

WELCOME

TO



Lenovo Tenerife

BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



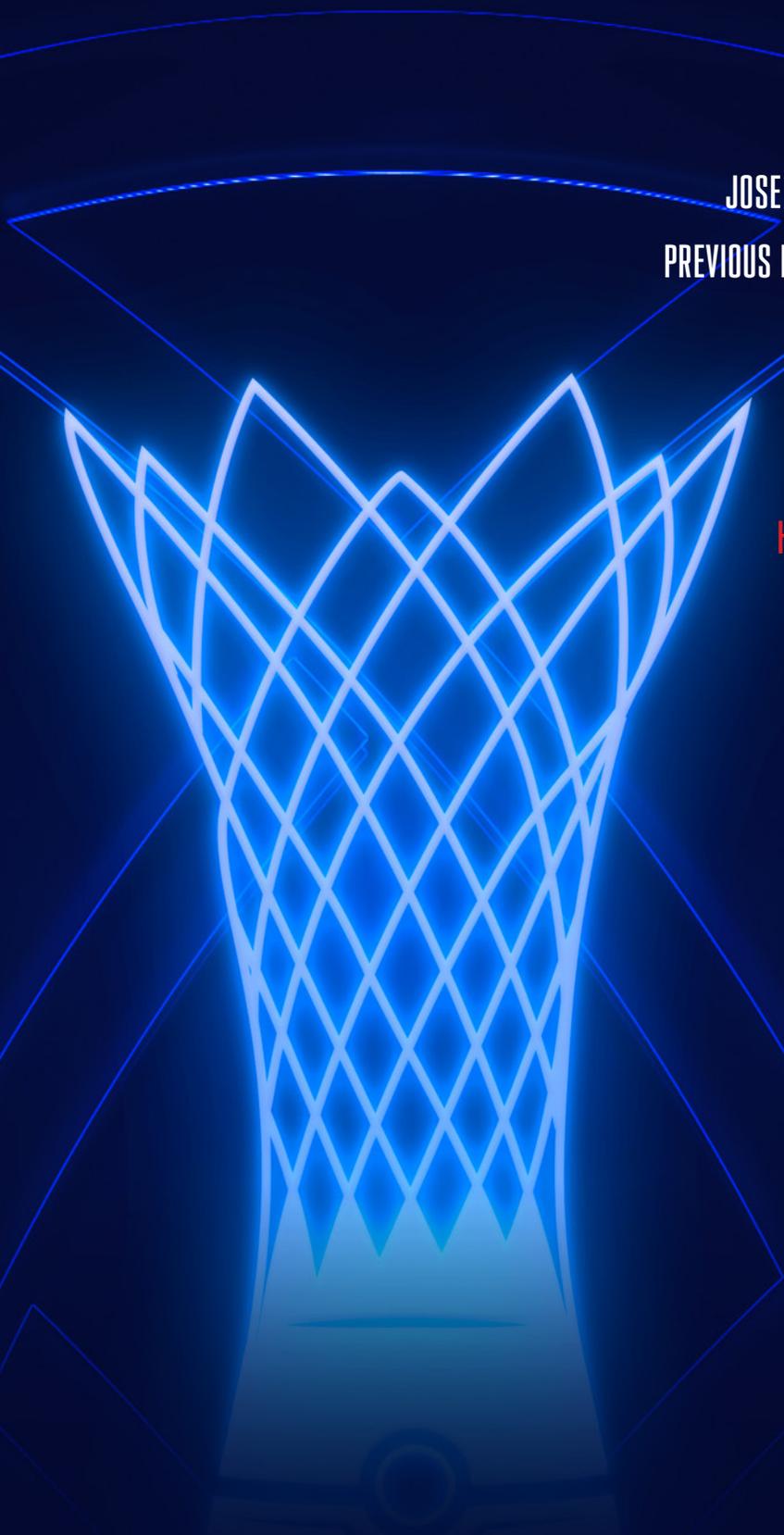
# FINAL FOUR



S E A S O N 7

MALAGA, SPAIN

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# WELCOME TO MALAGA!

As a Mediterranean city, Malaga (Spanish spelling: Málaga) has always been defined by its relationship with the sea, ever since it was founded in the 8th century BC.

The dynamic of this relationship however has evolved through the centuries and Malaga, that begun as a commercial port and went through a period of industrialization, is today the capital of a world-famous touristic destination, the Costa del Sol, as well as one of the most important technology hubs in southern Europe.

Above all though Malaga is a vibrant, cosmopolitan city that managed to open to the world as the focal point of a strip along the coast that is home to a vast international community, while simultaneously maintaining its truly unique Spanish and Andalusian character.

Today the city boasts of no less than 40 museums and exhibition spaces, including of course the likes of Museo Picasso Málaga and Centre Pompidou Málaga. In this city though art is in the air, and it might be enough for you to simply take a stroll from Gibralfaro castle down to the city centre to breath it in.

Malaga is a city by the sea, a cosmopolitan city of art, and a city in love with basketball as a celebration of life. If you are among the lucky ones who will manage to experience the 2023 Basketball Champions League Final Four on site, you will cherish this host city for the rest of your life.





# FINAL FOUR

BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

MALAGA 2023



# JOSE MARIA MARTIN CARPENA ARENA

The Martin Carpena arena (full name in Spanish: Palacio de Deportes José María Martín Carpena) situated by the river Guadalhorce in Malaga, is the largest indoor multi-purpose sports arena in southern Spain and has been the home court of Unicaja ever since it opened its doors in 1999.

Perhaps it's not a coincidence that this has also been the most successful period in the history of the club.

The arena currently has a capacity of 11,300 spectators, up from about 9,700 initially, following expansion works in 2010 to accommodate the demand from Unicaja fans.

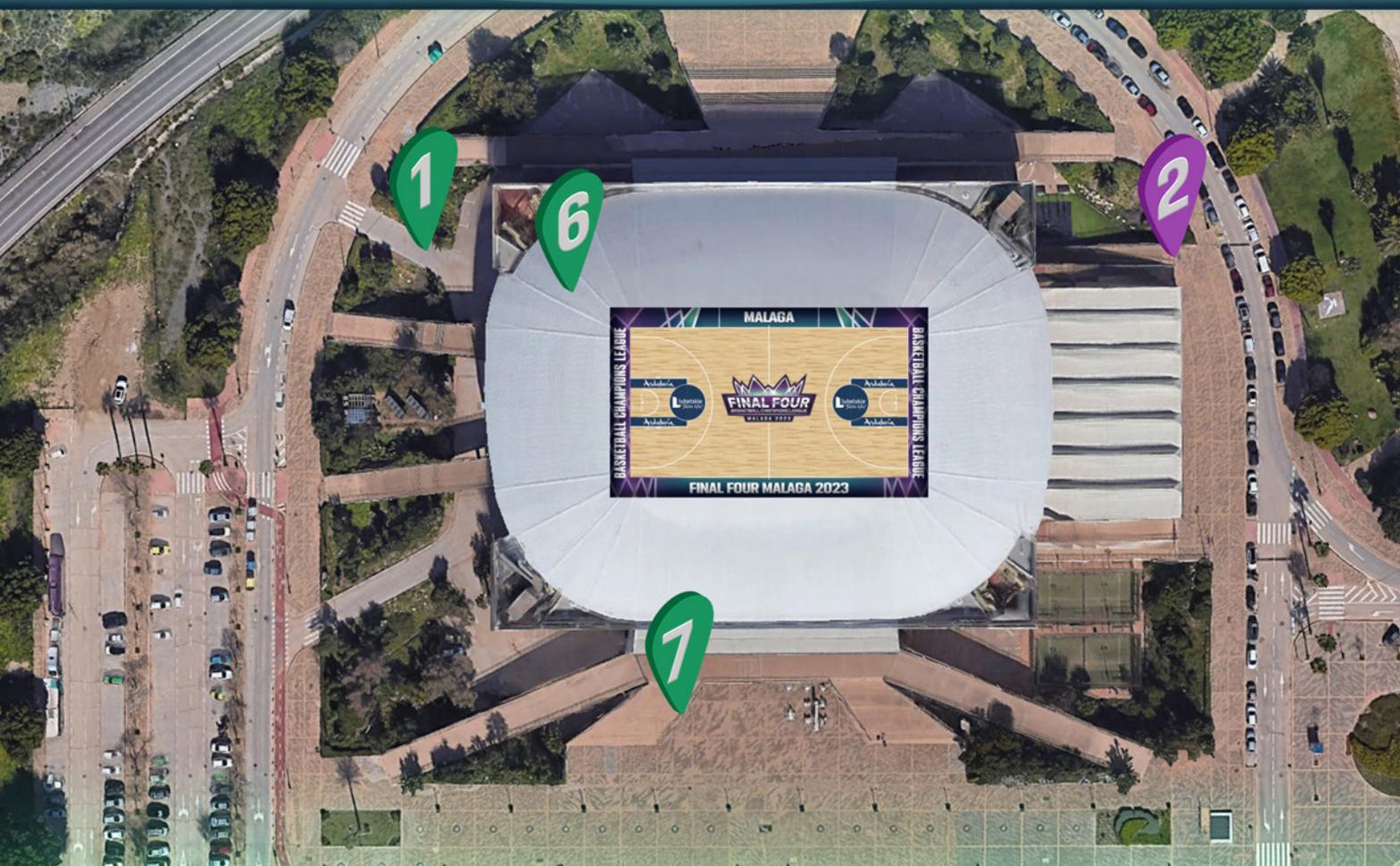
Barely a year after its construction, the Martin Carpena arena played host to its first European

title game, the second leg of the 1999-2000 FIBA Korac Cup Final, and to the first leg of the same competition's Final the following year, when Unicaja were proclaimed champions.

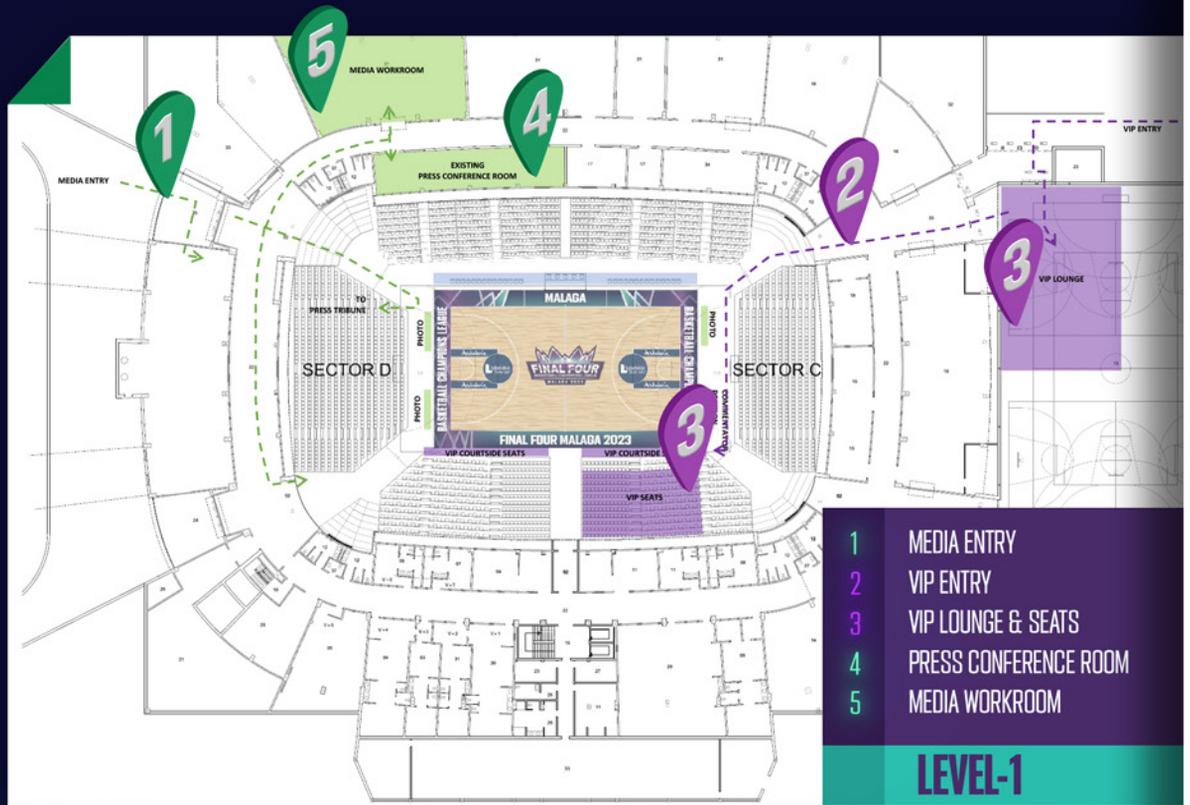
It was of course also the venue of Unicaja's home games in the 2005-06 Spanish ACB Finals and in the 2016-17 EuroCup Finals series, which both ended with the Andalusian team being crowned champions.

The Martin Carpena arena was also the venue of the Spanish Copa del Rey Final 8 in 2001, 2007 and 2014, the tennis Davis Cup in 2003 and the 2007 NBA Europe Live Tour.

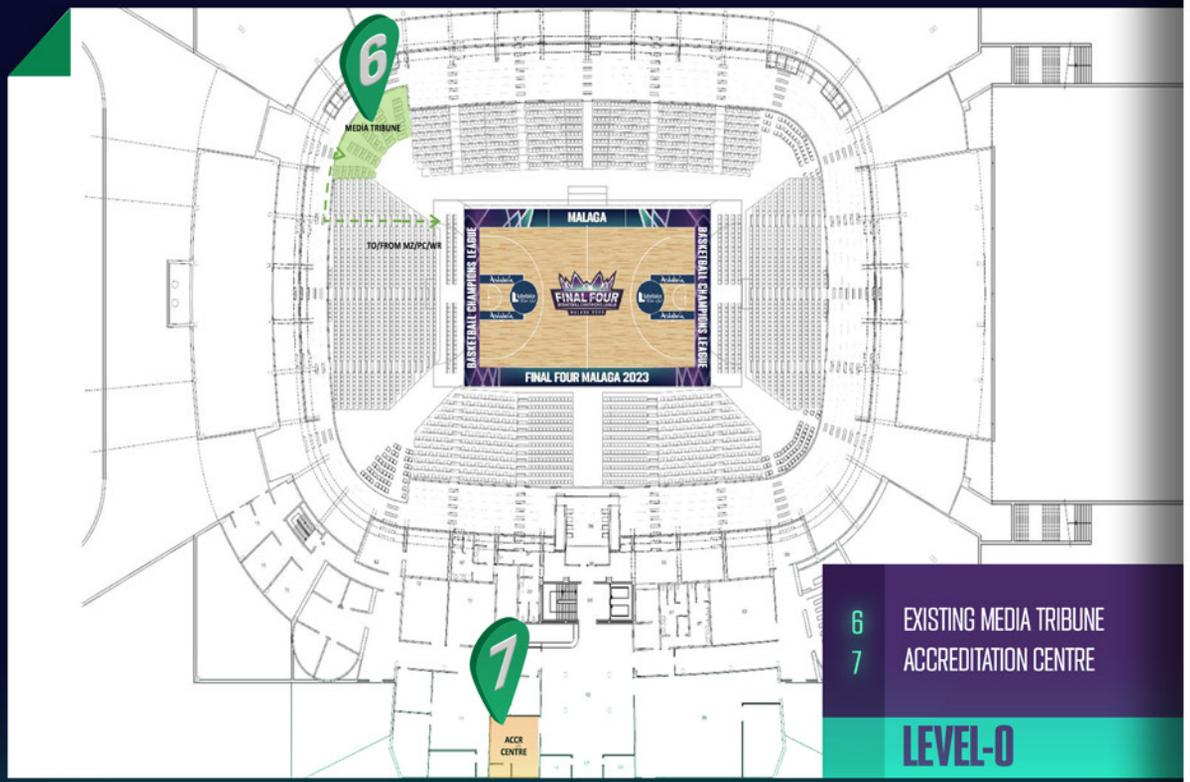
The 2023 Basketball Champions League Final Four though marks the first time it will host a European competition's Final Four tournament.



# MALAGA



- 1 MEDIA ENTRY
  - 2 VIP ENTRY
  - 3 VIP LOUNGE & SEATS
  - 4 PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM
  - 5 MEDIA WORKROOM
- LEVEL-1**



- 6 EXISTING MEDIA TRIBUNE
  - 7 ACCREDITATION CENTRE
- LEVEL-0**

# PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THE SEASON FINALE



## FINAL FOUR 2017

April 28-30  
in Tenerife (Spain)

**IBEROSTAR TENERIFE**  
MARIUS GRIGONIS (LTU)



## FINAL FOUR 2018

May 4-6  
in Athens (Greece)

**AEK**  
MIKE GREEN (USA)



## FINAL FOUR 2019

May 3-5  
in Antwerp (Belgium)

**SEGAFREDO VIRTUS BOLOGNA**  
KEVIN PUNTER (USA)





**FINAL EIGHT 2020**

September 30-October 4  
in Athens (Greece)

**HEREDA SAN PABLO BURGOS**  
THAD MCFADDEN (USA)



**FINAL EIGHT 2021**

May 7-May 9  
in Nizhny Novgorod (Russia)

**HEREDA SAN PABLO BURGOS**  
VITOR BENITE (BRA)



**FINAL FOUR 2022**

May 6-May 8  
in Bilbao (Spain)  
**LENOVO TENERIFE**  
MARCELINHO HUERTAS (BRA)



# REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS

GROUP A		P	W	L	%	PTS
1	 SIG STRASBOURG *	6	4	2	66.7	10
2	 UCAM MURCIA **	6	4	2	66.7	10
3	 TOFAS BURSA **	6	2	4	33.3	8
4	 FALCO VULCANO SZOMBATHELY	6	2	4	33.3	8

GROUP B		P	W	L	%	PTS
1	 TELEKOM BASKETS BONN *	6	5	1	83.3	11
2	 AEK **	6	3	3	50.0	9
3	 PINAR KARSİYAKA **	6	2	4	33.3	8
4	 UNAHOTELS REGGIO EMILIA	6	2	4	33.3	8

GROUP C		P	W	L	%	PTS
1	 GALATASARAY NEF *	6	4	2	66.7	10
2	 HAPOEL ATSMON HOLON **	6	4	2	66.7	10
3	 FILOU OOSTENDE **	6	3	3	50.0	9
4	 LEGIA WARSZAWA	6	1	5	16.7	7

GROUP D		P	W	L	%	PTS
1	 SURNE BILBAO *	6	4	2	66.7	10
2	 BAHCESEHİR COLLEGE **	6	3	3	50.0	9
3	 IGOKEA M.TEL **	6	3	3	50.0	9
4	 ERA NYMBURK	6	2	4	33.3	8

GROUP E		P	W	L	%	PTS
1	 HAPOEL BANK YAHAV JERUSALEM *	6	5	1	83.3	11
2	 MHP RIESEN **	6	4	2	66.7	10
3	 DARÜŞŞAFAKA LASSA **	6	2	4	33.3	8
4	 BAKKEN BEARS	6	1	5	16.7	7

GROUP F		P	W	L	%	PTS
1	 BAXI MANRESA *	6	4	2	66.7	10
2	 S.L. BENFICA **	6	4	2	66.7	10
3	 LIMOGES CSP **	6	3	3	50.0	9
4	 VEF RIGA	6	1	5	16.7	7

GROUP G		P	W	L	%	PTS
1	 UNICAJA *	6	5	1	83.3	11
2	 JDA BOURGOGNE DIJON **	6	3	3	50.0	9
3	 PAOK MATECO **	6	2	4	33.3	8
4	 DINAMO B.S. SASSARI	6	2	4	33.3	8

GROUP H		P	W	L	%	PTS
1	 LENOVO TENERIFE *	6	4	2	66.7	10
2	 RYTAS VILNIUS **	6	3	3	50.0	9
3	 PERISTERI BWIN **	6	3	3	50.0	9
4	 BNEI OFEK DIST HERZLIYA	6	2	4	33.3	8

\* Qualified for Round of 16

\*\* Qualified for Play-Ins

# ROUND OF 16 STANDINGS

GROUP I		P	W	L	%	PTS
1	HAPOEL BANK YAHAV JERUSALEM *	6	5	1	83.3	11
2	SIG STRASBOURG *	6	4	2	66.7	10
3	JDA BOURGOGNE DIJON	6	2	4	33.3	8
4	HAPOEL ATSMON HOLON	6	1	5	16.7	7

GROUP K		P	W	L	%	PTS
1	UNICAJA *	6	5	1	83.3	11
2	AEK *	6	4	2	66.7	10
3	GALATASARAY NEF	6	2	4	33.3	8
4	LIMOGES CSP	6	1	5	16.7	7

GROUP J		P	W	L	%	PTS
1	TELEKOM BASKETS BONN *	6	6	0	100	12
2	BAXI MANRESA *	6	3	3	50.0	9
3	RYTAS VILNIUS	6	3	3	50.0	9
4	BAHCESEHIR COLLEGE	6	0	6	0	6

GROUP L		P	W	L	%	PTS
1	LENOVO TENERIFE *	6	5	1	83.3	11
2	UCAM MURCIA *	6	4	2	66.7	10
3	DARÜSSAFKA LASSA	6	2	4	33.3	8
4	SURNE BILBAO	6	1	5	16.7	7

\* Qualified for Quarter-Finals



# SEASON AWARDS

## TEAM OF THE MONTH

### OCTOBER

JOE RAGLAND	USA	HAPOEL ATSMON HOLON
TJ SHORTS	USA	TELEKOM BASKETS BONN
ERRICK MCCOLLUM	USA	PINAR KARSIYAKA
DYLAN OSETKOWSKI	GER	UNICAJA
MATT MITCHELL	USA	SIG STRASBOURG



## MVP

### JOE RAGLAND

USA

HAPOEL ATSMON HOLON

### NOVEMBER

TJ SHORTS	USA	TELEKOM BASKETS BONN
MARCUS FOSTER	USA	RYTAS VILNIUS
DARIO BRIZUELA	ESP	UNICAJA
ANGELO CALOJARO	USA	GALATASARAY NEF
ZACH HANKINS	USA	HAPOEL BANK YAHAV JERUSALEM



## MVP

### MARCUS FOSTER

USA

RYTAS VILNIUS

### DECEMBER

TJ SHORTS	USA	TELEKOM BASKETS BONN
BREEIN TYREE	USA	FILOU OOSTENDE
MAURICE KEMP	USA	BNEI OFEK DIST HERZLIYA
DESI RODRIGUEZ	USA	LIMOGES CSP
ZACH HANKINS	USA	HAPOEL BANK YAHAV JERUSALEM



## MVP

### TJ SHORTS

USA

TELEKOM BASKETS BONN

## TEAM OF THE MONTH

### JANUARY

JOE RAGLAND	USA	Hapoel Atsmon Holon
MARCUS FOSTER	USA	Rytas Vilnius
MARKIS MCDUFFIE	USA	JDA Bourgogne Dijon
AKIL MITCHELL	PAN	AEK
JERRY BOUTSIELE	USA	Bahcesehir College



**MVP**

**JOE RAGLAND**

USA | Hapoel Atsmon Holon

### FEBRUARY

MARCUS KEENE	USA	Sig Strasbourg
THADDUS MCFADDEN	USA	UCAM Murcia
LEVI RANDOLPH	USA	Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem
AKIL MITCHELL	PAN	AEK
TYSON WARD	USA	Telekom Baskets Bonn



**MVP**

**AKIL MITCHELL**

PAN | AEK

### MARCH

TJ SHORTS	USA	Telekom Baskets Bonn
JERRICK HARDING	USA	Baxi Manresa
DARIO BRIZUELA	ESP	Unicaja
LÉO CAVALIÈRE	FRA	Sig Strasbourg
ZACH HANKINS	USA	Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem



**MVP**

**ZACH HANKINS**

USA | Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem

### APRIL

TJ SHORTS	USA	Telekom Baskets Bonn
BRUNO FITIPALDO	ITA	Lenovo Tenerife
DARIO BRIZUELA	ESP	Unicaja
LEVI RANDOLPH	USA	Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem
DEVIN ROBINSON	USA	Baxi Manresa



**MVP**

**LEVI RANDOLPH**

USA | Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem

# HAPOEL BANK YAHAV JERUSALEM



## Igor:

Two-time Israeli champions, one-time EuroCup winners, Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem are a team that knows how to win championships. Not a lot of people expected them to get here with all the changes over the summer, yet here we are, witnessing one of the most impressive rebuilds in BCL history. Aleksandar Dzicic's men already lifted the Israeli State Cup this season, they could make it a double crown in Malaga. How did they get here, though?

## Diccon:

The Regular Season started with an almost entirely new roster for Hapoel Jerusalem, as only Itay Segev remained from Yotam Halperin's squad that lost to Prometey in the Play-Ins in the 2021-22 season. Whilst the season opener resulted in a home win against Darussafaka Lassa, there was still the feeling of a team that had a lot to figure out. The next game saw MHP RIESEN Ludwigsburg come to town and despite 19 points and 18 points from Mareks Mejeris



and Zach Hankins, respectively, 22 turnovers saw Jerusalem pick up their first and only loss of the Regular Season. Jerusalem's performances however improved steadily from there on and the last game of the Regular Season produced a statement win, 92-69 to Darussafaka on the road. Speedy Smith's 8 assists fed 17 points for each of Levi Randolph and Khadeen Carrington, with Hankins recording another 18-point haul. The team was starting to take shape. JDA Bourgogne Dijon caught Jerusalem on the hop in the first game of the Round of 16. An 84-77 home loss served to sharpen the nerves and kickstart the engines. They won every game from that point, starting with two clutch performances in the next two games. A 65-63 win on the road against Israeli rivals Hapoel Atsmon Holon was followed by an 81-80 win at home over SIG Strasbourg. That win against Strasbourg also saw the team find its identity in clutch situations, coming back from a 15-point deficit in the fourth quarter to claim victory. Zach Hankins' huge double-double with 28 points and 12 rebounds was one of the standout performances of the season.

The Quarter-Finals brought a match-up against a resurgent AEK, but Jerusalem could tackle this with the benefit of homecourt advantage. That proved to be decisive, as a raucous home crowd powered the team to a 2-1 series win. Whilst the first home win and the road loss in Athens were close affairs, the decider in Pais Arena was possibly the most dominant Quarter-Final performance ever seen in the BCL. Randolph poured in 25 points, supported by 15 points apiece from Khadeen Carrington and Siim-Sander Vene. Hapoel marched to a 91-51 win and onto the club's first Final Four.

**Igor:**

Those 91 points to close out the series felt smooth. But, honestly, the eye test doesn't have Jerusalem as a big offensive team. When you scroll through memories of their games this season, it kind of feels like they were in bar fights, not games, with a strong taste of 1990s and no-easy-layups vibes in the air. Do you have the stats to confirm that one?

**Diccon:**

The stats are easy for all to interpret, this is an excellent defensive team. Jerusalem hold teams to just 100.6 points per 100 possessions, the best in the league this season. They allow their opponents to shoot just 43 percent from the field, and 31 percent from three-point range. They steal the ball on 11.3

percent of their opponents' possessions and block a shot on 10 percent of their opponents' possessions - both ranking first amongst teams in this Final Four. Zach Hankins certainly helps when it comes to shot blocking, the American center is the second-leading shot blocker in the league, with 25 total and 2.3 per 40 minutes. On the court, the defense is all about pressuring the ball, often full court, with the likes of Or Cornelius, Speedy Smith, and Brandon Brown. From there, the next priorities are precise positioning off the ball and the ability to scramble and rotate with feverish intensity.

**Igor:**

Okay, intensity is important, especially in a Final Four like this one. Other than the intensity, what makes you think they could win Season Seven of the BCL?

**Diccon:**

They do say defense wins championships, so there is that. The "Big 3" is there with Randolph, Smith and Hankins. So is the supporting cast with the likes of Carrington, Mejeris, and Vene. We also need to remember that head coach Aleks Dzikic knows what it takes to win in Europe, he was a Eurochallenge winner in 2011 with Krka Novo Mesto and has already steered this team to the Israeli State Cup this season.

**Igor:**

All of that sounds too good to be true. Give us a minus fact to balance this out, tell us a reason why they could not win it?

**Diccon:**

No Israeli team has ever won the BCL and Jerusalem themselves have only one European trophy in the cabinet, the 2004 ULEB Cup. Winning the second one almost 20 years later would be some feat.

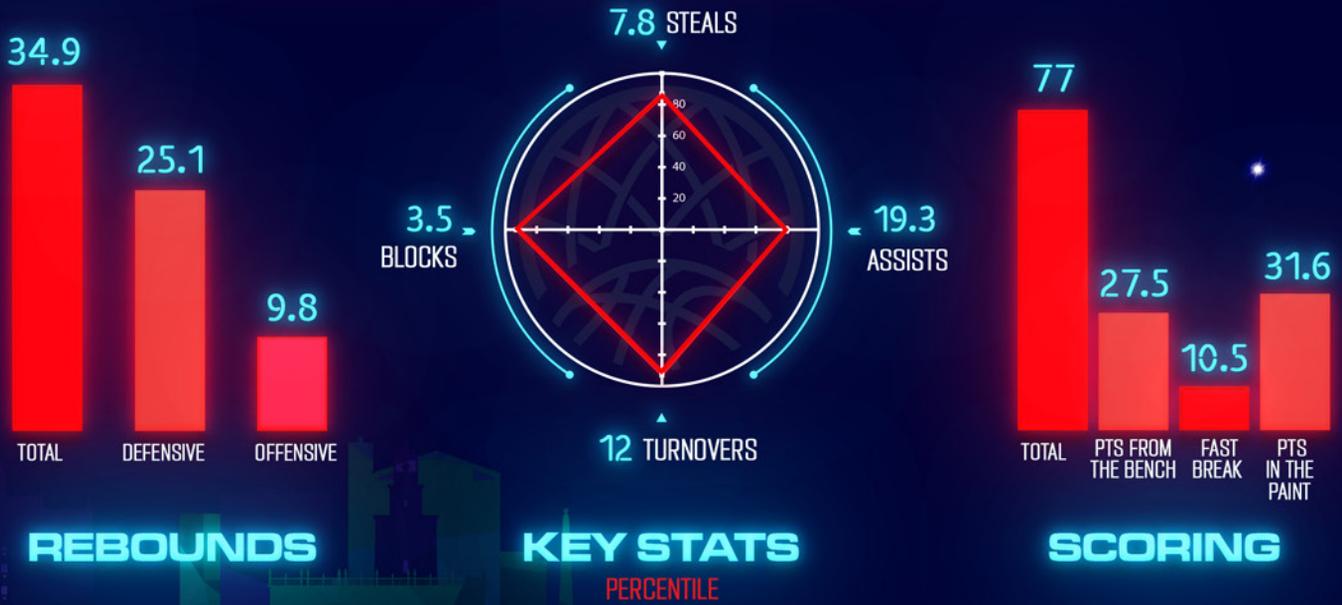
**Igor:**

What is your favorite part of Jerusalem's season? Could be a play, a player, a playcaller, a playlist, a play on words...

**Diccon:**

The lobs, I'm here for the lobs and dunks. This team is so much fun when Smith and the crew are throwing the ball up there for Hankins and, lest we forget, this team also recorded the rarest of feats with a game-winning dunk when Mareks Mejeris threw it down for the win against Bakken Bears.

SHOOTING %



HEAD COACH

**ALEKSANDAR DZIKIC**

DATE OF BIRTH: 23/03/1971

BCL COACHING RECORD: 21-10

BCL RANKING IN COACHING WINS: #20

COACHING CAREER:

Beovuk (assistant, SRB; 1994-97), Beovuk (SRB; 1997-99), Partizan (assistant, SRB; 1999-2005), Minnesota Timberwolves (assistant, USA; 2005-07), Olimpija Ljubljana (SLO; 2008), Krka (SLO; 2009-11, 2013-15), Rytas Vilnius (LTU; 2011-12), North Macedonia (national team; 2014-15), Partizan (SRB; 2016-17), Buducnost (MNE; 2017-18, 2021-22), Estudiantes (ESP; 2019-20), Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem (ISR; 2022- )

Coach Dzikic was at the helm of Partizan in the inaugural BCL season and then spent time in Montenegro and Spain, before coming back to the league with Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem this season. His energy and coaching style proved an instant perfect match with Pais Arena, creating a memorable season which has already seen Jerusalem win the Israeli State Cup trophy. Dzikic is a charismatic leader whose communication skills have long been known in Serbia and beyond since he had a highly successful podcasting career, reaching 30,000 weekly views on YouTube. Dzikic's coaching career began in the early 1990s, and his drive to learn led him to the NBA Summer League already in 2003. He wrote a column about his experiences there, and soon enough he earned an assistant role on the Minnesota Timberwolves, staying in Dwane Casey's staff from 2005 to 2007. He was only the second native European in an assistant coaching role in the NBA, following his compatriot Igor Kokoskov. When you mix it all together, his knowledge of NBA trends, of coaching trends, of media trends, it's no wonder Jerusalem fans fell in love with the 52-year-old. Immediately after winning the Israeli State Cup, Dzikic signed a contract extension for another season in Jerusalem.



LEVI RANDOLPH

15

PPG



ZACH HANKINS

8.3

RPG



3PTS

APG

BRANDON BROWN

SPEEDY SMITH

51.5%

5.9



DEADLY DUO



199

TOTAL PTS



PTS  
48  
FROM  
24  
AST



89

TOTAL AST





## LEVI RANDOLPH

DATE OF BIRTH: 03/10/1992

POSITION: FORWARD

HEIGHT: 195CM/6'5"

### CLUB CAREER:

Maine Red Claws (USA; 2015-16), Avellino (ITA; 2016-17), Dinamo BDS Sassari (ITA; 2017-18), SIG Strasbourg (FRA; 2018), Canton Charge (USA; 2018-21), New Zealand Breakers (NZL; 2021), Filou Oostende (BEL; 2021-22), Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem (ISR; 2022- )

STAR PLAYER

BCL SEASON-HIGH: 28 POINTS

V AEK; APR 12, 2023

BCL CAREER-HIGH: 35 POINTS

V UNICAJA; MAR 16, 2022

Avid BCL fans had jolted down Levi Randolph's name a long time ago. He arrived in 2016, sporting a Speedy Smith-like haircut, and playing with Avellino, Sassari and Strasbourg put him in the sights of many big European clubs. He had other plans however and moved back to the United States to spend three seasons with the Canton Charge. Luckily for European fans though, coach Dario Gjerjca found his phone number last year and Randolph's stint with Filou Oostende was memorable. He led the BCL in scoring in 2021-22, torching Unicaja for 35 points. It took a bit of time for him to get used to coach Aleksandar Dzikić's system but whenever Jerusalem need a bucket, they will feed the 30-year-old forward on the low block, allowing him to take opponents to footwork school. Randolph arrives at the Final Four as the last player to win the Basketball Champions League MVP of the Month award, thanks to his exploits in April. He is one of three different Jerusalem players with a game-winning shots this season, hitting the floater for the win against SIG Strasbourg, and shouting "YALLA!" to the tribune packed with ecstatic Jerusalem fans. In fact, he loves that word so much, he got it tattooed on his arm in April, to symbolize his time in Israel.



## SPEEDY SMITH

DATE OF BIRTH: 28/01/1993

POSITION: GUARD

HEIGHT: 190CM/6'3"

### CLUB CAREER:

VEF Riga (LAT; 2015), Los Angeles D-Fenders (USA; 2016-17), Grand Rapids Drive (USA; 2017-19), Szolnoki Olaj (HUN; 2019), Spirou Charleroi (BEL; 2019-20), Maccabi Haifa (ISR; 2020), Antwerp Giants (BEL; 2020), Limoges CSP (FRA; 2020-21), Rytas Vilnius (LTU; 2021-22), Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem (ISR; 2022- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH: 26 POINTS

V HAPOEL ATSMON HOLON; MAR 7, 2023

BCL CAREER-HIGH: 26 POINTS

V HAPOEL ATSMON HOLON; MAR 7, 2023

It took a while, but in the last three seasons Speedy Smith is finally getting the recognition he deserves from the fans and his peers. He showed his pass-first mentality with Limoges CSP and then enjoyed the craziness of Rytas Vilnius fans, winning the Lithuanian LKL title. He must have liked that sea of red in the stands so much, he moved to Jerusalem to play in front of the same-color backdrop. Smith is a natural born leader, a guy who will get the game-winning shots, and then talk about Or Cornelius' defense. He scored in double digits in seven games this season, while also dishing out 10+ assists twice, and is averaging 10.7 points and 5.9 assists per game. His best game was not in the BCL though, but in the Final of the Israeli State Cup, when he had 16 points and 9 assists to win the MVP award.



## ZACH HANKINS

DATE OF BIRTH: 27/07/1996

POSITION: CENTER

HEIGHT: 211CM/6'11"

### CLUB CAREER:

ERA Nymburk (CZE; 2019-20), Maccabi Rishon LeZion (ISR; 2020), Birmingham Squadron (USA; 2021-22), Mets de Guaynabo (PUR; 2022), Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem (ISR; 2022- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH: 28 POINTS

V SIG STRASBOURG; FEB 7, 2023

BCL CAREER-HIGH: 28 POINTS

V SIG STRASBOURG; FEB 7, 2023

Zach Hankins' personal story competes with anything you might have heard about bad luck in sports. It started in high school when he broke his foot, then got the green light from the doctor to come back only to worsen that injury. He fought back, going from Division II to Division I for his final NCAA season, and he looked outstanding in his rookie season in Europe, with Nymburk. He caught the eye of Galatasaray, signed a deal, but never got to play for the Turkish powerhouse. He drew interest from South East Melbourne Phoenix but suffered an injury before joining them. Finally, he found a home in Jerusalem. He's looked even better than that impressive rookie Hankins, and got his reward in March, when he was named the MVP of the Month in the Basketball Champions League. Hankins arrives at the Final Four as the second-best blocker and third-best rebounder this season.



## KHADEEN CARRINGTON

DATE OF BIRTH: 03/10/1995

POSITION: POINT GUARD

HEIGHT: 193CM/6'4"

### CLUB CAREER:

Mornar (MNE; 2018), Limburg United (BEL; 2018-19), MHP RIESEN (GER; 2019-20), Monaco (FRA; 2020-21), Real Betis (ESP; 2021), JDA Bourgogne Dijon (FRA; 2021-22), Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem (ISR; 2022- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH: 20 POINTS

V BAKKEN BEARS; NOV 30, 2022

BCL CAREER-HIGH: 20 POINTS

V BAKKEN BEARS; NOV 30, 2022

Khadeen Carrington knows it's not about how many times you get knocked down, it's about the times you get back up again. He went from the highs of being arguably the best player in the German Bundesliga to ending a contract with Baskonia because of passport renewal issues. He bounced back with a stint at Monaco, only to fall down again with a torn ACL in 2020. The path to recovery was long, but right now Carrington is a hero again. His lefty touch is impossible to read and he is another player with a game-winning shot for Jerusalem this season, hitting the big one on the road in Holon in the Round of 16. For a player who was so consistent with JDA Bourgogne Dijon last term and with Jerusalem this year, it sounds strange he's only reached the 20-point mark once in his BCL career, against Bakken Bears this season.



## MAREKS MEJERIS

DATE OF BIRTH:	02/09/1991
POSITION:	FORWARD
HEIGHT:	207CM/6'9"

### CLUB CAREER:

Liepajas Lauvas (LAT; 2009-11), Clavijo (ESP; 2011-13), Fuenlabrada (ESP; 2013-14), Ford Burgos (ESP; 2014), VEF Riga (LAT; 2014-16, 2016-19), Elan Chalon (FRA; 2016), Parma (RUS; 2019-22), VL Pesaro (ITA; 2022), Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem (ISR; 2022- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	19 POINTS	V MHP RIESEN; OCT 19, 2022
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	19 POINTS	V MHP RIESEN; OCT 19, 2022

Add Mareks Mejeris' name to the list of players who made last-gasp game winning plays for Jerusalem this season. They struggled in Denmark against Bakken Bears, but found a way late to Mejeris and the Latvian sealed the win with a thunderous dunk, lifting his team to first place in their Regular Season group as well. Mejeris is a regular with the Latvian national team, and his two spells with VEF Riga saw him being named the team captain. With his big body and athletic presence, he's a nice fit to Jerusalem's game plan, allowing them a big-to-big connection that's not all that usual these days of three-point shooting basketball. You know exactly what you'll get with him - consistency. His season averages are 8 points and 4 rebounds per game, so of course he averaged exactly 8 points and 4 rebounds per game in the Quarter-Final series against AEK.



## ITAY SEGEV

DATE OF BIRTH:	15/06/1995
POSITION:	POWER FORWARD
HEIGHT:	206CM/6'9"

### CLUB CAREER:

Maccabi Tel Aviv (ISR; 2012-13, 2015-18), Hapoel Atsmon Holon (ISR; 2013-14), Gilboa Galil (ISR; 2014-15), Maccabi Rishon LeZion (ISR; 2018-19), Ironi Nahariya (ISR; 2019-20), Gravelines-Dunkerque (FRA; 2020-21), Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem (ISR; 2021- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	5 POINTS	V SIG STRASBOURG; MAR 22, 2023
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	6 POINTS	THREE TIMES

Time flies when you're a basketball player. Itay Segev grew up so fast, from being named the Israeli League's Most Improved Player in 2016, becoming Maccabi Tel Aviv's team captain a year later, through all the detours and back on track with Hapoel Jerusalem. Segev is one of the rare returning players from a season ago, and he is a perfect role player for any team. He doesn't ask for much offensively, he finishes around and above the rim, while being a solid rim protector on the other end. Segev is a physical player, and don't expect any kind of shooting from him - he only attempted one three-pointer all season long, and missed nine of his 19 attempted free-throws. Itay earned coach Dzicic's trust just in time for the Final Four, as the Quarter-Final series was the first time he strung together three straight games with 10+ minutes on the floor.



## OR CORNELIUS

DATE OF BIRTH:	26/09/1996
POSITION:	GUARD
HEIGHT:	197CM/6'6"

### CLUB CAREER:

Maccabi Rishon LeZion (ISR; 2016-17), Maccabi Kiryat Gat (ISR; 2017-18), Hapoel Kfar Saba/Kohav (ISR; 2018-19), Hapoel Beer Sheva (ISR; 2019), Elizur Ashkelon (ISR; 2019-20), Ness Ziona (ISR; 2020-21), Gilboa Galil (ISR; 2021-22), Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem (ISR; 2022- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	10 POINTS	V MHP RIESEN; DEC 13, 2022
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	10 POINTS	V MHP RIESEN; DEC 13, 2022

The unsung hero. One of the most beautiful moments of the season occurred when coach Aleksandar Dzicic lifted Cornelius' head up and embraced him just before a timeout, then followed up with words about how people do not understand what Or brings to the team. Take a look at the list of Or's previous clubs, most in the lower Israeli divisions. But he never gave up instead used this path to fuel his motivation. He definitely deserves a consideration for the Defensive Player of the Season award, while he's also able to contribute offensively, mostly off catch-and-shoot situations or fast breaks that he creates himself. The best proof of his impact on the game is that Jerusalem's +/- rating was negative just five times all season long with him on the floor. If he raises his three-point percentage into the 40s, the sky's the limit for the 26-year-old.



## SIIM-SANDER VENE

DATE OF BIRTH:	12/11/1990
POSITION:	FORWARD
HEIGHT:	203CM/6'8"

### CLUB CAREER:

TTU (EST; 2005-06), Zalgiris (LTU; 2006-16), Nizhny Novgorod (RUS; 2016-17), UNAHOTELS Reggio Emilia (ITA; 2017), Varese (ITA; 2018, 2019-20, 2022), BAXI Manresa (ESP; 2018), Fuenlabrada (ESP; 2018, 2020-21), Gran Canaria (ESP; 2018-19), Limoges CSP (FRA; 2021-22), Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem (ISR; 2022- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	15 POINTS	V AEK; APR 19, 2023
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	15 POINTS	V AEK; APR 19, 2023

One thing is for sure, Siim-Sander Vene has a suitcase packed at all times. His biography will tell you he spent ten years with Zalgiris, but most of them consisted of loan deals and the best part about his travels is that he keeps coming back. Siim-Sander had three separate spells with Varese in Italy and two stints with Fuenlabrada in Spain. A sharp shooter with enough height to battle the other forwards, Vene knocked down 18-of-40 three-pointers this season, including 9-of-17 from the start of the Round of 16 onwards. He is peaking at just the right moment, setting his BCL season and career-high with 15 points in Game 3 of the Quarter-Finals, and he's at 27-of-54 from deep in the Israeli League. That's right, 50 percent on 54 attempts. With Jerusalem being an inside-of-the-arc threat, his shooting touch could be crucial to open things up from outside.



## BRANDON BROWN

DATE OF BIRTH:	14/08/1989
POSITION:	POINT GUARD
HEIGHT:	186CM/6'1"

### CLUB CAREER:

Mount Gambier Pioneers (AUS; 2012-13), Cearense (BRA; 2013-14), Rio Claro (BRA; 2014-15), Omonia Nicosia (CYP; 2015), Wilki Morskie Szczecin (POL; 2015-16), Siarka Tarnobrzeg (POL; 2016), Turów Zgorzelec (POL; 2017), Sopot (POL; 2017-18), Balkan Botevgrad (BUL; 2018-19), Nizhny Novgorod (RUS; 2018-19), Metropolitans 92 (FRA; 2020-21), U-BT Cluj Napoca (ROU; 2021-22), Peristeri bwin (GRE; 2022), Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem (ISR; 2022- )

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 11 POINTS      V HAPOEL ATSMON HOLON; MAR 7, 2023

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 26 POINTS      V LENOVO TENERIFE; DEC 10, 2019

After Noam Shimon Dovrat went down with a serious injury, adding someone as experienced as Brandon Brown was more than a smart move from Jerusalem. Brown is a veteran of the game and this league, making a name for himself with Nizhny Novgorod and U-BT Cluj Napoca, where he picked up one MVP of the Month award last season. Brown initially signed with Peristeri in Greece, but moved to Jerusalem in December and made a difference in the Israeli League, especially. His three-point shooting could help ease the offense as he showed when he hit seven triples against Hapoel Atsmon Holon and six threes against Hapoel Haifa, so it's a matter of having his day to win a big BCL game. One thing to keep in mind – his best BCL game ever came against Lenovo Tenerife, back in 2019-20 when he was playing for Nizhny Novgorod.



## OZ BLAYZER

DATE OF BIRTH:	29/12/1992
POSITION:	SMALL FORWARD
HEIGHT:	199CM/6'6"

### CLUB CAREER:

Hapoel Afula (ISR; 2011-13), Bnei Ofek Dist Herzliya (ISR; 2013-15), Maccabi Haifa (ISR; 2015-18), Maccabi Rishon LeZion (ISR; 2018-20), Maccabi Tel Aviv (ISR; 2020-22), Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem (ISR; 2022- )

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 7 POINTS      V DARUSSAFKA LASSA; OCT 3, 2022

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 7 POINTS      V DARUSSAFKA LASSA; OCT 3, 2022

Imagine being so talented that playing basketball at an elite level is just one part of your professional life. Oz Blayzer is building his own brand, not just on the court as a tough guy who can post a 23-5-5 game in the Israeli League, but also off the court, because he's the founder and owner of his own clothing brand. The basketball part of his life is now entering the part they call longevity. Since he got his first taste of the first division in Israel ten years ago, he has constantly scored between seven and 12 points per game, with the exception of his last season in Maccabi Tel Aviv when he had 5.6 per outing. This season, he is shooting a career-best mark of 40.9 percent from beyond the arc in the Israeli League, but he's yet to produce at that rate in the BCL.



## NOAM DOVRAT

DATE OF BIRTH:	16/07/2002
POSITION:	GUARD
HEIGHT:	195CM/6'5"

### CLUB CAREER:

Maccabi Rishon LeZion (ISR; 2019-21), Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem (ISR; 2021- )

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 8 POINTS

BAKKEN BEARS; NOV 1, 2022

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 9 POINTS

V PROMETEY; JAN 12, 2022

Noam Shimon Dovrat is the 'what if' part of the Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem story this season. He is one of the most talented players in Israeli basketball, but his BCL campaign ended just three games into last season and we never got to see his best in 2022-23, because of a knee injury that ended his season prematurely. Dovrat was the MVP of the FIBA U18 European Championship, Division B in 2019, and made his senior national team debut already in 2020. He's about to turn 21, so he's got his whole career in front of him and no rush to come back to the court earlier than necessary. Basketball fans all over the continent will wait patiently to get the chance to watch again a guy who averaged 11 points, 3 assists and 3 rebounds per game as an 18-year-old in the Israeli League.



## NOAM YAACOV

DATE OF BIRTH:	20/10/2004
POSITION:	POINT GUARD
HEIGHT:	186CM/6'1"

### CLUB CAREER:

Hapoel Emek Hefer (ISR; 2020-21), ASVEL (FRA; 2021- ), Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem (ISR; 2023- )

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 2 POINTS

V AEK, APR 19, 2023

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 2 POINTS

V AEK, APR 19, 2023

Born to a Danish mother and an Israeli father, Yaacov could be the next big thing for Israeli basketball. He moved to Israel at 13, living with his grandparents, and his talent became evident quickly. After his first pro season in Israel he earned the chance to join ASVEL. Still just 18, it was tough for him to get regular minutes in France, so ASVEL agreed on a loan deal with Jerusalem and unlocked beast mode for the teenager. He is playing regularly in the Israeli League, just scored his first BCL points in the Quarter-Finals, and played his best game with the national team, putting up 18 points, 7 rebounds and 7 assists on the road against Slovenia in February. That was an impressive month for him, as he also played a crucial role in the Semi-Final win over Hapoel Haifa in the Israeli Cup, picking up 11 points, on 9-of-9 free throws.



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# LENOVO TENERIFE



## Igor:

Let's go to the defending champs. Awesome season once again, not only are they back to the BCL Final Four, but they are also looking at home court advantage in the Spanish Liga Endesa playoffs and played the Final of the Copa del Rey. How did they get to the Final Four here?

## Diccon:

It has been very much business as usual for the defending champs this season. We have grown so accustomed to them playing basketball at such a high level, that at times it can be easy to take it for granted.

Their first game of the season illustrated the point perfectly. They won 89-74 to Rytas



Vilnius at home, with the top three performers being a surprise to nobody: Marcelinho Huertas, Sasu Salin, and Giorgi Shermadini. The rest of the Regular Season saw them finish top of their group, with their only two losses coming on the road, at Peristeri Bwin and Rytas Vilnius.

The Round of 16 again started with an 86-65 statement win at home to UCAM Murcia. This time with Bruno Fitipaldo joining the scoring party, knocking down six of seven from deep. The other notable stat that night was they only recorded 11 assists in total. That number is a regular night's work for Huertas alone on most weeks. To record that number as a team perhaps alludes to an evolution in this group. Murcia did return the favor and won the home game, but it made no material difference to the Tenerife juggernaut, as that was their only loss of the Round of 16. They stampeded through with a 5-1 win-loss record and secured home advantage in the Quarter-Finals.

Awaiting them there was a familiar foe in last year's finalists, BAXI Manresa. Txus Vidorreta's team were eventually comfortable winners in the series, thanks to a seven-point win in Game 1 and a 12-point win in the Game 3 decider. There were some nerves as Manresa forced them into an uncharacteristic 15 turnovers in Game 2, but those jitters didn't last long. The decisive Game 3 never looked in doubt at any moment.

And here we are, a record fourth Semi-Final for Vidorreta and Tenerife and also a chance to join Hereda San Pablo Burgos as the only team to win back-to-back.

**Igor:**

The eye test suggests they play a slow, controlled style of basketball, with emphasis on team-first mentality and creating the best shot for any player. Would you agree, based on advanced stats?

**Diccon:**

If you were to look at pace or possessions per game, you would see that Tenerife are certainly down the list, ranked 25th in the BCL, with 70.8 possessions per contest. That number is backed up further when you see that they score just 4.9 fast break points per game, comfortably the lowest amongst all the Final Four teams. They traditionally prefer a controlled game, with the likes of Huertas and Fitipaldo using the pick-and-roll to methodically dissect teams and create the best shot possible. One very curious

stat category for Tenerife this season is Assist Percentage. A mere 64.3 percent of their made field goals have come from assists, ranking them 20th in the league. Tenerife have traditionally topped the charts in this category, so it's certainly curious to see that guys on this team are much more likely to create their own shot this season. No matter how they go about their business, the one thing that a Txus Vidorreta team will always be is efficient, and this year is no different. They have a Net Rating of +12.6 points per 100 possessions, making them the second-most efficient team in the league, after Unicaja. This is thanks largely to their defense. Tenerife rank third in the BCL for Defensive Rating, conceding just 102.5 points per 100 possessions.

**Igor:**

Okay, that was in depth. Now let's reverse it, let's go 'in shallow'. Shortest possible answer: What makes you think they could win this?

**Diccon:**

This is the reigning champions we are talking about. They have the reigning Final Four MVP in Marcelinho Huertas, in Sasu Salin they have the best shooter in the history of the BCL, few would argue against Giorgi Shermadini as the best center in the league, and Txus Vidorreta has more wins in this competition than any other coach.

**Igor:**

What makes you think they won't win this?

**Diccon:**

Only one team has ever gone back-to-back and it is incredibly difficult to do. The probabilities are never in your favor, especially without home-court advantage.

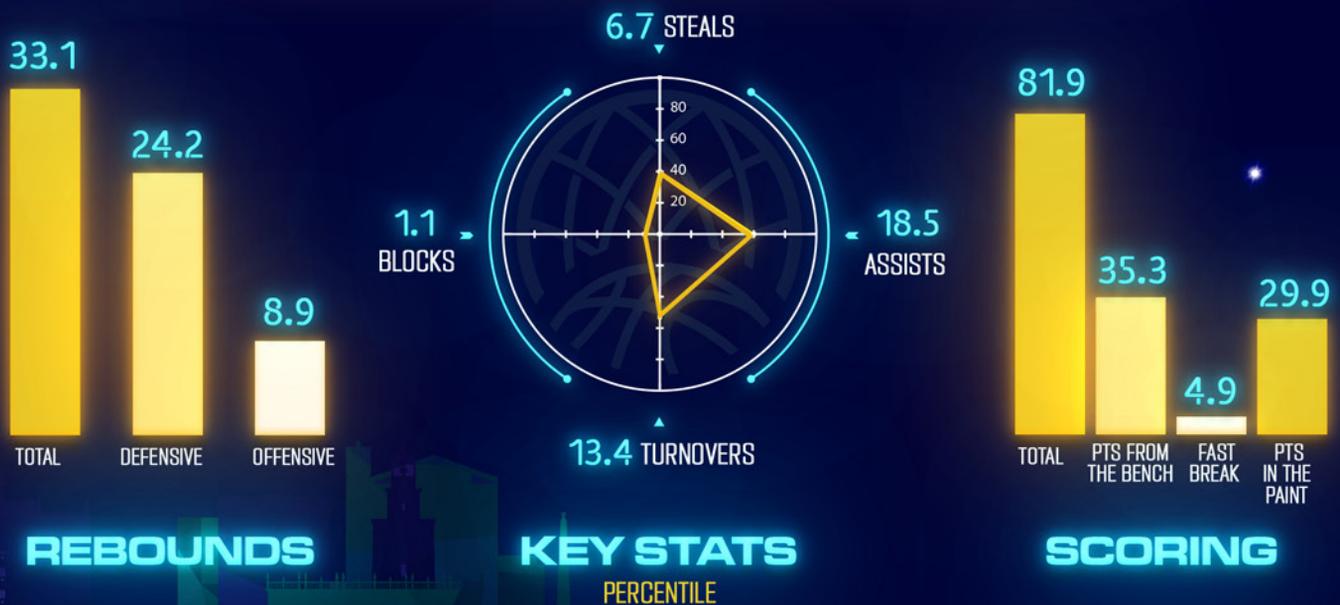
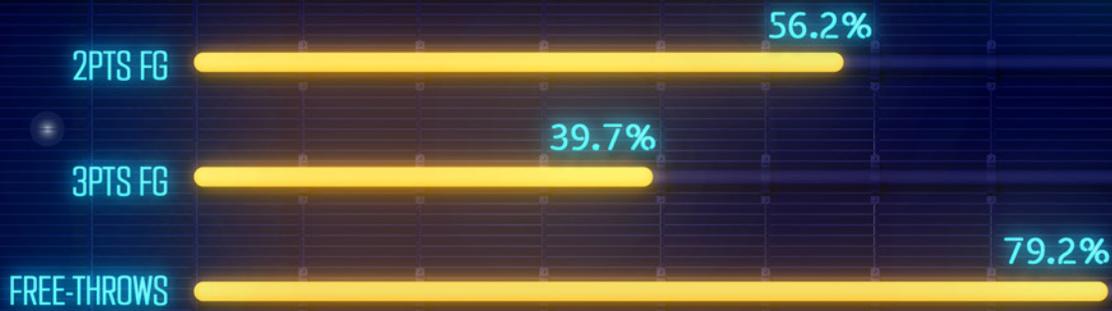
**Igor:**

Your favorite thing to watch about Tenerife?

**Diccon:**

If you have paid attention over the years, you will be well versed in 'Tenerife action' for Salin to shoot, or the 'Argentina break' for Shermadini to score in the paint. As far as I am concerned though, I could watch the way they use the ball screen for hours on end. The instinctive understanding of everything the defense can throw at them and the automatic reactions from all five on the floor is pure magic.

SHOOTING %



HEAD COACH

**TXUS VIDORRETA**

DATE OF BIRTH: 20/06/1966

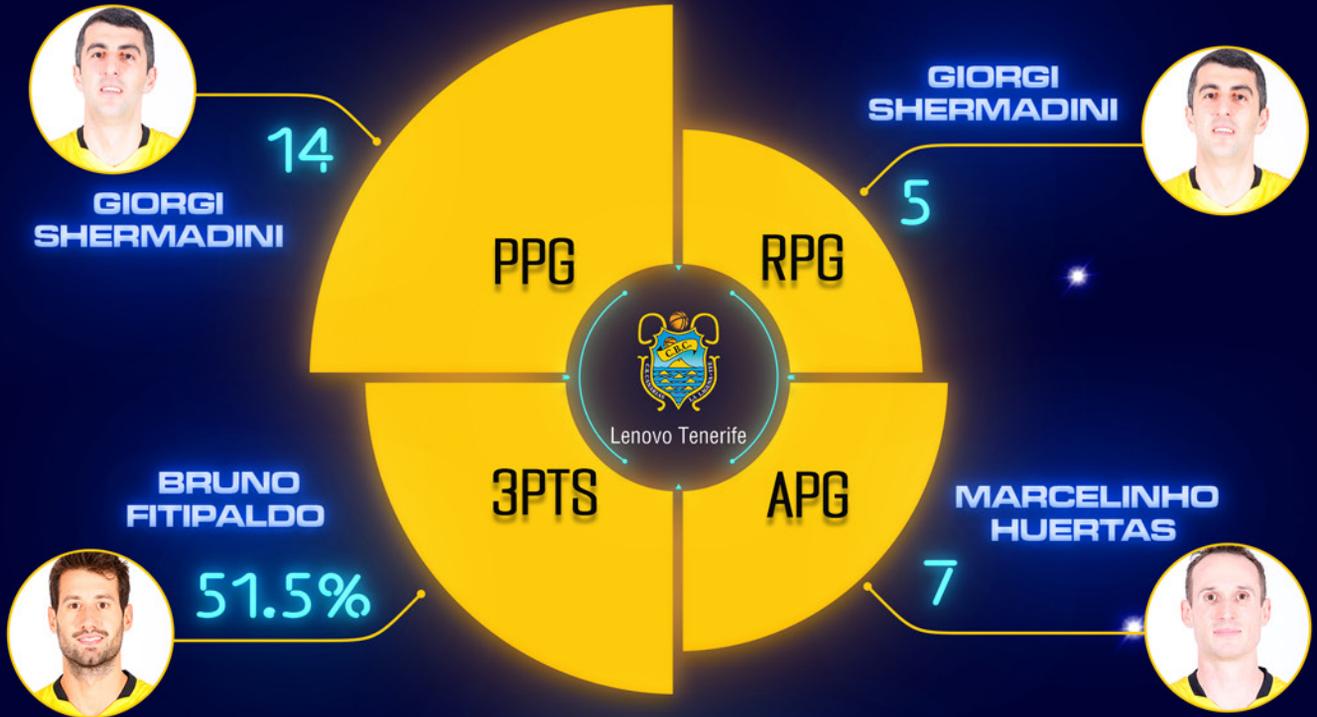
BCL COACHING RECORD: 79-25-1

BCL RANKING IN COACHING WINS: #1

COACHING CAREER:

CajaBilbao (ESP; 1992-94), Askartza (ESP; 1995-96, 1997-98), Bilbao Patronato (ESP; 1996-97), La Palma (ESP; 1998-2001), Bilbao (ESP; 2001-10), Lucentum Alicante (ESP; 2010-12), Estudiantes (ESP; 2012-15), Tenerife (ESP; 2015-17), Valencia (ESP; 2017-18), Tenerife (ESP; 2018-)

All-time leader, two-time winner. Txus Vidorreta, who is currently sharing with Joan Penarroya the title of the most decorated coach in the BCL, is looking to become the first with three titles to his name. The 2022 Final Four was emotional for coach Txus as it took place in his hometown of Bilbao, and it ended with him lifting the spiky BCL crown in Miribilla. Yet things got even better in 2022-23. Vidorreta brought in five new players and it took about ten seconds for them to fit in his flowing offense system. The defense improved and got more physical with the addition of Tim Abromaitis, Elgin Cook and Leandro Bolmaro and Vidorreta put his trust in Jaime Fernandez to win games in the clutch. Vidorreta added another FIBA Intercontinental Cup to Tenerife's trophy case, and led the club to their first ever Copa del Rey Final and, as if that was not enough, they have already secured a Play-Off berth in the Liga Endesa and are two games away from retaining the BCL title. As the most experienced coach in this Final Four, Vidorreta's extra motivation in Malaga will be to prove there's no school like old school. Telekom Baskets Bonn playcaller Tuomas Iisalo was still in elementary school in 1992 when Vidorreta got his first gig, at CajaBilbao.



### DEADLY DUO





STAR PLAYER

## MARCELINHO HUERTAS

DATE OF BIRTH:	25/05/1983
POSITION:	POINT GUARD
HEIGHT:	190CM/6'3"

### CLUB CAREER:

FMU Sao Paulo (BRA; 2001-02, 2003-04), Pinheiros (BRA; 2002-03), Joventut (ESP; 2004-07), Bilbao (ESP; 2007-08), Fortitudo Bologna (ITA; 2008-09), Baskonia (ESP; 2009-11), Barcelona (ESP; 2011-15), Los Angeles Lakers (USA; 2015-17), Baskonia (ESP; 2017-19), Tenerife (ESP; 2019- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	20 POINTS	V UCAM MURCIA; JAN 24, 2023
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	20 POINTS	MULTIPLE TIMES

It's a case of 'pick your poison' when selecting a single star player on this Tenerife, but Marcelinho Huertas is much more than a star. The Brazilian shows no signs of slowing down with his 40th birthday approaching and remains hungry to add more trophies to his collection. He was crowned 2022 Final Four MVP after his exploits in Bilbao, with 17 points and 9 assists against Hapoel Holon in the Semi-Finals, and a 13-point, 14-assist double-double versus BAXI Manresa in the Final. Marcelinho found the fountain of youth somewhere on the island, his switch to a plant-based diet probably also playing a big role in prolonging his career on this level. The fact he's up to 12.7 points and 7 assists per game and flirting with a 50-40-90 shooting line proves that he's got the tools to make a difference on the court even as a 39-year-old - his 12.7 points per game make the 2022-23 campaign his best scoring European season ever. Marcelinho will always be the player who dished out the last assist to the late Kobe Bryant during that 60-point game against the Utah Jazz and other guys would have called time on their career on that highlight in 2016. Luckily, he decided to keep playing, and he's a basketball magician and the best decision-maker off one leg.



## BRUNO FITIPALDO

DATE OF BIRTH:	02/08/1991
POSITION:	SHOOTING GUARD
HEIGHT:	185CM/6'1"

### CLUB CAREER:

Club Malvin (URU; 2006-14), Obras Sanitarias (ARG; 2014-16), Orlandina (ITA; 2016), Galatasaray (TUR; 2016-17), Avellino (ITA; 2017-18), San Pablo Burgos (ESP; 2018-20), Tenerife (ESP; 2020- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	23 POINTS	V UCAM MURCIA; JAN 24, 2023
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	24 POINTS	V DINAMO SASSARI; NOV 4, 2020

For the first time in his entire career, Bruno Fitipaldo is averaging double digits in scoring in an international competition. The 31-year-old was always known for his team-first attitude and not caring for his individual points, but his shooting stroke is looking different this season. The Uruguayan guard is the biggest threat from beyond the arc in 2022-23, getting 35-of-68 three-pointers to drop, which translates to 51.5 percent shooting on five attempts per game. That fits in with the narrative that this is his coming-of-age run. He's no longer the unsung hero of the team, but is ready to take over and steer the ship home. That's exactly what he did during the FIBA Intercontinental Cup 2023, winning the MVP of the event award, and that's also what he did in the BCL Quarter-Finals, earning his spot on the Team of the Month for April.



## GIORGI SHERMADINI

DATE OF BIRTH:	02/04/1989
POSITION:	CENTER
HEIGHT:	217CM/7'1"

### CLUB CAREER:

Maccabi Tbilisi (GEO; 2005-08), Panathinaikos (GRE; 2008-10), Union Olimpija (SLO; 2010-11), Cantu (ITA; 2011-12, 2014-15), Maccabi Tel Aviv (ISR; 2012), Olympiacos (GRE; 2012-13, 2014), Zaragoza (ESP; 2013, 2014), Andorra (ESP; 2015-17), Unicaja (ESP; 2017-19), Tenerife (ESP; 2019- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	22 POINTS	V SURNE BILBAO; FEB 7, 2023
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	26 POINTS	V BAKKEN BEARS; OCT 20, 2020

It's a bit of a homecoming for Giorgi Shermadini, who spent two seasons with Unicaja before joining Lenovo Tenerife back in 2019. Not much has changed since his first season with the Canary Islands squad. He may be four years older, but his work rate remained around the 22-minute mark per game in the BCL, consistent throughout his entire time at Tenerife. His scoring average is 14 points this season, up from 13.3 last year, and he's also up to a BCL career-high 66.7 percent field goal percentage. He recently became the player with the most Liga Endesa MVP of the Month awards, and he also helped Georgia reach their first-ever FIBA Basketball World Cup. Another milestone is approaching fast: with 891 points in his BCL career, he's nine points away from becoming the second player in league history to reach 900 points, behind Vojtech Hruban who has 996.



## SASU SALIN

DATE OF BIRTH:	11/06/1991
POSITION:	SHOOTING GUARD
HEIGHT:	191CM/6'3"

### CLUB CAREER:

Espoon Honka (FIN; 2007-10), Union Olimpija (SLO; 2010-15), Gran Canaria (ESP; 2015-17), Unicaja (ESP; 2017-19), Tenerife (ESP; 2019- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	18 POINTS	TWICE
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	34 POINTS	V GALATASARAY; DEC 15, 2020

Another former member of Unicaja, Sasu Salin struggled with injuries just before the Final Four. However, his start to the season was as Salinesque as they get, with five straight games in double digits and shooting 21-of-40 from deep in that stretch. His accuracy declined a bit during the Round of 16, but he's still shooting 39.4 percent on eight attempts from three-point range per game, giving the opposing defense such gravitational pull that's opening the floor up for Marcelinho Huertas, Giorgi Shermadini and others to do their thing. Always in a good mood, fluent in multiple languages, Salin is so media friendly we'll gladly hand over all the BCL editorial duties to him once he announces his retirement from professional basketball. Don't forget he is still relatively young, about to celebrate his 32nd birthday, which is really a surprising number because he has been playing professional basketball for the past 16 years.



## JOAN SASTRE

DATE OF BIRTH:	10/12/1991
POSITION:	SMALL FORWARD
HEIGHT:	201CM/6'7"
CLUB CAREER:	

Inca (ESP; 2008), Mallorca (ESP; 2008-09), Sevilla (ESP; 2009-14), Zaragoza (ESP; 2014-16), Valencia (ESP; 2016-21), Tenerife (ESP; 2021- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	7 POINTS	TWICE
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	15 POINTS	V PINAR KARSIVAKA; JAN 20, 2022

This man knows how to win trophies, and he is two games away from winning at another big event. Joan Sastre won the FIBA Intercontinental Cup this season, the Basketball Champions League last season, the EuroCup in 2019 and the 2017 Spanish League title. He was a member of the FIBA EuroBasket 2017 Spain team that won bronze, but this season saw him struggle to get up to his usual numbers. Sastre is yet to reach double digits in scoring in the BCL and the Liga Endesa but when he takes to the court Tenerife are usually on the good side of the +/- department. Look no further than last season's Final Four, when he had 8 points in the Semi-Finals and 9 in the Final, while taking just 11 shots from the floor over the weekend. Low minutes, flying under the radar, then delivering efficient blows - that's Sastre in a nutshell.



## AARON DOORNEKAMP

DATE OF BIRTH:	05/12/1985
POSITION:	SMALL FORWARD
HEIGHT:	201CM/6'7"
CLUB CAREER:	

Carleton (CAN; 2004-09), Caserta (ITA; 2009-12), Braunschweig (GER; 2013-14), Skyliners Frankfurt (GER; 2014-16), Tenerife (ESP; 2016-17, 2020- ), Valencia (ESP; 2017-20)

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	9 POINTS	TWICE
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	23 POINTS	V FILOU OOSTENDE; JAN 11, 2017

Winner of the first BCL title, winner of the most recent BCL title. Aaron Doornekamp's European career started way back in 2009 and when he won the FIBA Europe Cup as a 30-year-old in 2016, it felt like he'd reached his prime as a player. Spoiler: he hadn't. Doornekamp is still going strong at 37 years of age, and he always shows up in big games, such as the Semi-Finals and the Final last season. With so much going on around Sasu Salin's and Bruno Fitipaldo's shooting, Marcelinho Huertas' orchestra conducting and Giorgi Shermadini dominating inside, Doornekamp is the guy whose points feel like daggers every time. He found peace in Tenerife, this being his fourth season on the island, and since he's got that easy-going-surfer vibe to him, don't be surprised if he remains in the Canary Islands after he's done playing.



## FRAN GUERRA

DATE OF BIRTH:	23/12/1992
POSITION:	CENTER
HEIGHT:	214CM/7'0"
CLUB CAREER:	

Estudiantes (ESP; 2012-14, 2015-16), Forca Lleida (ESP; 2014-15), Ourense (ESP; 2016-17), Melilla (ESP; 2017-18), Palma (ESP; 2018-19), Tenerife (ESP; 2019- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	15 POINTS	V PERISTERI BWIN; DEC 14, 2022
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	17 POINTS	V DINAMO SASSARI; OCT 13, 2021

Just four years ago Fran Guerra was still battling through the lower divisions of Spanish basketball, trying to find his place as a player. While many would have settled for what he had back when he was 26, it was never good enough for the big tattooed center. Guerra worked his way up, and turned himself into a formidable presence in painted areas all over the world. He made the Spanish national team roster, and his slower start to the season is long gone now. Guerra had a couple of double-digit games in the BCL - scoring 15 against Peristeri bwin and 10 against Darussafaka Lassa - and saved his best in the Liga Endesa for tough opponents, posting two games of 10+ points against Valencia and 12 points in just 15 minutes against Barcelona. Expect him to be the alley-oop receiver but also the alley-oop passer, as he's learned how to set up teammates after short rolls on the ball.



## JAIME FERNANDEZ

DATE OF BIRTH:	04/06/1993
POSITION:	SHOOTING GUARD
HEIGHT:	184CM/6'0"
CLUB CAREER:	

Estudiantes (ESP; 2010-17), Andorra (ESP; 2017-18), Unicaja (ESP; 2018-22), Tenerife (ESP; 2022- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	18 POINTS	V RYTAS VILNIUS; DEC 21, 2022
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	21 POINTS	V NIZHNY NOVGOROD; OCT 6, 2021

Trying to add a good new player over the summer is a tricky business. But whenever you get an opportunity to sign a FIBA EuroBasket 2022 champion, it should be considered a safe bet. Jaime Fernandez was a member of Spain's gold medal winning team in September and he kept winning when he went to Tenerife. Reuniting with Txus Vidorreta might be a factor, since he was the coach that ushered Fernandez into his first big role in professional basketball, when they coincided at Estudiantes from 2012 to 2015. Vidorreta then parted ways with the Madrid club while Fernandez stayed a couple of years longer, before moving on to prove himself as a reliable scorer with Andorra, Unicaja and now Tenerife. He struggled with injuries through March and April but, if he's able to play even for a minute, coach Vidorreta will probably put him on the floor to take - and make - the game-winning shot. It's happened before.



## MOUSSA DIAGNE

DATE OF BIRTH:	06/03/1994
POSITION:	CENTER
HEIGHT:	211CM/6'11"

### CLUB CAREER:

Obila (ESP; 2012), Fuenlabrada (ESP; 2012-15, 2016-17), Barcelona (ESP; 2015-16), Andorra (ESP; 2017-22), Tenerife (ESP; 2022- )

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 7 POINTS V RYTAS VILNIUS; DEC 21, 2022

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 7 POINTS V RYTAS VILNIUS; DEC 21, 2022

Tenerife needed another big man to help out in the middle, especially early in the season, and Moussa Diagne's Liga Endesa experience made him a solid choice. Officially, he's not a seven-footer, but his reported wingspan of 226cm/7'5" should make us all reconsider, especially when his standing reach looks like he could grab the rim. Diagne hasn't seen a lot of minutes lately, but he'll be ready to go as the third big guy in the frontcourt rotation behind Shermadini and Guerra. He'll provide help as the alley-ooop threat on the offensive end, or protecting the rim and the painted area on the other side of the court. Diagne was one of the biggest prospects worldwide as a teenager, moving from Senegal to Spain at 17, and signing a three-year deal with Barcelona at 21. He found happiness in Tenerife and is looking to win the first European trophy of his career with this club.



## ELGIN COOK

DATE OF BIRTH:	15/01/1993
POSITION:	SMALL FORWARD
HEIGHT:	197CM/6'6"

### CLUB CAREER:

Santa Cruz Warriors (USA; 2016-17), MHP RIESEN (GER; 2017-18), Cedevita Zagreb (CRO; 2018-19), Avtodor Saratov (RUS; 2019-20), UNICS (RUS; 2020), Belediyespor (TUR; 2020-21), Tofas Bursa (TUR; 2021-22), Tenerife (ESP; 2022- )

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 7 POINTS V UCAM MURCIA; MAR 15, 2023

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 26 POINTS V SIKELIARCHIVI CAPO D'ORLANDO; FEB 6, 2018

You know what gets you minutes on an elite level these days? Defense. Elgin Cook is here to bring his physicality and pure defensive talent, inherited from his dad Alvin Robertson who is one of only four players in NBA history to post a quadruple-double, and the NBA season leader in steals on three different occasions. As if genes weren't enough, Cook's first European experience was in Ludwigsburg, where he played his role perfectly for coach John Patrick en route to the BCL Final Four. This season, he had two games with four steals in the Liga Endesa, and he's gone into double digits in scoring in seven games, unlike in the BCL where he's yet to climb over 7 points this season. We've seen him however get into 20+ point territory regularly while at MHP RIESEN or Tofas Bursa, so it's just a matter of playing a different role at Tenerife.



## TIM ABROMAITIS

DATE OF BIRTH:	17/09/1989
POSITION:	POWER FORWARD
HEIGHT:	203CM/6'8"

### CLUB CAREER:

ASVEL (FRA; 2012-13), SIG Strasbourg (FRA; 2013-14), Braunschweig (GER; 2014-15), Tenerife (ESP; 2015-19, 2022- ), Zenit (RUS; 2019-20), Unicaja (ESP; 2020-22)

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 15 POINTS V BNEI OFEK DIST HERZLIYA; NOV 2, 2022

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 23 POINTS V FRIBOURG OLYMPIC; OCT 23, 2018

Another returning player from Tenerife's 2016-17 BCL winning squad, Tim Abromaitis was one of the biggest reasons why Txus Vidorreta and Tenerife lifted the trophy in the inaugural edition of the Basketball Champions League, putting up 19 points and 9 rebounds in the Semi-Final against Reyer Venezia. Abromaitis reached the Final with Tenerife in 2019, too, and was selected to the Star Lineup First Team. He enters this Final Four with more honors to his name, as the all-time leader in rebounds in the BCL. The American forward of Lithuanian descent registered his three best games of the season so far in the Quarter-Finals against BAXI Manresa, with a total of 33 points to push Tenerife to the Final Four yet again. Abromaitis' father Jim was also a professional basketball player, drafted by the New Jersey Nets in 1979, and playing for Real Madrid and Varese in Europe.



## LEANDRO BOLMARO

DATE OF BIRTH:	11/09/2000
POSITION:	SHOOTING GUARD
HEIGHT:	198CM/6'6"

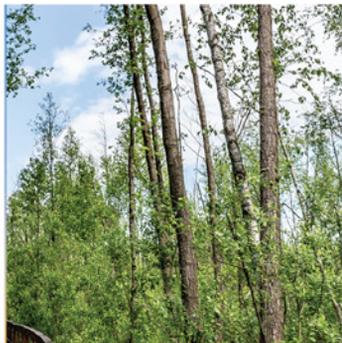
### CLUB CAREER:

Estudiantes de Bahia Blanca (ARG; 2017-18), Barcelona (ESP; 2018-21), Minnesota Timberwolves (USA; 2021-22), Iowa Wolves (USA; 2021-22), Utah Jazz (USA; 2022-23), Salt Lake City Stars (USA; 2022-23), Tenerife (ESP; 2023- )

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 15 POINTS V DARUSSAFKA LASSA; MAR 21, 2023

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 15 POINTS V DARUSSAFKA LASSA; MAR 21, 2023

Still just 22 years old, Leandro Bolmaro has already been a professional basketball player for six years, and has seen more than most players will see in their entire careers. Bolmaro played just one season of professional basketball in Argentina before signing for Barcelona, and by his third year there he was a regular on coach Sarunas Jasikevicius' rotation. He was drafted in 2020, and moved between the NBA and the G League in his time with the Timberwolves and the Jazz. In order to get more minutes and a bigger role, a trip back to Europe had to happen. Enter Lenovo Tenerife, in search of a young energetic guard to give them more firepower in 2023. Bolmaro is fitting in nicely, he had a dagger three-pointer on the road in Bilbao already, and he seems to be back to full fitness after a minor ankle injury in April.



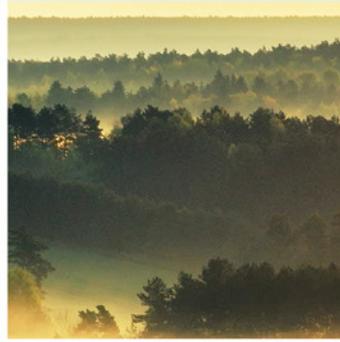
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# TELEKOM BASKETS BONN



## Igor:

The best of the rest. That's a short summary of Telekom Baskets Bonn, a club which was always close to winning trophies, but never made that final leap to pick up major silverware. Bringing in Tuomas Iisalo to call the plays proved to be a great move as he won the German Bundesliga Coach of the Year award last season, and Bonn were just a win away from reaching the BBL Finals. With the way they are playing this season, it seems that the trophy is a matter of when, not if. They got to the BCL Final Four in dominant fashion, right?

## Diccon:

Tuomas Iisalo's Bonn squad seemed to catch almost everyone off guard, but the Regular Season didn't start with everything going to plan. An opening-day loss to Unahotels Reggio Emilia was far from the signal you might expect from a team that would eventually go on an 11-game unbeaten run, becoming just the third team in BCL history with a double-digit win streak. Bonn instantly righted the wrongs of that defeat with a statement win on the very next gameday. Their 83-71 win over Pinar Karsiyaka was as ruthless as it was



surprising. T.J. Shorts stole the limelight with 28 points and 8 assists. Head over to his player profile for more on his impressive scoring feats this season. By the time Bonn had swept AEK in a double-header and won on the road in Izmir against Karsiyaka, there were no statements left to make. Everyone knew this was a serious outfit.

The Round of 16 came with a dangerous group including Rytas Vilnius, Bahcesehir College and last year's runners-up, BAXI Manresa. In truth, Bonn made light work of the Round of 16, looking very much like they had pulled a Space Jam and stolen Manresa's vibes from the season before. They won every game bar one with a margin of 10 points or more. Bahcesehir got within six points on the first gameday but Collin Malcolm and Sebastian Herrera proved that this is a team that has others that can win games, scoring 13 and 14 points respectively.

For the first time, Telekom Baskets Bonn reached the Quarter-Finals in the BCL. On the opposite side of the court they faced SIG Strasbourg, one of the league's most consistent contenders. Strasbourg shocked the home crowd and took Game 1, 76-77, as Marcus Keene showed everyone there was more than one scoring guard capable of winning games in the BCL. But Michael Kessens and Sebastian Herrera stepped up to do the heavy lifting that was needed in Game 2. Kessens posted a 16-point, 10-rebound double-double and Herrera knocked down five threes on his way to 19 points. The decisive game back in Bonn was more comfortable than many home fans feared in might be. Shorts did his thing with 24 points and Tyson Ward won his battles on both ends, with 12 points and 8 rebounds.

**Igor:**

For any basketball fan out there, this is what Bonn games feel like: pressure - deflection - steal - run - shoot - get offensive boards. If that plan doesn't work, let TJ Shorts dance. Not sure how you'll get the numbers to verify that.

**Diccon:**

Tuomas Iisalo talks about the number of details his players need to understand in order to make the structure of their system look like freedom hoops. Whatever those details are, they have been working. Bonn have the third-best Net Rating in the BCL, outscoring their opponents by 11.7 points per 100 possessions. A great deal of that efficiency comes

from how good they are offensively. This team scores at a rate of 116 points per 100 possessions, second only to Unicaja this season. Not only do they focus on the details but they also take care of the little things. Bonn are league leaders this season when it comes to offensive rebounding, pulling down a whopping 37.5 percent of their own misses.

**Igor:**

Okay, you actually managed to verify it. We had Bonn on top of the Power Rankings, what other reason do we have to believe they could win Season Seven?

**Diccon:**

Bonn can win this because they have almost certainly been the best team in the BCL this season. Nobody can say they had an easy route after coming through groups with the likes of AEK, Pinar Karsiyaka, the Lithuanian champs Rytas, and last year's runners up BAXI Manresa. No matter what has been thrown at this team, they have had the answers.

**Igor:**

Let's go in the other direction. With all the positives we just named, one would imagine they are unbeatable. Are they really? What could be their biggest weakness heading into the Final Four?

**Diccon:**

Depth. We have seen that becoming an issue before, when teams reach the Final Four and need to win two of the toughest games they will play all season in the space of just three days. They do have 10 players that have played big minutes and in key roles. They just might need every one of them if they are to lift this beautiful trophy.

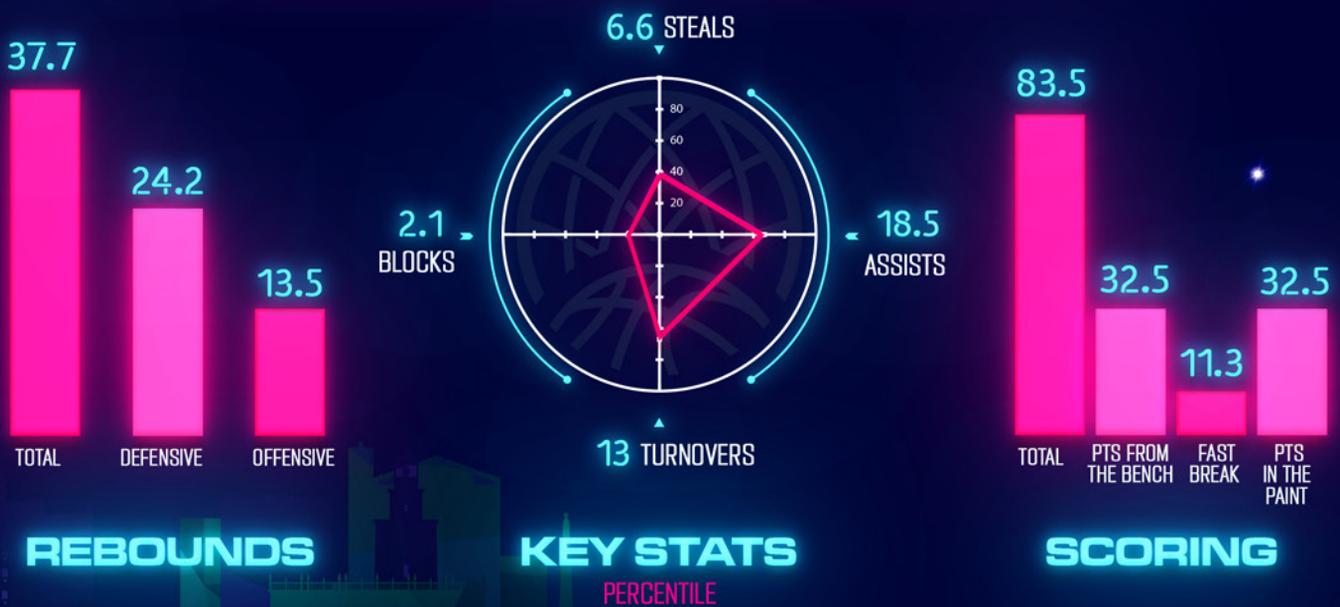
**Igor:**

The rhythm is there, the individual firepower, too. Do you have one favorite thing to watch when they are out there on the court? Could be a play, a player, a playcaller, a playlist, a play on words...

**Diccon:**

'Gortat' screens. When defenses use more conservative coverages in the pick-and-roll, watch how good Bonn's bigs are at rolling and then screening their own defender for a second time to prevent them helping on the ball handler. These are the types of details that make Iisalo's team special.

SHOOTING %



HEAD COACH

TUOMAS IISALO

DATE OF BIRTH: 29/07/1982

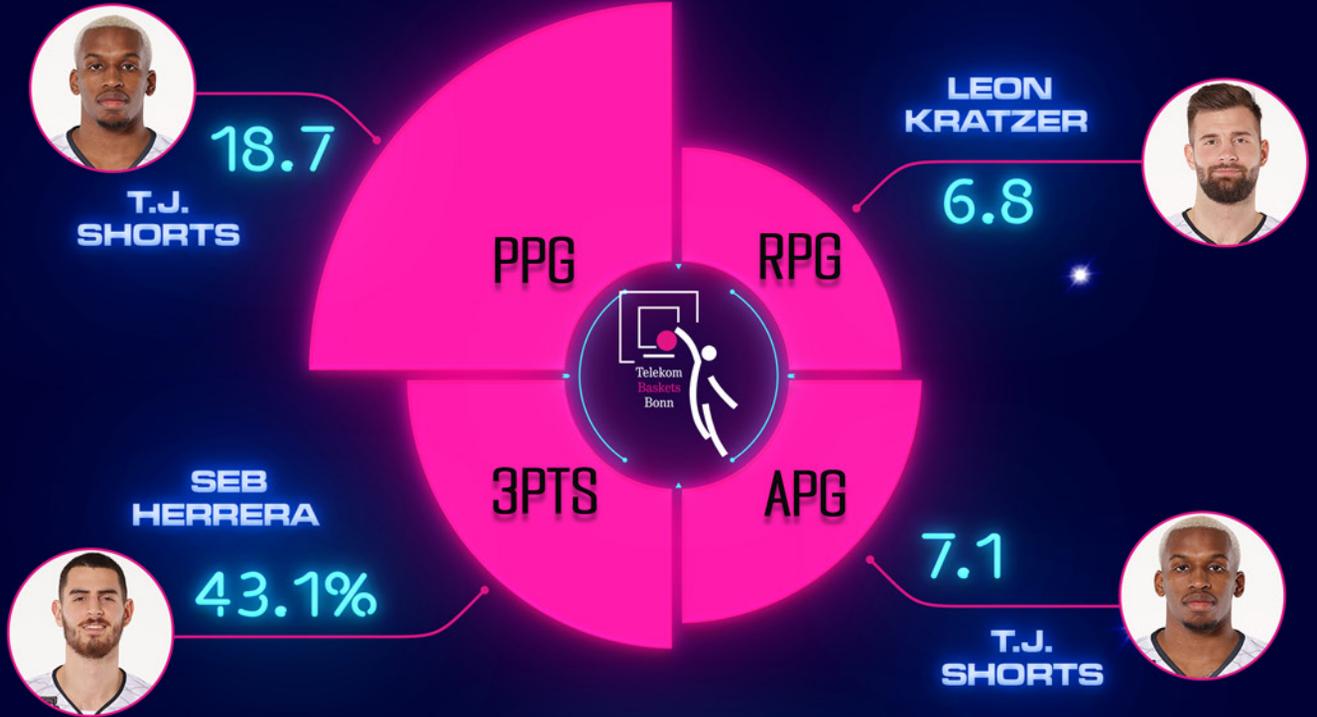
BCL COACHING RECORD: 13-2

BCL RANKING IN COACHING WINS: #36

COACHING CAREER:

Tapiolan Honka (FIN; 2014-15), Finland U20 (national team; 2014), Crailsheim Merlins (GER; 2016-21), Telekom Baskets Bonn (GER; 2021- )

To be fair, we expected nothing less from the reigning Basketball Bundesliga Coach of the Year. Tuomas Iisalo went back-to-back thanks to the way his team reacted in his second season in Bonn, holding the top spot in the German League Regular Season standings for most of the season, with the added bonus that this time around Bonn are playing the BCL, too. How do they do it? By being a mentality monster, as Iisalo describes his players. He admitted he was a bit lucky to land a coaching job in Crailsheim after just a single season of coaching in Finland, but he proved his worth with the Merlins almost immediately, taking them to the top division and steering them to their first-ever Play-offs appearance. Now, he's up for more 'firsts' because he's two wins away from guiding Telekom Baskets Bonn to their first international trophy, and in pole position to win the Bundesliga for the first time, ever. His mantra is that nobody can out-coach bad recruiting. It's hard to figure out whether he knows what bad recruiting is, because he's got a thing of luring former players back to his team, which speaks volumes on his man-management in the locker room. Iisalo is continuing the tradition of Finnish coaches in the BCL, following in Lassi Tuovi's footsteps.



### DEADLY DUO





## T.J. SHORTS

DATE OF BIRTH: 15/10/1997

POSITION: POINT GUARD

HEIGHT: 175CM/5'9"

### CLUB CAREER:

Ventspils (LAT; 2019-20),  
Hamburg Towers (GER; 2020-21),  
Crailsheim Merlins (GER; 2021-22),  
Telekom Baskets Bonn (GER; 2022- )

STAR PLAYER

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 28 POINTS V PINAR KARSİYAKA; OCT 12, 2022

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 28 POINTS V PINAR KARSİYAKA; OCT 12, 2022

We got acquainted with TJ Shorts in the 2019-20 edition of the FIBA Europe Cup, when he averaged 14.6 points, 6.3 assists and 2.8 rebounds per game. He then went to Germany and played the same competition in 2021-22, lifting his scoring averages to 17.6 points, adding 6 assists and 3.7 rebounds per game, and won the Top Scorer award in the Bundesliga, averaging 21 points per game. A move to a bigger stage was inevitable, and he followed coach Iisalo from Crailsheim to Bonn. In a historic start to the season, he became the first player to score 25 or more points in three consecutive games, crushing Kevin Punter's record of three in a row. Shorts enters the Final Four as the favorite to win the MVP of the Season award with 18.7 points, 7.1 assists and 4 rebounds per game. If he does win, we would have back-to-back UC Davis Aggies' players as MVPs, since Chima Moneke and Shorts were college teammates. Among the numerous records Shorts set in his rookie BCL season, one stands out - he's the first player with seven games of 20+ points and 5+ assists in a single BCL campaign. If he reminds you of Tyrese Rice, that's okay - he said Rice was his favorite overseas player, and he's studied his game.



## SEBASTIAN HERRERA

DATE OF BIRTH: 01/11/1997

POSITION: GUARD

HEIGHT: 193CM/6'4"

### CLUB CAREER:

Universidad Catolica de Chile (CHI; 2013-14), Trier (GER; 2014-15),  
Gladiators Trier (GER; 2015-17),  
Crailsheim Merlins (GER; 2017-20),  
EWE Baskets Oldenburg (GER; 2020-22),  
Telekom Baskets Bonn (GER; 2022- )

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 19 POINTS SIG STRASBOURG; APR 11, 2023

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 19 POINTS SIG STRASBOURG; APR 11, 2023

Every team needs a catch-and-shoot specialist. If you've watched Bonn play you're probably picturing the Chilean shooter knocking down shots from the 45 degree angle, or snapping backwards after successfully executing a Spain pick-and-roll out of a timeout. Herrera's dad was a basketball player in Chile, his mother is from Munich, so at the age of 17 he made the 12,000km trip and began his career in Germany. Since then, he's had four seasons in which he failed to shoot at 40 percent or better from three-point range, and four seasons in which he was above the 40 percent mark. What made the difference between the first quartet and the second? In the four seasons Herrera shot above the 40 percent mark Tuomas Iisalo was his coach, while in the four he fell short he was on teams not coached by Tuomas Iisalo. When Herrera lands in Malaga he will become the first ever Chilean player at a BCL Final Four, putting his country on the European basketball map.



## KARSTEN TADDA

DATE OF BIRTH: 02/11/1988

POSITION: SHOOTING GUARD

HEIGHT: 191CM/6'3"

### CLUB CAREER:

Brose Bamberg (GER; 2007-15),  
Giessen 46ers (GER; 2015-16),  
ratiopharm Ulm (GER; 2016-17), EWE  
Baskets Oldenburg (GER; 2017-21),  
Telekom Baskets Bonn (GER; 2021- )

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 14 POINTS V RYTAS VILNIUS; FEB 8, 2023

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 14 POINTS V RYTAS VILNIUS; FEB 8, 2023

Every team needs their own version of Guy Pnini. This one is a far more athletic version, with Karsten Tadda being one of the toughest defenders in the entire Basketball Champions League, despite being well into his thirties. Tadda was a long-serving national team player for Germany and won a whole lot of silverware in his time in Bamberg, before moving to Ulm, Oldenburg and finally Bonn. He is one of the rare guys to have returned to Bonn from last season, and you already know he's running towards the corner to set his feet and knock down a three-pointer (or two) for good measure. One stat to monitor when Tadda is on the floor is his impact on the +/- category. Bonn were +78 during Tadda's playing time in six games of the Round of 16. That's probably what they mean when they say veteran presence is important with young teams.



## LEON KRATZER

DATE OF BIRTH: 04/02/1997

POSITION: CENTER

HEIGHT: 211CM/6'11"

### CLUB CAREER:

Baunach Young Pikes (GER; 2013-15,  
2015-17), Brose Bamberg (GER;  
2015), s.Oliver Würzburg (GER;  
2017-18), Skyliners Frankfurt (GER;  
2018-20), Telekom Baskets Bonn  
(GER; 2020- )

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 16 POINTS V UNAHOTELS REGGIO EMILIA; DEC 21, 2022

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 16 POINTS V UNAHOTELS REGGIO EMILIA; DEC 21, 2022

Time flies. Just like that, that long-haired youngster from the Skyliners is all grown up, reaching his prime as a player in his third season with Telekom Baskets Bonn. Kratzer enters the Final Four averaging 6 points and 7 rebounds per game in the BCL, but those numbers don't paint the real picture. In actual fact we're talking about a center who can get to 16 points, and has had a couple of 12-rebound games. His Bundesliga averages put him at 9 points and 7 rebounds per game, shooting nearly 70 percent from the field. Kratzer is here to get the screen assists for Shorts, Herrera and others and even though he's one of those big bodies, he has no problems flying high to finish all the alley-oop passes with thunderous dunks. And if he ever gets bored with basketball, he's got a potential modeling career - just check his Würzburg days on Instagram...



## DEANE WILLIAMS

DATE OF BIRTH:	23/09/1996
POSITION:	FORWARD
HEIGHT:	203CM/6'8"

### CLUB CAREER:

Keflavik (ISL; 2019-21), Saint-Quentin (FRA; 2021-22), Telekom Baskets Bonn (GER; 2022- )

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 12 POINTS V UNAHOTELS REGGIO EMILIA; DEC 21, 2022

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 12 POINTS V UNAHOTELS REGGIO EMILIA; DEC 21, 2022

Recruiting is an important process for Telekom Baskets Bonn, and Deane Williams' case goes to show how far they go underneath the surface of basketball in Europe. Williams is a British player who went to school in the United States, in a NCAA Division II program. He then spent a couple of seasons in Iceland and one in the French second division, before receiving a phone call from Bonn. A big body with an outstanding leaping ability, while being a 39.4 shooter from beyond the arc, so it's no wonder Deane found his spot on this roster. Williams reached double figures once in the BCL, but with more games and more minutes, it was obvious he'd get more 10+ point games in the German Bundesliga. He posted five such games and Bonn went 5-0 in those, in addition to winning the game he scored in double digits in the BCL. In other words, you don't want to see Williams in double figures if you're playing against Bonn.



## FINN DELANY

DATE OF BIRTH:	12/08/1995
POSITION:	POWER FORWARD
HEIGHT:	200CM/6'7"

### CLUB CAREER:

Nelson Giants (NZL; 2013-18), New Zealand Breakers (NZL; 2015-22), FMP (SRB; 2019), Telekom Baskets Bonn (GER; 2022- )

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 18 POINTS V BAHCESEHIR COLLEGE; MAR 22, 2023

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 18 POINTS V BAHCESEHIR COLLEGE; MAR 22, 2023

If we had an award for best styling, Finn Delany's moustache would for sure be among the nominees. The 27-year-old forward has been Bonn's most consistent player, along with TJ Shorts, averaging 11 points per game, and scoring exactly 11 points in six games this season. Don't be fooled by his 30 percent shooting percentage from beyond the arc, as he already had seasons above 40 percent in his NBL career. This is his second stint in Europe after a short spell in Serbia, but it feels like he could be here for a long time, judging by his team-first mentality and perfect role playing all year long in Bonn. Once he calls it a day, he's got a whole different career in front of him. Finn is an incredible artist, sharing his paintings online every now and then. Make sure you follow him on Instagram to see for yourself.



## COLLIN MALCOLM

DATE OF BIRTH:	02/07/1997
POSITION:	FORWARD
HEIGHT:	200CM/6'7"

### CLUB CAREER:

Batumi (GEO; 2019-20), Kauhajoki (FIN; 2020-21), Keravnos (CYP; 2021-22), Telekom Baskets Bonn (GER; 2022- )

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 25 POINTS V BAXI MANRESA, FEB 1, 2023

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 25 POINTS V BAXI MANRESA, FEB 1, 2023

Bonn's front office deserves all the praise in the world for finding a gem like Collin Malcolm. He went to a NAIA school in the United States, and his first pro seasons were in Georgia, Finland and Cyprus, but his leaps did not fly under Bonn's radar. It helps to have a Finnish coach to get a real feeling of value for Malcolm's 17.2 points per game in the Korisliiga, and that translated into 19.4 points per game at Keravnos, and regular double-figure games in the Bundesliga and the BCL nowadays. Malcolm had a pair of 20+ point games in the Basketball Champions League, getting five games with multiple three-pointers made. When you pair up good shooting with his powerful 200cm/6'7" frame, you get an explosive combination. His younger brother Devon is also a basketball player, already putting people on posters in the United States with spectacular, Collin-like dunks.



## MICHAEL KESSENS

DATE OF BIRTH:	16/02/1991
POSITION:	CENTER
HEIGHT:	205CM/6'9"

### CLUB CAREER:

Eisbaren Bremerhaven (GER; 2017-18), Rasta Vechta (GER; 2018-20), Fraport Skyliners (GER; 2020-21), Telekom Baskets Bonn (GER; 2021- )

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 16 POINTS V SIG STRASBOURG; APR 11, 2023

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 16 POINTS V SIG STRASBOURG; APR 11, 2023

Timing is everything. If you have to have just one double-double in a season, get it in the game when it matters most, just like Michael Kessens. The Swiss-born center went nuclear with 16 points, 10 rebounds and 5 assists in Game 2 of the Quarter-Finals, helping Telekom Baskets Bonn to steal a game on the road in Strasbourg, force Game 3 and eventually reach their maiden Final Four. His wingspan looks even longer than his 205cm/6'9" height measurement, but he still looks like a shooting guard when he's standing next to one of his best friends. That's because he's really close with Rudy Gobert, a bond that was created more than ten years ago in Cholet, France, where a young Michael was a member of the academy, and Rudy already looked like a top prospect. Ten years and ten thousand kilometers later, the bond is still intact.



## TYSON WARD

DATE OF BIRTH:	26/07/1997
POSITION:	FORWARD
HEIGHT:	198CM/6'6"

### CLUB CAREER:

s.Oliver Würzburg (GER; 2020-21),  
Telekom Baskets Bonn (GER; 2021- )

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 19 POINTS      V BAXI MANRESA; FEB 1, 2023

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 19 POINTS      V BAXI MANRESA; FEB 1, 2023

With Bonn winning so many games and so many players rotating in double digits all season long, it feels like Tyson Ward hasn't peaked in the Basketball Champions League just yet. The lefty forward missed four games in the BCL and scored 10 or more points in just four encounters, nowhere near his December-January explosion in the Bundesliga, when he had a stretch of six double-digit games, including a sublime 29-point, 9-rebound performance against the Skyliners. Ward is a streaky shooter with a quick-fire release, capable of hitting seven threes in any one game, but also capable of going 0-of-5. However, with his mentality and talents, and all the focus on TJ Shorts, Tyson could be the ace in the hole for Telekom Baskets Bonn, the one that propels his team all the way to the top, while picking up a major individual award along the way.



## JAVONTAE HAWKINS

DATE OF BIRTH:	13/11/1993
POSITION:	GUARD
HEIGHT:	196CM/6'5"

### CLUB CAREER:

Vilpas Vikings (FIN; 2017-18),  
Holargos (GRE; 2018-19), Crailsheim  
Merlins (GER; 2019-20), Telekom  
Baskets Bonn (GER; 2021-22, 2023-  
), Limoges CSP (FRA; 2022-23)

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 21 POINTS      V BAXI MANRESA; DEC 6, 2022

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 21 POINTS      V BAXI MANRESA; DEC 6, 2022

When Jeremy Morgan went down with a neck injury, coach Tuomas Iisalo needed to replace a proven scorer with a 196cm/6'5" frame and knowledge of his system, so he brought in a proven scorer with a 196cm/6'5" frame and knowledge of his system. Javontae Hawkins played for coach Iisalo in Crailsheim and Bonn, before moving to Limoges CSP at the start of this season. It did not last long as Hawkins wanted to go back home, and he had 20 points in his first game back with the team. He averaged 10.4 points per game in 12 outings with Limoges CSP in the BCL and 14 points in six games with Bonn, while playing less minutes and increasing his percentages in every column on the boxscore. The best part? He got five BCL wins in 12 games with Limoges. He got five in just six tries with Bonn. Seems like the move back to Germany was a smart one.



## JEREMY MORGAN

DATE OF BIRTH:	08/05/1995
POSITION:	FORWARD
HEIGHT:	196CM/6'5"

### CLUB CAREER:

Memphis Hustle (USA; 2017-18),  
Kouvot (FIN; 2018-19), Crailsheim  
Merlins (GER; 2019-20), Trento (ITA;  
2020-21), Telekom Baskets Bonn  
(GER; 2021- )

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 14 POINTS      V AEK; OCT 25, 2022

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 14 POINTS      V AEK; OCT 25, 2022

This was supposed to be the year of Jeremy Morgan. He unlocked his offensive potential in Bonn last season, averaging 14 points per game for the first time in his professional career, and then kept on improving. So much so indeed that he started the 2022-23 Bundesliga season averaging career-highs of 15.4 points and 4.2 rebounds in the first ten games, while playing career-low minutes as a pro. Oh, and he did it while shooting 50 percent from the field, 43.3 percent from three-point range, 95.2 percent from the charity stripe! Bonn won nine of those first ten, Morgan poured in 12.2 points in five BCL appearances too, but a neck injury stopped what was the best season of his career. At the time of writing, it's still unclear if he will make it back in time for the Final Four, but such a dominant force early in the season definitely deserves a mention.



## ZACH ENSMINGER

DATE OF BIRTH:	30/04/2001
POSITION:	GUARD
HEIGHT:	195CM/6'5"

### CLUB CAREER:

Orange Academy (GER; 2017-18),  
ratiopharm Ulm (GER; 2019-20),  
Artland Dragons (GER; 2020-22),  
Telekom Baskets Bonn (GER; 2022- )

**BCL SEASON-HIGH:** 7 POINTS      V UNAHOTELS REGGIO EMILIA; DEC 21, 2022

**BCL CAREER-HIGH:** 7 POINTS      V UNAHOTELS REGGIO EMILIA; DEC 21, 2022

It must have been his fate. Zach Ensminger arrived in Bonn last summer and put on the same white-and-magenta jersey that his father Chris wore from 2009 to 2013, when he was concluding his 14-year-long, successful Bundesliga career. Afterwards, Chris went into coaching, and then took over the Orange Academy, where Zach would start his basketball career. While his dad was a center, Zach is sticking to the backcourt positions, with a solid 195cm/6'5" frame. For now, he has to patiently wait for his chance - he only logged 37 total minutes in the BCL but managed to score 16 points, including a wild performance against Rytas Vilnius, when he ended up with 6 points in just two minutes of action. The road is long, but he just turned 22 and has all the time in the world to leave a mark in the Bundesliga and in the BCL.



## Región Europea del DEPORTE

Andalucía es un destino privilegiado para la práctica de todo tipo de deportes. Las magníficas condiciones climáticas y la calidad de las instalaciones deportivas con las que cuenta, hacen que la región andaluza sea un lugar preferente para la celebración de actividades y eventos deportivos.

Andalusia is a privileged destination for the practice of all kinds of sports. The magnificent weather conditions and the quality of its sports facilities make the Andalusian region a preferential place for the celebration of sporting activities and events.

# UNICAJA



## Igor:

Former Unicaja player Kyle Wiltjer was a guest on our BCL Buzzer Beater podcast before the Final Four. He shared some interesting stuff about all four contenders, but one comment, about Unicaja, stood out. Playing with Lenovo Tenerife last season, Wiltjer said he saw a brilliant team in the making, having the talents, being well-coached, but just missing those few clicks to get them over the line. This season, the clicks are here. Unicaja could be on a historical path to win the triple crown, with the Spanish Copa del Rey, the BCL and the Spanish Liga Endesa. How did they get to the Final Four?

## Diccon:

Last season's Quarter-Finalists look like a different animal this season. With a core of Dario Brizuela, Alberto Diaz, and Jonathan Barreiro, Head Coach Ibon Navarro already had a strong foundation to start with, but the pieces he added around them have taken this club to a whole new level. To the point that most of them have been signed to new, long-term contract extensions.

This team looked dominant from the opening tip. An 87-76 win on the road at Dinamo Sassari opened the campaign, with David Kravish putting up 19 points and seven



rebounds to lead the charge. Dylan Osetkowski and Tyler Kalinoski weren't far behind with 17 points each. Navarro's squad went unbeaten for almost the entire Regular Season. Sassari pulled off a surprise 92-82 road win in the Martin Carpena on Gameday 6 to leave the only blemish on Unicaja's Regular Season campaign.

It was just a blip as Unicaja went back to their winning pattern once the Round of 16 got underway. They started off with an 88-66 home win against AEK and followed that up with another dominant performance on the road in Limoges, winning 84-67. Maybe the best performance of the Round of 16 was the 81-76 win over Galatasaray at home. Dario Brizuela poured in 20 points and Kendrick Perry added 19 to lead the way on that occasion. The defeat in the return leg in Istanbul was again the only setback, as otherwise Unicaja looked imperious in the Round of 16, with a 5-1 win-loss record, and secured home-court advantage for the Quarter-Finals.

When they were drawn against fellow Spanish ACB club UCAM Murcia in the Quarter-Finals, the series promised to be much more challenging than the reality delivered. Dario Brizuela furthered his MVP credentials with 19 points in the Carpena and 17 points in Murcia. Unicaja won the series in two games with an aggregate margin of 38 points.

Igor:

Let's talk about the impression that you get from watching them play. It feels like they are playing the whole game in the fourth gear, then when you think you can match it, they just go to fifth and sixth, and have that contagious confidence that makes it seem like they can score at will. All of them. Every single player could go on a personal 8-0 run. Do the numbers confirm that fast flowing offensive scheme?

Diccon:

Statistically, Unicaja are an offensive juggernaut. They play at the highest pace in the BCL, recording over 74 possessions per game and they use those possessions more efficiently than anyone else in the league, scoring at a rate of 117.5 points per 100 possessions. They just have so many weapons that can hurt you. When you look at a roster of 12 names that all average over 14 minutes per game, you not only understand the juggling act that Ibon Navarro has on his hands, but also the impossible task opponents face when they prepare to stop this

team. Unicaja's offensive prowess doesn't mean they are weak defensively, as they allow teams to score just 100.8 points per 100 possessions, which makes them the second-best defense in the BCL as well. We all know a defensive possession doesn't end until you pull the rebound. Well, Unicaja are the best at that too. They Hoover up 77 percent of all available rebounds on the defensive end. They also have the most productive bench in the BCL, scoring 44 points per game. That number stands out even more when you consider their starters score 40.7 per game.

Igor:

Exactly, it's like they have 12 players of the same status, without a superstar and without bench warmers. Would you say that is the reason they could win this whole thing?

Diccon:

Unicaja can win because they have already tasted the champagne this season. They are the reigning Copa Del Rey champions after beating you know who - Lenovo Tenerife - in the Final. This team dominates in so many statistical categories and has so much depth. When you add the noise from the home crowd in the Martin Carpena, they will be so tough to stop.

Igor:

So what would it take to stop them? What would be the reasoning for somebody to say, "Unicaja won't win the Final Four?"

Diccon:

Psychologically, this group needs to beat the final boss, to use a video gaming analogy. They do have a wealth of BCL Final Four experience with coach Ibon Navarro on the sidelines and with Melvin Ejim, Tyler Kalinoski, Jonathan Barreiro, and Yankuba Sima on the court, but they are all yet to jump that final hurdle. There isn't a single member of the squad who has lifted this particular trophy. As they say, the first time is always the hardest.

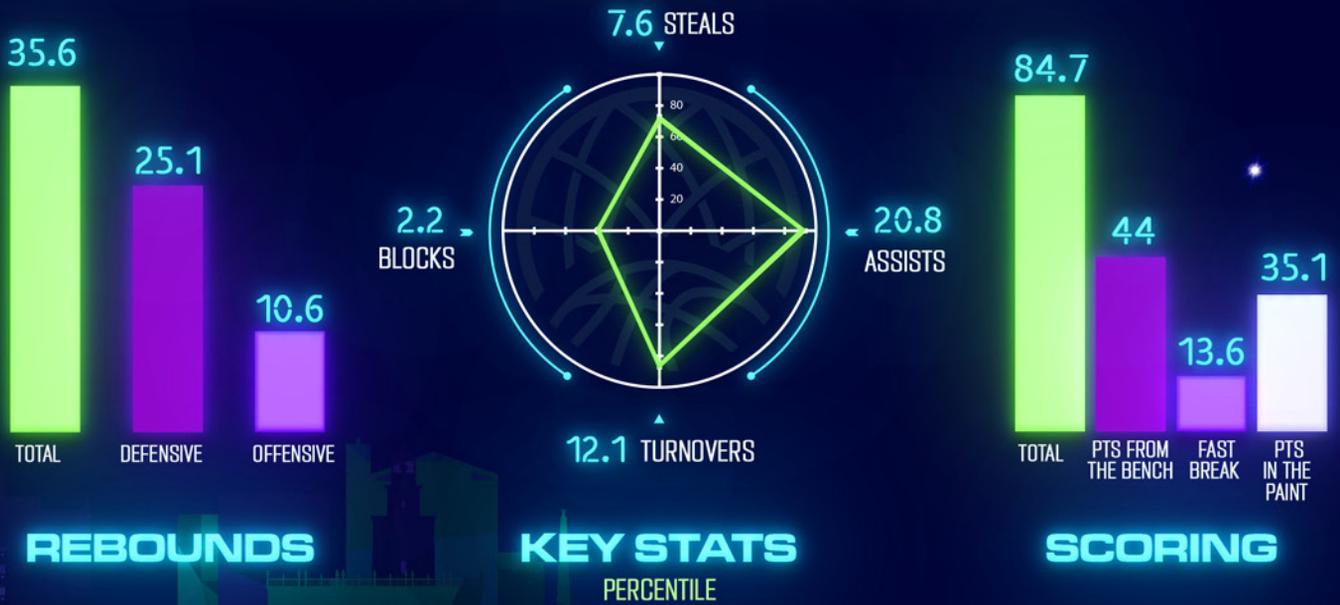
Igor:

What's your favorite thing about this Unicaja season? Could be a play, a player, a playcaller, a playlist, a play on words...

Diccon:

This team is so much fun to watch because they have so much fun playing the game. The bench reactions, the relationship with the fans - watching them makes it so obvious they just have the vibes.

SHOOTING %



HEAD COACH

**IBON NAVARRO**

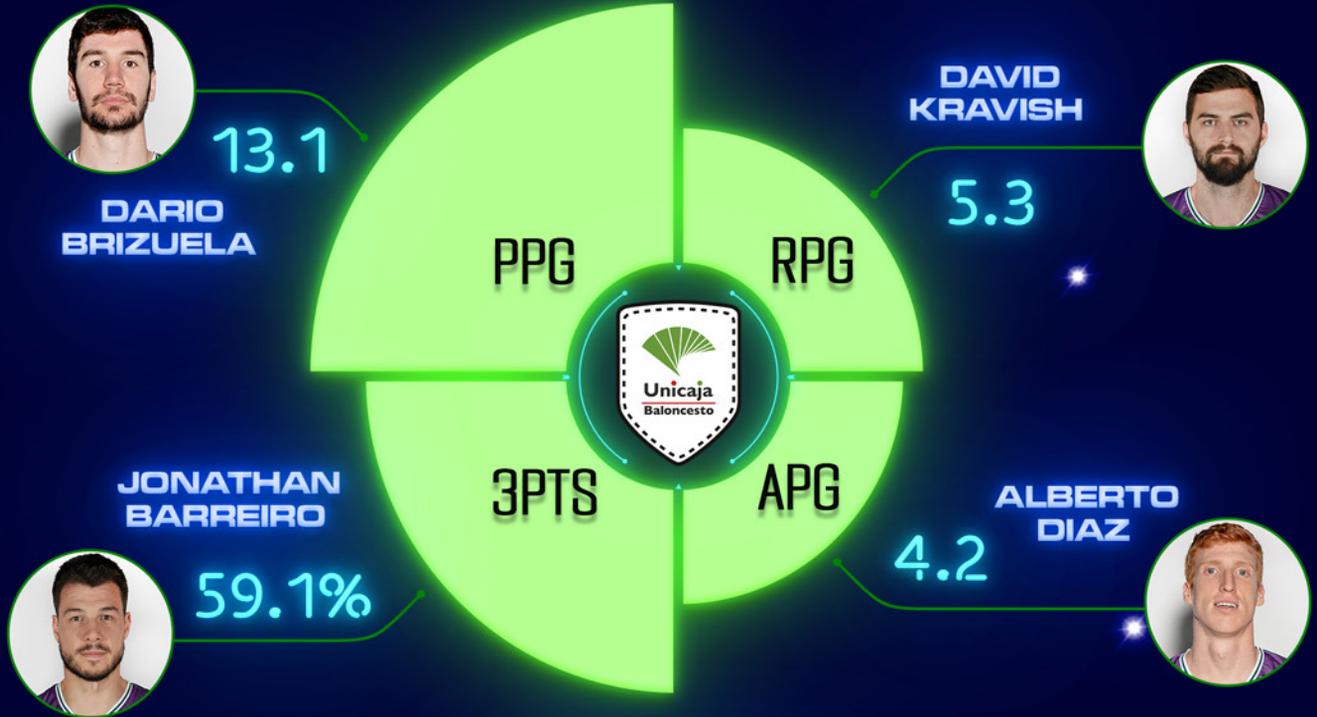
DATE OF BIRTH: 30/04/1976

BCL COACHING RECORD:	24-14
BCL RANKING IN COACHING WINS:	#18

COACHING CAREER:

Baskonia (assistant, ESP; 2000-05, 2007-10, 2013-14), Alava (ESP; 2005-06), Tenerife (assistant, ESP; 2006-07), Menorca (ESP; 2010-11), Valencia (ESP; 2011-12), Puerto Rico (assistant, national team; 2014), Baskonia (ESP; 2014-15), Manresa (ESP; 2015-17), UCAM Murcia (ESP; 2017-18), Andorra (ESP; 2018-22), Unicaja (ESP; 2022- )

Back in 2018, leading UCAM Murcia to the Final Four was considered an upset. But Ibon Navarro pulled it off, nearly upsetting 18,000 fans in the OAKA Arena in Athens as Murcia lost to AEK in a dramatic Semi-Final clash. For Navarro, it marked the end of a sequence where he spent no more than two seasons at each team and booked him a four-year spell at Andorra. It seems that his tenure at Malaga could be even longer, because he arrived in February 2022 and within a year already brought home a big trophy, the 2023 Copa del Rey. Unicaja fans have fallen in love, the 'Ibon has a plan!' chant is their favorite song at the moment and the plan - along with his contract - was recently extended through 2026. Beating Barcelona, Real Madrid and Lenovo Tenerife to win Copa del Rey was so immense that Navarro shared a screenshot of 563 unread messages on his phone after the Final. Unexpected for a lot of people, but not to him. The coach has a plan and the chance to end the season with not one, not two, but three major trophies. The BCL crown is two games away, and Unicaja are already through to the Liga Endesa Play-Offs as well.



### DEADLY DUO





## DARIO BRIZUELA

DATE OF BIRTH:	08/11/1994
POSITION:	SHOOTING GUARD
HEIGHT:	185CM/6'1"

### CLUB CAREER:

Estudiantes (ESP; 2012-19), Unicaja (ESP; 2019- )

STAR PLAYER

8

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	27 POINTS	V PAOK MATECO; NOV 2, 2022
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	27 POINTS	V PAOK MATECO; NOV 2, 2022

Born in one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, Dario Brizuela pays tribute to San Sebastian by using the Basque Mamba nickname since early in his career. He stayed in Madrid for seven years but, by the looks of it, he could become the Andalusian Mamba by the end of his Malaga adventure, as he extended his contract through 2026. Brizuela is one of those guys with a built-in on-off button to get in and get started while everybody else is running out of fuel or is not brave enough when the game is on the line. He is doing it all the time, rarely plays a lot of minutes and yet always scores with ease, whether it's off the dribble, on the drives, up and under, midrange, or simply knocking down three-pointers on consecutive possessions. He arrives at the Final Four averaging a team-high 13.1 points in just 18.6 minutes per game in the BCL, while flirting with a 50-50-90 shooting split. Just remember not to mention the English Premier League in his vicinity while in Malaga, because he is a huge Arsenal fan. Don't expect Brizuela however to drop the ball or run out of fuel the way his favorite Gunners did towards the end of their campaign.



## KENDRICK PERRY

DATE OF BIRTH:	23/12/1992
POSITION:	POINT GUARD
HEIGHT:	183CM/6'0"

### CLUB CAREER:

Sydney Kings (AUS; 2014-15), Iowa Energy (USA; 2015), Kormend (HUN; 2015-16), Karpos Sokoli (MKD; 2016-17), Szolnoki Olaj (HUN; 2017-18), Nizhny Novgorod (RUS; 2018-19), Metropolitans 92 (FRA; 2019), Mega (SRB; 2019-20), Cedevita Olimpija (SLO; 2020-21), Panathinaikos (GRE; 2021-22), Buducnost (MNE; 2022), Unicaja (ESP; 2022- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	22 POINTS	V AEK; JAN 25, 2023
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	34 POINTS	V UMANA REVER VENEZIA; MAR 5, 2019

Back in 2018-19 Kendrick Perry arrived in Nizhny Novgorod with a question mark around his name, because he hadn't played on the biggest stages in Europe just yet. He took the question mark, ran with it at 100 miles per hour, then flew up ten feet in the air and dunked it down with authority, proving he was one of Europe's best kept secrets from 2015 to 2018. A couple of 30+ point games in the BCL were like a trampoline for him, sending him all the way to Panathinaikos in 2021-22. Other than being a master of point guard duties in Malaga, Kendrick is also a master of words, sharing impressive lyrics about Unicaja's season on social media, including the "Showed no mercy in Murcia" review of the Quarter-Finals. He's coming to the Final Four fresh off another contract extension, through 2025, with an option for 2026.



## TYLER KALINOSKI

DATE OF BIRTH:	19/12/1992
POSITION:	GUARD
HEIGHT:	193CM/6'4"

### CLUB CAREER:

Elan Chalons (FRA; 2015-16), Apollon Patras (GRE; 2016-17), Antwerp Giants (BEL; 2017-19), Bandirma (TUR; 2019-20), Brescia (ITA; 2020-21), Rio Breogan (ESP; 2021-22), Unicaja (ESP; 2022- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	18 POINTS	V LIMOGES CSP; MAR 15, 2023
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	20 POINTS	V RASTA VECHTA; NOV 12, 2019

Via the sound of Calvin Harris and Rag'n'Bone Man blasting through the speakers in the Sport Paleis in Antwerp, Belgium is still ringing in Tyler Kalinoski's ears. He was a Giant back then, creating one of the biggest upsets in BCL history to reach the Final Four with Antwerp, a team where he was one of the older guys, although just 26 years old at the time. He scored in double digits in both games in that Final Four, but seemed destined to never stay longer than one season at any one team, until he arrived in Malaga. Kalinoski is a perfect fit in coach Ibon Navarro's system. Think of him as the gravitational shooter, something that Sasu Salin does for Lenovo Tenerife or what Jaycee Carroll did at Real Madrid all those years. The numbers confirm it, Kalinoski has been shooting 42 percent or better from three-point range in each of his last six seasons. He also got a new Unicaja contract, adding three more years in the green and purple.



## DAVID KRAVISH

DATE OF BIRTH:	12/09/1992
POSITION:	CENTER
HEIGHT:	208CM/6'10"

### CLUB CAREER:

Nokia (FIN; 2015-16), Czarni Slupsk (POL; 2016-17), Tsmoki-Minsk (BLR; 2017-18), Avtodor Saratov (RUS; 2018-19), BAXI Manresa (ESP; 2019-20), Brose Bamberg (GER; 2020-21), Galatasaray Nef (TUR; 2021-22), Unicaja (ESP; 2022- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	22 POINTS	V AEK; JAN 25, 2023
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	22 POINTS	V AEK; JAN 25, 2023

You know somebody has put together a solid plan when even a career journeyman like David Kravish finds home there. The big man in the middle hasn't spent more than a season in one location since he first arrived in Europe, back in 2015, but his bosses in Malaga liked what he brought to the team, so expect Kravish to remain with Unicaja until 2025. Kravish is sneaky athletic, and has really good hands that made him a boxscore threat, as he shoots the ball at a high percentage and scores in double digits, while cleaning up the mess in rebounds and posting a couple of BCL games with 3 blocks, for good measure. Turnovers were an issue early in the season, but he only turned the ball over three times in the last 76 minutes on the floor in the Basketball Champions League, proving that he's got it under control when it matters.



## TYSON CARTER

DATE OF BIRTH:	14/01/1998
POSITION:	GUARD
HEIGHT:	193CM/6'4"

### CLUB CAREER:

Lavrio (GRE; 2020-21), Zenit (RUS; 2021-22), Unicaja (ESP; 2022- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	16 POINTS	V PAOK MATECO; DEC 13, 2022
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	35 POINTS	V NIZHNY NOVGOROD, NOV 2, 2021

The MVP of the Spanish Copa del Rey in February is looking to add more silverware to his trophy room. Tyson Carter was the best of the best during Unicaja's magical Cup run and it was obvious he could score at will ever since his days in Greece. He was the top scorer of the Greek League in his first season at Lavrio and started the second by scoring a BCL season-high 35 points before moving to Zenit in Russia, where he won the VTB United League in 2022. With Unicaja, he found his role within the system. Not needing to score 30 points per game anymore, he could finish with 8 to 13 points, and yet make them the most important 8 to 13 of the game, coming through in the clutch. You can blame that on genetics, since Tyson's father Greg was also a basketball player, most notably with the Mississippi State Bulldogs, averaging 15.4 points and 7.8 rebounds per game back in 1990-91.



## MELVIN EJIM

DATE OF BIRTH:	04/03/1991
POSITION:	FORWARD
HEIGHT:	201CM/6'7"

### CLUB CAREER:

Virtus Roma (ITA; 2014-15), Erie BayHawks (USA; 2015-16), Umana Reyer Venezia (ITA; 2016-17), UNICS (RUS; 2017-19), Unicaja (ESP; 2019-20, 2022- ), Buducnost (MNE; 2020-21), Cedevita Olimpija (SLO; 2021-22)

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	4 POINTS	FIVE TIMES
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	23 POINTS	V KATAJA; JAN 10, 2017

Not a lot of players are still here from the 2016-17 season, the first one in BCL history. However, Melvin Ejim is still going strong, after reaching the Final Four back in Season One with Umana Reyer Venezia, and impressing enough to earn a spot on the Star Lineup First Team of that year alongside Jordan Theodore, Zack Wright, Aaron Doornekamp and Georgios Bogris. That wasn't his biggest individual accomplishment that season, though, as Melvin led Venezia to the Italian League championship, earning the MVP of the Finals award in the process. Ejim already spent a season in Malaga in 2019-20, before testing the waters in the Adriatic Sea with Cedevita Olimpija and Buducnost. As the son of a Nigerian native, he was on the verge of representing Nigeria, but as a man from Toronto, he opted for Canada and agreed in May 2022 on a three-year plan to play for the Canadian national team.



## WILL THOMAS

DATE OF BIRTH:	01/07/1986
POSITION:	POWER FORWARD
HEIGHT:	203CM/6'8"

### CLUB CAREER:

Liege (BEL; 2008-10), Filou Oostende (BEL; 2010-11), Mgzavrebi (GEO; 2011-12), Pinar Karsiyaka (TUR; 2012-13), Avellino (ITA; 2013-14), Unicaja (ESP; 2014-16, 2022- ), Valencia (ESP; 2016-19), Zenit (RUS; 2019-21), Monaco (FRA; 2021-22)

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	13 POINTS	V LIMOGES CSP; MAR 15, 2023
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	13 POINTS	V LIMOGES CSP; MAR 15, 2023

You can't have just a bunch of youngsters running around in modern basketball. You need to have the experienced guy who has seen it all before, and having a man mountain as Will Thomas puts Unicaja's offense in a whole other gear, allowing him to create on the low block. Thomas is back for his second stint with the team, coming back as a player who picked up the Liga Endesa title, a Supercopa crown, a EuroCup trophy and the EuroCup Finals MVP award in the meantime. He's a born winner and 15 years after embarking on his European path he still looks as strong as ever, hiding somewhere in the dunker spot, waiting to hit you with the southpaw spike if you're not paying attention. His future is still open, but with the way he has performed this season don't be surprised if he sticks around for quite some time.



## DYLAN OSETKOWSKI

DATE OF BIRTH:	08/08/1996
POSITION:	CENTER
HEIGHT:	206CM/6'9"

### CLUB CAREER:

Gottingen (GER; 2019-20), ratiopharm Ulm (GER; 2020-21), ASVEL (FRA; 2021-22), Unicaja (ESP; 2022- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	19 POINTS	V LIMOGES CSP; JAN 31, 2023
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	19 POINTS	V LIMOGES CSP; JAN 31, 2023

One would think nothing matches Kendrick Perry's dominance when it comes to Unicaja hairstyles. One would be wrong. Dylan Osetkowski is one of those guys who catch your attention immediately on the court, and while he's not going with braids and cornrows anymore, he's still the big, physical guy ready to torture you under both rims, and hit the shots from way beyond the arc as well. Osetkowski spent a couple of seasons in Germany, and got the German citizenship in the process. ASVEL were the first to notice his progress, calling his number in 2021-22, but it would be Unicaja who ended up as winners on the market, once again. Not just because of "stealing" Dylan from ASVEL, but also because they managed to keep him in town with talks of lucrative offers coming his way. Osetkowski signed a contract extension that will make Malaga his home until at least 2025.



## JONATHAN BARREIRO

DATE OF BIRTH:	16/01/1997
POSITION:	SMALL FORWARD
HEIGHT:	203CM/6'8"

### CLUB CAREER:

Real Madrid (ESP; 2014-15), Ourense (ESP; 2015-16), Zaragoza (ESP; 2016-21), Unicaja (ESP; 2021- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	11 POINTS	V DINAMO BDS SASSARI; DEC 20, 2022
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	26 POINTS	V DINAMO BDS SASSARI; MAR 2, 2021

There are a lot of Unicaja players who have played on the biggest stage in other competitions but Jonathan Barreiro brings BCL experience of that level, as he made back-to-back Semi-Final appearances with Casademont Zaragoza in 2020 and 2021. He established himself as a certified team player during that run, a reliable catch-and-shoot threat who still holds the record for most makes without a miss from beyond the three-point line, hitting six-of-six threes in a BCL game once. He knows his role, and the fact that he's shooting 59.1 percent from three in the BCL will keep opponents on their toes the entire time. Because if you manage to stop all the Perry-Brizuela-Kalinoski-Carter madness, those Barreiro threes with the perfect follow-through hurt more than anything. Since Dinamo BDS Sassari did not make the Final Four, he'll have to search for a season- or a career-high against a new opponent.



## ALBERTO DIAZ

DATE OF BIRTH:	23/04/1994
POSITION:	POINT GUARD
HEIGHT:	190CM/6'3"

### CLUB CAREER:

Clinicas Rincon (ESP; 2011-14), Surne Bilbao (ESP; 2014), Fuenlabrada (ESP; 2014-15), Unicaja (ESP; 2015- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	8 POINTS	V GALATASARAY NEF; MAR 9, 2023
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	10 POINTS	V FILOU OOSTENDE; FEB 2, 2022

Nothing like the hometown kid winning with the hometown team. Alberto Diaz is Malaga's proudest basketball son and is living the dream after earning a spot on the Spanish national team that won FIBA EuroBasket 2022, and finally receiving recognition for being the most terrifying defender in all of Europe. Diaz's basketball IQ is off the charts. While he's not the fastest, tallest, most athletic guard in the world, he's able to read his opponent's mind and beat him to the spot with ease. He was the Finals MVP in Unicaja's EuroCup winning run in 2017, and only his last-minute injury struggles could prevent him from playing at 120 percent and try to do the same in the BCL in 2023. Diaz is in his prime and, if he is healthy, Unicaja must feel his leadership qualities and know-how from Spain's EuroBasket-winning run will give them that little extra.



## NIHAD DEDOVIC

DATE OF BIRTH:	12/01/1990
POSITION:	SHOOTING GUARD
HEIGHT:	198CM/6'6"

### CLUB CAREER:

Bosna (BIH; 2005-07), Cornella (ESP; 2007-09), Obradoiro (ESP; 2009-10), Virtus Roma (ITA; 2010-12), Galatasaray Nef (TUR; 2012), Alba Berlin (GER; 2012-13), Bayern Munich (GER; 2013-22), Unicaja (ESP; 2022- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	10 POINTS	TWICE
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	10 POINTS	TWICE

Nope, it's not Zlatan Ibrahimovic, it's Nihad Dedovic. Unicaja brought in the all-rounder over the summer, spending a social media post or two on memes about Nihad's stunt double from AC Milan. But once the memes run their course, they got to enjoy one of the smartest players in all of Europe. It's no wonder coach Ibon Navarro insisted on adding him even before the end of the German Bundesliga last season, no wonder he fell in love with Dedovic's game immediately, and no wonder Unicaja waited patiently for him to get healthy and help them out towards the business end of the season. Dedovic had already played in Spain in his teenage years, when Barcelona loaned him out to Cornella and Obradoiro, but he never got to experience playing for Barcelona's first team. Instead, he became a legend in Germany over the past nine years, and is set to become a legend in Malaga with a contract extension all the way to 2025.



## YANKUBA SIMA

DATE OF BIRTH:	28/07/1996
POSITION:	CENTER
HEIGHT:	211CM/6'11"

### CLUB CAREER:

BAXI Manresa (ESP; 2018-20, 2020-22), Ourense (ESP; 2019-20), Umana Reyer Venezia (ITA; 2022-23), Unicaja (ITA; 2023- )

BCL SEASON-HIGH:	13 POINTS	V AEK; JAN 25, 2023
BCL CAREER-HIGH:	15 POINTS	V MHP RIESEN; MAY 6, 2022

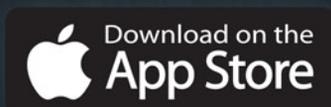
Make that back-to-back Final Four appearances! Yankuba Sima no longer has Ismael Bako, Chima Moneke and Luke Maye to keep him company in the frontcourt the same way they did in Manresa a year ago but, as a late addition to the mix in Malaga, Sima can make a difference off the bench or as a starter. He's bringing the same kind of verticality that Augusto Lima provided before his season-ending injury, with that 211cm/6'11" frame looking even bigger thanks to a 223cm/7'4" wingspan that allows him to play well above the rim. Sima did not have the usual path of Spanish players, from the academy to the first team. Instead, he opted for an NCAA career with St John's Red Storm and the Oklahoma State Cowboys, before coming back home to Manresa and eventually earning a call up to the Spanish national team for the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 Qualifiers.



# COURTSIDE 1891

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# FINAL FOUR OFFICIALS

## REFEREES



TUR **KEREM BAKI**



SLO **BORIS KREJIC**



LAT **MARTINS KOZLOVSKIS**



POL **WOJCIECH LISZKA**



ITA **MANUEL MAZZONI**



FRA **YOHAN ROSSO**



LAT **GATIS SALINS**



BIH **ADEMIR ZURAPOVIC**

## TECHNICAL DELEGATES



ESP **FERNANDO GARZON**



TUR **ZIYA PALA**



FRA **NICOLAS SEIGNEZ**

# OFFICIAL PRACTICES

THURSDAY  
MAY 11

## PRACTICE SCHEDULES (TIMES: HOTEL-VENUE; VENUE-HOTEL)

START	END	TEAM	NOTE
09:00	11:10	HAPOEL BANK YAHAV JERUSALEM	COURT 2 - HIGUERÓN TRAINING CENTER
11:20	13:00	TELEKOM BASKETS BONN	
START	END	TEAM	NOTE
17:00	18:20	LENOVO TENERIFE	MAIN COURT
18:30	19:50	HAPOEL BANK YAHAV JERUSALEM	
20:00	21:20	UNICAJA	

FRIDAY  
MAY 12

## PRACTICE SCHEDULES (TIMES: HOTEL-VENUE; VENUE-HOTEL)

START	END	TEAM	NOTE
09:30	10:30	HAPOEL BANK YAHAV JERUSALEM	MAIN COURT
10:40	11:40	LENOVO TENERIFE	
11:50	12:50	TELEKOM BASKETS BONN	
13:00	14:00	UNICAJA	

SATURDAY  
MAY 13

## PRACTICE SCHEDULES (TIMES: HOTEL-VENUE; VENUE-HOTEL)

START	END	TEAM	NOTE
17:00	18:20	SF1 - THIRD PLACE GAME TEAM	MAIN COURT
18:30	19:50	SF2 - THIRD PLACE GAME TEAM	
20:00	21:20	SF1 - FINAL GAME TEAM	
21:30	22:50	SF2 - FINAL GAME TEAM	

SUNDAY  
MAY 14

## PRACTICE SCHEDULES (TIMES: HOTEL-VENUE; VENUE-HOTEL)

START	END	TEAM	NOTE
09:00	10:00	SF2 - THIRD PLACE GAME TEAM	MAIN COURT
10:10	11:10	SF1 - THIRD PLACE GAME TEAM	
11:20	12:20	SF2 - FINAL GAME TEAM	
12:30	13:30	SF1 - FINAL GAME TEAM	

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

# MEDIA ACTIVITIES

**THURSDAY MAY 11, 2023**

**15:15-16:15**

**OFFICIAL PRESS CONFERENCE, WITH THE HEAD COACHES AND CAPTAINS OF THE FOUR PARTICIPATING TEAMS.**

**LOCATION:** Holiday World Polynesia - Avenida del Sol (Antigua CN-340) P.K. 215,6 Benalmádena Costa, 29630, Málaga.

ALL ACCREDITED MEDIA ARE INVITED.

**FRIDAY MAY 12, 2023**

- MEDIA WORKING ROOM AND MEDIA TRIBUNE
- MIXED ZONE
- POST-GAME PRESS CONFERENCES

**LOCATION:** Palacio de Deportes José María Martín Carpena - Calle Miguel Mérida Nicolich 2, 29004, Málaga.

**SATURDAY MAY 13, 2023**

**10:00-11:15**  
(SCHEDULE MAY VARY)

**BCL CEO PRESS CONFERENCE.**

**LOCATION:** : Andalusian Tourism and Sport Office - Calle Compañía, 40, 29008 Málaga.

**11:15-11:45**  
(SCHEDULE MAY VARY)

**FINALISTS PRESS CONFERENCE, WITH THE HEAD COACHES AND CAPTAINS OF THE TWO FINALISTS.**

**LOCATION:** Andalusian Tourism and Sport Office - Calle Compañía, 40, 29008 Málaga.

**12:00-13:30**

**BCL SEASON AWARDS CEREMONY**

**LOCATION:** Unicaja Concert Hall María Cristina - Calle Marqués de Valdecañas, 2, 29008 Málaga.

ALL ACCREDITED MEDIA ARE INVITED.

**SUNDAY MAY 14, 2023**

- MEDIA WORKING ROOM AND MEDIA TRIBUNE
- MIXED ZONE
- POST-GAME PRESS CONFERENCES

**LOCATION:** Palacio de Deportes José María Martín Carpena - Calle Miguel Mérida Nicolich 2, 29004, Málaga.

ALL ACCREDITED MEDIA WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTIVITIES.

# GAME SCHEDULE

All games will be played in the Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martin Carpena Arena, which has a seating capacity of 11,300.

CALLE MIGUEL DE MERIDA NICOLICH, 2, 29004 MÁLAGA, SPAIN

	<b>FRIDAY</b>	
	<b>MAY 12</b>	
<b>LENOVO TENERIFE</b>	<b>SEMI-FINALS</b>	<b>HAPOEL BANK YAHAV JERUSALEM</b>
	17:30 (GMT+2)	

	<b>FRIDAY</b>	
	<b>MAY 12</b>	
<b>UNICAJA</b>	<b>SEMI-FINALS</b>	<b>TELEKOM BASKETS BONN</b>
	20:30 (GMT+2)	

	<b>SUNDAY</b>	
	<b>MAY 14</b>	
	<b>THIRD-PLACE GAME</b>	
	17:00 (GMT+2)	

	<b>SUNDAY</b>	
	<b>MAY 14</b>	
	<b>FINAL</b>	
	20:00 (GMT+2)	

## INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

PLAYER	RECORD	TEAM	OPPONENT	DATE
JUSTIN SIMON	27 POINTS	MHP RIESEN	HAPOEL HOLON	08/05/2022 (3RD PLACE)
GEDIMINAS ORELIK	13 REBOUNDS	BANDIRMA	LENOVO TENERIFE	30/04/2017 (FINAL)
CHIMA MONEKE		BAXI MANRESA	MHP RIESEN	06/05/2022 (SF)
MARCELINHO HUERTAS	14 ASSISTS	LENOVO TENERIFE	BAXI MANRESA	08/05/2022 (FINAL)
FRAN VAZQUEZ	3 BLOCKS	LENOVO TENERIFE	BANDIRMA	30/04/2017 (FINAL)
KEVIN TUMBA		UCAM MURCIA	AEK	04/05/2018 (SF)
VINCE HUNTER		AEK	MONACO	06/05/2018 (FINAL)
JACOB WILEY		CASADEMONT ZARAGOZA	PINAR KARSİYAKA	07/05/2021 (SF)
DEE BOST	5 STEALS	MONACO	UMANA REYER VENEZIA	30/04/2017 (3RD PLACE)
SASU SALIN		TENERIFE	UNET HOLON	06/05/2022 (SF)
SEK HENRY	7 3PM	PINAR KARSİYAKA	CASADEMONT ZARAGOZA	07/05/2021 (SF)
KEVIN PUNTER	29 EFF	VIRTUS BOLOGNA	LENOVO TENERIFE	05/05/2019 (FINAL)
GEDIMINAS ORELIK	40 MINUTES PLAYED	BANDIRMA	MONACO	28/04/2017 (SF)

## INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

TEAM	RECORD	OPPONENT	DATE
AEK	100 POINTS SCORED	MONACO	06/05/2018 (FINAL)
VIRTUS BOLOGNA	50 POINTS ALLOWED	BROSE BAMBERG	03/05/2019 (SF)
SAN PABLO BURGOS	17 MADE 3-POINTERS	AEK	4/10/2020 (FINAL)
BAXI MANRESA	55 REBOUNDS	MHP RIESEN	06/05/2022 (SF)
BAXI MANRESA	35 DEFENSIVE REBOUNDS	MHP RIESEN	06/05/2022 (SF)
LENOVO TENERIFE	24 OFFENSIVE REBOUNDS	VIRTUS BOLOGNA	05/05/2019 (FINAL)
MONACO	27 ASSISTS	MHP RIESEN	04/05/2018 (SF)
AEK	LARGEST WIN: +24 POINTS	CASADEMONT ZARAGOZA	02/10/2020 (SF)
AEK	SMALLER WIN: +2 POINTS	UCAM MURCIA	04/05/2018 (SF)
AEK	LARGEST HT LEAD: +21 POINTS	CASADEMONT ZARAGOZA	02/10/2020 (SF)
TEKSUT BANDIRMA	BIGGEST COMEBACK WIN: 13 POINTS	MONACO	28/04/2017 (SF)
MHP RIESEN	MOST PLAYERS USED: 13		2022 FINAL FOUR
JDA DIJON	FEWEST PLAYERS USED: 9		2022 FINAL FOUR

# ALL-TIME LEADERS

POINTS		
1	VÍTOR BENITE	94
2	KEVIN PUNTER	79
3	NICOLAS BRUSSINO	76
...		
10	TIM ABROMAITIS	42
20	AARON DOORNEKAMP	33
25	MARCELINHO HUERTAS	30

MINUTES		
1	RODRIGO SAN MIGUEL	202
2	NICOLAS BRUSSINO	161
3	VÍTOR BENITE	135
4	AARON DOORNEKAMP	132
...		
13	TIM ABROMAITIS	94
19	JONATHAN BARREIRO	83

STEALS		
1	RODRIGO SAN MIGUEL	8
2	SERGII GLADYR	7
2	KEVIN PUNTER	7
2	CLEVIN HANNAH	7
2	TIM ABROMAITIS	7
6	SASU SALIN	6
...		
35	AARON DOORNEKAMP	3
35	TYLER KALINOSKI	3

REBOUNDS		
1	DEJAN KRAVIC	41
2	NICOLAS BRUSSINO	32
3	TIM ABROMAITIS	27
...		
8	AARON DOORNEKAMP	20
37	JONATHAN BARREIRO	11
37	FRAN GUERRA	11

BLOCKS		
1	KEVIN TUMBA	5
1	AMARA SY	5
2	JACOB WILEY	4
2	VINCE HUNTER	4
2	TRYGGVI HLINASON	4
...		
13	ELGIN COOK	2
25	JONATHAN BARREIRO	1
25	FRAN GUERRA	1

ASSISTS		
1	RODRIGO SAN MIGUEL	34
2	MARCELINHO HUERTAS	23
3	TONY TAYLOR	20
3	ALEX RENFROE	20
...		
35	JONATHAN BARREIRO	42
35	BRUNO FITIPALDO	33
25	MARCELINHO HUERTAS	30

3 PM		
1	KEVIN PUNTER	16
2	VÍTOR BENITE	15
3	SERGII GLADYR	10
3	NICOLAS BRUSSINO	10
3	THADDUS MCFADDEN	10
6	AARON DOORNEKAMP	9
...		
14	SASU SALIN	5
14	TYLER KALINOSKI	5
24	BRUNO FITIPALDO	4

EFF (AVG)		
1	MARCELINHO HUERTAS	22,5
1	CHIMA MONEKE	22,5
2	JUSTIN SIMON	20
2	SADIEL ROJAS	20

IN YELLOW:  
PLAYERS COMPETING IN THE  
2023 FINAL FOUR



**FINAL FOUR**  
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE  
MALAGA 2023



**BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**  
5 ROUTE SUISSE - P.O. BOX 29, MIES, 1295 SWITZERLAND

*Design by AREDI agency*