PRO HOOPS DRAFTOLOGY 2022

A collective presentation of:
FANTASYDRAFT HELP.COM,
THE FDH LOUNGE &
SPORTSOLOGY under the
banner of THE 21ST CENTURY
MEDIA ALLIANCE
June 20, 2022
RICK MORRIS/BEN CHEW/
RUSS COHEN/JASON JONES

2022 NBA Draft preview show:
http://thefdhlounge.com/podcast/mini-episode-1487-june-2022-2022-nba-draft-preview/
Welcome to the most comprehensive pro hoops draft guide available anywhere!

Table of Contents

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 a mock draft from FantasyDrafthelp.com and you'll be able to fill out one of your own! All this, and much more, here in PRO HOOPS DRAFTOLOGY 2022!

Three Huge Options At The Top Of The Draft With A Sizable Second Tier Of Promise

Technically, only Orlando won the lottery this year, but in reality Oklahoma City and Houston did as well. Think back to last year when Cleveland and Toronto ended up with Evan Mobley and Scottie Barnes, respectively. This year, the first three will contain some combination of the following players: Auburn combo forward Jabari Smith (oft-compared to Kevin Durant), Gonzaga PF/C Chet Holmgren (the most well-rounded big man in the draft and one of the best of the past few decades) and Duke PF/C Paolo Banchero (possessing a swank offensive game).

The second tier is deeper than usual, extending most of the way through the lottery. Notably, the Big Ten produced three rare specimens, sophomores who progressed greatly from their freshman seasons: Iowa PF Keegan Murray, Wisconsin SG Johnny Davis and Purdue PG/SG Jaden Ivey. Most of the rest of this tier hails from the sport's blue blood programs: PG TyTy Washington and SG Shaedon Sharpe (a mysterious high-upside prospect who has not played since high school), Kansas SG Ochai Agbaji, Arizona swingman Bennedict Mathurin and Duke SF AJ Griffin. Ohio State swingman Malaki Branham rounds out the crop.

THE TOP 75 PLAYERS IN PRO BASKETBALL HISTORY

The NBA's 75th Anniversary has prompted a wave of Best-Of lists, but few with the substance to reinforce the selections. Authors Rick Morris, Ben Chew and Russ Cohen came together to create a list of the top 75 pro basketball players ever, with evidence to justify the placement of each -- as well as biographical details, comparisons of various legends, little-known-but-interesting tidbits, what-if scenarios and much more. Additionally, the book includes our year-by-year ranking of the top players in pro basketball and rosters for hypothetical "Olympic Dream Teams" had they existed prior to 1992. This is a book that is crafted for sports fans who are interested in learning more about the rich history of pro basketball. Available on Amazon.com

FantasyDrafthelp.com/hoops

PG	School/Country	Height/Weight
1 Jaden Ivey	Purdue	6-4, 195
2 TyTy Washington	Kentucky	6-3, 197
3 Dyson Daniels	G-League	6-7, 195
4 Blake Wesley	Notre Dame	6-4, 185
5 Kennedy Chandler	Tennessee	6-0, 171
6 Jean Montero	Overtime Elite	6-2, 170
7 JD Davison	Alabama	6-3, 195
8 Trevor Keels	Duke	6-4, 225
9 Iverson Molinar	Mississippi State	6-3, 185
10 Jordan Hall	St. Joseph's	6-7, 215

SG	School/Country	Height/Weight
1 Jaden Ivey	Purdue	6-4, 195
2 Shaedon Sharpe	Kentucky	6-6, 200
3 Bennedict Mathurin	Arizona	6-6, 210
4 Ochai Agbaji	Kansas	6-5, 215
5 Malaki Branham	Ohio State	6-5, 180
6 Johnny Davis	Wisconsin	6-5, 194
7 Dyson Daniels	G-League	6-7, 195
8 Jaden Hardy	G-League	6-4, 200
9 Blake Wesley	Notre Dame	6-4, 185
10 Max Christie	Michigan State	6-5, 190

SF	School/Country	Height/Weight
1 Jabari Smith	Auburn	6-10, 220
2 AJ Griffin	Duke	6-6, 222
3 Bennedict Mathurin	Arizona	6-6, 210
4 Malaki Branham	Ohio State	6-5, 180
5 Nikola Jovic	Serbia	6-11, 225
6 Tari Eason	LSU	6-8, 215
7 Kendall Brown	Baylor	6-7, 200
8 Ousmane Dieng	France	6-9, 185
9 Patrick Baldwin Jr	Milwaukee	6-9, 220
10 Caleb Houstan	Michigan	6-8, 205

PF	School/Country	Height/Weight
1 Jabari Smith	Auburn	6-10, 220
2 Chet Holmgren	Gonzaga	7-0, 195
3 Paolo Banchero	Duke	6-10, 250
4 Keegan Murray	Iowa	6-8, 225
5 Jalen Duren	Memphis	6-11, 250
6 Jeremy Sochan	Baylor	6-9, 230
7 Nikola Jovic	Serbia	6-11, 225
8 Tari Eason	LSU	6-8, 215
9 Kendall Brown	Baylor	6-7, 200
10 Ousmane Dieng	France	6-9, 185

C	School/Country	Height/Weight
1 Chet Holmgren	Gonzaga	7-0, 195
2 Paolo Banchero	Duke	6-10, 250
3 Jalen Duren	Memphis	6-11, 250
4 Mark Williams	Duke	7-1, 240
5 Walker Kessler	Auburn	7-1, 255
6 Ismael Kamagate	France	6-11, 230
7 Yannick Nzosa	Congo	6-11, 200
8 Orlando Robinson	Fresno State	6-11, 245
9 Christian Koloko	Arizona	7-1, 230
10 Khalifa Diop	Senegal	7-0, 250

Top 30 Overall	School/Country	Height/Weight
1 Jabari Smith	Auburn	6-10, 220
2 Chet Holmgren	Gonzaga	7-0, 195
3 Paolo Banchero	Duke	6-10, 250
4 Jaden Ivey	Purdue	6-4, 195
5 AJ Griffin	Duke	6-6, 222
6 Shaedon Sharpe	Kentucky	6-6, 200
7 Bennedict Mathurin	Arizona	6-6, 210
8 Ochai Agbaji	Kansas	6-5, 215
9 TyTy Washington	Kentucky	6-3, 197
10 Keegan Murray	Iowa	6-8, 225
11 Malaki Branham	Ohio State	6-5, 180
12 Johnny Davis	Wisconsin	6-5, 194
13 Jeremy Sochan	Baylor	6-9, 230
14 Nikola Jovic	Serbia	6-11, 225
15 Tari Eason	LSU	6-8, 215
16 Dyson Daniels	G-League	6-7, 195
17 Jalen Duren	Memphis	6-11, 250
18 Mark Williams	Duke	7-1, 240
19 Kendall Brown	Baylor	6-7, 200
20 Jaden Hardy	G-League	6-4, 200
21 Blake Wesley	Notre Dame	6-4, 185
22 Max Christie	Michigan State	6-5, 190
23 Ousmane Dieng	France	6-9, 185
24 EJ Liddell	Ohio State	6-7, 240
25 Kennedy Chandler	Tennessee	6-0, 171
26 Bryce McGowens	Nebraska	6-6, 180
27 Ryan Rollins	Toledo	6-3, 180
28 Jean Montero	Overtime Elite	6-2, 170
29 MarJon Beauchamp	G-League	6-6, 195
30 JD Davison	Alabama	6-3. 195

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FantasyDrafthelp.com

Did you stay away from players like who would have tanked your team last year like Marvin Bagley and Darius Bazley? You're welcome!
Did you end up with players who helped you succeed last year like Mikal Bridges and Fred VanVleet? You're welcome!
FantasyDrafthelp.com: Helping you to find tomorrow's success stories — today.

Top 10 For The Next 10

The FDH Top 10 for the Next 10 is a list attempting to identify the best players in the league -- not necessarily in a pure fantasy sense -- over the course of the entire next decade. It's not a pure 25-and-under draft, but it skews heavily in that direction because most big-time stars are past their primes in their late 30s. Players who are both very young and very skilled already have the biggest edges.

YouTube.com/thefdhlounge

1 Luka Doncic
2 Jayson Tatum
3 Ja Morant
4 Anthony Edwards
5 Evan Mobley
6 Trae Young
7 Cade Cunningham
8 Donovan Mitchell
9 Nikola Jokic
10 Devin Booker

LaMelo Ball
Scottie Barnes
Jaylen Brown
Darius Garland
Brandon Ingram

Strength of Draft By Position

GREAT: none
VERY GOOD: PF
GOOD: C, SG
AVERAGE: SF
BELOW-AVERAGE: PG
POOR: none
HORRIBLE: none

The 21st Century Media Alliance

What initially began as a small coalition of like-minded growing New Media organizations has flourished into a well-rounded creative juggernaut of more than two dozen entities that transcends the notion of traditional labeling. The 21st Century Media Alliance is an umbrella of cooperative companies and professionals that is pursuing many synergistic opportunities and projects. Possessed of varying yet often complementary skill sets, Alliance members are bound by their core principles of inventiveness, communication, pragmatism and dedication to their efforts and those of the larger group. In a great many creative areas, if you're looking to have a job performed the right way, chances are that you need look no further than The 21st Century Media Alliance.

FDH Mock Draft

Team	Player	School/Country	Height/Weight
1 Orlando	Jabari Smith F	Auburn	6-10, 220
2 Oklahoma City	Chet Holmgren PF/C	Gonzaga	7-0, 195
3 Houston	Paolo Banchero PF/C	Duke	6-10, 250
4 Sacramento	Jaden Ivey G	Purdue	6-4, 195
5 Detroit	Ben Mathurin SF/SG	Arizona	6-6, 210
6 Indiana	Keegan Murray PF	Iowa	6-8, 225
7 Portland	Shaedon Sharpe SG	Kentucky	6-6, 200
8 New Orleans	AJ Griffin SF	Duke	6-6, 222
9 San Antonio	TyTy Washington PG	Kentucky	6-3, 197
10 Washington	Jeremy Sochan PF	Baylor	6-9, 230
11 New York	Dyson Daniels G	G-League	6-7, 195
12 Oklahoma City	Ousmane Dieng F	France	6-9, 185
13 Charlotte	Jalen Duren PF/C	Memphis	6-11, 250
14 Cleveland	Malaki Branham SG/SF	Ohio State	6-5, 180
15 Charlotte	Tari Eason F	LSU	6-8, 215
16 Atlanta	Johnny Davis SG	Wisconsin	6-5, 194
17 Houston	Ochai Agbaji SG	Kansas	6-5, 215
18 Chicago	Blake Wesley G	Notre Dame	6-4, 185
19 Minnesota	Nikola Jovic F	Serbia	6-11, 225
20 San Antonio	EJ Liddell PF	Ohio State	6-7, 245
21 Denver	Kendall Brown F	Baylor	6-7, 200
22 Memphis	Mark Williams C	Duke	7-1, 240
23 Philadelphia	Jalen Williams SG/SF	Santa Clara	6-6, 210
24 Milwaukee	Caleb Houstan SF	Michigan	6-8, 205
25 San Antonio	Jaden Hardy SG	G-League	6-4, 200
26 Houston	MJ Beauchamp SG/SF	G-League	6-6, 195
27 Miami	Jean Montero PG	Overtime Elite	6-2, 170
28 Golden State	Jaylin Williams PF/C	Arkansas	6-10, 235
29 Memphis	Kennedy Chandler PG	Tennessee	6-0, 171
30 Denver	Patrick Baldwin Jr SF	Milwaukee	6-9, 220

BASEBALL'S BEST ROOKIES

Preview Of FantasyDrafthelp.com Ultimate Fantasy Hoops Stat For 2021-22 Season

This is the FantasyDrafthelp.com statistic, the Ultimate Quantitative Baseline, based on the statistical principle of standard deviation from the mean. We utilize the standard fantasy categories: PPG, RPG, APG, ST, BL, TO, FG%, FT% and 3%. In each category, a spectrum is calculated from the best performance to the worst on a per-game basis. The numbers in each category are added together to create our statistic. An additional equalizer is injected to apply more points to each player at the positions of scarcer depth. What this stat truly does is to quantify beyond doubt how the stronger and weaker performances in each category add up to the absolute fantasy value for each player. As such, it establishes a baseline for performance that is more comprehensive than anything ever developed. A number over 1000 is considered elite. We have listed below the top 25 forwards and guards, top 15 centers and top 50 overall.

	Guards	UQB		Forwards	UQB		Top 50 Overall					
1	Dejounte Murray	1376	1	Giannis Antetokounmpo	1396	1	Nikola Jokic	1602	26	Devin Booker	845
2	Chris Paul	1323	2	Kevin Durant	1131	2	Rudy Gobert	1454	27	Jrue Holiday	843
3	Trae Young	994	3	LeBron James	1128	3	Giannis Antetokounmpo	1396	28	Jeff Green	838
4	Tyrese Haliburton	988	4	Patrick Williams	1089	4	Dejounte Murray	1376	29	Fred VanVleet	836
5	Luka Doncic	957	5	Paul George	1004	5	Chris Paul	1323	30	Stephen Curry	826
6	James Harden	917	6	Jaren Jackson Jr.	980	6	Joel Embiid	1205	31	Karl-Anthony Towns	820
7	Lonzo Ball	903	7	DeMar DeRozan	941	7	Robert Williams	1172	32	Onyeka Okongwu	819
8	LaMelo Ball	866	8	Kristaps Porzingis	875	8	Kevin Durant	1131	33T	Ja Morant	801
9	Devin Booker	845	9	Pascal Siakam	871	9	LeBron James	1128	33T	Brook Lopez	801
10	Jrue Holiday	843	10	Jayson Tatum	870	10	Patrick Williams	1089	35	Derrick Rose	798
11	Fred VanVleet	836	11	Desmond Bane	867	11	Myles Turner	1020	36	Domantas Sabonis	785
12	Stephen Curry	826	12	Joe Harris	764	12	Paul George	1004	37	Darius Garland	775
13	Ja Morant	801	13	Zach LaVine	746	13	Trae Young	994	38	LaMarcus Aldridge	772
14	Derrick Rose	798	14	Khris Middleton	740	14	Tyrese Haliburton	988	39	Donovan Mitchell	771
15	Darius Garland	775	15	Herbert Jones	739	15	Jaren Jackson Jr.	980	40	Jonas Valanciunas	767
16	Donovan Mitchell	771	16	John Collins	732	16	Frank Kaminsky	971	41	Joe Harris	764
17	Luke Kennard	763	17	Robert Covington	730	17	Luka Doncic	957	42	Luke Kennard	763
18	Tyrese Maxey	762	18	Cameron Johnson	719	18	DeMar DeRozan	941	43	Tyrese Maxey	762
19	Seth Curry	738	19	Brandon Ingram	712	19	James Harden	917	44	Zach LaVine	746
20	Gary Trent Jr.	730	20	Mikal Bridges	710	20	Lonzo Ball	903	45	Khris Middleton	740
21	Marcus Smart	723	21	OG Anunoby	696	21	Kristaps Porzingis	875	46	Herbert Jones	739
22	Damian Lillard	711	22	Miles Bridges	692	22	Pascal Siakam	871	47	Seth Curry	738
23	Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	708	23	Isaiah Roby	677	23	Jayson Tatum	870	48	John Collins	732
24	Mike Conley	697	24	Jerami Grant	672	24	Desmond Bane	867	49T	Robert Covington	730
25	Anthony Edwards	694	25	Julius Randle	667	25	LaMelo Ball	866	49T	Gary Trent Jr.	730

	Centers	UQB
1	Nikola Jokic	1602
2	Rudy Gobert	1454
3	Joel Embiid	1205
4	Robert Williams	1172
5	Myles Turner	1020
6	Frank Kaminsky	971
7	Jeff Green	838
8	Karl-Anthony Towns	820
9	Onyeka Okongwu	819
10	Brook Lopez	801
11	Domantas Sabonis	785
12	LaMarcus Aldridge	772
13	Jonas Valanciunas	767
14	Isaiah Hartenstein	717
15	Deandre Ayton	715

The FDH Top 30 Players In The NBA

NOTE: These are the top 30 players in the NBA at the present time – averaging one per team in the league – by determination of FDH Managing Partner Rick Morris. Their ranking in last year's analysis is in parentheses. Players who were included last year, but not this year, are listed below. Players with a bullet are injured and listed where they would have been if healthy.

TOP TIER
1 Giannis Antetekounmpo (1)
2 Nikola Jokic (2)
3 Joel Embiid (7)
4 Stephen Curry (4)
5 Luka Doncic (6)
6 Jayson Tatum (15)
7 Jimmy Butler (25)
8 Ja Morant (30)
9 Kevin Durant (5)
SECOND TIER
10 Trae Young (14)
11 Lebron James (3)
12 Jaylen Brown (23)
13 Donovan Mitchell (8)
14 Devin Booker (11)
15 Anthony Edwards (NA)
16 Kawhi Leonard (NA)
17 Desmond Bane (NA)
THIRD TIER
18 DeMar DeRozan (NA)
19 Karl-Anthony Towns (NA)
20 Jrue Holiday (26)
21 Khris Middleton (18)
22 Paul George (13)
23 Damian Lillard (10)
24 Zach LaVine (16)
25 Pascal Siakam (NA)
26 Darius Garland (NA)
27 Jamal Murray (NA)
28 Chris Paul (17)
29 Fred VanVleet (NA)
30 Kyrie Irving (19)

James Harden (9)
Bradley Beal (12)
Julius Randle (20)
Zion Williamson (21)
Klay Thompson (22)
DeAndre Ayton (24)
Bam Adebayo (27)
Domantas Sabonis (28)
Collin Sexton (29)

Links to Highlight Videos of Top Prospects

Here are links to some of the best players of the '22 Draft in action:

Ochai Agbaji https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1VoRRjvmiBY
Paolo Banchero https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYY0jr54yig
Malaki Branham https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyIxoIuQOYk
Johnny Davis https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zED3GXN4y6A
AJ Griffin https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DzI1TkWJO_M
Chet Holmgren https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttyISMEazKQ
Jaden Ivey https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2D6Gu0WNhFc
Bennedict Mathurin https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALiw6jlaT0A
Keegan Murray https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yaSp6nZ5fKY
Shaedon Sharpe https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5pMtp9dKLI
Jabari Smith https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOkcqRzEyqs
TyTy Washington https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHpBfgc4uV0

2021-22 FDH NBA All-Stars By Division

	Atlantic		Central		Southeast	Southwest		Northwest		Pacific
PG	Fred VanVleet		Jrue Holiday	PG	Trae Young	Luka Doncic	PG	Damian Lillard		Steph Curry
	Kyrie Irving		Darius Garland		LaMelo Ball	Ja Morant		Mike Conley		De'Aaron Fox
SG	James Harden		Caris LeVert	SG	Bradley Beal	CJ McCollum	SG	Donovan Mitchell		Devin Booker
	Gary Trent Jr		Tyrese Haliburton		Tyler Herro	Jalen Green		Anthony Edwards		Jordan Poole
SF	Jayson Tatum		Khris Middleton	SF	Jimmy Butler	Brandon Ingram	SF	Luguentz Dort		LeBron James
	Jaylen Brown		Zach Levine		Gordon Hayward	Desmond Bane		Nassir Little		Paul George
PF	Kevin Durant		Greek Freak	PF	Miles Bridges	Jaren Jackson Jr	PF	Bojan Bogdonovic		Marcus Morris
	Julius Randle		DeMar DeRozan		John Collins	Brandon Clarke		Aaron Gordon		Harrison Barnes
C	Joel Embiid		Jarrett Allen	C	Clint Capela	Jonas Valanciunas	C	Nikola Jokic		Deandre Ayton
	Bam Adebayo		Nikola Vucevic		Bam Adebayo	Christian Wood		Karl-Anthony Towns		Anthony Davis

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2022-23 NBA Predicted Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division
X-Boston 57-25
Y-Philadelphia 52-30
Y-Toronto 51-31
Y-Brooklyn 48-34
New York 22-60

Central Division
X-Milwaukee 56-26
Y-Cleveland 53-29
Chicago 42-40
Indiana 30-52
Detroit 28-54

Southeast Division
X-Miami 54-28
Y-Atlanta 44-38
Charlotte 39-43
Washington 28-54
Orlando 27-55

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Northeast Division
X-Denver 55-27
Y-Utah 44-38
Minnesota 41-41
Oklahoma City 29-53
Portland 18-64

Pacific Division
X-Golden State 54-28
Y-Phoenix 49-33
Y-LA Clippers 46-36
LA Lakers 38-44
Sacramento 26-56

Southwest Division
X-Memphis 56-26
Y-Dallas 52-30
Y-New Orleans 42-40
San Antonio 35-47
Houston 16-66

Play-In Games
7 Brooklyn over 8 Atlanta
10 Charlotte over 9 Chicago
10 Charlotte over 8 Atlanta
7 Utah over 8 New Orleans
10 LA Lakers over 9 Minnesota
10 LA Lakers over 8 New Orleans

CONFERENCE QUARTERFINALS
1 Boston over 8 Charlotte in 6
2 Milwaukee over 7 Brooklyn in 6
6 Toronto over 3 Miami in 7
4 Cleveland over 5 Philadelphia in 7
1 Memphis over 8 LA Lakers in 6
2 Golden State over 7 Utah in 5
3 Denver over 6 LA Clippers in 6
4 Dallas over 5 Phoenix in 6

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
6 Toronto over 1 Boston in 7
2 Milwaukee over 4 Cleveland in 6
1 Memphis over 4 Dallas in 6
3 Denver over 2 Golden State in 7

CONFERENCE FINALS
2 Milwaukee over 6 Toronto in 6
3 Denver over 1 Memphis in 7

NBA FINALS
Milwaukee over Denver in 6

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Breaking Down The Sports Realism In 'Winning Time

By Russ Cohen/Sportsology

Sports movies and shows must be realistic. If they're not, they can ruin it for me. The actor Solomon Hughes, who portrays Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in Winning Time, was the key factor regarding this: if he had a bad skyhook. In my eyes, it was and still is the most unstoppable shot in the history of the NBA. The dynamic between Kareem and Magic is fascinating.

"Dr. Solomon Hughes already brings this elevated presence when he's around. So for me, I wanted to bring something different, more playful, and childlike. I am playing a 20-year-old. Solomon is a father. He's the grown-up in the room," said Quincy Isaiah, who plays Magic Johnson perfectly.

Hughes chimed in as well. "Numbers back it up as far as the skyhook. You got it right," Hughes told me. "He has an Mt. Everest record shooting a two-pointer. I totally agree. Perfectly, he's the one that took it to that form. I shot it religiously. At the park, at 24/7 fitness. Older gentleman would nod with approval. Whoever criticizes me, I'll hand them the ball and ask them to do it."

Magic vs. Nixon
Both are important players in this movie. Quincy has every mannerism of Magic Johnson down pat. He's 100% believable and his play is good. DeVaughn Nixon is a perfect Norm for obvious reasons. When Nixon and Magic are going one-on-one at one point, it was very interesting and well-played by both actors. "It was a little bit of hazing for Magic. Norm controlled the fraternity. Kids were coming in, and he had to show them what was up. In real life, speaking to my father, he respected the talent, who he was, and I never think my dad feared for his job because he put up numbers. He just had to figure out how they would all gel together. I enjoyed beating up on Quincy (chuckles)."

The coaching perspectives in this movie were great. Adrien Brody plays Pat Riley and played him perfectly, showing his full intensity. "I try to be chill and apply a levelheadedness in real life. That comes with age. I was much more intense when I was younger. It was easy to tap into that. With sport, you win or you lose. You're in or you're out. Second-best isn't acceptable. You want to win."

And Jason Segel had a very hard role, in my estimation, showing the weirdness of Paul Westhead. He was a fixture at LaSalle in Philadelphia and moved west to be the assistant coach of the Lakers. "The way that I played it, which is all I know, is this guy, when you dedicate your life to a sport it is everything to you. It's who you are, and a line was 'they took my whistle and stuck me behind a desk. "That phone call from Jack was somebody getting their life back," Segel explained.

Hadley Robinson is the breakout star in this. She plays Jeanie Buss. She becomes a very integral character over time, but in the beginning, wasn't being taken seriously by her father or grandmother. "She does eavesdrop quite a bit. She's very much the fly on the wall, but I think it's for business reasons and personal. There's so much they don't tell her. And she's out of the loop. They treat her like a little girl and she was coming into her own," said Robinson. "She used it to her advantage, but it could have been misused too."

2021 NBA Draft Team Draft Needs
Blank Mock Draft Worksheet

Atlanta: SG
Boston: PF, PG
Brooklyn: PF, C
Charlotte: C
Chicago: SG, PG, SF
Cleveland: SG, SF
Dallas: PF, SF
Denver: SF
Detroit: C, PG
Golden State: C
Houston: C, SF, PF
Indiana: PF, C, SF
LA Clippers: PF, C
LA Lakers: C, SG, PG
Memphis: C
Miami: P, PG
Milwaukee: SG, C
Minnesota: PF, SF
New Orleans: SF
New York: PG, C
Oklahoma City: C, SF
Orlando: C
Philadelphia: SF, PF
Phoenix: PF, C
Portland: PF, C
Sacramento: PF, SG
San Antonio: PF, SG, C
Toronto: none
Utah: PF, PG
Washington: SF, SG, PF

1 Orlando
2 Oklahoma City
3 Houston
4 Sacramento
5 Detroit
6 Indiana
7 Portland
8 New Orleans
9 San Antonio
10 Washington
11 New York
12 Oklahoma City
13 Charlotte
14 Cleveland
15 Charlotte
16 Atlanta
17 Houston
18 Chicago
19 Minnesota
20 San Antonio
21 Denver
22 Memphis
23 Philadelphia
24 Milwaukee
25 San Antonio
26 Houston
27 Miami
28 Golden State
29 Memphis
30 Denver

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Nothing is Off-topic.
Nothing.**

Myah Master

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https://linktr.ee/chaoticgoodest**

Sportsology

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Check out the main site at Sportsology.com and specific sub-sites for baseball, football, hockey, hoops, pro wrestling, video games, DVDs/movies and music.

2022 Free Agency Preview

By Rick Morris/The FDH Lounge

Just to get this out of the way, none of the big-name players on "buyer's remorse" contracts are going to fail to pick up their player options: Russell Westbrook, James Harden, John Wall and Kyrie Irving. Conversely, Bradley Beal can make a ton of money even if he moves on from DC – although they hold his Bird rights, so any relocation could be via sign-and-trade.

The sole member of the free agency class essentially on Beal's level is Zach LeVine. Deandre Ayton probably played his way out of a max deal with Phoenix, but all it takes is one team willing to pay him that.

The best of the rest unrestricted free agents are high-level role players, such as Gary Harris, Ricky Rubio, Andre Iguodala, Jusuf Nurcic, TJ Warren, PJ Tucker, Joe Ingles, Marvin Bagley and Kevon Looney.

Restricted free agents are usually not that interesting, because the best ones are almost always retained by their incumbent teams, but the situation with Collin Sexton and Cleveland certainly bears watching.

2021-22 Team UQB Rankings

FantasyDrafthelp.com and The FDH Lounge are expanding the UQB concept to team sports. Our rankings are a mashup of the following measures: a strength of schedule metric, offensive rating, defensive rating, EFG, TS%, Asst/TO ratio, 3% and a modified Win Share formula.

TOP TIER
1 Phoenix
SECOND TIER
2 Golden State
3 Miami
4 Boston
5 Milwaukee
6 Utah
7 Denver
8 Atlanta
9 Philadelphia
10 Memphis
11 Charlotte
12 Dallas
13 Minnesota
14 Brooklyn
15 Chicago
THIRD TIER
16 Cleveland

17 LA Clippers
18 San Antonio
19 Toronto
FOURTH TIER
20 Washington
21 New York
22 LA Lakers
23 New Orleans
24 Indiana
FIFTH TIER
25 Sacramento
26 Houston
SIXTH TIER
27 Orlando
28 Portland
29 Detroit
30 Oklahoma City

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'Winning Time' Will Change Small Screen Sports Storytelling

By Russ Cohen/Sportsology

John C. Reilly has played a ton of great parts in his career. I loved him in Bull Durham. In 'Winning Time', he plays businessman, father, and playboy, Dr. Jerry Buss, who owned the Los Angeles Lakers at the time they drafted Earvin 'Magic' Johnson. Buss had a good side and what I called a smarmy side, and Reilly talked about that in a recent interview. "When I was offered this part, it was seven days before the pilot started shooting," Reilly admitted. "I came in very late in the process, but I knew Adam McKay would have my back, and it's somebody I really trusted and had great success with, in the past. Ya know, that smarminess, it's funny. If you looked at the facts of his life, he had these certain hedonistic habits like a lot of people in the basketball world. The most telling thing to me with Jerry Buss, and his whole way, and I tried to be as sensitive as I could be to his family, while trying to tell the truth or at least some version of the truth about what happened. The smarminess when you get that much power and success. It happens with actors all the time. Eventually, someone starts bringing you coffee, and you just feel like you're someone who deserves to be brought coffee. It's not a character flaw, it's just an acknowledgment of reality. People treat you this way and you guess that's just the way it is. People treated Jerry like Hugh Hefner, who was one of his friends. To me, the most telling thing about Jerry Buss is when you look at his memorial. For all those women he dated for all those years, all the players and all the people he did business with, every single one of them loved that guy."

Reilly explained that perfectly. And that's a big reason why I loved the series. It's about the details. And so the reader doesn't miss any of them. Buss thought of the Lakers as a family, and the family dynamic in this series was interesting. It was messed up at times, but it centers around Jerry's mother, Jessie Buss, who did the books for Buss. The incomparable Sally Field played this character to its fullest, as she does with everything that she plays. Viewers are going to love the wardrobe. "The exterior of Jessie is a big part of it," Field explained. "There were outrageous clothes and the jewelry and the hair and fingernails. I worked on the physicality in her voice. She's a drinker and a smoker. She's got some toughness about her. She's a survivor. The crew would always wait for me to come on set and see what I was wearing like 'OMG, here we go.' Each outfit was topping the last one. As Stanislavsky would say, that's part of creating a character. Create the exterior before you create the interior. That was helpful."

Field is a Lakers season ticket holder and a massive fan! "It was the Lakers games. It's what we did together as a family. I was there. I watched Magic at this time. I watched Kareem. We watched the evolution of all of it. I watched young Kobe when he was in the arena for the first time. My two oldest boys would go. My youngest son may be the world's biggest Lakers fan. When a game is on, we all text each other. This was a big, big, part of my life."

We are just scratching the surface here. Stay tuned. Listen to this exclusive interview with co-creator, Jim Hecht https://soundcloud.com/russ-cohen/jim-hecht-co-creator-writer-and-executive-producer-of-hbos-winning-time?utm_source=clipboard&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=social_sharing

Recommended NBA Divisions Post-Expansion

With the recently-leaked news that Seattle and Las Vegas are likely to be brought in via expansion comes speculation about the format of the league once they are admitted. Here is the FDH recommendation for the new divisional structure.

EASTERN CONFERENCE	WESTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division	Southwest Division
Boston	Dallas
Brooklyn	Houston
Charlotte	Las Vegas
Miami	Memphis
New York	New Orleans
Orlando	Oklahoma City
Philadelphia	Phoenix
Washington	San Antonio
Central Division	Pacific Division
Atlanta	Denver
Chicago	Golden State
Cleveland	LA Clippers
Detroit	LA Lakers
Indiana	Portland
Milwaukee	Sacramento
Minnesota	Seattle
Toronto	Utah

As We Predicted, More Room At The Top In The 2020s

By Rick Morris/The FDH Lounge

As noted in this space a year ago, here's the number of different teams represented in the NBA Finals each decade: eight in the 1950s, five in the 1960s, 10 in the 1970s, five in the 1980s, 10 in the 1990s, 12 in the 2000s and nine in the 2010s. We forecast an era in the 2020s with more (relative) parity at the top as top teams from the 2010s are still hanging around as new powers are emerging in the 2020s. This year's NBA Finals reflected this dynamic with Golden State as a holdover team and young Boston breaking through. And there are now six different teams already represented in the Finals this decade (surpassing the 1960s and 1980s already) – the first three-year stretch with six different teams in the Finals since 2006-08 and only the second since 1976-78!

The post-LeBron teams in Miami and Cleveland, although both strong contenders again, bear no resemblance to the teams that he led to the Finals, so they count as fresh faces. Toronto is the only champion from the East in the 2010s that is even partially intact, with Milwaukee taking the 2021 title and Boston, Brooklyn and Philadelphia among the teams looking to break through.

Golden State is the big carryover in the West from the 2010s, with the Lakers taking the title in 2020 and Phoenix, Dallas, Denver, Utah, Memphis and the LA Clippers looming as significant teams. This slow-motion changing of the guard between the stars of the 2010s and the 2020s, which probably started as far back as the Orlando bubble, is ongoing and fueling one of the most exciting periods in the history of the league.

The Cavs Are At The Intersection Of Player Development And The Process

By Rick Morris/The FDH Lounge

[NOTE: Admittedly, I have written disproportionately about my hometown Cleveland Cavaliers in this space over the years, but through their successes and failures, they continue to provide more relevant lessons about how to build, maintain and rebuild than almost any other team in the 21st Century.]

In today's NBA, most teams at a marginal playoff level or worse are adherents of one of two approaches: Player Development (with San Antonio, Denver and post-LeBron Miami as the most notable examples) and The Process (most famously pursued by Philadelphia). Rarely can it be said that both approaches have congealed into a unified path for a team, but this is indeed the case on America's North Coast.

Of course, when you achieve that convergence, you need to be lucky as well as good and the Cavs have been above-average in that regard since LeBron left for the first time in 2010. Both that time and The Departure Part Deux in 2018 saw Cavs owner Dan Gilbert go balls-out to avoid the cleansing suck process that could lead the team back to glory. Fortunately, both times, the team sucked anyway, avoiding the ceiling of first-round-elimination-Purgatory that franchises such as Chicago currently occupy.

In the Years Between LeBron Eras, Kyrie Irving (acquired with a lottery pick obtained in the genius Baron Davis trade) and Andrew Wiggins (flipped to obtain Kevin Love) provided the foundation for a Big Three with LeBron and were the roses that grew through the manure of painful basketball. Gilbert's vision of pairing stars with LeBron bore fruit spectacularly, but it was clear in 2018 that the trajectory of LBJ's career would not allow for a repeat, even if he eyed a second return at some point.

The Cavs got a head start on the rebuild with the Kyrie trade bringing back a 2018 lottery pick. Collin Sexton, like the 2019 selection Darius Garland, came out as a gifted-but-developing talent. Picking eighth and fifth, respectively, did not place the Cavs in position for a can't-miss star, nor did the fifth pick in 2020, Isaac Okoro — a defensive stopper still struggling to build an NBA-caliber offensive game.

But then came 2021, the year that changed the trajectory of the franchise and set the stage for the team to rocket up the standings the following season (with the shocking likelihood of a top-four seed before a crippling avalanche of injuries).

In the winter of 2021, the famous deal that sent James Harden to Brooklyn necessitated offloading Jarrett Allen and his salary to Cleveland, where his game reached new levels. Over the summer, the Cavs also acquired sweet-shooting big man Lauri Markkanen and resolved to give him more of a chance than the Bulls did. These two, as well as Sexton and Garland, have served as developmental success stories — as have players further down the bench, such as "Junkyard Dog" Lamar Stevens and Dean Wade.

But the NBA Draft Lottery brought the crucial element of "The Process" into the equation. Securing a "unicorn" such as Evan Mobley changed the game altogether, adding THE player to build around, one who is already being compared to such greats as Kevin Garnett, Chris Bosh and Anthony Davis.

Veteran leadership was provided by a re-energized Love, as well as Ricky Rubio and Rajon Rondo and a deadline trade for Caris LeVert added scoring punch and helped compensate for the aforementioned injuries. Love and LeVert are each signed for one more season, with LeVert being a strong candidate for an extension and free agent Sexton an equally strong candidate to return — as is Rubio, who unfortunately will miss a chunk of the 2022-23 season as he recovers from his ACL injury. The pain of losing in the play-in round shifted to the pleasant realization of being able to add another rotation player to the mix with the 14th pick in the draft that is now not being shipped this year to Indiana in the LeVert deal.

At this point, the question can legitimately be asked: medium-term and long-term, who would you rather be than the Cavs? Mobley has as bright a future as anyone in the game, as his skills are merged with an insatiable desire for self-improvement that leads to rapid progress. Garland and Allen were justifiably All-Stars this past winter and much of the rest of the rotation can be penciled in without sacrificing quality in any area. And the unselfish culture preached by JB Bickerstaff, Love, Rubio and Rondo rubbed off on the young stars, who are all unselfish and team-oriented by nature. The joy that they take in each other's successes is by no means commonplace in The Association.

Best of all, expiring salaries combined with Bird rights will allow the Cavs to keep EVERYONE that they deem essential provided that luxury taxes are no barrier — and Gilbert has always been fearless in that regard before with the justifiable reasoning that the fan support accorded to a champion makes up the difference financially.

The basketball intelligentsia never tires of droning on about the futility of replacing a megastar and about how the Cavs, were it not for the geographical accident of being close to LeBron's hometown of Akron, would have been no exception to the rule post-2014. But there can be no asterisk placed on what is happening in Cleveland this time around. There's actually been less luck involved than there was from 2010-14, when the Cavs managed a whopping three top overall picks in four years. Not every move has worked out, such as the drafting/trading of Kevin Porter Jr and the coaches that the team cycled through before Bickerstaff. But by keeping their mistakes manageable, developing star and bench players alike and being in the right place at the right time to draft Mobley, the Cavs are making a strong case that the colors of the future are Wine and Gold.