

College basketball opens new season with influx of talent

BY AARON BEARD
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

DURHAM, N.C. — Dame Sarr was playing in Spain’s top professional league in the spring when he plotted a course once forbidden by NCAA rules.

He was going to play college basketball at Duke.

“I always felt like this was my dream school,” the Italian wing said. “And when I got the opportunity to come here, for me it was a no-brainer.”

Now the Blue Devils freshman is part of the influx of international players — many having played professionally, notably in Europe — entering the sport this year. That wave arrives in the first months of the revenue-sharing era, with schools able to directly pay athletes after a judge approved the \$2.8 billion House antitrust settlement in July.

That meant the door was ajar for international prospects to come to the U.S. and play more — and make much more money — than developing through, say, the junior ranks of a European club.

“Players get offers 10 times higher than in Europe,” international sports agent Misko Raznatovic said in a recent email to The Associated Press, “so it is a very easy decision ... for the players and their families.”

And for college coaches, that’s triggered a gold rush for basketball talent.

“Literally we’re going to be playing against professional players this year,” said Duke’s Jon Scheyer, who added Sarr after losing all five starters from a Final Four team. “So that’s a different thing.

“Again, when you see the rules of eligibility, the way it used to be, that’s out the window. So you might as well look for anybody in Europe and try to get them to come over.”

WIDE REACH
In a look at 247Sports’



Duke guard Dame Sarr, right, battles for the ball with Tennessee guard Ja’Kobi Gillespie (0) during the second half of an exhibition game Oct. 26 in Knoxville, Tenn.

national recruiting classes, 13 schools with top-20 classes brought in at least one prospect from outside the U.S., a list that includes the sixth-ranked Blue Devils, No. 9 Kentucky, No. 13 Arizona, No. 18 Tennessee, No. 19 Kansas and No. 25 North Carolina. That’s more than the previous two years combined (seven in 2024, four in 2023).

“The best players in the NBA are European players now,” said Illinois coach Brad Underwood, whose 17th-ranked Fighting Illini brought in 6-foot-9 forward David Mirkovic from Montenegro and 6-2 guard Mihailo Petrovic from Serbia. “We’re following a trend.”

Sarr, a 6-8 wing, started for Duke and had eight points in Tuesday’s win against Texas. At Arizona, 6-7 forward Ivan Kharchenkov — who first joined Bayern Munich’s senior team in 2022 at age 16 — had 12 points and 10 rebounds as a starter in Monday’s takedown of third-ranked and reigning national champion Florida.

The reach goes beyond schools atop the recruiting leaderboard.

The No. 2 prospect in 247Sports’ international list is Virginia Tech’s Neoklis Advalas, a 6-foot-9 Greek guard who had eight points and nine assists in his debut against Charleston Southern. No. 11 Louisville (6-11 forward Sananda Fru from Germany) and No. 20 Auburn (6-8 forward Filip Jovic from Serbia) also started international prospects making college debuts on opening night.

New Virginia coach Ryan Odom started two players from top European pro leagues in 6-9 Belgian forward Thijs De Ridder (played in Spain) and 7-footer Johan Grünloh (Germany), getting a combined 33 points and 17 rebounds in Monday’s win against Rider.

“The guys that we have, they’ve played. They’re not typical freshmen,” said St. Bonaventure coach Mark Schmidt, who added players from Russia, Italy and Ireland this offseason.

“Over there they’ve played against men for a number of years. So we’re getting guys that are schooled. ... Not that the American isn’t well-coached. But just fundamentally, they’re so advanced, (more) than the

typical 17-year-old high school kid.”

MUTUAL BENEFIT

Arizona State coach Bobby Hurley opened his 11th season with two new international starters in 7-1 center Massamba Diop (Senegal) and 6-11 forward Andrija Grbovic (Montenegro) against Southern Utah. He saw some of that as a response to economics of players moving through the transfer portal.

“It was very expensive for American players,” Hurley said. “And international players are very happy making a significant bump from when they were in Europe. ... We felt like getting those guys that have played a couple of years professionally could make an impact.”

Raznatovic, whose clients include three-time NBA MVP Nikola Jokic, sees a benefit, too, from the European side.

He pointed to a “lack of the possibilities” for younger players to develop there behind older talent on senior teams in top leagues. Instead, they can get valuable minutes in U.S. college basketball — with the money only making it more enticing.



AP Photo/Angelina Katsanis
U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York Joseph Nocella, Jr. speaks alongside FBI Director Kash Patel during a press conference Oct. 23 at the U.S. Attorney’s Office in New York, announcing numerous arrests in illegal sports betting and poker game schemes.

Ex-NBA player Jones pleads not guilty to selling injury secrets

BY MICHAEL R. SISAK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Former NBA player and assistant coach Damon Jones pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges he profited from rigged poker games and provided sports bettors with non-public information about injuries to stars LeBron James and Anthony Davis.

Jones, a onetime teammate of James, said little during back-to-back arraignments in federal court in Brooklyn, letting his court-appointed lawyer enter not guilty pleas in a pair of cases stemming from last month’s federal takedown of sprawling gambling operations.

Jones, 49, acknowledged he read both indictments and that he understood the charges and his bail conditions, which include his mother and stepfather putting up their Texas home as collateral for a \$200,000 bond that will allow him to remain free pending trial.

Jones’ lawyer, Kenneth Montgomery, told a judge that they “may be engaging in plea negotiations.” He is due back in court for a preliminary conference with other defendants on Nov. 24.

Jones was among more than 30 people arrested in the gambling sweep. The others included reputed mobsters and prominent basketball figures, including Portland Trail Blazers head coach and Basketball Hall of Famer Chauncey Billups and Miami Heat guard Terry Rozier.

Sports bettor Marves Fairley also pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges alleging he cashed in on information about injuries to NBA players, including some that prosecutors say Jones provided to him.

Jones, an NBA journeyman, earned more than \$20 million playing for 10 teams in 11 seasons from 1999 to 2009. He and James played together in Cleveland from 2005 to 2008 and he served as an unofficial assistant coach for James’ Los Angeles Lakers during the 2022-2023 season.

According to prosecutors, Jones sold or attempted to sell non-public information to bettors that James was injured and wouldn’t be playing in a Feb. 9, 2023, game against the Milwaukee Bucks, texting an unnamed co-conspirator: “Get a big bet on Milwaukee tonight before the information is out.”

James wasn’t listed on the Lakers’ injury report at the time of the text message, but the NBA’s all-time scoring leader was later ruled out of the game because of a lower body injury, according to prosecutors, and the Lakers lost the game 115-106.

James works toward season debut for Lakers

Ready for contact basketball activity

BY GREG BEACHAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — LeBron James is ready for contact basketball activity, and he will be re-evaluated by the Los Angeles Lakers’ team physician in one to two weeks as he prepares to begin his unprecedented 23rd NBA season.

James has yet to play this season or practice with the Lakers after being shut down early in training camp due to sciatica, a lower-body nerve problem. The next step in his recovery is five-on-five basketball work in practice, but it’s unclear when that could begin because the Lakers are headed out on a five-game road trip beginning Saturday in Atlanta, and James isn’t expected to travel with the team.

The 40-year-old James has been working out individually in recent weeks. The Lakers announced James’ progression to contact basketball on Thursday, exactly four weeks after the team initially said the top scorer in NBA history would be re-evaluated in three to four weeks.

“We don’t have a target date,” Lakers coach JJ Redick said last week of James’ progress. “It’s just somewhere in that gener-

al timeline. We hope that he’s kind of checked all the boxes and is going to be back sometime in that second or third week in November.”

If James wants on-court work while the Lakers are on the road, he could conceivably join the Lakers’ G League affiliate at the team’s training complex in El Segundo. The Lakers’ next home game is Nov. 18.

The Lakers have played remarkably well in James’ absence, stoking fans’ excitement about being a possible contender six seasons after James and Anthony Davis won the franchise’s 17th championship in the Florida bubble.

Luka Doncic scored 35 points while the Lakers held off San Antonio 118-116 on Wednesday night for their fifth consecutive win, including three in four nights.



AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill
Los Angeles Lakers’ LeBron James, left, and Jaxson Hayes gesture during the second half Wednesday against the San Antonio Spurs in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles is 7-2 even with James sidelined all season and with Doncic and Austin Reaves missing significant time because of injuries and rest.

GARAGE SALE
Office Closing Sale
1915 W Parrish Ave.
Fri & Sat, 10 AM - 3 PM
Fixtures, Equipment, & Supplies

GARAGE SALE
CALHOUN -
Nick Ashton Rd., 151
BIG ESTATE INSIDE SALE
Nov 7th & Nov 8th, 7am- (dark)
We are downsizing 50 year collection, .22's, .410's, 12 gauges and holsters, fishing reels, cast iron, knives, old coal oil lamps, coming ware, chandeliers, chainsaws, garden tools.
We have something for everyone. Don't miss this sale. Different stuff than last sale.

LEGAL NOTICE
SHERIFF'S TAX NOTICE
2025 Real Estate and Tangible Property taxes are now payable in accordance with the following schedule:

2% Discount	if paid by	12-10-2025
Face Value	if paid by	01-10-2026
5% Penalty	if paid by	02-10-2026
21% Penalty	if paid after	04-25-2026

2025 paper bills have been mailed as of this notice. Payments made after 4-25-2026 are subject to additional penalties and must be paid through the Daviess County Clerk's Office. Credit/Debit card payments require an added fee paid to the card processor. Due dates that fall on a weekend or holiday are payable on the next business day. Additional information, and to view & pay your bill anytime, can be found on our website: DCSOKY.GOV. Our tax line office number is 270.685.6133.

Daviess County Sheriff
212 Saint Ann Street
Owensboro, Kentucky 42303

GARAGE SALE
3225 Warehouse Rd
Rain or shine
** Last Sale **
Friday 7-?; Saturday 7-?
* New Items Added *
Kids toys and clothes, tools, Industrial items, Home decor, and more.

GARAGE SALE
Triplett Street, 815
(Wendell Foster's Young Building)
Yard Sale Friday November 7 and Saturday November 8
7am – 12pm
Proceeds go to Wendell Foster Residents' Christmas and Birthday Fund

Black Sheep ANTIQUES
Estate Sale

Dr. William and Linda Bushong
1227 Farrier Place
Owensboro, KY 42301

Thursday, 11/6 9am til 4pm
Friday, 11/7 9am til 4pm
Saturday, 11/8 9am til 3pm

The Bushong's beautiful home is filled with many treasures collected over a lifetime. Items include, mahogany corner cabinet, pie crust tilt top table and chest, Duncan Phyfe sofa and end table, Victorian chairs, cherry full size and twin poster beds, cherry chests, silverware chest on legs, occasional tables, upholstered chairs, loveseats and sleeper sofa, Jacobean Revival chest, chair, and armoire, maple kitchen table and oak Windsor chairs, stools, lamps, framed art including Paul Sawyer, mirrors, primitive bench and children's chairs, pine cupboard and mirror, wicker loveseat and chair, leather desk chair, Lenox and Spode sets of china, lots of glass-ware and decorative objects, kitchen ware, silver plate including cut glass epergne as is, rugs, linens, concrete yard art, Woodard patio furniture, nice washer/dryer, upright freezer, refrigerator, lots of Christmas decor, vintage quilts, needle work pictures and bell pulls, brass fireplace accessories, red wagon, tricycle, Schwinn adult bikes, golf clubs, work bench, yard tools and cart, convalescent supplies, concrete yard statues and lots more. This is our last sale for 2025. Hope to see you there! Photos are available for viewing on Estatesales.org.

Cash or check with proper ID, 3% fee will be added to credit/debit card purchases. We also accept Venmo. All sales are final. No returns or refunds. KY sales tax of 6% will be added unless buyer presents a resale exemption certificate. All items purchased are as-is. We are not responsible for accidents.

YOU MUST bring help to move large items as we DO NOT have staff to assist. All items must be removed by 3pm on Saturday. Please bring boxes and paper to pack your items. Call Donna at 270-903-7859 with questions.