

## Chapter 1 : NBA Rookies Preview: DeAndre Ayton & More Players Talk NBA Debut – Hollywood Life

*NBA NBA AM: Missing the Rookie Experience. L.A. Clippers forward Brice Johnson got hurt before the season even started, forcing him to essentially skip his rookie year. Published.*

Teams from pick all came away feeling quite good about the player they drafted. Even the 2nd round provided value as players like Mitchell Robinson, DeAnthony Melton and Svi Mykhailiuk shined during summer league play. Players who stand out during their rookie years must land in the right situation. There will be talented players who were drafted by winning teams who may not get the minutes they need to make an impact. Rookies on bad and rebuilding teams are more likely to get immediate minutes and learn from the experience of playing right away. Below, we are going to project the top NBA rookie at each position. Bear in mind that this is a projection for just this season, not for entire careers. Players who are projected to get major minutes and be focal points of offenses will have an advantage over rookies that are blocked by veterans.

**Top Point Guard Rookie:** After losing James to the Lakers, the Cavs look like a team that may be in the lottery next season. While Kevin Love is still on the roster, there will be plenty of opportunity for Sexton to make his mark. With his high level of usage, Sexton is a strong contender for Rookie of the Year. Unlike most other rookies, Carter played four years at West Virginia and offers more certainty than most rookies. Look for him to earn trust and minutes quickly.

**Top Shooting Guard Rookie:** While superstars like Kristaps Porzingis struggled to play major minutes in this league, Doncic won the League MVP at only 19 years of age. This is an especially polished player. Doncic will play immediately and be the focal point of the Mavericks offense. Vegas has the shooting guard as the odds-on favorite for Rookie of the Year and it would be bit of an upset if he did not win the award. The Hawks moved up to get him and will give him plenty of opportunities to shoot the basketball.

**Top Small Forward Rookie:** About 5 minutes into the first summer league game, it was clear that Kentucky may not have been utilizing his skills properly. Knox was an offensive machine for the summer Knicks combining long-range shooting with highlight reel dunks. The Knicks are going to be a pretty bad team. The teams figures to run the offense through the rookie, at least until Kristaps Porzingis returns. Knox has a fair chance to lead all first-year players in scoring and produce the type of highlights that propel players to Rookie of the Year Award.

**Small Forward Runner-Up – Mikal Bridges – Suns** Bridges brings more certainty to his team than pretty much any other player in this draft. He is going to be a good NBA player for a long time. The question is, what kind of upside does he have? He has a depth chart to climb in New Orleans, but they team traded up for him and clearly has plans to use him. He could really look good if he gets the right opportunity.

**Top Power Forward Rookie:** On a Duke team featuring first round picks like Wendell Carter Jr. Though he had an injury plagued summer league, Bagley displayed the tools that make it easy to imagine him being a guy in the NBA. The smooth rookie will have to work on his defense, but that is true of most players coming into the league at 19 years-old. Like many of the other players on this list, Bagley is going to play for a terrible team. He will start immediately for the Kings and be an important part of their offense. He starred in the summer league and had many wondering how he lasted until the 7th pick. Carter Jr, however will start the year behind Robin Lopez and Lauri Markkanen and will have to fight his way into playing time. He has an inside-outside game that will fit well in the modern NBA. Wagner will have the opportunity to play with LeBron and that can elevate the game of any talented player. Ayton is a physical freak who was basically an unstoppable force at The University of Arizona. In the summer league, Ayton made the Suns look smart by displaying insanely athletic offensive prowess. He can certainly utilize his athleticism more on the defensive side of the ball, but Ayton finished the circuit averaging 14 points, 10 rebounds and 1 block per game. Ayton is going to play plenty for the Suns. While he may not be the total focal point of the offense, he should provide a dynamic compliment to Shooting Guard Devin Booker. It would not be a surprise to see Ayton average a double-double and have a major impact right away. Bamba, however, has more potential than any of them. If playing time opens up for him by injury or a trade, Bamba could quickly take advantage. The Grizzlies have said they will bring Jackson Jr. Injuries, trades and a multitude of other factors can affect which rookies get their chance to shine.

*Statistics play a major role in determining the NBA Rookie of the Year. To have a shot, the player must be NBA-ready, but he also requires the right opportunity.*

Mavericks rookie Luka Dončić is drawing rave reviews for his play so far, and no one seems more impressed than teammate Dirk Nowitzki, now in his 21st season in Dallas. He lived in a different country before he even came here. His English is good. He carries himself like a true vet. So we have a great time. He just plays his game. Also the way the game is now is kind of perfect for him. When I got into the league 20 years ago, it was way more physical. The bigs were just shoving in there and holding. And now everything is a foul call. So I think the rules play right into his wheelhouse. Luka Dončić, Dallas Mavericks Last week: After the game, Wizards coach Scott Brooks had high praise for the young rising star. Just missed cut After a somewhat slow start to the season, Carter is starting to produce how we thought he would when the Bulls grabbed him with the No. Over his last five games, the long big man from Duke is averaging He had his breakout performance in a close loss to the Nuggets, putting up a balanced statline of 25 points, eight rebounds, five assists, three blocks and three steals. Carter has scored in double-digits in his last seven games, with four double-doubles in that span. Trae Young, Atlanta Hawks Last week: It was the kind of performance that makes you forget about the duds that have been more common. And Young followed his big game by going 1-for from 3-point land in a pair of losses. The most disheartening stat, though, for me is this: For a point guard playing Trae Young tallied 15 assists against the Heat on Saturday. Deandre Ayton, Phoenix Suns Last week: But the 7-footer was just 6-for from the field and struggled all night as Brooklyn dared him to take outside shots, often times sagging completely, almost daring him to shoot. A frustrated Ayton vowed that fans who booed the effort would see a more aggressive side moving forward. Just missed cut The Grizzlies have been a pleasant surprise, jumping out to a record, and Jackson has been a big reason. The 6-foot center has been an anchor in the middle and at just 19 years old, has fans in Memphis excited about the future. Bickerstaff is riding with his young center, playing him plus minutes in the last two games. Just missed the cut: Shamet has become a valuable rotation piece behind JJ Redick, averaging 7. Sexton put up 15 points on 7-for shooting, but only had one assist while filling in for the injured George Hill. The views on this page do not necessarily reflect the views of the NBA, its clubs or Turner Broadcasting.

**Chapter 3 : What Knicks rookie hopes to gain from All-Star experience**

*Brooklyn Nets Team News Skip to main content.*

However, in recent years, a number of first-year players have emerged not only as viable roster options, but as players who can comfortably provide top value. Take last season, for instance. Lonzo Ball, Jayson Tatum, Lauri Markkanen, Donovan Mitchell, Kyle Kuzma and John Collins each emerged as starting-caliber fantasy contributors, while Ben Simmons, a holdover from the Draft class, finished in the top-five in the NBA in total steals and assists, in addition to ranking 16th in rebounds and within the top 40 in points and blocks. Simmons and Mitchell, in particular, enjoyed special rookie seasons, but the rookie class also ran deep with borderline roster-worthy players like Jordan Bell, Luke Kennard, Bam Adebayo, Dennis Smith, Jr. Sign up now for free ] Wendell Carter, Jr. At 19, Doncic is already one of the most " if not the most " accomplished European players to ever make the jump to the NBA. Where, exactly, Doncic fits in with the Mavs remains to be seen, but his ability to play at least three positions should enable him to stay on the floor and work as both a primary and secondary initiator on offense. But even if Ayton struggles relative to expectations, he should still be among the safest fantasy bets in the class. Ayton should be a monster in the paint who rebounds at a high rate and finishes everything at the rim, but just how well his mid-range game and outside shot translate will ultimately determine his first-year fantasy ceiling. He averaged 21 points and 11 rebounds, shot better than 60 percent from the field, and knocked down nearly 40 percent of his three-point attempts. Even with his efficiency likely to dip, Bagley projects to be a valuable source of points and rebounds, but not much else. Story Continues Mohamed Bamba, Magic Long-term, Bamba has as much, if not more, potential than any rookie in the class. With a borderline-unprecedented combination of length, athleticism and fluidity, Bamba is the physical prototype for the future of the center position. Will that translate to immediate fantasy value? While he flashed elite rim-protecting ability in his one year at Texas, Bamba was a hesitant scorer who subsided largely on put-backs and dunks and struggled to get clean looks with his back to the basket. The framework of an incredibly smooth-for-his-size jumper is in place, but it may take time for Bamba to develop the requisite confidence to unleash it in full capacity. The question is whether Memphis will be comfortable handing over a starting spot to Jackson. Even if he plays behind JaMychal Green, Jackson should see enough minutes in a shallow frontcourt to be relevant in deeper formats, and perhaps in standard leagues, as well " particularly if his three-point stroke Collin Sexton, Cavaliers While the Cavs inked Kevin Love to a lucrative extension this summer, Sexton enters the season as the most intriguing piece on a team attempting to rebuild on the fly. The year-old was one of the best freshmen in the country last season, and he was a standout on both ends of the floor at the Las Vegas Summer League. View photos Collin Sexton will have plenty of opportunity to put up numbers with the rebuilding Cleveland Cavaliers. The Oklahoma product went from sure-thing-National-Player-of-the-Year to almost missing the NCAA Tournament in the span of two months, leading the Sooners on a roller coaster ride that came to a screeching and disappointing halt in the Round of All indications are that Atlanta, which is not so coyly trying to construct a Warriors East, is fully prepared to turn the reins over to Young " the question is whether that will translate to meaningful fantasy production. In leagues that place high value on made threes, Young should be a viable option, who also adds assists and raw scoring. Much like Lonzo Ball last season, Young will be a divisive fantasy commodity whose value could swing drastically on a week-to-week basis. The Kentucky product will have a decent chance to start right away, and even if he comes off the bench, he should have a long leash and could end up shouldering a sizeable portion of the scoring burden. Other Rookies To Watch Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Clippers High-upside dynasty league prospect will begin the season behind Patrick Beverley and Milos Teodosic but could be an intriguing second-half option, especially if the Clippers fall back in the Western Conference playoff race. The Maryland product could have deep-league value as a single-category specialist. Elie Okobo, Suns A late-riser up draft boards, Okobo is as raw as he is talented. The year-old is the wild card for a team with very little depth at point guard. Harry Giles, Kings The former No. Expectations for the 20th overall pick in are cautiously hopeful.

### Chapter 4 : Philadelphia 76ers: Zhaire Smith appears in NBA's annual rookie survey

*The Starters on NBA TV had a very special guest on Friday, former Oregon Basketball star Dillon Brooks. Brooks recently wrapped up his rookie season with the Memphis Grizzlies, and boy did he have a year. Drafted 45th overall in the 2nd round of the NBA Draft, few expected much from Brooks. All he.*

Welcome to The Scoop Journal, where every week I empty my notebook of wide ranging Trail Blazer thoughts, observations, and randomness. I hope you enjoy this light-hearted weekly blog It felt like a playoff game. Nik wins for best nickname. Biggie was the loudest player out there. You knew when someone was about to set a pick. Plus, we talked about haters on social media. It appeared almost as if each player almost expected the pot holes and speed bumps that made their regular season debut together go anything but smoothly. During his first stint with Cleveland version 1. He did so to one finals appearance that ended in a sweep to San Antonio. The second incarnation 2. So, James, how long will this chemistry experiment take to reach fruition? Los Angeles produced 34 fast break points against the Blazers with two coming off of a steal and dunk by James early in the game. Point guards Lonzo Ball and Rondo like to propel the action forward. Kuzma and Brandon Ingram can certainly fill lanes and finish. However, the team shot horribly from three-point range 7 of 30 , but Walton said he was cool with the looks the team got and expects those shots to fall as the season goes along. Defensively, the team was a mess, botching rotations through poor feel and communication. The rebounding also needs work. Nothing that went down alarmed Walton. Essentially, be what James needs them to be in order to win. We get open shots. The trick is that, for example, Ball and Ingram are far less advanced than Irving and Love were when James returned to Cleveland. Go through some adversity and see how guys react to it. See what gets guys going. He said the best teacher is experience, of which he has more than everyone else on the team by far. James said he would constantly preach patience and following the process to his team until, it all comes together.

### Chapter 5 : Fantasy basketball - NBA Draft - Top fantasy rookies for

*Okogie not having typical Wolves rookie experience. The Wolves rookie is averaging points per a game, ninth amongst NBA rookies, but he is still strong-minded about improving his offensive.*

He spent about 10 minutes talking about his experience in the NBA so far. In his one season at Gonzaga, Collins averaged 10.5 points per game. He impressed NBA scouts with a dominant NCAA tournament as the Zags made it all the way to the championship game, boosting his draft stock in the process. Collins has been playing meaningful minutes for the Blazers since early December and has been improving faster than the organization might have expected. Because Collins has played so well, he forced his way into the rotation. This season, Collins has averaged 4. Not everything Collins does shows up on the stat sheet. He contests shots at the rim, makes excellent passes, spaces the floor with this shooting, can score in the post, fights for rebounds on both ends of the floor and plays hard. His stats are not eye-popping, but for only being 20 years old, he does a lot of things well and earned his playing time. McCollum turned him onto the show *Peaky Blinders*, which he finished quickly. Collins has now switched his focus to *The Office*, getting away from hour-long shows. The rookie says he also takes his Xbox on the road sometimes and plays NBA 2K online with his friends back home. I do like some country songs. So in that sense, yeah I still feel like a rookie. All the 5s and some of the 4s in the league, you know they are obviously grown men, they are guys who have been in the league for a long time. That was one of the first things I noticed coming into the league. Those guys are huge and strong. Those are two things I can really improve on. LeBron James ; Who would you take if you had both those guys in your prime? Where does your mind immediately go? But for me, I think that LeBron plays the right way. He rebounds, he plays defense and I think he is a really complete player. I would have to take him [LeBron] in that argument. He understands his role on this team and is not trying to come in and do too much just because he was a top draft pick. He seems to stay pretty level-headed. Collins wants to be an All-Star type player and wants to win championships. Collins knows he has to improve as a player if he is going to stay in the NBA and be a player who makes an impact. Load Comments Top Stories.

### Chapter 6 : NBA rookie describes the eye-opening experience of guarding LeBron

*2K League gives players the NBA rookie camp experience NBA 2K League is about to kick off the inaugural 2K season playoffs. To get here, the players went through the same orientation program today.*

Here are my initial top seven rookies for fantasy basketball drafts: Deandre Ayton , Phoenix Suns -- He is huge, athletic, has a nice scoring touch in the lane and a jump shot that could extend out to 3-point range. He is a voracious rebounder and has double-double potential even as a rookie. The biggest question mark around Ayton is his defense, but he did block two shots a game in college and has the athleticism to post reasonable defensive numbers in the pros. The Suns have a fast-paced offense that is very fantasy-friendly, and Devin Booker should draw enough defensive attention that Ayton should get good looks right away. Now 19, Doncic is coming off an MVP season in the EuroLeague and has the size, confidence and skill set to be a focal point for the Mavericks as a rookie. His ability to shoot and distribute should play well off of Dennis Smith Jr. Where should fantasy managers hope he signs as a free agent during the offseason? He is a more natural all-court scorer than Ayton, and he seemingly fits well next to Willie Cauley-Stein in Sacramento. Bagley has an excellent jumper with range that complements his inside post game and makes him the most dangerous scoring big in the draft. He is also famous for his ability to get off the ground quickly in second and third jumps, making him a good rebounding prospect as well. Trae Young , Atlanta Hawks -- Young is one of the biggest boom-or-bust prospects in this draft. His extreme 3-point range, ability to score off the dribble, and ability to play pure point guard in addition to his scoring prowess give him the well-publicized upside comp of Stephen Curry. On the other hand, he has a slight frame, is not mega athletic and has to prove that he can play in a professional team setting. He has the potential to lead all rookies in points, assists and 3-pointers if all goes well, but he also could easily disappoint. His future is also tied to whether the Hawks end up, as rumored, moving on from Dennis Schroder this offseason. His big-man height combined with a guard-like skill set make him extremely intriguing, and he may have the highest potential ceiling in the draft. As such, they may not call on him to produce right away. Mohamed Bamba , Orlando Magic -- He has the physical stature to be a defensive menace along the lines of Rudy Gobert from his first game as a pro. Even so, it is questionable whether that work will pay off on offense as a rookie. The Magic are actually fairly deep in big men, so Bamba will have to earn his minutes. With that said, his defense gives him a dimension that the Magic lack, and he could potentially lead all rookies in blocks while also challenging in rebounds.

### Chapter 7 : NBA Experience - Coming Soon! | Disney Springs

*Portland Trail Blazers rookie, Zach Collins, was a guest on a local radio show in Portland. He spent about 10 minutes talking about his experience in the NBA so far. The Portland Trail Blazers.*

### Chapter 8 : NBA Fantasy: Luka Doncic, Trae Young among impact rookies

*Welcome back to another season of the Rookie Ladder. If you're like me, there's nothing you love more than watching the first-year players find their way in the NBA.*

### Chapter 9 : Rookie Experience | Brooklyn Nets

*USA TODAY Sports examines the rookies expected to lead their class and projects who will make the biggest impact during their first NBA season: Deandre Ayton, drafted No. 1 by Phoenix There's a.*