developing the key retail channels with a variety of products and promotions geared towards all consumer segments."

Panini will leverage the strength of the NBA as a global sports league to develop the international trading card business and establish and build a sports collectibles business in the U.S. Currently, Panini has a successful North American collectibles business with consumer brands such as Disney's Hannah Montana and High School Musical, and Warner Bros.' Harry Potter, as well as with the UEFA Euro 2008 and FIFA World Cup sporting events. Internationally, Panini's leadership in the sticker category will provide additional growth opportunities for the NBA.

"As the leading global sports league, the NBA provides Panini with an international platform to expand the global trading card and collectibles markets by building our business in the U.S. and attracting new collectors around the world," said Peter Warsop, Panini Group Licensing Director.

About the NBA

The NBA reaches fans and consumers worldwide through the licensing and marketing of consumer products bearing the league's trademarks and player attributes. More than 200 licensees manufacture, sell and market NBA-branded products that are promoted worldwide and sold in more than 100,000 retail locations, in 100 countries on six continents. Major categories include video games, apparel, footwear, sporting goods and trading cards. Thirty percent of merchandise sales are generated from outside the United States.

About Panini S.p.A.

The Panini Group, established almost 50 years ago in Modena, Italy with subsidiaries throughout Europe and Latin America, is the world leader in the published collectable sector and the leading multi-national publisher of comics, children's magazines and manga in Europe and Latin America. In 2008, the Panini Group is expected to have sales of c 1 Billion US\$. The company has distribution channels in more than 100 countries and employs a staff of over 700. www.paniniamerica.net

Upper Deck is the Exclusive Home of “King James”

Submitted By Russ Cohen/Card Corner Club

North Las Vegas, NV – Last August, he helped lead the U.S.A. Olympic “Redeem Team” to gold in Beijing. Then he led his Cavaliers team to the best record in the NBA. LeBron “King” James has lived up to the hype and then some. Upper Deck is pleased to help bring collectors even closer to the “Chosen One” with new autograph trading cards of LeBron that include some unique inscriptions.

Fans of LeBron can find autograph cards of the NBA superstar exclusively in Upper Deck’s new 2008-09 NBA UD Black (releasing April 14), 2008-09 NBA Radiance (releasing April 29) and 2008-09 NBA Ultimate Collection (releasing May 12) trading card lines. Some versions of these cards will have rare inscriptions from LeBron like “08 USA Gold,” “08 Redeem Team,” and “King James.”

“To pull an autograph card of LeBron James from a pack is pretty awesome, but to find one with a special inscription is a much bigger deal,” said Chris Carlin, Upper Deck’s hobby marketing manager. “These types of cards definitely carry a premium in the secondary card market. Inscriptions are a great way to help personalize the trading card experience and help to bring collectors closer to their heroes. Upper Deck is proud to be the exclusive home for autograph cards of LeBron and many other stars of the hardwood including Kobe Bryant and Michael Jordan.”

About Upper Deck

Upper Deck is the leading sports and entertainment trading card and collectibles company. For more information on Upper Deck and its products please visit www.upperdeck.com.

| | |
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| FantasyDrafthelp.com/hoops.html | |

NBA Draft Class of '08 Gathers for Trading Card Photo Shoot

By Russ Cohen

[NOTE: This column originally appeared on the Sportsology website on July 30, 2008.]

Tarrytown, NY - - What happens when you get 34 of the top NBA rookies in one area to get photographed for their first trading cards? You get a lot of smiles, bounces of the ball, and some great memories for these young men. The DJ was cranking out music and both Upper Deck and Topps had baskets set up all over the Knicks practice facility, so when the players weren't getting their pictures taken, they had a chance to interview, play NBA Live '09 with themselves in the game for the first time, or shoot some hoops: not a bad day.

Many of the top picks were in attendance including Derrick Rose (1st overall pick selected by Chicago), O.J. Mayo (3rd overall pick selected by Memphis), Brook Lopez (10th overall pick selected by New Jersey) and his twin brother Robin (15th overall pick selected by Phoenix), Kevin Love (5th overall pick selected by Minnesota), Michael Beasley (2nd overall pick selected by Orlando), Marreese Speights (6th overall pick selected by Philly), Russell Westbrook (4th overall pick selected by Oklahoma City) and Patrick Ewing Jr. (43rd overall pick selected by Sacramento), to name a few.

"Yeah, I love it knowing that little kids will be trading cards for me or trying to trade someone just to get my card or to find my card," Rose said with excitement.

Who did Speights look up to when he was younger? "Rasheed Wallace and a little Dwight Howard," he said. "I collected baseball like Fred McGriff."

Guys were dancing, smiling and Mario Chalmers (Miami) pantsed Westbrook as if they were in the gym. To Westbrook's credit, he pulled up his shorts and he never missed a beat while he was playing his team in NBA Live '09.

"Many of the guys who played in the McDonald's All-American game when they were in high school, we got those jerseys and they will be signing letters of their last names," Topps assistant basketball brand manager, David Enslee divulged. "Topps basketball hits the second week of September."

Brook Lopez took some pictures with a Julius Erving jersey, so look for that and I caught JaVale McGee changing jersey's which will inevitably turn into a "Photo Shoot" memorabilia card. Donte Green, who was drafted by the Rockets with the 28th overall pick, was signing some letters for an upcoming UD set, no doubt.

"It's a blessing and I am very happy that I made the NBA," said Kosta Koufos (23rd overall pick of the Utah Jazz). "I am working hard and this atmosphere is fun. I used to collect baseball cards, and basketball cards all the time with my friends. It was a good experience and a way to make conversation with people and it's a way to get a card that you want to get. I collected a variety."

Upper Deck's Top Prospects will be out in September and that set will feature many of the shots that were taken today. "We've got some of the retro jerseys, then we are shooting them over at our white seamless. In the memorabilia area, there is stuff that they are signing for current and retro jerseys," said Gary Tolle,

Upper Deck's manager of the creative sports department. The league was enthusiastic as well. "Once again, the Rookie Photo shoot was a very successful event for our trading card partners," said Lisa Goldberg, the NBA's senior director of trading cards and memorabilia. "Both Topps and Upper Deck were able to get great photography of the NBA Rookies wearing their uniforms for the first time and we are looking forward to seeing them in the up coming releases for next season."

The happiest player of the bunch had to be J.R. Giddens who was the 30th overall pick of the Boston Celtics. "I'm not worried about playing vs. anybody," he said with a smile. "We are all just having fun, taking pictures, playing video games and really enjoying the atmosphere and cherishing the moment. I collected a lot of cards, crazy cards. I collected more baseball but obviously Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant, the young Diesel card, all of those. Willie Mays, I'm old school Giants, Alex Rodriguez, Ken Griffey Jr., people like that."



The future stars of the NBA were having a great time joining the trading card and memorabilia industry. Pictures courtesy of Sport-sology.

Jason Jones mock draft

| | Team | Player | Position | Origin |
|----|------|-------------------|----------|-------------|
| 1 | LAC | Blake Griffin | PF | Oklahoma |
| 2 | MEM | Hasheem Thabeet | C | Uconn |
| 3 | OKC | James Harden | SG | Arizona St |
| 4 | SAC | Ricky Rubio | PG | Spain |
| 5 | WAS | Jordan Hill | PF | Arizona |
| 6 | MIN | Tyreke Evans | SG | Memphis |
| 7 | GS | Brandon Jennings | PG | Italy |
| 8 | NYK | Stephen Curry | PG | Davidson |
| 9 | TOR | DeMar DeRozan | SG | USC |
| 10 | MIL | Jonny Flynn | PG | Syracuse |
| 11 | NJN | Gerald Henderson | SG | Duke |
| 12 | CHA | Chase Budinger | SG | Arizona |
| 13 | IND | Jeff Teague | PG | Wake Forest |
| 14 | PHO | Earl Clark | SF | Louisville |
| 15 | DET | B.J. Mullens | C | Ohio St |
| 16 | CHI | James Johnson | SF | Wake Forest |
| 17 | PHI | Tyler Hansbrough | PF | UNC |
| 18 | MIN | Jrue Holiday | PG | UCLA |
| 19 | ATL | Wayne Ellington | SG | UNC |
| 20 | UTA | DaJuan Summers | SF | Georgetown |
| 21 | NO | Terrence Williams | SG | Louisville |
| 22 | DAL | Eric Maynor | PG | VCU |
| 23 | SAC | DeJuan Blair | PF | Pittsburgh |
| 24 | POR | Derrick Brown | SF | Xavier |
| 25 | OKC | Sam Young | SF | Pittsburgh |
| 26 | CHI | Danny Green | SF | UNC |
| 27 | MEM | Taj Gibson | PF | USC |
| 28 | MIN | Tyler Smith | SF | Tennessee |
| 29 | LAL | Austin Daye | SF | Gonzaga |
| 30 | CLE | Jodie Meeks | SG | Kentucky |

Mark this date: on September 28, 2009, the next great sports book hits the shelves.

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Outside The Box Score

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<http://outsidetheboxscore.blogspot.com>

Rick Morris mock draft

| Team | Player | Position | Origin |
|--------|-------------------|----------|-------------|
| 1 LAC | Blake Griffin | PF | Oklahoma |
| 2 MEM | Hasheem Thabeet | C | UConn |
| 3 OKC | James Hardin | SG | Arizona St |
| 4 SAC | Ricky Rubio | PG | Spain |
| 5 WAS | DeMar DeRozan | SG | USC |
| 6 MIN | Jonny Flynn | PG | Syracuse |
| 7 GS | Jordan Hill | PF | Arizona |
| 8 NYK | Stephen Curry | PG | Davidson |
| 9 TOR | Tyreke Evans | SG | Memphis |
| 10 MIL | Brandon Jennings | PG | Euroball |
| 11 NJN | James Johnson | SF | Wake Forest |
| 12 CHA | Gerald Henderson | SG | Duke |
| 13 IND | Jrue Holliday | PG | UCLA |
| 14 PHO | Austin Daye | SF | Gonzaga |
| 15 DET | B.J. Mullens | C | Ohio St |
| 16 CHI | Earl Clark | SF | Louisville |
| 17 PHI | Tyler Hansbrough | PF | UNC |
| 18 MIN | DeJuan Blair | PF | Pittsburgh |
| 19 ATL | Chase Budinger | SG | Arizona |
| 20 UTA | Terrence Williams | SG | Louisville |
| 21 NO | Marcus Thornton | SG | LSU |
| 22 DAL | Ty Lawson | PG | UNC |
| 23 SAC | Jeff Teague | PG | Wake Forest |
| 24 POR | Sam Young | SF | Pittsburgh |
| 25 OKC | Wayne Ellington | SG | UNC |
| 26 CHI | Dionte Christmas | SG | Temple |
| 27 MEM | Taj Gibson | PF | USC |
| 28 MIN | Toney Douglas | SG | Florida St |
| 29 LAL | DaJuan Summers | SF | Xavier |
| 30 CLE | Danny Green | SF | UNC |

The FDH Lounge

In The FDH Lounge, nothing is off-topic. Don't believe us? Check out this partial roster of guests:

- ^ Bob Barker
- ^ Brutus Beefcake
- ^ The San Diego Chicken
- ^ JJ Dillon
- ^ Wayne Embry
- ^ Ernie Harwell
- ^ Missy Hyatt
- ^ Al Jaffee
- ^ Miracle on Ice Captain & MVP Mark Johnson
- ^ Will Leitch
- ^ The Phillie Phanatic
- ^ Jeremy Schaap
- ^ Jayson Stark

Random enough for you?

The FDH Lounge covers more topics than any other program on the air today. Among others:

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Blank mock draft sheet

| Team | Player | Position | Origin |
|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| 1 LAC | | | |
| 2 MEM | | | |
| 3 OKC | | | |
| 4 SAC | | | |
| 5 WAS | | | |
| 6 MIN | | | |
| 7 GS | | | |
| 8 NYK | | | |
| 9 TOR | | | |
| 10 MIL | | | |
| 11 NJN | | | |
| 12 CHA | | | |
| 13 IND | | | |
| 14 PHO | | | |
| 15 DET | | | |
| 16 CHI | | | |
| 17 PHI | | | |
| 18 MIN | | | |
| 19 ATL | | | |
| 20 UTA | | | |
| 21 NO | | | |
| 22 DAL | | | |
| 23 SAC | | | |
| 24 POR | | | |
| 25 OKC | | | |
| 26 CHI | | | |
| 27 MEM | | | |
| 28 MIN | | | |
| 29 LAL | | | |
| 30 CLE | | | |

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