Go ahead, try to find a weakness. It’s not in the frontcourt of senior PF Tyler Zeller (15.7 ppg), junior PF John Henson (11.7) and sophomore SF Harrison Barnes (15.7). Soph Kendall Marshall (6.2 apg) is the perfect point to keep those scorers well fed. And in case that experience isn’t enough, SG P.J. Hairston (No. 13, ESPNU 100) and PF James McAdoo (No. 6) are instant impact players. Found a weakness yet? Didn’t think so.

Of four possible UNC lottery picks, Barnes is the alpha dog. His ability to score from anywhere makes him a favorite of scouts, and his willingness to carry the team in the clutch puts him in the mix for the No. 1 pick.

North Carolina
Last season: 29–8 (14–2 ACC) Elite Eight
Chad Ford’s Future Pro
SFM Harrison Barnes
SOPHOMORE, 6’8”, 215 TOP 100 DRAFT BOARD RANK: 2
*
Joe Lunardi’s Games with Bracket Impact
Nov. 11 vs. Michigan State
Dec. 3 @ Kentucky
March 3 @ Duke

Shot Breakdown†
1,959 field goal attempts
Three-pointers 552
Runners 69
Midrange jumpers 154
Around the basket 661
Short jumpers 202
Post-ups 321

Shot breakdown of 2010-11 season (halfcourt only) provided by Synergy Sports Technology; midrange jumpers measure 17’ to 20’9”.

* For the latest Top 100 NBA prospects, SEARCH: CHAD FORD at ESPN.COM on Tuesdays leading up to June’s draft.

In theory, every team is on the road to the final four. Truth is, most of them are heading for a dead end. So to help you navigate this year’s field, THE MAG and ESPN.COM mapped out this TOP 25.

POWER RANKINGS

Team capsules by Jordan Brenner
Another year, another obscene recruiting class for John Calipari. F/C Anthony Davis (No. 1, ESPNU 100), SF Michael Kidd-Gilchrist (No. 4) and PG Marquis Teague (No. 8). Add two returnees from the 2010 crop—Terrence Jones (15.7 ppg) and Doron Lamb (12.3 ppg)—and there’s talk of this being Calipari’s most talented starting five ever. Senior Darius Miller (10.9 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 44.3 3PT%) might as well be an assistant coach to these kids.

With four of its top six players back, Ohio State should again have D1’s most efficient offense, especially with PVD favorite Jared Sullinger (17.2 ppg, 10.2 rpg) in the paint. But neither soph Aaron Craft nor four-star frosh Shannon Scott has much of a stroke at the point, and lights-out Jon Diebler (50.2 3PT%) is gone. Still, Thad Matta nearly won it all a few years ago with a guard who couldn’t shoot and athleticism who rebound, block shots and play D. He’s got a new facet: second-chance points.

Surprise! Just when a repeat looked like a pipe dream, Andre Drummond (No. 2, ESPNU 100) decided to come to college a year early. Suddenly, the Huskies have a huge anchor inside, but someone has to get the ball to him and sophomore star-in-the-making Jeremy Lamb (11.1 ppg). If soph Shabazz Napier can close to resembling departed do-it-all Mike Conley and a dominant big man (Greg Oden).

KENTUCKY
Last season: 29-9 (10-6 SEC) Final Four

OHIO STATE
Last season: 34-3 (16-2 Big Ten) Sweet 16

CONNECTICUT
Last season: 32-3 (10-6 Big East) Champions

SYRACUSE
Last season: 27-8 (12-6 Big East) 3rd Round

The Orange struggled to defend and board last season, resulting in an early Tourny exit. But Jim Boeheim has answers. Fresh Rakeem Christmas (No. 20, ESPNU 100) and seven-foot sopho Fab Melo will crash the glass and focus on D. That frees seniors Scoop Jardine (12.5 ppg, 5.9 apg) and Kris Joseph (14.3 ppg) and junior Brandon Triche (11.1 ppg) to lead an offensive charge made all the more deadly by a new facet: second-chance points.
Duke

**Last season:** 32-5 (13-3 ACC) Sweet 16

Three is the key in Durham. Coach K is three wins shy of breaking the 01 record (902), and with a 12-deep squad, he won’t have to worry about his magic number for long. Meanwhile, Duke’s top three guards, including frosh Austin Rivers (No. 3, ESPNU 100), can all rain threes. But the Blue Devils don’t have a true point guard, and that’s a concern for the three veterans—Mason and Miles Plumlee and Ryan Kelly—who are best served off the dish.

Vanderbilt

**Last season:** 23-11 (8-7 SEC) 2nd Round

After being bounced early from the Tourney as a No. 5 seed, Vandy is dreaming bigger than ever—and for good reason. Its top eight players return, including leading scorer John Jenkins (19.5 ppg), along with PF Ffestus Ezeli (12.3 ppg) and transfer Mike Rosario (6’3”). Meanwhile, Duke’s top three guards, including frosh Austin Rivers (No. 3, ESPNU 100), has hopped aboard. But if the Dores don’t shore up a D that allowed opponents to sink 43.4% of their shots and in OT. That speaks to poise—and luck. Their dreams will be dashed again.

Florida

**Last season:** 29-8 (13-3 SEC) Elite Eight

If only the Tourney had a height limit, because the Gators backcourt of senior Kenny Boynton (6’2”), senior Erving Walker (5’8”), superfreshman Bradley Beal (6’3”) and transfer Mike Rosario (6’3”) would dominate. Alas, it does not, so Florida’s hopes for a Final Four hinge on soph Patric Young (3.4 ppg) and junior Erik Murphy (4.3 ppg). The big-man void left by NBA second-rounders Vernon Macklin and Chandler Parsons.

Memphis

**Last season:** 25-10 (10-6 C-USA) 2nd Round

Tigers fans have reason to smile: SG Will Barton (12.3 ppg) stayed in school, PG Joe Jackson shone after New Year’s (10.6 ppg, 5.3 rpg) and top-10 frosh Adonis Thomas is ready-made. But Memphis went 14-2 in games decided by five or fewer points and in OT. That speaks to poise—and luck. If the Tigers test the buzzer that often this season, their luck may run out.

Shot Breakdown

**1.846 field goal attempts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Three-pointers</th>
<th>Jumper shots</th>
<th>Runners</th>
<th>Post-ups</th>
<th>Around the basket</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three-pointers</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>Midrange jumps</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>Short jumpers 248</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Joe Lunardi’s Games with Bracket Impact

- **Nov. 28** vs. Xavier
- **Dec. 2** vs. Louisville
- **Feb. 11** vs. Kentucky
- **Feb. 13** vs. Kentucky
- **March 4** vs. Kentucky
- **March 3** vs. North Carolina

Shot Breakdown

**1.582 field goal attempts**

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<th>Around the basket</th>
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Shot Breakdown

**1.764 field goal attempts**

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<td>Short jumpers 141</td>
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Shot Breakdown

**1.614 field goal attempts**

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<th>Around the basket</th>
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<td>Midrange jumps</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>Short jumpers 162</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Joe Lunardi’s Games with Bracket Impact

- **Nov. 15** vs. Ohio State
- **Jan. 4** vs. Temple
- **March 3** vs. North Carolina

Shot Breakdown

**1.846 field goal attempts**

<table>
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<th>Three-pointers</th>
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<th>Runners</th>
<th>Post-ups</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Joe Lunardi’s Games with Bracket Impact

- **Nov. 28** vs. Xavier
- **Dec. 2** vs. Louisville
- **Feb. 11** vs. Kentucky
For all his success at Pittsburgh, coach Jamie Dixon never has landed a signature, top-15 recruit. Well, until now. Introducing PF Khem Birch [No. 27, ESPNU 100], the highest-rated Panthers prospect since Brian Shorter in 1987, 16 years before Dixon took over. Nine letter winners also return, including the team’s leading scorer, senior SG Ashton Gibbs (16.8 ppg). That could add up to another first for Dixon: a Final Four appearance.

PHOTO CREDIT: Joe Lunardi's Games with Bracket Impact
After losing four of their top five players from last season, the Jayhawks were rocked by the news that freshmen SG Ben McLemore and PF Jamari Traylor are academically ineligible. Of course, there’s a good reason Big 12 coaches still picked this team to finish first: Senior PG Tyshawn Taylor (15.8 ppg) and junior PG Mark Lyons (19.7 ppg, 5.4 apg) and junior PF Thomas Robinson (7.6 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 14.6 mpg) appear ready for star turns for coach Bill Self, who’s made 13 straight Tourneys.

Just when the X-Men looked deep and balanced, seven-foot senior Kenny Frease (11.7 ppg, 7.1 rpg) was suspended indefinitely for “not fulfilling all the responsibilities of a Xavier player.” The team is still hopeful, that hole in the middle looms large. Just when the X-Men looked deep and balanced, seven-foot senior Kenny Frease (11.7 ppg, 7.1 rpg) was suspended indefinitely for “not fulfilling all the responsibilities of a Xavier player.” The team is still hopeful, that hole in the middle looms large.

The Sean Miller era begins in earnest this season (5.1 ppg) live up to his high-scoring rep? If they point guard vacancy? And will soph SG Vander Blue transfer, be a fixture? Can Junior Cadougan fill the unproven lot. Can PF Jamil Wilson, an Oregon

Despite spending last season in the shadows of the Morris twins, Robinson, in his limited minutes, was the nation’s best rebounder. He’s also the type of physical specimen NBA teams hunger for in the lottery.

He has speed and toughness and can flat-out score. Scouts are overlooking his struggles as a shooter because of a great junior season. And if Jordan Crawford can be a first-round pick … et tu, Holloway?

Turner is an elite athlete who can get to the rim at will. He would be ranked 10 to 15 spots higher, but his low basketball IQ and penchant for rubbing teammates the wrong way cost him points with scouts.

Johnson-Odom will get more press, but scouts are secretly high on Blue despite a so-so first season. His tough D and athleticism have them wishing he finds a better J. If it comes, he’ll be a riser.

Seniors Darius Johnson-Odom (15.8 ppg) and Joe Crowder (11.8 ppg, 6.8 rpg) have legit résumés, but the Golden Eagles’ fortunes rest on an unproven lot. Can PF Jamil Wilson, an Oregon transfer, be a fixture? Can Junior Cadougan fill the point guard vacancy? And will soph SG Vander Blue (5.1 ppg) live up to his high-scoring rep? If they come through, this team will compete with anyone. If not? Even the NIT will be a stretch.
The Tide look like contenders in November—and we don’t mean Nick Saban’s team. Bama hasn’t danced since 2006, but it should get off the schneid with a squad that was seventh in D1 in defensive efficiency and returns solid bigs in JaMychal Green (15.5 ppg, 7.5 rpg) and Tony Mitchell (15.2 ppg, 7.1 rpg). If frosh wings Levi Randolph (No. 30, No. 40) can drain threes, Tide fans won’t be so sad to see football end.

Believe it or not, the Bearcats haven’t been ranked in the preseason since 2003-04, back when Bob Huggins was coach. This group resembles a lot of those gritty Huggins teams, with a commitment to boards, hard-nosed D and balanced scoring (Yancy Gates led with 11.9 ppg last season). But poor shooting (33.8 3PT%, 66.8 FT%) will have to vastly improve for the team to have any chance at duplicating Huggins’ 1992 Final Four squad.

What if? That question has become routine for UCLA fans. NBA defections hit hard again as the next Bruin to leave fans wringing their hands. NBA project? The truth probably lies somewhere in the middle.

Billy Kennedy’s medical leave (for undisclosed reasons) put an early damper on high spirits in College Station. Once the new coach is back, he’ll inherit a team led by junior SF Khris Middleton, who can score from anywhere (14.4 ppg), and two steady seniors in PF David Loubeau (11.8 ppg) and PG Dash Harris. But the Aggies are weak behind the arc (33.9 3PT%), and talented prep guards Jamal Branch and Jordan Green need Kennedy’s guidance.

Green was one of the more efficient posts last season, but scouts wonder if he can do one thing well enough for the NBA. They’re not convinced, and he’ll need a huge year to change their minds.

What if? That question has become routine for UCLA fans. NBA defections hit hard again as the next Bruin to leave fans wringing their hands. NBA project? The truth probably lies somewhere in the middle.
All but one key player is back from a team that came within a bucket of the Sweet 16, so the Wolverines certainly are Top 25-worthy if John Beilein can replace key all-purpose PG Darius Morris (15.0 ppg, 6.7 app, 4.0 rpg). It will take a group effort: Senior Stu Douglass and four-star prep Kevin Pangos, who will dish to junior F Elias Harris (12.4 ppg) and seven-foot senior Robert Sacre (12.5 ppg). Mark Few’s youth movement also includes SG Gary Bell Jr. (No. 68, ESPNU 100), Gonzaga’s highest-rated recruit since Austin Daye in 2007.

Given the Zags’ tradition of high-quality point guards, it’s no surprise that two down years have coincided with instability at the position. But the Zags are pegged by scouts as a potential lottery pick. But a so-so second season did damage to his stock. Harris has to be more aggressive on both ends to have a shot at the first round. After starring for Team USA this summer, Appling had scouts believing he should take a huge leap from role player to consistent starter. He has the physical tools and offensive skill set. But does he have the basketball IQ?

The Spartans started 2010-11 as an NCAA title contender, only to barely make the field. With lower expectations, will State climb higher? Not likely. Tom Izzo must rely heavily on senior PF Draymond Green (12.6 ppg, 8.6 rpg, 4.1 app) after senior Delvon Roe retired due to knee issues. Top 25 frosh Branden Dawson, a forward, and soph G Keith Appling have potential, but it will take Izzo’s best work yet to make his seventh Final Four.
Don't say we didn't mention your team because it's here—somewhere—along with every other DI squad that didn't crack the top 25. To rank them, The Mag enlisted economist and RealGM.com contributor Dan Hanner. He rated teams based on the tempo-free stats of returning/departed players, the development of returning players, the loss and/or return of injured players, the talent level of transfers and/or recruits, and coaching. He used these ratings to project each school's conference finish and its winning percentage against an average DI opponent. Hey, we didn't say you'd like where we mentioned your team.
Illinois State
Missouri Valley: 10th (41.5%)

Winthrop
Big South: 3rd (43.4%)

Saint Peter's
Metro Atlantic: 5th (41.4%)

Morehead State
Ohio Valley: 5th (41.3%)

Western Carolina
Southern: 3rd (41.2%)

UT Arlington
Southland: 1st (41.0%)

Cornell
Ivy: 5th (40.8%)

Charlotte
Atlantic 10: 12th (40.5%)

Loyola Marymount
West Coast: 6th (39.5%)

Wake Forest
ACC: 12th (38.6%)

Portland
West Coast: 7th (38.6%)

Delaware
Colonial: 9th (37.7%)

Northern Colorado
Big Sky: 3rd (37.3%)

Liberty
Big South: 4th (37.1%)

Jacksonville
Atlantic Sun: 4th (36.8%)

Hofstra
Colonial: 10th (36.6%)

Holy Cross
Patriot: 3rd (36.2%)

La Salle
Atlantic 10: 13th (36.1%)

Northern Arizona
Big Sky: 8th (35.6%)

Pacific
Big West: 4th (34.9%)

Lamar
Southland: 2nd (34.7%)

Mercer
Atlantic Sun: 5th (34.7%)

Tulane
Conference USA: 10th (34.5%)

UNC Wilmington
Colonial: 11th (34.3%)

St. Francis (N.Y.)
Northeast: 6th (33.6%)

SMU
Conference USA: 11th (33.5%)

Appalachian State
Southern: 4th (33.2%)

VMU
Big South: 5th (32.7%)

Brown
Ivy: 6th (32.5%)

Hampton
Mid-Eastern: 1st (32.4%)

Manhattan
Metro Atlantic: 6th (32.2%)

Siena
Metro Atlantic: 7th (31.6%)

Sacred Heart
Northeast: 7th (31.5%)

Wofford
Southeastern: 5th (31.3%)

Morgan State
Mid-Eastern: 2nd (31.2%)

Lipscomb
Atlantic Sun: 6th (31.2%)

San Jose State
Western Athletic: 7th (30.7%)

UL Lafayette
Sun Belt: 5th (30.3%)

Sam Houston State
Southland: 3rd (30.1%)

Cal State Fullerton
Big West: 5th (29.9%)

Pepperdine
West Coast: 8th (29.9%)

Stephen F. Austin
Southland: 4th (29.5%)

Columbia
Ivy: 7th (29.4%)

IPFW
Summit: 6th (29.4%)

Utah Valley
Great West: 1st (29.4%)

Eastern Washington
Big Sky: 5th (29.3%)

UAlR
Sun Belt: 6th (29.0%)

Youngstown State
Horizon: 9th (29.0%)

Central Michigan
Mid-American: 5th (28.8%)

UTSA
Southland: 5th (28.6%)

Chattanooga
Southern: 6th (28.5%)

Lafayette
Patriot: 4th (28.5%)

Coppin State
Mid-Eastern: 3rd (28.4%)

Wyoming
Mountain West: 8th (28.3%)

Niagara
Metro Atlantic: 8th (28.2%)

Seattle
Independent: 1st (28.2%)

Mount St. Mary's
Northeast: 8th (27.7%)

Campbell
Big South: 6th (26.8%)

Western Kentucky
Sun Belt: 7th (26.6%)

Albany
America East: 4th (26.1%)

Savannah State
Mid-Eastern: 4th (26.0%)

UC Irvine
Big West: 8th (21.4%)

New Hampshire
America East: 6th (16.9%)

Nicholls State
Southland: 10th (15.7%)

Northern Illinois
Mid-American: 11th (15.7%)

High Point
Big South: 10th (15.4%)

Kennesaw State
Atlantic Sun: 9th (15.3%)

Texas Southern
Southwestern: 2nd (15.2%)

Cal State Bakersfield
Independent: 2nd (14.8%)

Florida A&M
Mid-Eastern: 6th (14.8%)

Florida International
Sun Belt: 11th (14.6%)

UMKC
Summit: 9th (14.5%)

Idaho State
Big Sky: 8th (14.3%)

Sanford
Southeastern: 3rd (14.2%)

Colgate
Patriot: 7th (14.1%)

Mississippi Valley State
Southwestern: 10th (14.0%)

Radford
Big South: 11th (12.1%)

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
Southland: 11th (11.9%)

Stetson
Atlantic Sun: 10th (11.6%)

Alabama A&M
Southwestern: 1st (11.5%)

Army
Patriot: 8th (10.9%)

Alcorn State
Southwestern: 5th (10.2%)

Bryant
Northeast: 11th (9.6%)

Dartmouth
Ivy: 8th (9.6%)

Sacramento State
Big Sky: 9th (9.5%)

Binghamton
America East: 7th (9.4%)

The Citadel
Southeastern: 12th (9.3%)

NJIT
Great West: 3rd (9.2%)

Longwood
Independent: 3rd (9.2%)

North Carolina Central
Mid-Eastern: 8th (9.1%)

Howard
Mid-Eastern: 9th (8.8%)

Jackson State
Southwestern: 6th (8.8%)

Hartford
America East: 8th (8.3%)

North Carolina A&T
Southwestern: 10th (8.2%)

Toledo
Mid-American: 12th (8.1%)

Bethune-Cookman
Mid-Eastern: 11th (7.7%)

Towson
Colonial: 12th (7.7%)

UL Monroe
Sun Belt: 12th (7.6%)

South Carolina State
Mid-Eastern: 12th (7.5%)

UMBC
America East: 9th (7.5%)

Fairleigh Dickinson
Northeast: 12th (7.5%)

Grambling
Southwestern: 7th (7.4%)

Western Illinois
Summit: 9th (7.4%)

Texas-Pan American
Great West: 4th (6.0%)

Prairie View A&M
Southwestern: 6th (4.3%)

Central Arkansas
Southland: 12th (4.1%)

Maryland Eastern Shore
Mid-Eastern: 13th (4.1%)

Arkansas-Pine Bluff
Southwestern: 5th (3.9%)

SIU Edwardsville
Shov State: 11th (3.8%)

Houston Baptist
Great West: 5th (3.8%)

Chicago State
Great West: 6th (3.9%)

For more college hoops intel, go to ESPN Insider, where experts examine next-level numbers, NCAA bracket trends and more.