



NATIONAL CLUB
BASKETBALL
ASSOCIATION

850 Ridge Avenue
Suite 301
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
Office: (412) 321-8440
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2026-27 NCBBA TEAM PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: Cal Poly

Mascot: Mustangs

Location: San Luis Obispo, CA

Captain(s)/Coach(s): Head Coach & Captain - Blake Yamada

2025-2026 Performance (If applicable):

- Record: **8-4 overall, 8-4 conference**
- Tournament Rankings/Results: **N/A**
- Notables: **N/A**

Number of Returning Players (Include starters): 11 returners - Will Ackerman, Nikolai Varnavski, Owen Bugas, Blake Yamada, Nicholas Schneider, Alec Odell, Kaden Thomas, Spencer Briggs, Mac Bledsoe, Justin Belardo, Milo Goehring

Players to Watch: 5'10" 180 lb Blake Yamada and 6'3" 190 lb Spencer Briggs

New additions: Callum North, Halen Hanson, Jordan Turner, Micah Smith, Noah Henry, Nolan Cabebe, Pearson Dukes, Jai Gerrodette, Eric Brown

Biggest Rival: N/A

Best Player Nickname: N/A

2026-27 Season Outlook: Cal Poly returns 11 players from last season's 8-4 team, led by head coach and captain Blake Yamada, and adds nine newcomers for depth. The Mustangs open Pacific Central play at home against Claremont the first week of November.

Head Coach Quote:



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2026-27 NCBBA TEAM PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: Grand Canyon

Mascot: Antelopes

Location: Phoenix, Arizona

Captain(s)/Coach(s):

2025-2026 Performance (If applicable):

- Record: 25-7
- Tournament Rankings/Results: NIRSA National Semifinals
- Notables:

Number of Returning Players (Include starters): Jack Brackmann, DeArian Land

Players to Watch: Amari Callender

New additions: Marlen Issabayev, Joseph Caldwell, Miller Benton, Owen Brackmann

Biggest Rival: N/A

Best Player Nickname: N/A

2026-27 Season Outlook: The **2026-27 Grand Canyon University Men's Club Basketball team** enters the season with a championship-or-bust mentality as they return to the NCBBA [1]. Under Head Coach **Lamont Lane**, the Lopes have constructed a deep roster fueled by an elite six-man freshman class—including towering 6'7" local wing **Owen Brackmann**, international playmaker **Marlen Issabayev**, and dynamic 6'4" guard **Jonathan Dargitz**—to immediately fill the gaps left by departing veterans [1].



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With former GCU standouts **Uriah Stokes** and **Shay Milshteen** joining the staff as assistant coaches, the team's culture remains airtight [1]. Armed with high-octane athleticism, a rigorous non-conference slate featuring several junior colleges, and a hunger to replicate their past NIRSA national title success, the Lopes are perfectly positioned to conquer the **NCBBA Pacific Region** and make a dominant run at the national crown in April

Head Coach Quote: For us, everything is revolving around defense. If we can defend and play the way we want to play, which is fast in transition, typically a lot of good things stem from that.



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2026-27 NCBBA TEAM PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: San Diego State Club Basketball

Mascot: Aztecs

Location: San Diego, California

Captain(s)/Coach(s): Head Coach: Emery Barajas, Assistant Coaches: Ben Ghilarducci, Thad Yuhas
Captains: Daniel Greathouse, Nick Gabriel-Yingling, Justin Ayubi

2025-2026 Performance (If applicable):

- Record: 20-8
- Tournament Rankings/Results: 2nd Annual ASU Sparky Shootout Tournament Champions, USD Spring Tournamnet Champions
- Notables: In our first 2 years, we have one multiple tournamnets, league games, and scrimmages against community colleges, JUCOs, and prep schools.

Number of Returning Players (Include starters): 12

Players to Watch: "The fist" , there is no best player we throw an entire team at our opponent.
Not 1 player but 5 players in unity.

New additions: Gavin Hallock, Dash Erickson, Casey Palmer, Will Pace

Biggest Rival: UCSD

Best Player Nickname: "Deuce" (Gavin Hallock is a model for Deuce Brand)

2026-27 Season Outlook: To win a national championship, along with all the tournamnets that we participate in. While doing that, we want to be a connected team that represents San Diego State University on and off the court with how we play and interact with others.



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Head Coach Quote: "Closed mouths don't get fed"



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2026-27 NCBBA TEAM PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: UC Merced

Mascot: Bobcats

Location: University of California, Merced

Captain(s)/Coach(s): Head Coach: Amir Valdeavilla, Captains: Julio Lopez, Ramiz Haddad, Co-Captain: Kai Patel

2025-2026 Performance (If applicable):

- Record: 2-6
- Tournament Rankings/Results: N/A
- Notables: N/A

Number of Returning Players (Include starters): 6

Players to Watch: Isaiah Peters, Julio Lopez, Santiago Rodriguez

New additions: A'Jon Mitchell, Belvin Turner, Taeshawn Armstrong, Joel Eugene, Aarav Mehta, Aarin Mehta, Julio Lopez, Myles Owens, Kai Patel

Biggest Rival: Sonoma State

Best Player Nickname: N/A

2026-27 Season Outlook: I'm not just trying to build a winning team. I'm trying to build a culture where winning becomes a result of how we prepare, compete, and treat each other.

Head Coach Quote: I want my players to leave this team not only as better basketball players, but as better people than when they first joined.



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2026-27 NCBBA TEAM PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: UC San Diego

Mascot: Tritons

Location: La Jolla, California

Captain(s)/Coach(s): Clark Phung (Coach)

2025-2026 Performance (If applicable):

- Record: 9-1
- Tournament Rankings/Results: NA
- Notables: Made conference tournmanet

Number of Returning Players (Include starters):

8

Players to Watch:

Tai Nguyen, Brandon Song, Johnny Kost, Korey Abantao

New additions:

Cooper Creamer, Andre Gutierrez,

Biggest Rival:

University of San Diego

Best Player Nickname:

Johnny "J-Dilla" Kost

2026-27 Season Outlook:

Compete in the NCBBA Pacific-South Conference

Head Coach Quote:

"Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard"



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2026-27 NCBBA TEAM PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: University of Southern California

Mascot: Trojans

Location: Los Angeles, CA

Captain(s)/Coach(s): Head Coach: Nihal Maharanchi; Team President: Alex Watkins

2025-2026 Performance (If applicable):

- Record: 12-4
- Tournament Rankings/Results: N/A
- Notables: N/A

Number of Returning Players (Include starters): 13

Players to Watch: 6-4 Tobe Chuke 5-11 Ryan Tarihigi, 6-1 Hugo "The Spaniard" Bonet

New additions: Freshmen: Rian Mao, Troy Hornbeck; Former Varsity Players: Brit Burden, Jonah Goorin

Biggest Rival: UCLA

Best Player Nickname: Hugo "The Spaniard" Bonet

2026-27 Season Outlook: A strong core of returning talent is bringing improved chemistry and teamwork, while new additions give us even more weapons to build into the game plan.

Head Coach Quote: We came up just short of making regionals last season, and that's given us even more motivation heading into this year. With so many upperclassmen returning, we have the experience and chemistry to make this our biggest opportunity yet.



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