

SEASON PREVIEW



2026–27 NCBBA

GREAT LAKES MEN'S CLUB BASKETBALL

TEAM PREVIEW GUIDE

NEW STORYLINES. ONE BIG SEASON.

A quick-hit look at returning cores, players to watch, rivalries, offseason additions, and each team's goals for 2026–27.

Compiled from team-submitted NCBBA 2026–27 previews.

THE SEASON AT A GLANCE

Meet the Great Lakes field

Ten team previews in one place. Records, notes, and outlooks below are reproduced from the submitted team preview guide; blank or unclear fields are identified rather than filled in.

01 Bowling Green

Falcons • Bowling Green, Ohio

02 Butler

Bulldogs • Indianapolis, Indiana

03 Creighton University

Bluejays • Omaha, Nebraska

04 University of Dayton

Flyers • Dayton, Ohio

05 DePaul Club Basketball

Blue Demons • Chicago, Illinois

06 Ferris State University

Bulldawgs • Big Rapids, Michigan

07 Indiana State

Sycamores • Terre Haute, Indiana

08 Ohio State Men's Club Basketball

Buckeyes • Columbus, Ohio

09 Ohio University

Bobcats • Athens, Ohio

10 Purdue University

Boilermakers • West Lafayette, Indiana

HEADLINE STORYLINES

Returning contenders

Purdue brings back nine players, including four starters, after a 17–2 overall campaign. Ohio State's preview points to a bounce-back push after reaching Nationals, while Bowling Green wants to turn strong Midwest momentum into a national-title run.

Chasing another regional run

Creighton aims for a third straight Great Lakes–West title, and Indiana State is looking to build on a third-place Great Lakes–Central finish and reach Regionals.

Youth meets experience

Butler reports 95% of last season's minutes returning. Dayton lists 16 returners, and Ferris State expects its frontcourt size and new bench depth to help.

Bowling Green

Falcons • Bowling Green, Ohio

18–10	6 returning	WSU / Dayton
2025–26 RECORD	RETURNING CORE	RIVALRY TO WATCH

LAST SEASON

NC State Brickyard Invite — Runner-up; Champaign Classic — semifinalist

Wins over Michigan State, Ferris State, Illinois State, NC State (NIRSA National runner-up), and Wake Forest.

PEOPLE & ROSTER

Captains / staff: Bryce Johnson / Kaiden Roscoe

Returning players: 6 returning players

Players to watch: Bryce Johnson, Ty Lowery, Evan Adir, Cayden Zachrich

New additions: Evan Adir, Caleb Brooks, Brant Almandy, Eli Bullard, Camden Ahrens, Markquel Steward

THE VIBE

The Falcons aim to stay highly competitive in the Midwest, build on their momentum, and contend for a national championship.

Best nickname: Nate Swank — “Buff Curry”

COACH / TEAM SOUND BITE

“This team is high competitive and high flying. A great mix of athleticism, shooting, and Defense should help us win many games and put up a whole lot of points.”

Butler

Bulldogs • Indianapolis, Indiana

8–4	9 returning / 4 starters	Purdue / DePaul
2025–26 RECORD	RETURNING CORE	RIVALRY TO WATCH

LAST SEASON

Did not make the postseason; missed by one game.
Swept DePaul, which had beaten No. 15 Purdue; lost by two to No. 9 Michigan in the tournament.

PEOPLE & ROSTER

Captains / staff: Team Captain Braden Myers; VP Rylan Rauch
Returning players: 9 returners, including 4 starters: Braden Myers (PG), Charlie Moore (SG), Rylan Rauch (SF), Tony Santarelli (C)
Players to watch: Charlie Moore, Rylan Rauch
New additions: Freshmen: Blake Sebastian, Will Harris, Chrystian Grubbs. Transfers: Alec Johnson, Jack Nowicki, Matt Lange.

THE VIBE

With 95% of last season’s minutes returning, experienced guards Braden Myers and Charlie Moore lead a young, proven group targeting a playoff appearance.
Best nickname: Charlie “Chuck” Moore

COACH / TEAM SOUND BITE

“This is the most talented yet connected team we have had here in a while and this is a group that is ready to make the next step if they continue to buy into one another.”

Creighton University

Bluejays • Omaha, Nebraska

9–1	7 returning / 3 starters	WashU
2025–26 RECORD	RETURNING CORE	RIVALRY TO WATCH

LAST SEASON

Lost in the first round of Regionals.

Won Great Lakes–West for the second consecutive year.

PEOPLE & ROSTER

Captains / staff: Derek Dearking, Eli Rourke

Returning players: 7 returning players (3 starters)

Players to watch: Gavin Kettman, Nick D'Ambrosio

New additions: Eddie Sandven, Jackson Pintens, Gavin Kettman, Ben Heisel

THE VIBE

The Bluejays want to win Great Lakes–West again and return to Regionals.

Best nickname: Not provided

COACH / TEAM SOUND BITE

No coach quote provided.

University of Dayton

Flyers • Dayton, Ohio

3–5

2025–26 RECORD

16 returning

RETURNING CORE

Xavier

RIVALRY TO WATCH

LAST SEASON

Not provided.

PEOPLE & ROSTER

Captains / staff: Captains Dwight Turner, Steven Tran

Returning players: 16 returning players

Players to watch: Evan Hargett (6'4") — three-level scorer with a strong midrange pull-up; Keith Seide (6'5") — three-level scorer who plays above the rim.

New additions: Keith Seide (F), Danny Haller (F), Joey Duggan (F), Daniel Barhorst (F), Asher Arkenua (F), Aidan Lawless (F)

THE VIBE

A strong frontcourt presence from Evan Hargett and Keith Seide, supported by guards Max Rottman and Steven Tran as shooting threats.

Best nickname: "Money" Mike Geedum

COACH / TEAM SOUND BITE

"Leadership is gonna take roots this year and it will translate to our play."

DePaul Club Basketball

Blue Demons • Chicago, Illinois

Not provided	11 returning	Loyola
2025–26 RECORD	RETURNING CORE	RIVALRY TO WATCH

LAST SEASON

Lost in the first round of Regionals vs. Michigan.

PEOPLE & ROSTER

Captains / staff: Samuel Morakinyo; President Adam Hardek (VP noted in source)

Returning players: 11 returning players

Players to watch: Mitch Kalu, Samuel Morakinyo, Collin McDonald

New additions: Cleo, Jake, Uri (last names not provided)

THE VIBE

The submitted season outlook reads: “Loyola University.”

Best nickname: Mitch “Top” Kalu

COACH / TEAM SOUND BITE

“Win and have fun.”

Ferris State University

Bulldawgs • Big Rapids, Michigan

8–4	7 returning / 3 starters	University of Michigan
2025–26 RECORD	RETURNING CORE	RIVALRY TO WATCH

LAST SEASON

Not provided.

PEOPLE & ROSTER

Captains / staff: Bryce Grugett, Aiden Dixon, Dwyne Benjamin

Returning players: 7 returners: Grugett, Woodson, Dixon, Farmer, Green, Benjamin, Walker. 3 starters: Benjamin, Woodson, Dixon.

Players to watch: Two-time All-American Dwyne Benjamin (6'4", shooting threat); Tristan "T Money" Woodson.

New additions: Freshmen AJ Banks, Carson Kiefer, and intramural standout Jamari Keahey.

THE VIBE

Ferris State looks to keep size and scoring in the frontcourt with Benjamin and Woodson. JUCO sharpshooter Grugett aims for a big second year, while Banks and Keahey add bench depth.

Best nickname: Terrell Skywalker

COACH / TEAM SOUND BITE

"I don't know how to think about tomorrow, I just love right now that much."

Indiana State

Sycamores • Terre Haute, Indiana

11–9 (8–4 conference)

2025–26 RECORD

6 listed returners

RETURNING CORE

Purdue

RIVALRY TO WATCH

LAST SEASON

Finished 3rd in Great Lakes–Central.

PEOPLE & ROSTER

Captains / staff: Kameron Winters, MaKye Tharp, Noah Betz

Returning players: MaKye Tharp (starter), Noah Betz (starter), Trevor Anderson (starter), Brayson Shoults (starter), Carter Hanna, Kameron Winters

Players to watch: Noah Betz, Brayson Shoults, Josh Morgan

New additions: Graduate: Elvin Momanyi (6'1" G). Juniors: Luke Bush (6'2" G, DePauw DIII transfer), Owen Root (6'3" F). Sophomores: Maliki Bridges (6'1" G, Oakland City NAIA transfer), Josh Morgan, Mason Camp (6'4" F), Luke Hall (6'1" G). Freshmen: Wade Zimmerman (5'10" G), Mason Kitterman (6'4" F).

THE VIBE

With key leadership and minutes returning, Indiana State aims to build on its second season and reach the Regional Tournament.

Best nickname: Noah Betz — “Mr. 37” after scoring 37 against Bellarmine

COACH / TEAM SOUND BITE

“We have been able to retain our biggest pieces and have been able to add a lot during the offseason. I am really excited for our season and really confident in our ability to make the Regional Tournament this season.”

Ohio State Men's Club Basketball

Buckeyes • Columbus, Ohio

15–1? (as submitted)	7–8 listed	Xavier, UCLA, JMU
2025–26 RECORD	RETURNING CORE	RIVALRY TO WATCH

LAST SEASON

Won JMU tournament and Great Lakes Regionals; lost to eventual national champion UCLA in the first round of Nationals.

Submitted preview describes an undefeated regular season and says the UCLA game was their closest-scoring game at Nationals.

PEOPLE & ROSTER

Captains / staff: Coaches: Doug Patterson (head), Quaa Faust (assistant). Captains: Jackson Mikola (president), Kevin Kirkby (vice president)

Returning players: 7 listed as returning: Jackson Mikola, Lukas Luttmerding, Kevin Kirkby, Josh Pineiro, Evan Dugger, Nathan Sommerfeld, Kenny Mao, Gabe Tayese. Four starters are identified among the list.

Players to watch: Lukas Luttmerding, Evan Dugger

New additions: Jed Carter, Cohen Ellis, Dylan Willis, Sean Spicer, Ephraim Campbell

THE VIBE

Ohio State wants to bounce back and win Nationals after several seasons ending earlier than expected.

Best nickname: “Naughty Nate” and “Jokey Josh”

COACH / TEAM SOUND BITE

“Get 1% better everyday and we will be more than ready for Nationals.”

Ohio University

Bobcats • Athens, Ohio

16–2	Not provided	OSU is listed; other entries were left blank in the source.
2025–26 RECORD	RETURNING CORE	RIVALRY TO WATCH

LAST SEASON

Beat Purdue, then lost in the Final Four to Michigan.

PEOPLE & ROSTER

Captains / staff: Alex Pullin

Returning players: Not provided.

Players to watch: Alex Pullin, Crew Cain, Collin Lucas

New additions: Crew Cain, Angelo Granito, Colton Lloyd, Cam Joy, Riley Kolbay

THE VIBE

The submitted outlook says the team expects to be worse than last year and may finish second or third in conference.

Best nickname: Riley Kolbay — “Pledge”

COACH / TEAM SOUND BITE

“I’m just here so I don’t get fined.” — Marshawn Lynch (as submitted)

Purdue University

Boilermakers • West Lafayette, Indiana

**17–2 overall; 11–1
conference**

2025–26 RECORD

9 returning / 4 starters

RETURNING CORE

Indiana University

RIVALRY TO WATCH

LAST SEASON

Champaign Classic champions; 1st place Great Lakes–Central; No. 17 in NCBBA Week 21 Poll.

Lost only one conference game and won the Champaign Classic against a competitive field.

PEOPLE & ROSTER

Captains / staff: Head coach Josh Zhang; captains Liam Buys, Sam Goellner

Returning players: 9 returners, including 4 starters: Cole Loudon, Saket Narayanan, Jamison Beshears, Glick. Other returners listed: Goellner, Buys, Georgousis, Onwudiwe, Shepherd.

Players to watch: Cole Loudon, Saket Narayanan, Jamison Beshears

New additions: Will Hensel, Lucas DeFilippo, Ras Johnson, Brody Fisher, Elijah Thompson, Anthony Millner, Jason Mau

THE VIBE

Purdue returns nine players and much of its offense. New additions are expected to make an immediate impact, and the team believes its depth can compete with anyone in the country.

Best nickname: Anthony “Ant” Millner

COACH / TEAM SOUND BITE

“We are returning 9 guys from last season, all bought into one vision. We have both the depth and talent to compete at the highest level. What we lacked last year in terms of focus and attention to detail has been fixed, and we have only built on what we succeeded at. Something special is blossoming in West Lafayette.”