



# FINAL FOUR

BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

BILBAO 2022

# OFFICIAL PROGRAM



Lenovo Tenerife





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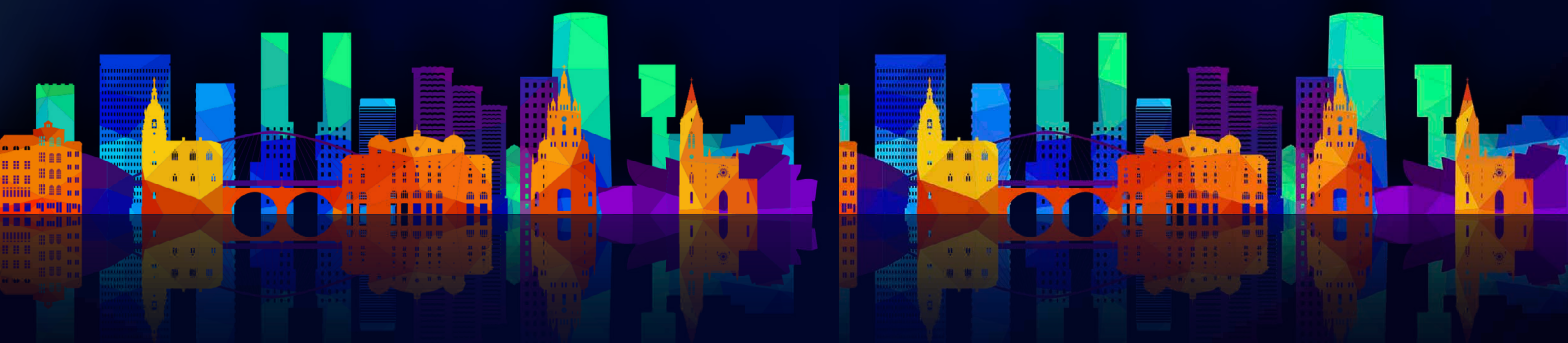


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# WELCOME TO BILBAO!

With the Guggenheim Museum as a great international symbol, Bilbao is the gateway to the Basque cultural universe. It is a city that is an example of urban transformation at a global level and has maintained a number of hallmarks that make it singular and unique.

Sea and mountain, character and history, tradition and modern architecture. Bilbao is a central place for leisure and culture.

But not only! Bilbao is also a city of sports. Host of many international sport events including the 2011 FIBA Europe U20 Championship, the 2014 FIBA Basketball World Cup or the 2018 European

Rugby Champions Cup Final, Bilbao is set to host the first ever Basketball Champions League Final 4 in a neutral venue.

Staggering architecture, a venerable dining scene and stunning landscapes just outside the city centre: Bilbao is one of the great treasures of the Basque Country, and one of Europe's most cosmopolitan and innovative cities. The perfect stage to host the Basketball Champions League Final 4!

See for yourself in May!





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# BILBAO ARENA

Bilbao Arena, located in the neighbourhood of Miribilla in Bilbao, is the venue that will host the 2022 Final 4, pinnacle event of the Basketball Champions League season 6.

Originally opened in September 2010, the arena has a maximum capacity of 10,000 seats.

Besides the basketball club of Surne Bilbao Basket, regular hosts of the arena, the facility is also used for concerts and shows, and includes swimming pools and gymnasiums.

The arena frequently accommodates different types of business, educational, commercial, cultural, sporting, gastronomic and musical

major events as well as national and international sports competitions, such as the 2011 FIBA Under-20 European Championship.

For this Final 4, the arena will be revamped in order to offer a unique experience to all fans, with, among others, new game lights & light shows, exceptional team presentations, various artists and animation, including two international DJs, etc.

Bilbao Arena will vibe for the Basketball Champions League Final 4!



## ACCESS MAP BILBAO ARENA

- 1 VIP DROP-OFF
- 2 VIP ENTRANCE
- 3 MEDIA ENTRANCE
- 4 VIPS SEATS
- 5 ACCREDITATION CENTRE
- 6 MEDIA SEATS





# PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THE SEASON ENDING TOURNAMENT

## FINAL FOUR 2017, TENERIFE (SPAIN) APRIL 28-30, 2017

### Semi-Finals

Banvit (TUR) **83-75** AS Monaco (FRA)  
Iberostar Tenerife (ESP) **67-58** Umana Reyer Venezia (ITA)

### Third-Place Game

AS Monaco **97-77** Umana Reyer Venezia

### Final

Iberostar Tenerife **63-59** Banvit

### MVP

Marius Grigonis (LTU) | Iberostar Tenerife



## FINAL FOUR 2018, ATHENS (GREECE) MAY 4-6, 2018

### Semi-Finals

MHP RIESEN Ludwigsburg (GER) **65-87** AS Monaco (FRA)  
AEK (GRE) **77-75** UCAM Murcia (ESP)

### Third-Place Game

MHP RIESEN Ludwigsburg **74-85** UCAM Murcia

### Final

AS Monaco **94-100** AEK

### MVP

Mike Green (USA) | AEK





**FINAL FOUR 2019,  
ANTWERP (BELGIUM)  
MAY 3-5, 2019**

**Semi-Finals**

Segafredo Virtus Bologna (ITA) **67-50** Brose Bamberg (GER)

Iberostar Tenerife (ESP) **70-54** Telenet Giants Antwerp (BEL)

**Third-Place Game**

Brose Bamberg **58-72** Telenet Giants Antwerp

**Final**

Segafredo Virtus Bologna **73-61** Iberostar Tenerife

**MVP**

Kevin Punter (USA) | Segafredo Virtus Bologna



**FINAL EIGHT 2020,  
ATHENS (GREECE)  
SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 4, 2020**

**Semi-Finals**

Hereda San Pablo Burgos (ESP) **81-67** JDA Dijon (FRA)

AEK (GRE) **99-75** Casademont Zaragoza (ESP)

**Third-Place Game**

JDA Dijon **70-65** Casademont Zaragoza

**Final**

Hereda San Pablo Burgos **85-74** AEK

**MVP**

Thad McFadden (USA) | Hereda San Pablo Burgos



**FINAL EIGHT 2021,  
NIZHNY NOVGOROD (RUSSIA)  
MAY 7 - MAY 9, 2021**

**Semi-Finals**

Casademont Zaragoza (ESP) **79-84** Pinar Karsiyaka (TUR)

Hereda San Pablo Burgos (ESP) **81-70** SIG Strasbourg (FRA)

**Third-Place Game**

Casademont Zaragoza **89-77** SIG Strasbourg

**Final**

Pinar Karsiyaka **59-64** Hereda San Pablo Burgos

**MVP**

Vitor Benite (ITA) | Hereda San Pablo Burgos



# REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS

**STANDINGS GROUP A**

REGULAR SEASON

	P	W	L	%	PTS
1  MHP RIESEN LUDWIGSBURG	6	4	2	66.7%	10
2  LENOVO TENERIFE	6	4	2	66.7%	10
3  PROMETEY	6	3	3	50.0%	9
4  BANCA DI SARDEGNA SASSARI	6	1	5	16.7%	7

#BASKETBALLCL

**STANDINGS GROUP B**

REGULAR SEASON

	P	W	L	%	PTS
1  BAXI MANGESA	6	5	1	83.3%	11
2  HAPOEL JERUSALEM	6	3	3	50.0%	9
3  PINAR KARSİYAKA	6	3	3	50.0%	9
4  ARGES BM STAL USTROZ WILAF	6	1	5	16.7%	7

#BASKETBALLCL

**STANDINGS GROUP C**

REGULAR SEASON

	P	W	L	%	PTS
1  UNICAJA	6	4	2	66.7%	10
2  LAVRIO MEGABOLT	6	3	3	50.0%	9
3  JDA DIJON	6	3	3	50.0%	9
4  NIZHNY NOVGOROD	6	2	4	33.3%	8

#BASKETBALLCL

**STANDINGS GROUP D**

REGULAR SEASON

	P	W	L	%	PTS
1  FALCO SZOMBATHELY	6	5	1	83.3%	11
2  NUTRIBULLET TREVISO	6	4	2	66.7%	10
3  VEF RIGA	6	2	4	33.3%	8
4  AEK	6	1	5	16.7%	7

#BASKETBALLCL

**STANDINGS GROUP E**

REGULAR SEASON

	P	W	L	%	PTS
1  GALATASARAY NEF	6	5	1	83.3%	11
2  IGOKEA M:TEL	6	3	3	50.0%	9
3  PAOK MATECO	6	2	4	33.3%	8
4  CRA NYMBURK	6	2	4	33.3%	8

#BASKETBALLCL

**STANDINGS GROUP F**

REGULAR SEASON

	P	W	L	%	PTS
1  TOFAS BURSA	6	4	2	66.7%	10
2  SIG STRASBOURG	6	3	3	50.0%	9
3  FILOU OOSTENDE	6	3	3	50.0%	9
4  KALEV CRAMO	6	2	4	33.3%	8

#BASKETBALLCL

**STANDINGS GROUP G**

REGULAR SEASON

	P	W	L	%	PTS
1  U-BT CLUJ-NAPOCA	6	5	1	83.3%	11
2  HAPOEL U-NET HOLON	6	4	2	66.7%	10
3  DARÜSSAFKA	6	2	4	33.3%	8
4  HAPPY CASA BRNOIS	6	1	5	16.7%	7

#BASKETBALLCL

**STANDINGS GROUP H**

REGULAR SEASON

	P	W	L	%	PTS
1  RYTAS VILNIUS	6	4	2	66.7%	10
2  HEREDA SAN PABLO BURGOS	6	4	2	66.7%	10
3  BESIKTAS ICRVPEX	6	3	3	50.0%	9
4  EWE BASKETS OLDENBURG	6	1	5	16.7%	7

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## PLAY-IN PAIRINGS

2  LENOVO TENERIFE	VS	PINAR KARSİYAKA	1
1  HAPOEL JERUSALEM	VS	PROMETEY	2
2  JDA DIJON	VS	VEF RIGA	0
2  NUTRIBULLET TREVISO	VS	LAVRIO MEGABOLT	0
1  IGOKEA M:TEL	VS	FILOU OOSTENDE	2
2  SIG STRASBOURG	VS	PAOK MATECO	0
2  HAPOEL U-NET HOLON	VS	BESIKTAS ICRVPEX	1
1  HEREDA SAN PABLO BURGOS	VS	DARÜSSAFKA	2

BEST OF 3 SERIES

#BASKETBALLCL

# PLAY-OFFS STANDINGS

**STANDINGS GROUP I**  
ROUND OF 16

	P	W	L	%	PTS
HAPOEL HOLON	6	4	2	66.7%	10
MHP RIESEN LUDWIGSBURG	6	4	2	66.7%	10
JDA DIJON	6	3	3	50.0%	9
GALATASARAY NEF	6	1	5	16.7%	7

ABASKEI BILBAO

**STANDINGS GROUP K**  
ROUND OF 16

	P	W	L	%	PTS
U-BT CLUJ-NAPOCA	4	3	1	75.0%	7
UNICAJA	4	2	2	50.0%	6
FLOU OSTENDE	4	1	3	25.0%	5
PROMETEI HAS DECIDED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE COMPETITION					

ABASKEI BILBAO

**STANDINGS GROUP J**  
ROUND OF 16

	P	W	L	%	PTS
BAXI MANRESA	6	4	2	66.7%	10
TOFAS BURSA	6	4	2	66.7%	10
DARUSSAFKA	6	4	2	66.7%	10
NUTRIBULLETT TREVISO	6	0	6	0%	6

ABASKEI BILBAO

**STANDINGS GROUP L**  
ROUND OF 16

	P	W	L	%	PTS
LENOVO TENERIFE	6	6	0	100%	12
SIG STRASBOURG	6	3	3	50.0%	9
RYTAS VILNIUS	6	2	4	33.3%	8
FALCO SZOMBATHELY	6	1	5	16.7%	7

ABASKEI BILBAO



# SEASON AWARDS

## TEAM OF THE MONTH

October	<b>Jonah Radebaugh</b>	USA	MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg
	<b>Jerrick Harding</b>	USA	ERA Nymburk
	<b>DeVaughn Akoon-Purcell</b>	USA	Galatasaray NEF
	<b>Bonzie Colson</b>	USA	Pinar Karsiyaka
	<b>Henry Sims</b>	USA	Nutribullet Treviso
November	<b>Ivan Strebkov</b>	RUS	Nizhny Novgorod
	<b>Dario Brizuela</b>	ESP	Unicaja
	<b>Andrija Stipanovic</b>	BIH	U-BT Cluj-Napoca
	<b>Ismael Bako</b>	BEL	BAXI Manresa
	<b>Ivan Buva</b>	CRO	Rytas Vilnius
December	<b>Brandon Brown</b>	USA	U-BT Cluj-Napoca
	<b>John Roberson</b>	BIH	SIG Strasbourg
	<b>DeVaughn Akoon-Purcell</b>	USA	Galatasaray NEF
	<b>Maurice Ndour</b>	SEN	Rytas Vilnius
	<b>Giorgi Shermadini</b>	GEO	Lenovo Tenerife
January	<b>Dogus Ozdemiroglu</b>	TUR	Darussafaka
	<b>Tomas Dimsa</b>	LTU	Nutribullet Treviso
	<b>DJ Kennedy</b>	USA	Prometey
	<b>Levi Randolph</b>	USA	Filou Oostende
	<b>Giorgi Shermadini</b>	GEO	Lenovo Tenerife
February	<b>David Holston</b>	USA	JDA Dijon
	<b>D'Angelo Harrison</b>	USA	Prometey
	<b>Kyle Wiltjer</b>	CAN	Lenovo Tenerife
	<b>Tomislav Zubcic</b>	CRO	Tofas Bursa
	<b>Miro Bilan</b>	CRO	Prometey

## TEAM OF THE MONTH

<b>March</b>	<b>Joe Ragland</b>	USA	Hapoel U-NET Holon
	<b>Troy Caupain</b>	USA	Darussafaka
	<b>Giordano Bortolani</b>	ITA	Nutrilbullet Treviso
	<b>Kyle Wiltjer</b>	CAN	Lenovo Tenerife
	<b>Chima Moneke</b>	NGR	BAXI Manresa
<b>April</b>	<b>Jonah Radebaugh</b>	USA	MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg
	<b>Joe Thomasson</b>	USA	BAXI Manresa
	<b>Chris Johnson</b>	USA	Hapoel U-NET Holon
	<b>Chima Moneke</b>	NGR	BAXI Manresa
	<b>Giorgi Shermadini</b>	GEO	Lenovo Tenerife

## MVP OF THE MONTH

<b>October</b>	<b>Jonah Radebaugh</b>	USA	MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg
<b>November</b>	<b>Ivan Buva</b>	CRO	Rytas Vilnius
<b>December</b>	<b>Brandon Brown</b>	USA	U-BT Cluj-Napoca
<b>January</b>	<b>Dogus Ozdemiroglu</b>	TUR	Darussafaka
<b>February</b>	<b>David Holston</b>	USA	JDA Dijon
<b>March</b>	<b>Joe Ragland</b>	USA	Hapoel U-NET Holon
<b>April</b>	<b>Chima Moneke</b>	NGR	BAXI Manresa

# BAXI MANRESA



## RED HOT

If we did a survey for the hottest basketball team in Europe this season, BAXI Manresa would undoubtedly be right at the very top of the most common answers. After failing to make it out of the Regular Season at the first attempt in the 19/20 season and also failing to qualify altogether for the following season, expectations were understandably tempered before the start of this season. What has transpired since then is almost certainly the club's best season - both domestically and in Europe - since the turn of the century. That may sound dramatic but Pedro Martinez's squad have spent much of the season in the top four of the Liga Endesa in Spain - a position they haven't

finished in since 1998 - and have reached the Semi-Finals of a European competition, a feat never achieved by the club in its history. All of these achievements become even more acute when we consider that the club was in LEB Gold, Spain's second division, only four years ago.

Founded in 1931 with the name Manresa Basquetbol Club, the club plays out of the Pavelló Nou Congost. Their best period historically was between 1995 and 1998 when they won the Copa Del Rey in 1996 and then the ACB in 1998. Current Head Coach Pedro Martinez, actually laid the foundations for that period during his first stint at the club between 1990 and 1994. Martinez guided Manresa to a fourth-placed

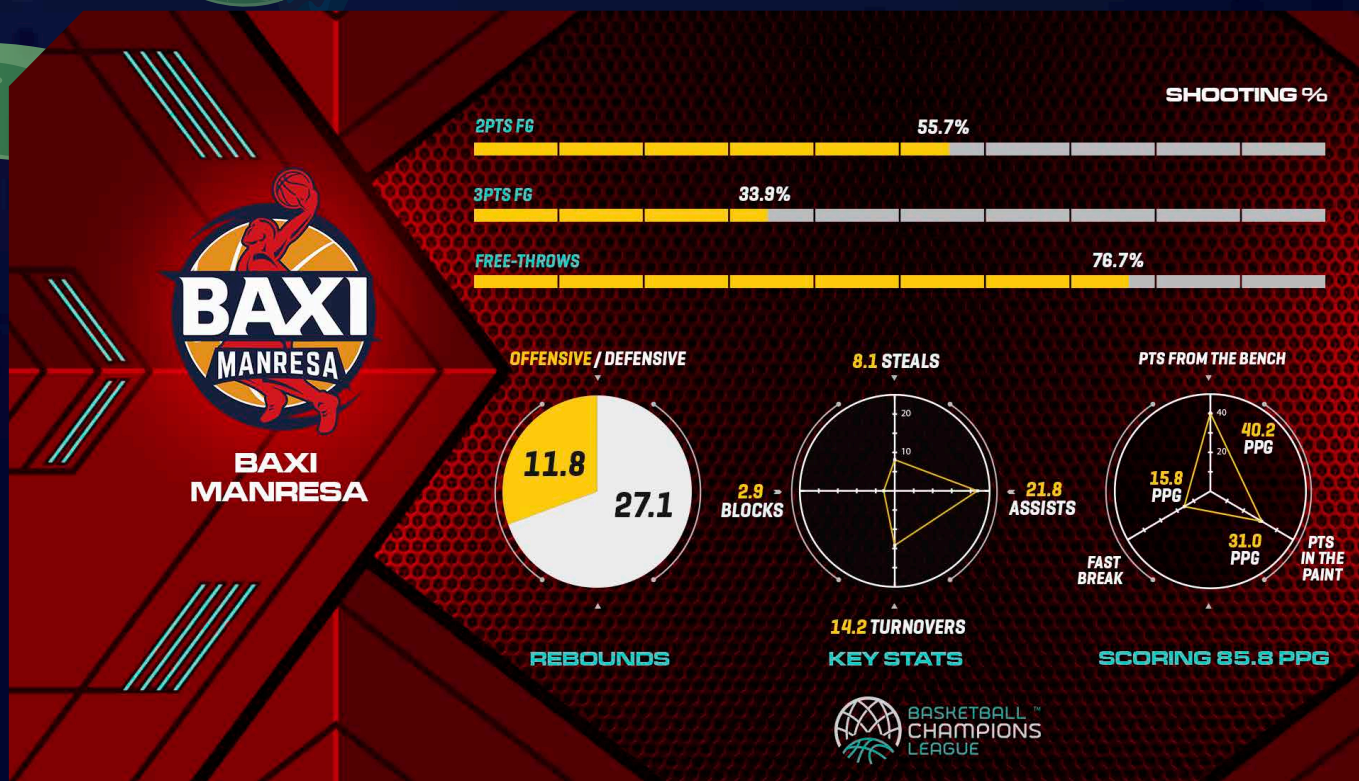


finish in the ACB and a Quarter-Final of the FIBA Korac Cup in 1994, winning Spain's Coach of the Year Award in the process. Whilst this current squad is undoubtedly one of the most talented in the club's history, it's also worth noting that like likes of NBA Hall of Famer George Gervin, LA Clipper Serge Ibaka and Argentina legend Andres Nocioni also passed through Manresa in the past.

After returning in 2019, Pedro Martinez instantly established a distinctive style of play and has honed it even further this season. Manresa play at an almost hectic tempo and the ball never sticks for more than a second. They move up the floor in transition very quickly and the ball moves from player to player just as quickly, with almost impeccable spacing at all times. Actions flow from one to another and it's entirely common for their offensive possessions to include four or even five different screening actions inside twenty four seconds. This is a team with players that can create their own shot off the dribble but they are much more likely create offense from

player and ball movement. This is reflected in the stats. Manresa lead the league in assists at 21.8 per game and are second amongst teams at the Final 4 with an Assist Percentage of 74.2 percent, which essentially means they record an assist for 74.2 percent of their made field goals. The way they share the ball also powers one of the BCL's most efficient offenses. They have an Offensive Rating of 112.4 points scored per 100 possessions, good for second amongst Final 4 teams. Their impeccable spacing is also somewhat reflected in their stats. The idea behind any spacing scheme is to be harder to guard and create the most efficient shots possible.

Manresa attempt more shots from behind the arc than any other team at the Final 4 with 16 attempts per game. And as we can see from the chart below, their most efficient scorings zones are the left corner, where 50 percent shooting gets them 1.5 points per shot and directly at the rim, where 64 percent shooting gets them 1.28 points per shot. The area directly under the



rim is also the area where they have attempted the most shots all season with 108. Note that we haven't included the 100 percent from the left, short-corner because they have only taken three shots there all season. It's also important that Manresa are the clear leaders when it comes to bench scoring with 40.2 points, alluding to the fact that this is a team with the depth and options to find solutions to almost any problem.

On the defensive end the tempo is no less hectic. This team isn't shy to pick up and press the ball full court and their front court with the likes of Chima Moneke, Ismael Bako, and Yankuba Sima, has the length and foot speed to have all five players involved in the press. In the halfcourt it doesn't get any easier for opposition offenses. They want to rush and disrupt teams at all costs and Moneke in particular is one of the BCL's very best defensive players. Manresa record the second most steals per game in the BCL at 8.1 and they also rank second in the league for Defensive Rating, conceding just 101 points per 100 possessions. Putting the whole picture together on offense and defense, Manresa have the top Net Efficiency Rating of any team in the league at +11.3 points per 100 possessions.

BAXI Manresa went into the season drawn in what looked like a group of death with pre-season favorites Pinar Karsiyaks and Hapoel Bank Yahav Jerusalem. Their response was to go five games unbeaten to start the season and in the process picked up wins on the road against both Jerusalem and Karsiyaka. Sylvain Francisco really introduced himself to the competition with 23 points in the win at Jerusalem. Then in following home win against Pinar Karsiyaka, Joe Thomasson and Ismael Bako combined for 41 points with Bako shooting 100 percent from the field. By this point the entire league was starting to realize that this Manresa team was a real threat. In the next game on the road at Arged BM Stal Ostrow Wielkopolski, Chima Moneke lead the team with 16 points as they picked up a 75-88 win. They weren't defeated until the very last game of the Regular Season when Jerusalem prevented them from completing the double over every team in the group.

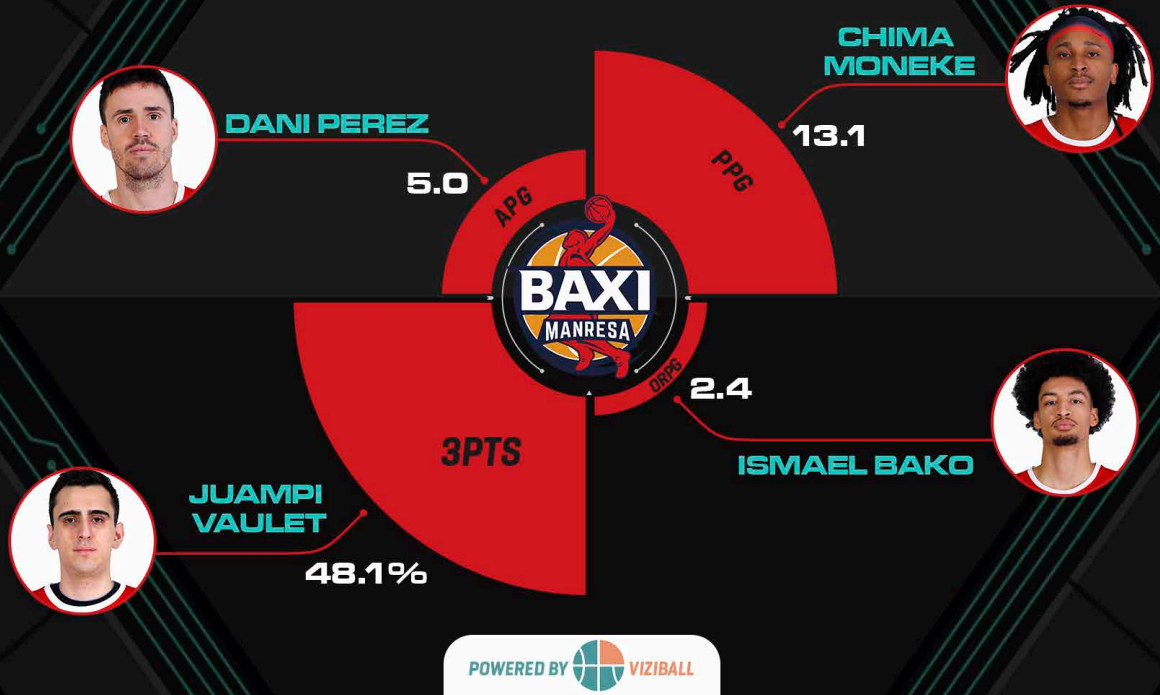
The Round of 16 didn't start as auspiciously when they lost on the road to Tofas Bursa. Luke Maye's 31 points was the only bright spot for Manresa in that game. They got back to winning ways in the next home game against Darussafaka. Juampi Vaulet made his mark on the season with 13 points after replacing injured captain Guillem Jou during the Regular Season. They then scored more than 100 points twice in a row as they recorded back to back wins over Nutribullet Treviso. Joe Thomasson scored 16 points in each game. After that, Manresa went 1-1 against Darussafaka and Tofas, meaning they split their games with both Turkish clubs. Yankuba Sima's double-double with 14 points and 16 rebounds against Tofas was a real standout performance of the Round of 16.

The Quarter-Finals paired Manresa with Unicaja in an all-Spanish derby. In the first half of Game 1, Manresa expelled any doubts over their credentials and produced one of the best Play-Offs performances ever seen in the BCL. They won the first quarter 29-4 and prevented Unicaja from recording a single made field goal - the first time a team hasn't made a field goal in an entire quarter since the league began. Joe Thomasson's 16 points and 5 rebounds, partnered with Chima Moneke's 11 point and 11 rebound double-double guided Pedro Martinez's squad to a commanding 86-63 win. With work still to be done and a Liga Endesa rival looking to win back some pride, Manresa travelled to Malaga and fired on all cylinders on the offensive end, shooting 52.5 percent overall and 40 percent from behind the arc as they powered past Unicaja 89-91. Joe Thomasson's game winner off the dribble with just a second on the clock secured the series and also provided one of the highlights of the season.

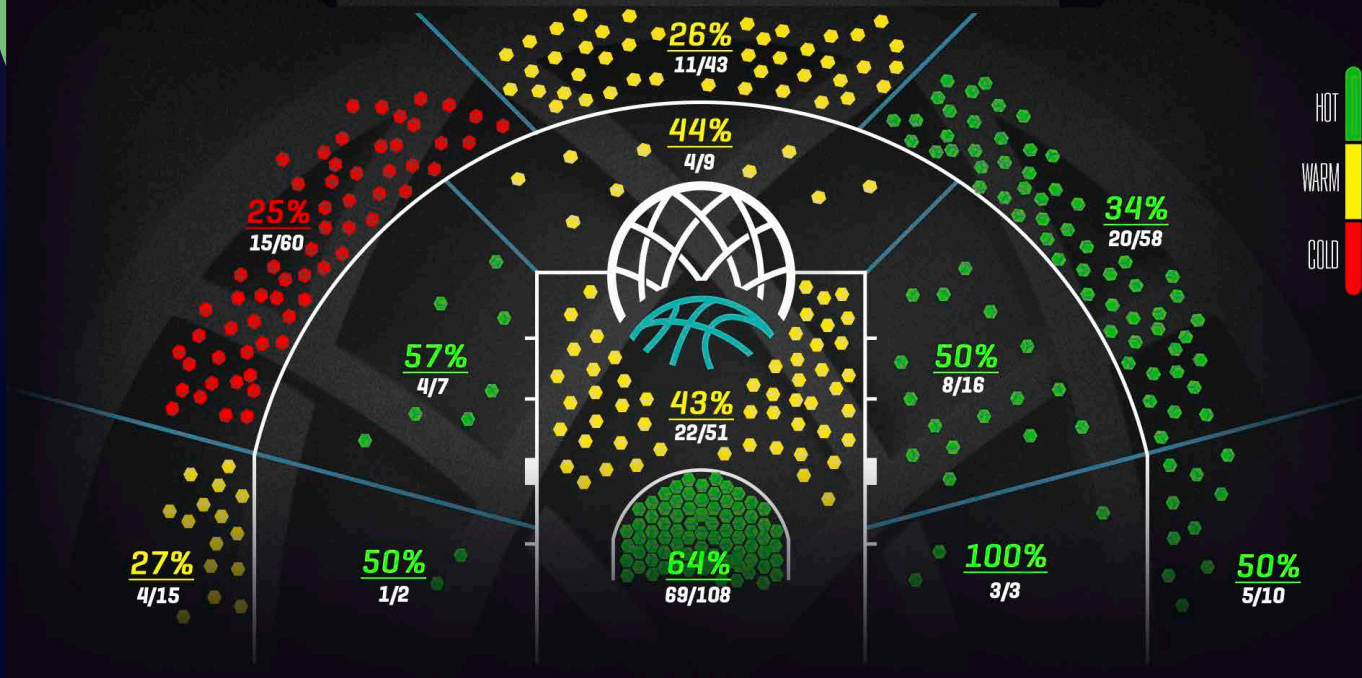
Manresa have only lost once at home all season in the BCL and a large part of that has been the raucous environment created by their fans in the Pavellion Nou Congost. With the Final 4 in Bilbao just a short flight away, there is every chance those fans will travel in the kind of numbers to create a home atmosphere in the Bilbao Arena. This is a club that has never made performed on a stage like this before. Expect them to make the most of it.



## BAXI MANRESA



## BAXI MANRESA



## PEDRO MARTINEZ



**Date of birth:** 29/06/1961  
**Coaching career:** Joventut Badalona (ESP; 1990, 1994-95), Manresa (ESP; 1990-94, 2014-15, 2019- ), Salamanca (ESP; 1995-96), Granada (ESP; 1997-98), Menorca (ESP; 1999-2000), Ourense (ESP; 2001), Tenerife (ESP; 2001-02), Gran Canaria (ESP; 2002-05, 2009-14, 2019), Baskonia (ESP; 2005, 2017-18), Estudiantes (ESP; 2006-07), Girona (ESP; 2007-08), Sevilla (ESP; 2008-09), Valencia (ESP; 2015-17)  
**BCL Coaching Record:** 18-10  
**BCL ranking in coaching wins:** #21

There aren't many coaches who can say they've won big trophies 27 years apart. Pedro Martinez took over head coaching duties at Joventut in 1990 and won the FIBA Korac Cup straight away, outlasting another 29-year-old on the other bench in the Final, none other than Sergio Scariolo, at the helm of Scavolini Pesaro at the time. Martinez soon made the switch to Manresa, beginning his first four-year stay with the club, returning once more in 2014-15, and then finally in 2019, to start the impressive run that has the club battling for the biggest of trophies in both Spain and the BCL. The playcaller also won the 2017 Spanish League with Valencia, has another Spanish Supercup with Baskonia, so count on him to stay calm and collected if there is a chance to add another trophy to his collection this season. With the way Manresa played all season long, Martinez is in the running for the Coach of the Season award, which is exactly what you would expect from a mastermind who won in 1990, 2017... and 2022? Why not? He adapted to modern basketball easily, turning Manresa into a team that draws both the fans and the analysts to the screen whenever they are on the court.

## SYLVAIN FRANCISCO



**Date of birth:** 10/10/1997  
**Position:** point guard  
**Height:** 186cm/6'1"  
**Club career:** ELEV8 Sports Institute (USA; 2014-15), Liberty Christian Prep (USA; 2015-16), West Oaks Academy (USA; 2016-17), Boulogne-Levallois (FRA; 2017-18), Paris (FRA; 2018-20), Roanne (FRA; 2020-21), BAXI Manresa (ESP; 2021- )  
**BCL season-high:** 23 points (@ Hapoel Jerusalem; Oct 13, 2021)  
**BCL career-high:** 23 points (@ Hapoel Jerusalem; Oct 13, 2021)

Not a lot of players can say they impressed Damian Lillard as high schoolers. It's not that hard to see how Sylvain Francisco got Lillard's attention, because he keeps you invested 100 percent of time while he's on the court. Explosive doesn't even begin to describe him, and when he's making his shots from deep, there's not much you can do to stop him. He always rolls up his shorts, allowing the fans to see he never skipped leg days, and his high-flying stunts are a treat for social media. Francisco is another player who was in the second division of French basketball just two years ago, but never lost faith in his abilities, never doubted he could perform at this level - or an even higher one. While his 23-point outburst came early in the season, Francisco found consistency later on. He's entering the Final Four on a six game streak of double digit scoring.

## CHIMA MONEKE

STAR  
PLAYER



**Date of birth:** 24/12/1995  
**Position:** power forward  
**Height:** 198cm/6'6"  
**Club career:** Northeast Community College (USA; 2013-15), UC Davies Aggies (USA; 2016-18), Rouen (FRA; 2018), Denain (FRA; 2018-19), Quimper (FRA; 2019-20), Orleans (FRA; 2020-21), BAXI Manresa (ESP; 2021- )  
**BCL season-high:** 26 points (@ Darussafaka; Mar 16, 2022)  
**BCL career-high:** 26 points (@ Darussafaka; Mar 16, 2022)

"I'm a nobody and nobody's perfect." The motto that saw Chima Moneke rise from being an outsider in Australia all the way to stardom in Europe. His goal was to play college basketball in the United States, and he tried everything to get there, including creating his own YouTube highlight clips, and sending them out to numerous schools. In the end, being Dante Exum's teammate helped, as Moneke managed to draw attention to himself while scouts were in to watch Exum play. The path to greatness wasn't easy, his professional career started with three stops in the second division of French basketball, only getting the LNB Pro A breakthrough with Orleans in 2020. Moneke is all about energy and confidence, throwing out soundbites about being the most confident player in the world and the most charismatic player in the Spanish League. Chima has the looks, Chima is loud, Chima is hungry, Chima is out to prove a point. Nobody will outwork him on the court, and nobody will have more fun with the fans after the games. "I feel like this team, in ten years, people will still be talking about this team." That's his goal for the season. It starts with this Final Four, perfect chance to give the people something to talk about.

## TONI NASPLER



**Date of birth:** 11/07/2003  
**Position:** point guard  
**Height:** 197cm/6'6"  
**Club career:** Zentro Basket Madrid (ESP; 2021-22), BAXI Manresa (ESP; 2021- )

The youngest team member, and also the brightest of all prospects coming up through BAXI Manresa's academy. To make things even better, Toni Naspler is one of their own, a proud Manresa kid who is living his best life, playing professionally for his hometown club and enjoying the best atmosphere imaginable in that arena. Naspler is a big guard who can create with the ball in his hands, already flirting with triple-doubles in the third division with Zentro Basket Madrid. He recently made his first team debut with Manresa, which led to a sacred tradition - his teammates shaved his head in celebration of the debut. It's okay. Toni knows he'll get to do it, too. And do it for a long time, Manresa fans certainly hope.

## MARCIS STEINBERGS



**Date of birth:** 28/08/2001  
**Position:** power forward  
**Height:** 206cm/6'9"  
**Club career:** BK Ogre (LAT; 2017-19), CBA Gran Canaria (ESP; 2019-21), Gran Canaria (ESP; 2020-21), BAXI Manresa (ESP; 2021- )  
**BCL season-high:** 7 points (multiple times)  
**BCL career-high:** 7 points (multiple times)

NCAA players get to experience the March Madness. BCL players get to experience Marcis Madness when playing against BAXI Manresa. The Latvian prospect signed with the team in 2021, and immediately became one of the most liked players in the locker room. He grew up through Ogre's system in Latvia, and moved to Spain as a teenager, making his way through Gran Canaria's development team. Steinbergs made his Liga Endesa debut last season, and he is getting minutes regularly with Manresa this season. This is a perfect learning experience, sharing the front court with guys like Moneke, Bako, Maye, Sima and doing it all with Pedro Martinez as his mentor, Steinbergs has the perfect ingredients to watch, learn and become the next big thing for Manresa in years to come.

## RAFA MARTINEZ



**Date of birth:** 03/03/1982  
**Position:** shooting guard  
**Height:** 190cm/6'3"  
**Club career:** BAXI Manresa (ESP; 1999-2000, 2003-08, 2020- ); Vic (ESP; 2000-01), Valls (ESP; 2001-03), Valencia (ESP; 2008-19), Bilbao (ESP; 2019-20)  
**BCL season-high:** 13 points (v Nutribullet Treviso; Mar 10, 2022)  
**BCL career-high:** 13 points (v Nutribullet Treviso; Mar 10, 2022)

Once BAXI Manresa and MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg take the court in the Semi-Finals in Bilbao, there will be a personal battle going on in the background. Rafa Martinez and Tremell Darden will fight for the bragging rights of being the first 40-year-old to score in a BCL closing tournament - so far, they are the only two 40-year-old to score in any BCL game. The sharp shooting guard hasn't lost his touch, not at all. He started his professional career when guys like Sylvain Francisco and Chima Moneke were still toddlers, and guys like Toni Naspler and Marcis Steinbergs weren't even in their parents' plans. Rafa won the Spanish League with Valencia in 2017, picked up three EuroCup titles with the same club, and led the Liga Endesa in three-point shooting across three seasons. He is here to lead by example, and to get his fairy tale ending by finishing off a storied career with his hometown club. Lifting the trophy on Sunday fits right in the story of Rafa Martinez completing the circle of his career.

## ELIAS VALTONEN



**Date of birth:** 11/06/1999  
**Position:** small forward  
**Height:** 200cm/6'7"  
**Club career:** UU-Korihait (FIN; 2013-15), HBA-Marsky (FIN; 2015-18), Arizona State (USA; 2018-20), Tigers Tubingen (GER; 2020-21), BAXI Manresa (ESP; 2021- )  
**BCL season-high:** 11 points (v Tofas Bursa; Mar 22, 2022)  
**BCL career-high:** 11 points (v Tofas Bursa; Mar 22, 2022)

Another Finnish player to make this Final Four, Elias Valtonen had a different path compared to most of his compatriots. Influenced by good friend and former teammate Lauri Markkanen, Valtonen made the move to the NCAA after the long travels from his hometown in Finland to the Helsinki Basketball Academy from 2015 to 2018. But, as good of a friend Markkanen is, he couldn't prevent Valtonen from joining Arizona State, the fiercest rival of Markkanen's Arizona. A couple of seasons there opened up new possibilities for Elias, and he opted for the professional path, moving to Germany and joining the list of second division players recruited by Manresa's front office. Valtonen averaged 16 points per game in Germany, and made an immediate impact when he moved to Manresa, knocking down the game winning shot in Jerusalem early in the season. Valtonen is perfect for modern basketball - a strong, athletic wing with a more-than-fine shooting touch.

## ISMAEL BAKO



**Date of birth:** 10/10/1995  
**Position:** center  
**Height:** 208cm/6'10"  
**Previous clubs:** Leuven Bears (BEL; 2012-17), Telenet Giants Antwerp (BEL; 2017-19), LDLC ASVEL (FRA; 2019-21), BAXI Manresa (ESP; 2021- )  
**BCL season-high:** 20 points (v Pinar Karsiyaka; Nov 9, 2021)  
**BCL career-high:** 25 points (v Brose Bamberg; Nov 6, 2018)

We've had our fair share of Cinderella stories in the BCL, but perhaps the most astonishing one was back in 2019, when Ismael Bako led Telenet Giants Antwerp to the Final Four. The club then hosted the event, but could not end the season with the trophy. Bako did, albeit with an individual award, Star Lineup First Team. He also won the Belgian Cup as the MVP that season, which is in time of Dario Gjergja and Filou Oostende considered an outstanding achievement. A move to France saw Bako taking a lesser role, with question marks being raised about his talents. All of those disappeared as soon as he put on the Manresa jersey. He dunked his way to fans' hearts in the Nou Congost, and he looks better than ever, dominating the game around the rims, whether with points, rebounds or blocks. Bako is one third of the Flow trio, next to Francisco and Moneke, responsible for the great atmosphere in the locker room.

## JUAMPI VAULET



**Date of birth:** 22/03/1996  
**Position:** small forward  
**Height:** 198cm/6'6"  
**Club career:** Bahia (ARG; 2014-18), Penarol (ARG; 2018-19), BAXI Manresa (ESP; 2019-21, 2021- ), AEK (GRE; 2021)  
**BCL season-high:** 13 points (v Darussafaka; Feb 9, 2022)  
**BCL career-high:** 18 points (v Hapoel U-NET Holon; Jan 21, 2020)

It's impossible to come out of Argentina with the names of Manu Ginobili or Luis Scola being mentioned. It's impossible to write anything about Juampi Vaulet without mentioning both of them. Vaulet grew up through Bahia's ranks - the same team that gave Manu Ginobili to the world - and he was coached by Manu's brother Sebastian over there. It's not the only brotherly connection, Vaulet played alongside his brother Santi Vaulet in both Bahia and Penarol, and during his time with Bahia, he got drafted with the 39th pick in the 2015 NBA Draft. He never made the move to the League, building instead a successful European career with Manresa, and a brief stop in Athens to start this season. Just before that, he was part of history at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. It was Juampi Vaulet coming on as Luis Scola's final substitution, in the final minute of the Quarter-Final against Australia, which saw a five minute standing ovation for Scola.

## JOE THOMASSON



**Date of birth:** 16/08/1993  
**Position:** shooting guard  
**Height:** 193cm/6'4"  
**Club career:** State Fair CC (USA; 2012-14), Wright State (USA; 2014-16), Dinamo Bucuresti (ROU; 2016), Birmingham Squadron (USA; 2016-17), SKS Starograd Gdanski (POL; 2017-18), Pszczolka Start Lublin (POL; 2018-19), Enea Zastal Zielona Gora (POL; 2019-20), Gilboa Galil (ISR; 2020-21), BAXI Manresa (ESP; 2021- )  
**BCL season-high:** 21 points (v Pinar Karsiyaka; Nov 9, 2021)  
**BCL career-high:** 21 points (v Pinar Karsiyaka; Nov 9, 2021)

Iso-Joe! Sure, BAXI Manresa are all about Moneke, Francisco or Bako's energy and highlights, but whenever they need a big bucket in a close game, you know the ball will find its way to Joe Thomasson. The big guard with a wide wingspan has all the tricks in the world, making his defenders dance if they are left on an island 1v1 with him. Thomasson is a leader, a man who knocked down his patented long two to defeat Unicaja and send Manresa to the Final Four, and is riding a seven game double digit scoring streak in the BCL. His domestic campaign is even more impressive, capped off with a 33-point, 6-assist, 5-rebound explosion against UCAM Murcia. Don't be surprised if Thomasson brings his kids to the event, to the court or the press conference. Family and basketball, that's what it's all about with Joe, who grew up with three brothers and five sisters.

## LUKE MAYE



**Date of birth:** 07/03/1997  
**Position:** power forward  
**Height:** 203cm/6'8"  
**Club career:** North Carolina (USA; 2015-19), Wisconsin Herd (USA; 2019-20), Dolomiti Energia Trentino (ITA; 2020-21), BAXI Manresa (ESP; 2021- )  
**BCL season-high:** 31 points (@ Tofas Bursa; Feb 2, 2022)  
**BCL career-high:** 31 points (@ Tofas Bursa; Feb 2, 2022)

The good news about the Final Four being in May is that Luke Maye will be in a good sleeping rhythm, after the March Madness got in the way earlier this season. The North Carolina legend surely enjoyed the Tar Heels' path back to the national championship game for the first time since 2017, a year when Maye's big last second shot against Kentucky got North Carolina to the Final Four. Luke always seemed destined for a rock solid European career, a season in Italy was all that was needed for Manresa to get on the phone and bring Maye to the team. One habit that he brought from North Carolina - performing above average on the road. He had 12 points in 16 minutes in the road win over Barcelona, 20 points in 21 minutes in the road win over Real Madrid, and his top three scoring games in the BCL were also away from home, including the 31-point outing in Turkey.

## DANI PEREZ



**Date of birth:** 28/02/1990  
**Position:** point guard  
**Height:** 186cm/6'1"  
**Club career:** Cornellà (ESP; 2009-10), Lleida (ESP; 2010-11), Menorca (ESP; 2011-12), MoraBanc Andorra (ESP; 2012-13), Fuenlabrada (ESP; 2013-15), Palencia (ESP; 2015-16), Tenerife (ESP; 2016), Oviedo (ESP; 2016-17), Acunsa Gipuzkoa (ESP; 2017-19), BAXI Manresa (ESP; 2019- )  
**BCL season-high:** 9 points (multiple times)  
**BCL career-high:** 11 points (@ Polski

Cukier Torun; Dec 11, 2019)

When you finish as the best passer in a competition that has Marcelinho Huertas, Omar Cook and Alex Renfro, just to name a few, that means you're the real deal. Dani Perez was topping the assists per game stats in the Spanish League last season, and that pass-first mentality is evident in every step he takes. He dished out 70 assists in the BCL this season, the most for any player that is yet to score in double digits. The lefty point guard reads the angles of the passes perfectly, and by playing with alley-oop targets such as Moneke, Bako and Sima he has adjusted his timing to perfection. Playing for the name on the front side of the jersey instead of the one on the back got Perez so much success, he even made the Spanish national team. Incredible story for a man who was still in the second division as a 27-year-old. Stars aligned, he is now perhaps the most important piece of the backcourt puzzle if Manresa want to win the BCL.

## YANKUBA SIMA



**Date of birth:** 28/07/1996  
**Position:** center  
**Height:** 211cm/6'11"  
**Club career:** St. John's Red Storm (USA; 2015-17), Oklahoma State Cowboys (USA; 2017-18), BAXI Manresa (ESP; 2018-19), Ourense (ESP; 2019-20), BAXI Manresa (ESP; 2020- )  
**BCL season-high:** 14 points (multiple times)  
**BCL career-high:** 14 points (multiple times)

Another Spanish national team member, Yankuba Sima has numerous connections to other players in this Final Four. He played for the same ELEV8 Sports Institute as Sylvain Francisco, and he narrowly missed out on playing with Justin Simon at St. John's Red Storm, transferring to Oklahoma State just as Simon joined the Red Storm. Sima is a solid piece of front court rotation for coach Martinez, and his 14-point, 16-rebound double-double against Tofas Bursa showed he could dominate games with ease. He had another 14-point game against Darussafaka, obviously enjoying the matchups with the Turkish teams. Sima is proud of his Gambian roots, same as his six brothers and sisters, and the fact he was born in Girona helped out with another connection - Sima used his off-season to work out with Marc Gasol, one of the greatest European centers of all time. Not a surprise then that Sima improved so much he is a part of the national team now.

## DANI GARCIA



**Date of birth:** 30/01/1998  
**Position:** point guard  
**Height:** 185cm/6'1"  
**Club career:** Torrons Vicens (ESP; 2016-17), BAXI Manresa (ESP; 2017- ), Martorell (ESP; 2017-18), Penas Huesca (ESP; 2018-20), Girona (ESP; 2020-21)  
**BCL season-high:** 8 points (v Nutribullet Treviso; Mar 10, 2022)  
**BCL career-high:** 8 points (v Nutribullet Treviso; Mar 10, 2022)

With brief stops in lower division, Dani Garcia is now in his first real full time season with Manresa, the same club that brought him over in 2017. He is making the best out of the situation, where he gets to learn about the point guard duties from Dani Perez, and it seems that he's on the same path of becoming an elite pass-first playmaker. Garcia already averaged just under six assists per game during his stay in Huesca, and even in limited opportunities with Manresa, he has shown promise of a great future. His best game of the season came against a BCL team, but not in the BCL. It was against Lenovo Tenerife in the Liga Endesa, when Dani helped Manresa get a two-point win by doing a bit of everything with 7 points, 9 assists and 4 rebounds. Time is on his side, nobody expects him to win games right now, but he'll be ready to find open teammates if presented with minutes at the Final Four.

## GUILLEM JOU



**Date of birth:** 15/07/1997  
**Position:** shooting guard  
**Height:** 195cm/6'5"  
**Club career:** BAXI Manresa (ESP; 2015- )  
**BCL season-high:** 18 points (v Arged BM Stal; Oct 6, 2021)  
**BCL career-high:** 18 points (v Arged BM Stal; Oct 6, 2021)

There aren't a lot of minutes left for Guillem Jou in Manresa's backcourt rotation. However, when he sees the floor, he's a scorer. He had 18 points against Arged BM Stal Ostrow Wielkopolski, setting his new career-high in all competitions, topping the 16 points he had against Unicaja and Estudiantes in the Liga Endesa. Jou was a member of various youth national teams, including an atypical one: Guillem played 3x3 basketball for U18 Spain in 2015, finishing third in the world in his age group, thanks to a clutch three-pointer he made. Later that year, his professional contract started with BAXI Manresa, moving his focus to 5x5 full time. He is not afraid to shoot from deep, he attempted 22 three-pointers, compared to just three two-pointers in 2021-22. A long term injury kept him out of the Final Four, which comes as bad news for BAXI Manresa - they were 5-0 in BCL games when Jou was on the court this season.

# HAPOEL U-NET HOLON



## PURPLE RAIN

Things are going from good to better for Hapoel U-NET Holon in the BCL. After failing to make it out of the Regular Season in any of their previous seasons, last season they finally made it to the post season, then continued that run on to the Final Eight. They say that progress is never a straight line but that line is looking lazer-straight for Holon in the BCL at the moment. They have now taken last year's Final Eight run and converted into a Final Four run. Last season didn't stay their best European season ever for very long. The only slight difference being that last season they topped their group in the Regular Season and the Round of 16. This season they only managed to top their Round of 16 group but then made up for it by

knocking out last year's Final Four underdogs SIG Strasbourg in the Quarter-Finals. Despite this recent uptrend and constant development, Holon somehow manage to remain the underdog and the long shot. That may not last very long either.

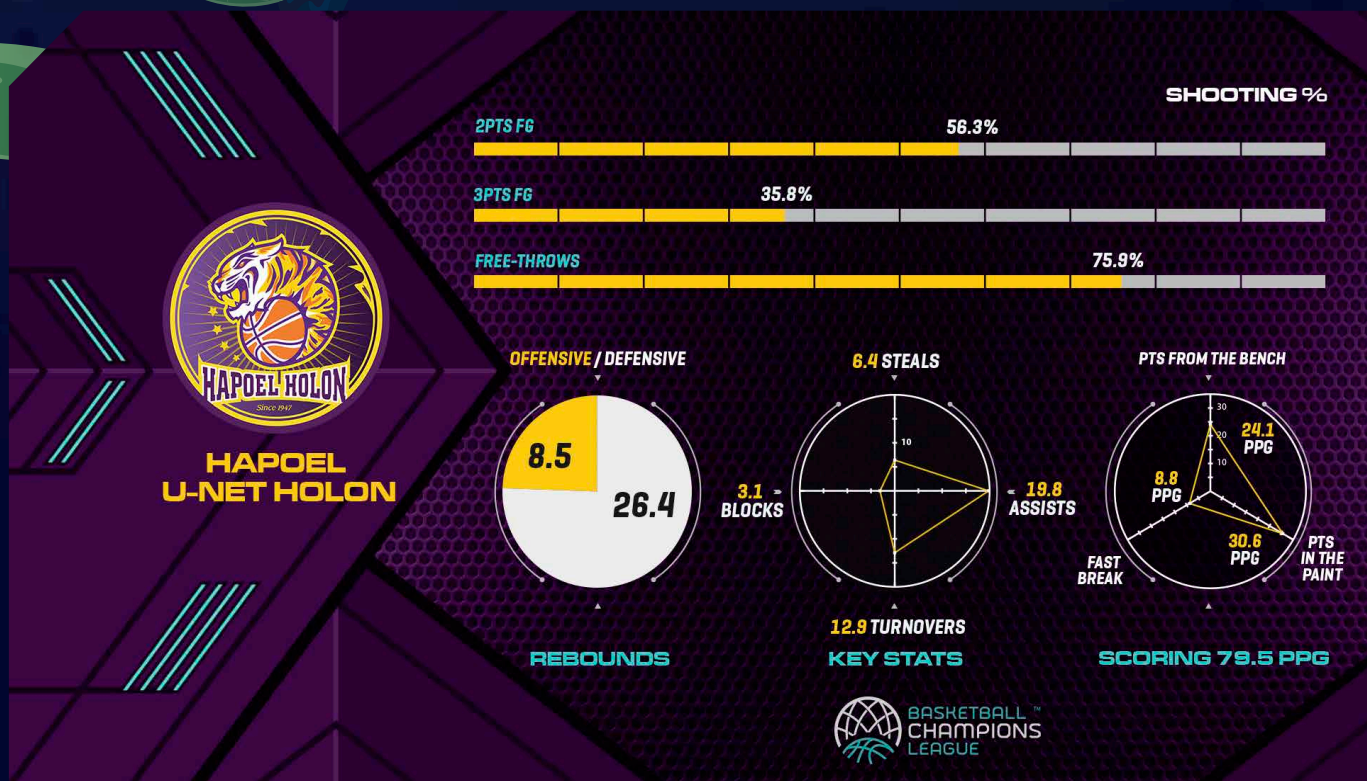
Founded in 1947 and one of the original founders of the top division in Israel, Holon originally started out playing in red and white. It was only after a fan of the Lakers donated some purple and gold kit that Holon became the Lakers of Israel. In 2008, P.J. Tucker won the MVP award whilst guiding the club to their only league championship to date. They are twice winners of the Israeli State Cup in 2009 and 2018. Last



season they also added the Balkan League to their trophy cabinet and finished second in the Israeli League Cup for the second time.

Guy Goodes took the reigns as head coach on the 8th of January this year and his impact has been clearly felt. Their record since he started is 15-6, which includes the back to back losses in Israel immediately after taking over. Once known for being equally successful as an assistant coach, Goodes is now firmly established as a head coach on the rise and has built a style of play at Holon that is not only winning basketball games but also winning over one of the most passionate fan-bases in basketball. On the offensive end, Holon are somewhat of a three-headed monster with Joe Ragland, Adam Smith, and Tyrus McGee regularly sharing the floor (and the ball). That isn't to say that those three are Holon's only threats - far from it - but more to say that playing with three playmakers isn't necessarily orthodox and requires defenses to make very difficult decisions about where to assign their best on-ball defenders. This unique "Triple Threat" has translated into a

very efficient offensive unit. in particular, with the way they share the ball. Last season C.J. Harris and Tyrus McGee often created a lot off shots off the dribble for themselves and were very efficient at converting them. This year we are seeing a team that utilizes their playmakers to create more efficient shots for the team. A statement reflected in the stats as Holon not only record the second most assists in the BCL at 19.8 but they also have the second-best Assist Percentage at the Final Four, recording an assist for 71.2 percent of their made field goals. These assists are converted into an Effective Field Goal Percentage of 55.2 percent, also second at the Final Four and Offensive Rating of 112.3 points per 100 possessions. It would also be amiss at this point to not mention the way that Joe Ragland has led this team on the floor and also leads the league in assists at 7.9. There are a lot of weapons on this team, including the three-headed monster of Ragland, Smith, and McGee, also including Chris Johnson, Guy Pnini, Rafael Menco, and now Hayden Dalton on the wings, and added to that Steve Zack in the post



with Michale Kyser catching lobbs left, right, and center...but without doubt, Joe Ragland has been the main navigator steering this ship to the dry land of the Final Four.

Looking at Holon's shot chart below we can instantly see this is the best team at the Final Four when it comes to finishing around the rim, shooting 70 percent directly under the basket. The fact that they always have four shooters on the floor surrounding Zack and Kyser means there has been more space for those eye-catching lobbs to Kyser and much tougher rotations to help on Zack down low. The left corner three and right wing three are also major sweet spots for Guy Goodes' team as they shoot 40 percent and over from both zones. Even the left wing three, which is the perimeter zone with their highest volume of shots, is also producing 1 point per shot at 33.3 percent.

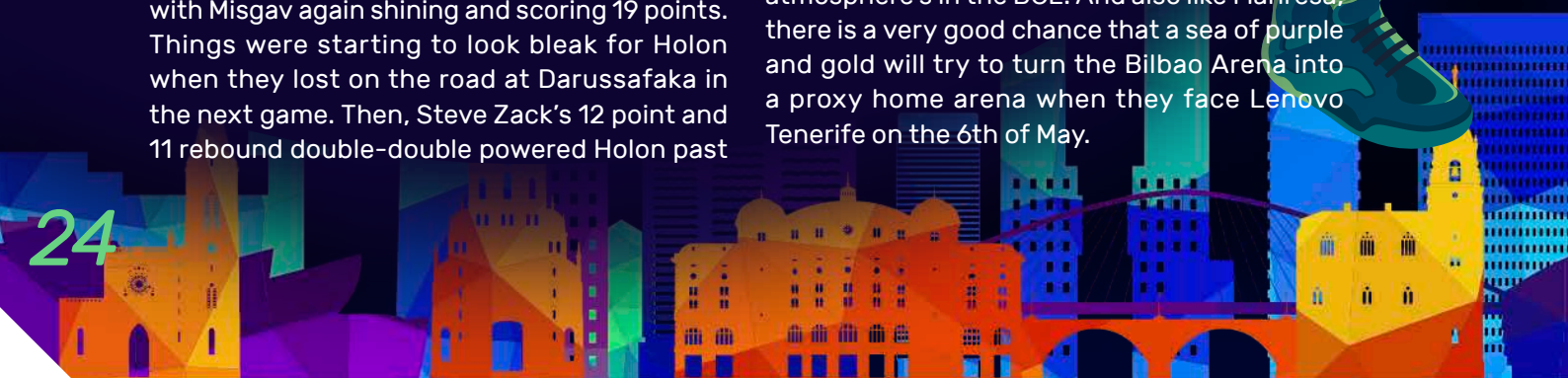
On the defensive end, Holon rank third at the Final Four, conceding 105.4 points per 100 possessions and 74.5 points (also good for third at the Final Four). With Chris Johnson they have a transformational defensive player that can legitimately guard all five positions on the floor and allows Goodes the luxury of the lineup flexibility that he has on the offensive end. Michale Kyser is also the top-ranked shot blocker at the Final Four with 1.6. Whilst this is a team that managed to hold both Darussafaka and MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg to under 60 points this season, Holon is a team that is much more likely to outgun their opponents than they are to shut them out defensively.

The season started with a 61-88 road win at Brindisi and Joe Ragland wasting no time in letting everyone know what he was bringing to Holon with 18 points and 7 assists. After that followed a double-header against U-BT Cluj Napoca. The first game was an almost routine win at home, with Kyser dropping 15 points and 9 rebounds and Niv Misgav also putting up 14 points. The return game in Romania was one of the best games of the Regular Season. Cluj eventually won the game in double overtime with Misgav again shining and scoring 19 points. Things were starting to look bleak for Holon when they lost on the road at Darussafaka in the next game. Then, Steve Zack's 12 point and 11 rebound double-double powered Holon past

Dacka in the return game at home, as they held the Turkish club to just 57 points. Ragland must have really enjoyed playing against Brindisi as he recorded another 19 points and 8 assists when they completed the season sweep over the Italians with an 84-80 win on the following Gameday. Chris Johnson also put up 16 points and 12 rebounds in that game. Holon then needed to get through a Play-In series with Besiktas to make it to the Round of 16. And they did so in the way that only Holon could. After Isaiah Whitehead looked to have crushed their hopes by winning Game 1 in Holon with a buzzer-beating layup, Holon went to Turkey and needed a clutch three-pointer from Guy Pnini (of course) with 18 seconds on the clock, and Chris Johnson's last point of his 18 from the free throw line, to level the series. Adam Smith's 20 points drove them to the Round of 16 in the deciding game and in relative ease, as they secured a 74-68 win at home.

The Round of 16 didn't start as well as the Regular Season for Holon, as they lost on the road at JDA Dijon on the first Gameday. But they quickly recovered to complete a sweep over fellow Final Four contenders Ludwigsburg and topped the group. The only other loss in the Round of 16 was on the road at Galatasaray but by a small enough margin to keep the head to head over the Turkish giants. The Quarter-Finals paired Holon with SIG Strasbourg in what looked like a matchup set for all the drama a neutral fan could wish for. The first leg in Israel provided no such drama. Guy Goodes' squad were utterly dominant winning 93-75, shooting 55 percent overall and 45 percent from deep. Ragland had a 12 point, 12 rebound double-double and Johnson put up 18 points and 9 rebounds on 60/40 shooting splits. The drama did eventually manifest in the decisive game in France, as Holon secured the series with an 80-81 win. Joe Ragland's clutch jumper with 11 seconds on the clock proved to be the killer blow.

Much the same as BAXI Manresa, Holon have been driven by one of the rowdiest home atmosphere's in the BCL. And also like Manresa, there is a very good chance that a sea of purple and gold will try to turn the Bilbao Arena into a proxy home arena when they face Lenovo Tenerife on the 6th of May.





# HAPOEL U-NET HOLON



**CHRIS JOHNSON**

15.1

PPG



**JOE RAGLAND**

7.9

APG



6 BCL SEASON-HIGH IN A GAME



**MICHALE KYSER**



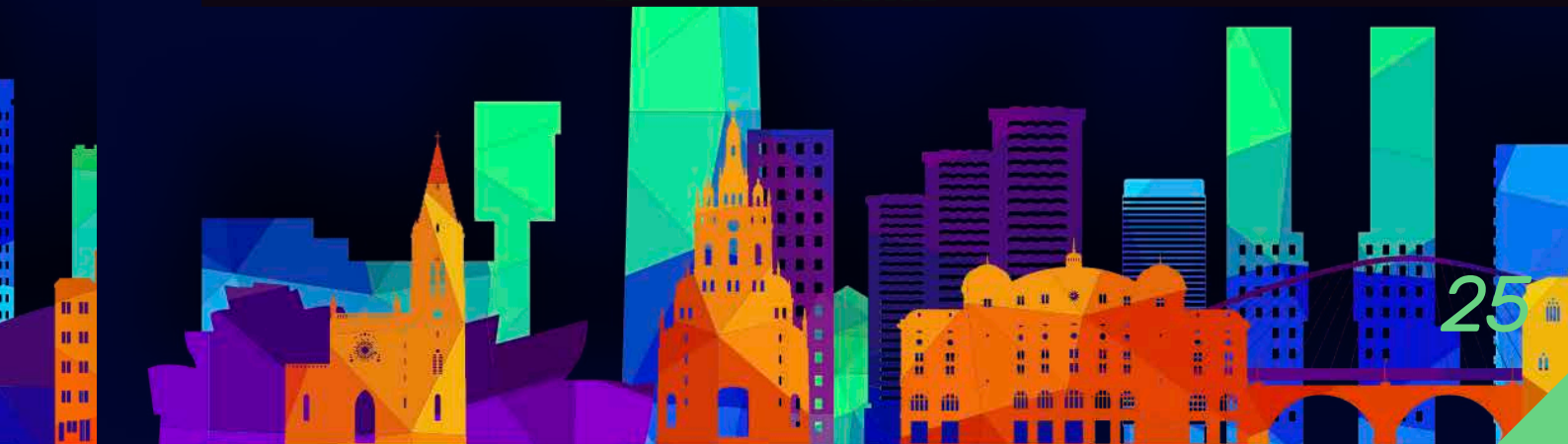
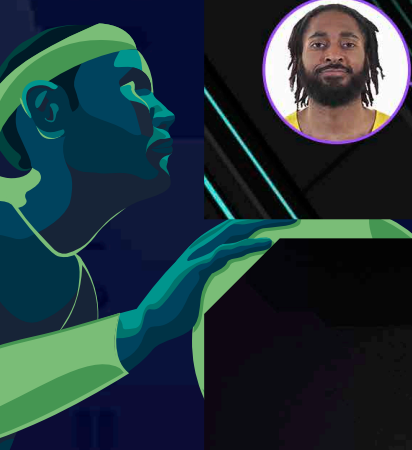
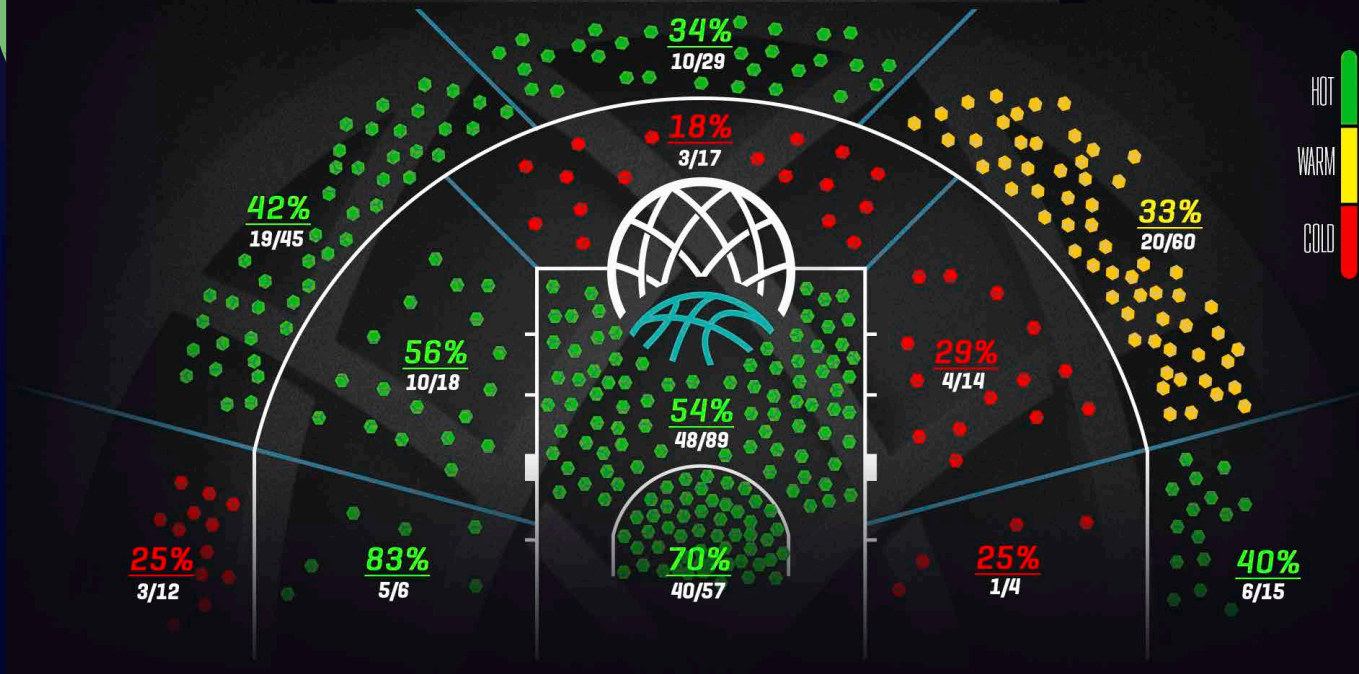
**ADAM SMITH**

44.4%

3PTS

POWERED BY VIZIBALL

# HAPOEL U-NET HOLON



25

## GUY GOODES



**Date of birth:** 13/03/1971

**Coaching career:** Hapoel Haifa (ISR; 1985-90), Maccabi Tel Aviv (ISR; 1990-97, 1998-99), Caserta (ITA; 1997-98), Caja Cantabria (ESP; 1999-2000), Rose-to (ITA; 2000-01), Maccabi Raanana (ISR; 2001), Hapoel Tel Aviv (ISR; 2001-02), Maccabi Rishon Lezion (ISR; 2000-04)

**Coaching career:** Maccabi Rishon Lezion (ISR; 2004-06, 2018-21), Maccabi Tel Aviv (ISR; 2006-08, 2010-14, 2017-18, assistant), Hapoel Jerusalem (ISR; 2008-10), Maccabi Tel Aviv (ISR;

2014-15), Great Britain (NT; 2013-15, assistant), Israel U20 (NT; 2019-21), Israel (NT; 2021- ) Hapoel U-NET Holon (ISR; 2022- )

**BCL Coaching Record:** 8-2

**BCL ranking in coaching wins:** #59

The coach with the best winning percentage in the history of the Basketball Champions League, Guy Goodes won 80 percent of all the games he coached in this League. Of course, it's a small sample, but the Israeli playcaller is enjoying his best life right now, powering Hapoel U-NET Holon to the Final Four and leading Israel to a 2-2 record in the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 European Qualifiers. Goodes enjoyed a successful playing career, despite having two horrible knee injuries in his 20s, and as soon as he left the court in his game jersey for the last time, he moved to a coaching position. He served as an assistant to coaches like David Blatt, Pini Gershon and Neven Spahija, but that was not the only time he was in such a role in his career. Goodes, whose mother is from Great Britain, was part of the Team GB staff at FIBA EuroBasket 2013. As if being an elite player and an elite coach wasn't enough, Goodes also went into business, establishing with his partners a social network for architects, interior designers and other professionals in construction industry. Guy Goodes, as good as they get, in anything he attempts.

## ADAM SMITH



**Date of birth:** 08/11/1992

**Position:** point guard

**Height:** 185cm/6'1"

**Club career:** UNC Wilmington (USA; 2011-12), Virginia Tech (USA; 2013-15), Georgia Tech (USA; 2015-16), Rose-to Sharks (ITA; 2016-17), Elan Chalon (FRA; 2017), Socar Petkim (TUR; 2017-18), Orzinuovi (ITA; 2018), Capo d'Orlando (ITA; 2018), Ravenna (ITA; 2018-19), PAOK (GRE; 2019-20), Ionikos Nikaias (GRE; 2020-21), Zielona Gora (POL; 2021), Merkezefendi (TUR; 2021), Hapoel U-NET Holon (ISR; 2021- )

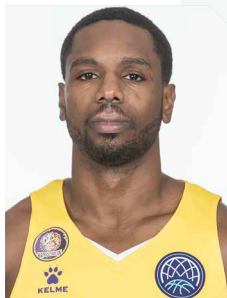
**BCL season-high:** 29 points (v JDA Dijon; Mar 23, 2022)

**BCL career-high:** 31 points (multiple times)

Another familiar BCL face is back in the league. Adam Smith was one of the most impressive scorers in PAOK's run in 2019-20, scoring more than 30 points in a couple of games, and he still presents the same midrange threat we got used to seeing in black-and-white in Greece. Smith played his best game in purple and gold against JDA Dijon, counting to 29, when it felt like he could've gone to 40 after his dominant first half. Smith almost went to 40 in the Israeli League, too, setting the Holon season-best mark with 38 points. Back when he was playing with Elan Chalon, he won the MVP of the Week award in 2017-18, and repeated it once more with PAOK in 2019-20. But he doesn't want to be remembered for his awards, or his records. He stated his only wish when he was still in Thessaloniki: "I simply want to be remembered as a fighter."

## JOE RAGLAND

STAR  
PLAYER



**Date of birth:** 28/11/1989

**Position:** point guard

**Height:** 182cm/6'0"

**Club career:** North Platte CC (USA; 2008-10), Wichita State (USA; 2010-12), UCAM Murcia (ESP; 2012-13), Cantu (ITA; 2013-14, 2019-20), Olimpia Milano (ITA; 2014-15), Pinar Karsiyaka (TUR; 2015), Sidigas Avellino (ITA; 2015-17), Lokomotiv Kuban (RUS; 2017-18), Crvena Zvezda (SRB; 2018-19), Hapoel Eilat (ISR; 2020-21), Hapoel U-NET Holon (ISR; 2021- )

**BCL season-high:** 19 points (v Happy

Casa Brindisi; Dec 22, 2021)

**BCL career-high:** 25 points (@ Mega; Oct 18, 2016)

If there were any questions raised about Joe Ragland's MVP of the Season campaign, they were answered in the Quarter-Finals. Ragland got tired of creating for others, so he decided to create for himself and knocked down back-to-back jumpers to defeat SIG Strasbourg and send Hapoel U-NET Holon to the Final Four. It was a perfect way to wrap up the BCL season for Ragland, who has been the best passer since the start of 2021-22, getting 7.9 assists per game, having a streak of 11 games with at least 7 assists, and delivering the BCL season-high with 14 assists in a game. Ragland is one of only two players (Benedek Vardj) with multiple points-assists double-doubles this season. The fact that Ragland works well within a group and knows how to read the relationships between the players on the court comes as no surprise, having majored in Sociology at WSU. It's also easy to recognize why Joe fell in love with basketball - at least once every year, the biggest of names in basketball history would come together in his hometown. That's because Ragland was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, the home of the Basketball Hall of Fame. The 32-year-old is not a newcomer in the BCL, as you can read from the BCL career-high section. In fact, Ragland's personal best game came in the first week of the BCL, ever, when he was a part of the Sidigas Avellino team in Italy.

## CHRIS JOHNSON



**Date of birth:** 29/04/1990

**Position:** small forward

**Height:** 198cm/6'6"

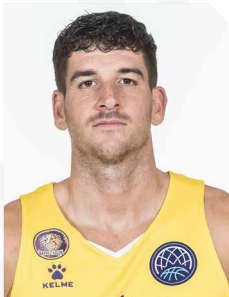
**Club career:** Dayton (USA; 2008-12), Rio Grande Valley Vipers (USA; 2012-14, 2014-15, 2016-17), Memphis Grizzlies (USA; 2013), Boston Celtics (USA; 2014), Philadelphia 76ers (USA; 2014), Utah Jazz (USA; 2015, 2015-16), Milwaukee Bucks (USA; 2015), BCM Gravelines-Dunkerque (FRA; 2017-18), Hapoel Jerusalem (ISR; 2018-19), JL Bourg (FRA; 2019-20), Hapoel U-NET Holon (ISR; 2020-)

**BCL season-high:** 26 points (v Galatasaray Nef; Mar 8, 2022)

**BCL career-high:** 26 points (v Galatasaray Nef; Mar 8, 2022)

The heart and soul of this team, Chris Johnson arrived in 2020 and is here to stay for a long time. The small forward found home in Israel, perfectly fitting in with the small ball playing style, getting his endless wingspan out there to battle centers if needed, and to punish them with speed at the other end. A matchup nightmare, Johnson won the best defender award in Israel, and is en route to booking a spot on the all-tournament team in the BCL, too. He had a 26-point game against Galatasaray Nef, which is his best mark in the league, and he is likely to finish the season as the top scorer of the BCL in total points. He currently has 257, way ahead of Justin Simon (219), Jonah Radebaugh (215) and Sasu Salin (215). Scoring isn't a problem since he witnessed one of the greatest ever to do it, first-hand. Johnson was a part of the 2015-16 Utah Jazz team, and guarded Kobe Bryant in the LA Lakers' legend last game in the NBA.

## FREDERIC BOURDILLON



**Date of birth:** 16/03/1991

**Position:** shooting guard

**Height:** 193cm/6'4"

**Club career:** Antibes (FRA; 2009-10, 2014-17), Elan Chalon (FRA; 2010-11), Etoile Charleville-Mezieres (FRA; 2011-13), Rueil (FRA; 2013-14), Hapoel Eilat (ISR; 2018-19), Maccabi Rishon Lezion (ISR; 2019-20), Maccabi Tel Aviv (ISR; 2020), Hapoel U-NET Holon (ISR; 2020-)

**BCL season-high:** 18 points (@ U-BT Cluj Napoca; Nov 17, 2021)

**BCL career-high:** 18 points (@ U-BT Cluj Napoca; Nov 17, 2021)

It's always helpful to surround your creators with catch-and-shoot threats. That's where Frederic Bourdillon finds his role in this Hapoel U-NET Holon squad, back for the second season with the squad, enjoying his fifth season in Israel. The Frenchman went through the famous INSEP academy and started his professional path with Antibes 13 years ago, which seems incredible since Bourdillon looks like he has got another ten years in him. His stats suggest his specialization - he only attempted 16 two-pointers this season, nowhere near the 53 three-pointers he took. The best game came in Romania, when Bourdillon knocked down six three-pointers and counted to his BCL career-high of 18 points. Aside from being successful indoors, Fred has also impressed fans outdoors. Bourdillon took part in one of the biggest streetball events in the world, Quai 54 in Paris, France.

## RAFAEL MENCO



**Date of birth:** 05/03/1994

**Position:** small forward

**Height:** 198cm/6'6"

**Club career:** Hapoel Jerusalem (ISR; 2012-17), Hapoel Galil Gilboa (ISR; 2014-15), Hapoel Eilat (ISR; 2016-17, 2018-20), Hapoel Tel Aviv (ISR; 2017-18), Elan Chalon (FRA; 2020-21), Hapoel U-NET Holon (ISR; 2021-)

**BCL season-high:** 19 points (v Happy Casa Brindisi; Dec 22, 2021)

**BCL career-high:** 19 points (v Happy Casa Brindisi; Dec 22, 2021)

While Bourdillon played as a Frenchman in Israel, Rafi Menco played as an Israeli in France. One season in Elan Chalon saw Menco getting international minutes after playing for a run of Hapoels in Israel, and after his one-year stay in western Europe, he came back home to collect another Hapoel, the one from Holon. With Menco, Hapoel U-NET Holon got a domestic player capable of playing big minutes and knocking down big shots, in a role which blends the one of Guy Pnini and the one of Fred Bourdillon. Menco had eight games in double figures this season, scoring 19 against Happy Casa Brindisi, but that wasn't his best game of the term. He saved that for the Play-In Series, when he put up 18 points with 10 rebounds - in fact, he averaged 13 points per game in the Play-In, while hitting 8-of-14 three-pointers. Without his contribution, Besiktas Ictyrex could've ended Holon's season before the Round of 16...

## GUY PNINI



**Date of birth:** 04/09/1983

**Position:** small forward

**Height:** 201cm/6'7"

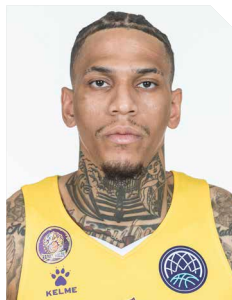
**Club career:** Maccabi Raanana (ISR; 2001-02), Bnei Hasharon (ISR; 2002-06), Hapoel Jerusalem (ISR; 2006-08), FMP (SRB; 2008-09), Keravnos (CYP; 2009), Maccabi Tel Aviv (ISR; 2009-17), Hapoel U-NET Holon (ISR; 2017-)

**BCL season-high:** 13 points (@ U-BT Cluj Napoca; Nov 17, 2021)

**BCL career-high:** 20 points (multiple times)

Death, taxes, Guy Pnini hitting clutch shots... The three certainties in life remain. Guy Pnini will not be the oldest player in this Final Four, but his experience is unmatched for a squad like Hapoel U-NET Holon. He is not playing the big-time minutes anymore, he is not scoring 20+ points like he did numerous times in his career, even in his BCL days, but if it's a close game and Holon need to make something happen, there is no doubt - coach Guy Goodes will draw up a play for Guy Pnini to slip the screen and create off the catch. Pnini truly is a pearl for Holon, and a legend of Israeli basketball, after being the most controversial part of it in the summer of 2008. With one year remaining on his contract with Hapoel Jerusalem, Pnini signed a deal with Maccabi Tel Aviv. Hapoel appealed, the Israel Basketball Association court determined Pnini had to spend a season outside of Israel, which is why you see FMP and Keravnos in his club career.

## MICHALE KYSER



**Date of birth:** 26/11/1991

**Position:** center

**Height:** 208cm/6'10"

**Previous clubs:** Louisiana Tech (USA; 2011-15), Raptors 905 (CAN; 2015-16), Salt Lake City Stars (USA; 2016-17), Enosis Neon Paralimni (CYP; 2017), Kymis (GRE; 2017-18), Aris (GRE; 2018-19), Guelph Nighthawks (CAN; 2019, 2020), Lakeland Magic (USA; 2019-20), VEF Riga (LAT; 2020-21), Hapoel U-NET Holon (ISR; 2021- )

**BCL season-high:** 26 points (v JDA Dijon; Mar 23, 2022)

**BCL career-high:** 26 points (v JDA Dijon; Mar 23, 2022)

There is always one option if you're stuck on offense. Just throw it up, anywhere around the rim, and expect Michale Kyser to get it. The high-flying big guy had the most dunks in the entire BCL season, which is exactly what you should expect when you put a vertical threat next to Joe Ragland on the court. Kyser has been a revelation with VEF Riga last season, and Hapoel U-NET Holon were the quickest to book him for 2021-22. With the Purple Brothers in the stands every night, it's easy to see Kyser is loving it in Holon. The only question is if there is enough room left on his body for another tribute tattoo, similar to the one he had for VEF. Kyser is arguably the best rim protector in the BCL, and owns the season-high in blocks in the League with 6 in a game.

## HAYDEN DALTON



**Date of birth:** 20/06/1996

**Position:** power forward

**Height:** 203cm/6'8"

**Club career:** Central Wyoming (USA; 2014-15), Wyoming (USA; 2015-18), Bakken Bears (DEN; 2018-19), ERA Nymburk (CZE; 2019-21), JL Bourg (FRA; 2021), Hereda San Pablo Burgos (ESP; 2021-22), Hapoel U-NET Holon (ISR; 2022- )

**BCL season-high:** 11 points (v Darusafaka; Jan 4, 2022)

**BCL career-high:** 19 points (@ Tofas Bursa; Nov 10, 2020)

We are yet to see the best out of Hayden Dalton in Hapoel U-NET Holon's jersey. He was one of the latest to join the squad, and as an athletic wing with unlimited shooting range, one can assume it's only a matter of time before Dalton starts getting career-highs in Israel. Dalton comes from a big family, both in numbers and size, and we have already seen him in a closing tournament in the BCL - he played the Final 8 with ERA Nymburk in Athens in 2020. He tried his luck in France and Spain later on. Signing with Holon must have long term implications for Hayden, who proved he values loyalty when he went back to Nymburk for the second season after their marvelous run in 2019-20. His career high came a season later, when he put up 19 points against Tofas Bursa while wearing the white-black-red colors of the perennial Czech champs.

## TYRUS MCGEE



**Date of birth:** 14/03/1991

**Position:** shooting guard

**Height:** 188cm/6'3"

**Club career:** Cowley (USA; 2009-11), Iowa State (USA; 2011-13), Breogan (ESP; 2013-14), Bremerhaven (GER; 2014-15), Orlandina (ITA; 2015), Vanoli Cremona (ITA; 2015-16), Reyer Venezia (ITA; 2016-17), Pistoia 2000 (ITA; 2017-18), Afyon Belediye (TUR; 2018), Dinamo Sassari (ITA; 2019), EB Pau-Lacq-Orthez (FRA; 2019-20), Hapoel U-NET Holon (ISR; 2020-21, 2022- ), Hereda San Pablo Burgos (ESP; 2021-22)

**BCL season-high:** 22 points (v EWE Baskets Oldenburg; Nov 2, 2021)

**BCL career-high:** 25 points (@ Tofas Bursa; Mar 9, 2021)

Drink more water. Tyrus McGee's favorite line became sort of a running joke, but this Pisces by Zodiac sign is back to swimming after nearly drowning in the first part of the season he spent with the defending champions Hereda San Pablo Burgos. T-Mac found his way back to Holon, where he spent last season, winning the BIBL and reaching the BCL Quarter-Finals, producing the dunk of the season against Burgos. It didn't take long for him to start hitting his long twos and pull-up threes in Israel, and judging by his bio, he must be having the time of his life right now. Starting with Breogan, then Venezia, Pistoia, Sassari and Burgos, McGee always plays for teams with extraordinary fans. He won the FIBA Europe Cup, he won the Italian League, he played the first ever Final Four in BCL in 2017. No doubt he knows how to win trophies, and no doubt he knows how to celebrate them - by drinking more water, of course.

## NIV MISGAV



**Date of birth:** 25/07/1995

**Position:** point guard

**Height:** 183cm/6'0"

**Club career:** Hapoel Haifa (ISR; 2014-18), Ironi Nahariya (ISR; 2018-21), Hapoel U-NET Holon (ISR; 2021- )

**BCL season-high:** 19 points (@ U-BT Cluj Napoca; Nov 17, 2021)

**BCL career-high:** 19 points (@ U-BT Cluj Napoca; Nov 17, 2021)

It's a shame Niv Misgav hasn't played a game since early February, since this looked to be like the best season for the point guard. Misgav showed his promise early on in his career, being chosen as the MVP of the Finals that sent Hapoel Haifa to the top division in Israel, done as a 19-year-old. He then won the revelation of the season award with the team, and was also named the most promising player in Israel. The jump to Holon went by smoothly after three years with Nahariya, and just as he was putting up career-best numbers such as the 19-point outing against U-BT Cluj Napoca, Guy Goodes was forced to find other solutions to cover the backcourt duties due to Niv's foot injury. Misgav still has a lot of basketball in him, and with the way Israel are developing their point guard talents, you'll hear about him sooner rather than later.

## STEVE ZACK



**Date of birth:** 10/12/1992

**Position:** center

**Height:** 211cm/6'11"

**Club career:** La Salle (USA; 2011-15), Liepajas Lauvas (LAT; 2015-16), Lukoil Academic (BUL; 2016-17), Trefl Sopot (POL; 2017-18), VEF Riga (LAT; 2018-19), Hapoel Beer Sheva (ISR; 2019-20), Petkim Spor (TUR; 2020-21), Hereda San Pablo Burgos (ESP; 2021), Hapoel U-NET Holon (ISR; 2021- )

**BCL season-high:** 12 points (v Darussafaka; Dec 15, 2021)

**BCL career-high:** 12 points (v Darussafaka; Dec 15, 2021)

safaka; Dec 15, 2021)

Along with Tyrus McGee and Hayden Dalton, Steve Zack is the third piece of the puzzle that switched from Hereda San Pablo Burgos to Hapoel U-NET Holon mid-season. Zack is a big body inside, leaving his mark in double-doubles averaged all over the world, from his days at La Salle to the adventures in Latvia and Israel. He had one double-double in the BCL so far, with 12 points and 11 rebounds against Darussafaka, which was also the game he took eight shots in, an unheard amount for Zack. He is not the one to do the scoring, he's here to take the rebounds - which is something the best rebounder of the 2019-20 Israeli League would do - and play defense - which is something a member of the NCAA Atlantic 10 All-Defensive Team (2014) would do.



# LENOVO TENERIFE



Lenovo Tenerife

## INEVITABLE

Another season in the BCL and another Final Four with Lenovo Tenerife. They have now reached the Quarter-Finals in five of the league's six seasons and the Final Four in three of them. No other team can match either of those records. They won the title in the inaugural season and then reached the Final in 2019. Only AEK have also reached the Final twice. This season saw a return of almost the same roster as last season, with the additions of Joan Sastre, Kyle Wiltjer, Sean Smith, Tobias Borg, plus the return from injury of Dejan Todorovic. Giorgi Shermadini is still the center-piece of the squad and although he spent a chunk of the season out injured, since his return Tenerife's path to the Final Four has felt completely inevitable.

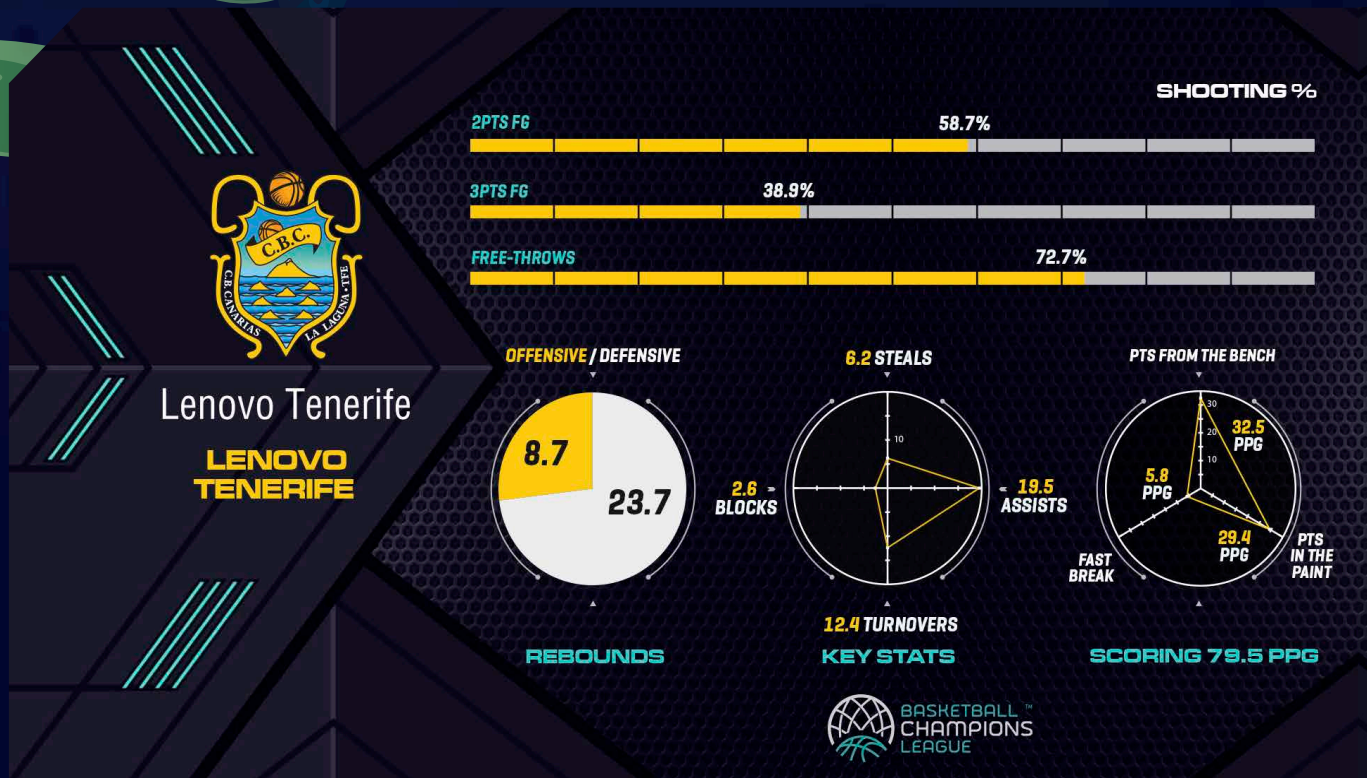
The club was formed in 1994 after a merge between CB Canarias and the other teams on the island of Tenerife to form the Tenerife Canarias Club and later CB 1939 Canarias. In 2003, Alejandro Martinez took over as head coach and guided the club from Spain's third tier LEB Plata, all the way up to the ACB (Liga Endesa) in 2012. They have never looked back since and have established themselves so firmly in the Liga Endesa that it's entirely unsurprising to see the club in the top three of the standings at this late stage in the season. The BCL title in 2017 was the Canarias' first major silverware but they subsequently also won the FIBA Intercontinental Cup in 2018 and 2020.



Txus Vidorreta has won more BCL games than any other coach and the chances of anyone catching him soon are slim to none. In reality, this is the third elite level team he has built at Tenerife and this version's second attempt at winning the title. The one constant in all of the teams is the brand of basketball that we see on the floor. Whilst the end result can appear dizzyingly complex, with a tornado of player and ball movement, the formula is as simple as it is effective. Tenerife will put the ball in the hands of elite decision-makers then surround them with shooters that never stop moving and set screens for them with big bodies that roll to the rim and force the defense to make impossible choices. Of course, it also helps that those big bodies are the likes of Giorgi Shermadini and Fran Guerra who are also excellent passers and decision makers - in fact, pretty much everyone on this Tenerife roster is an excellent passer. From there, the apparent complexity comes from the different movements they use to enter their screening actions for shooters or pick-and-rolls and the

crafty ways they disguise what they really want to do. There is a reason that this is one of the most popular teams in the world when it comes to studying the technical and tactical side of the game. The statistical outcomes are almost as predictable as the style of play every season. They consistently lead the league statistically and this season is no different. On offense, Tenerife score at a rate of 116.2 points per 100 possessions, which is first in the BCL. They shoot the ball with an Effective Field Goal Percentage of 58.5 percent, which is also first in the BCL. They take the second-most three-pointers at the Final Four with 27.2 and knock them down at the highest rate of any team at the Final Four at 38.9 percent. Sasu Salin's record breaking season from behind the arc has almost certainly got something to do with that last stat. See his player profile for more on that.

Tenerife's shot chart is also very familiar. They shoot at an elite level directly at the rim, making 66 percent of their shots. They are also



outstanding from three of the five zones on the perimeter, shooting a crazy 48 percent from the left corner, 46 percent from the left wing, and 43 percent from the middle of the floor. The 35 percent they shoot from the right corner still generates over 1 point per shot. It's difficult to put too much stock in those numbers from the midrange areas as the volume of attempts is so low.

If there is one area of the game where we have seen some slippage from Tenerife this season, it might be on the defensive end. They concede 106 points per 100 possessions this season, which ranks them third amongst teams at the Final Four. So far, however, their offense has made up for the shortfall as their Net Rating of +10 per 100 possessions is second only to Manresa in the entire league.

The journey of the season started with two straight wins on the road to Prometey and at home to Dinamo Sassari. Sasu Salin knocked down eight three's on his way to 33 points in the road game at Prometey. Their first loss came on the road to fellow Final Four contenders MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg. Kyle Wiltjer's 24 points were the sole bright spot for the Canarias in that game. In fact, Ludwigsburg are the only team to beat Tenerife in the BCL this season and also did the double over them in the home leg. Fitipaldo's 18 points and Huertas' assist to Shermadini with less than a minute on the clock were enough to ensure the season sweep over Prometey in the next game at the Santiago Martin. They would also complete the double over Sassari thanks to 16 points each from Huertas and Shermadini on Gameday 6 but the losses to John Patrick's Ludwigsburg meant they had to face a Play-In against Pinar Karsiyaka to reach the Round of 16. Marcelinho Huertas drove them in the first game at home with 18 points and 10 assists as they secured a 76-69 win. After losing on the road in Izmir, they needed another win at home to make it to the Round of 16. A Joan Sastre layup from a Huertas assist (again) with less than a minute on the clock was enough to secure a 74-71 win.

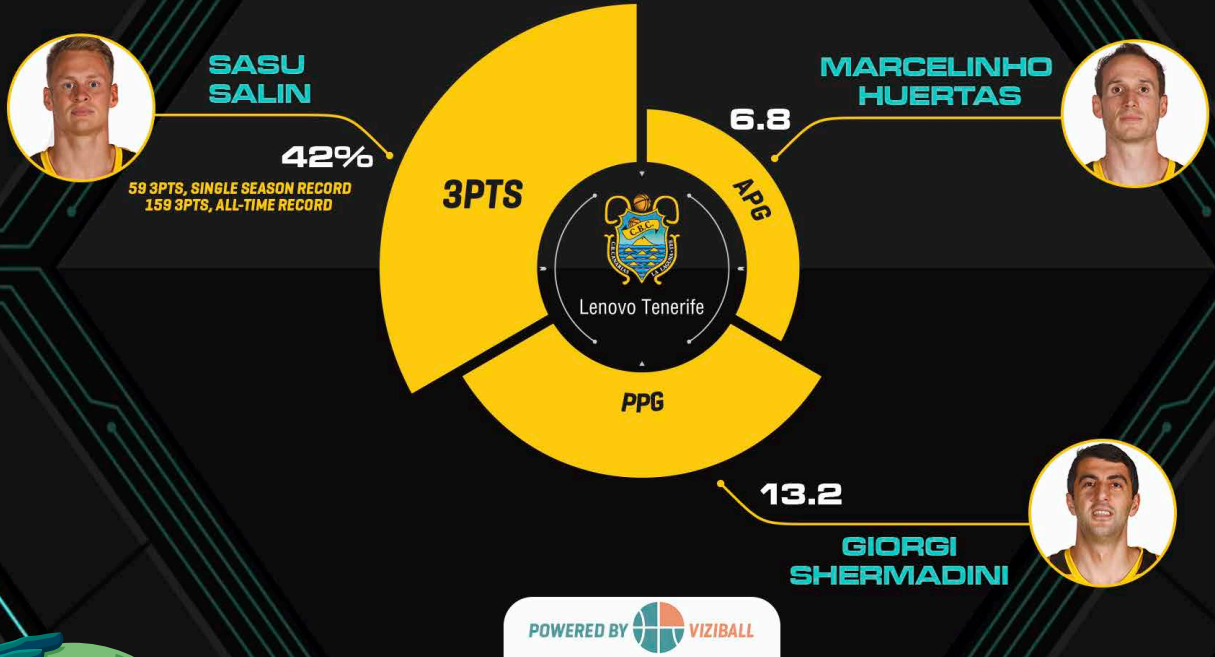
The Round of 16 and Quarter-Finals saw Tenerife up the pace and dance to a completely different

rhythm. They were the only team to go unbeaten in the Round of 16 and then took only two games to get past Tofas in the Quarter-Finals. Standout performances in the Round of 16 were Shermadini's 19 points and 13 rebounds on the road against Falco, Kyle Wiltjer's 25 points at home to Rytas Vilnius, and Salin's seven made three's in the road game against Rytas. The Quarter-Finals may have been over in two games but it was far from easy for Txus' Vidorreta's squad. The total margin across both games was just 2 points. The first quarter of the first game was the only time it looked like it might be simple for Tenerife. They scored 31 points, held Tofas to just 17 points and Salin had already knocked down five of his eight three-pointers in the game. The lead was still fourteen points at half-time but Tofas were already working their way back into the game. It took all of Salin's 27 points added to Shermadini's 17 points and 9 rebounds to get the Canarias over the line. And even then, it still required Huertas to make a floater and knock down a clutch free-throw after checking back into the game with less than 90 seconds on the clock. The Brazilian wasn't done with the heroics either. The return leg saw five players get into double figures for Tenerife, with Huertas putting up 15 points and 7 assists, Shermadini, Doornekamp, and Salin all with 12 points each, and Fitipaldo chipping in with ten points. Even then it took Huertas summoning the memories of playing with the Black Mamba and invoking all the genius footwork of his former teammate to pump fake his defender out of the play before hitting the game-winning pull up.

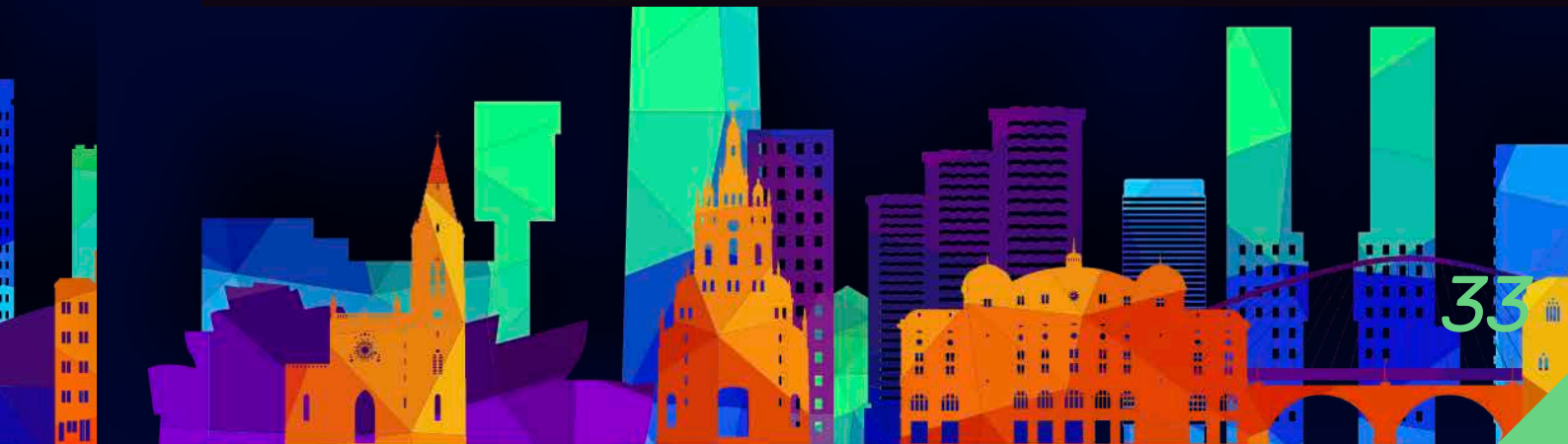
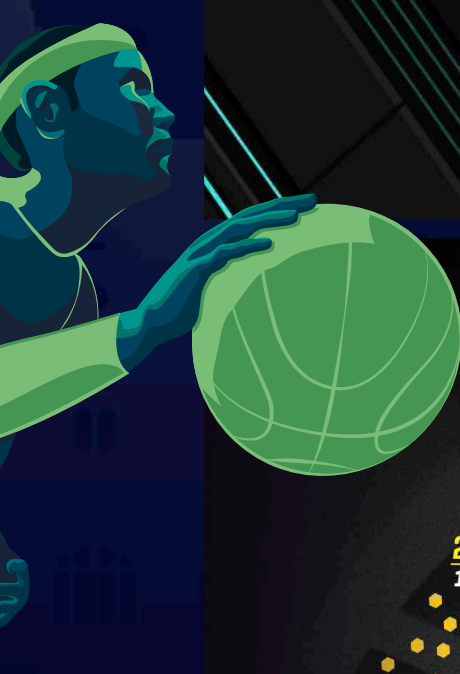
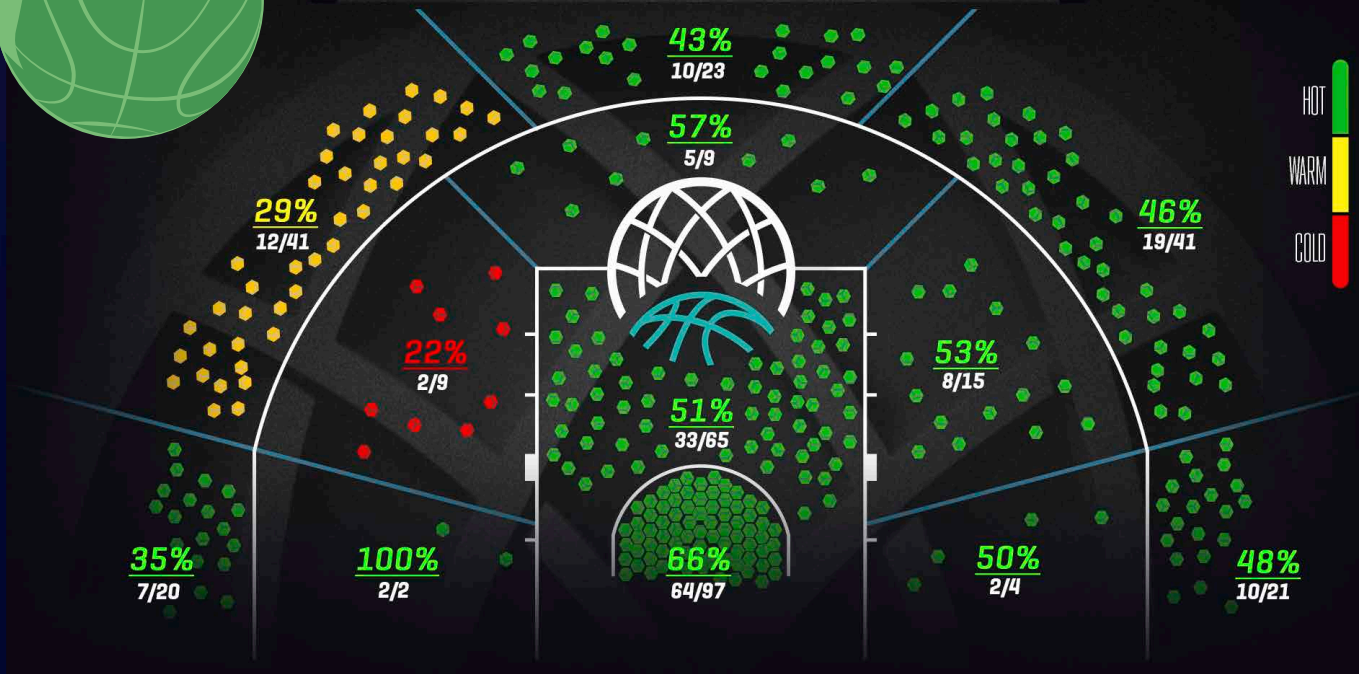
Txus Vidorreta and Lenovo Tenerife will surely make the journey to his home town Bilbao with the well-earned title of favorites but they have been here before and not yet picked up their second title. There is, however, no doubt that this team with the additions of Sastre and Wiltjer has even more weapons than previous iterations that came up short in the Final against Virtus Bologna and in last season's Final Eight against SIG. But make no mistake, this team is rounding into championship form at exactly the right time and will take some stopping.



## LENOVO TENERIFE



## LENOVO TENERIFE



## TXUS VIDORRETA



**Date of birth:** 20/06/1966

**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- )

**BCL Coaching Record:** 66-21-1

**BCL ranking in coaching wins:** #1

If this were a biopic, the Final Four in Bilbao, Spain sounds like the best scripted climax for coach Txus Vidorreta. The 55-year-old playcaller is back in his hometown, a place where he took the basketball culture to a new level during his time there from 2001 to 2010, a place which he keeps calling "the most beautiful city in the world." He has done it all in his coaching career, going from lower divisions to the top, winning the Basketball Champions League in 2017 with Tenerife, and being the winningest coach in League history, 27 wins clear of any other coach in BCL history. His basketball is a thing of perfection, it took years and years to find the right pieces to his well-oiled machine, and now with Kyle Wiltjer and Joan Sastre added to last season's roster, it seems like this is the time to do something special. Special, like picking up that one million euro check in his hometown. A dream come true happy ending to mark the 30th anniversary of Vidorreta's coaching career. He was voted the ACB Best Coach in 2017, joining Dusko Ivanovic (Baskonia) as the only non-Real Madrid, non-Barcelona coach to win the award since its introduction in 2007.

## GIORGI SHERMADINI

STAR  
PLAYER



**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:** 19 points (@ Falco Szombathely; Jan 25, 2022)

**BCL career-high:** 26 points (v Bakken Bears; Oct 20, 2020)

Lenovo Tenerife got the best possible news in the build up to the Final Four. Giorgi Shermadini opened up his heart about how nice everybody is in the club, about how the front office takes care of the families of the players, and most importantly, about wanting to play for Tenerife for the rest of his life. It truly was a match-made in heaven when Shermadini joined the team as a 30-year-old, and kept growing from year-to-year, becoming the first Tenerife player to win the Spanish League MVP award, in 2021. He was also named to the BCL all-tournament team, the Star Lineup First Team, in both 2019-20 and 2020-21, becoming the first man with two First Team selections in this League. Shermadini is always smiling, enjoying playing basketball and with his elite hands around the rim, it doesn't feel like the end of his career is coming any time soon. His go-to move is the right hook shot, using the gigantic wingspan and the 217cm/7'1" frame to make the release impossible to block. A solid finish to the 2021-22 campaign in both the Basketball Champions League and the Liga Endesa should get Giorgi warmed up for one of the biggest events he could ever imagine - playing for Georgia as the hosts of the FIBA EuroBasket 2022. The motivation is there, the tools are there, it's now only a matter of making room for more silverware in his collection.

## 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:** 21 points (v MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg; Dec 8, 2021)

**BCL career-high:** 24 points (@ Dinamo Sassari, Nov 4, 2020)

There are guys who don't make a lot of noise, but when they get hot, you better be far away from them. Bruno Fitipaldo is one of those players, capable of climbing north of 20 points on any given night, especially if you allow him to pull up from his right-hand dribble - midrange or beyond the arc, he's not missing a lot of those shots. The Uruguayan product will feel the extra bit of motivation to finally get the BCL trophy - he was a part of the Hereda San Pablo Burgos team in the 2019-20 season, but made the move to Tenerife before the Final 8 in Athens, which saw Burgos climb all the way to the top. He certainly knows how to win, he won the national championship in Uruguay twice, while winning both the League MVP and the Finals MVP award before making the move to Argentina and Europe later on.

## SEAN SMITH



**Date of birth:** 09/12/1995

**Position:** power forward

**Height:** 204cm/6'8"

**Club career:** SW Mississippi CC (USA; 2015-17), St. Cloud State (USA; 2017-19), Leyma Coruna (ESP; 2019-20), Palencia (ESP; 2020-21), Tenerife (ESP; 2021- )

**BCL season-high:** 2 points (multiple times)

**BCL career-high:** 2 points (multiple times)

Two things are certain if Sean Smith takes the floor, (1) Lenovo Tenerife are in a blowout game, and (2) you are about to witness a highlight or two. Smith's vertical leap is unreal, climbing to the top of the backboard with ease, but he still lacks experience of the highest level, having only played his first top-level season in 2021-22. Smith was born in Madrid, as his father Mike Smith played for Real Madrid at the time. And dad was also a leaper, using his two-footed take offs to dunk his way to greatness with Joventut Badalona, winning the FIBA European League in 1994, getting 6 points and 10 rebounds while playing all 40 minutes of the Final against Olympiacos. Time is on Sean's side, with his athleticism, he's bound to play for a long time and find greater roles within Tenerife's system in the future.

## 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:** 18 points (v Pinar Karsiyaka; Jan 12, 2022)

**BCL career-high:** 20 points (multiple

times)

The point-god. Maybe Marcelinho Huertas didn't have the most impressive of all seasons numbers-wise, but his late game heroics have been well documented. In fact, it was Marcelinho's favorite scoring move, the right-side pull-up jumper which won both of the Quarter-Final games against Tofas Bursa as time expired, getting Tenerife a chance to play in another final tournament of this League. Marcelinho Huertas' history has been well documented, a natural born winner, plus a record-holder. His 17 assists against Gaziantep in 2019-20 are the most in a single BCL game, shared with Scottie Reynolds, who also had 17 assists for Cibona back in 2016-17. Huertas' longevity and newfound youth also has a correlation with his eating habits. By changing his diet, making it more plant-based which is always a good idea in the Canary Islands, Marcelinho bought himself another season or two of playing elite level basketball.

## 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:** 33 points (@ Pro-metey; Oct 6, 2021)

**BCL career-high:** 34 points (@ Galatasaray; Dec 15, 2020)

Arguably, Sasu Salin has been Lenovo Tenerife's MVP of the season. The Finnish sniper knocked down both the single season record in the BCL, with 59 three-pointers in 2021-22, snatching it away from Gabe York who had 57 for SIG Strasbourg in 2017-18. In fact, just by counting in the road games, Salin would still be in the talks for most threes this season (37, while Patrick Richard has 38 total), speaking volumes about his ability to silence the opposing fans in their own arena. With 139 three-pointers in his BCL career, Salin is also the all-time leader in threes made in the BCL. The most horrifying fact about his record breaking season? He just smiles through it. Salin is the baby-faced assassin, rarely showing emotion, always in the mood to keep going, keep shooting, keep winning. The connection with Giorgi Shermadini goes on since 2017, when they both joined Unicaja, and in one of those two seasons, they were joined by Kyle Wiltjer.

## SERGIO RODRIGUEZ



**Date of birth:** 18/10/1993  
**Position:** small forward  
**Height:** 204cm/6'8"  
**Previous clubs:** Tenerife (ESP; 2012-14, 2020- ), Avila (ESP; 2014-15), Navarra (ESP; 2015-16), TAU Castello (ESP; 2016-17), Penas Huesca (ESP; 2017-18), Ourense (ESP; 2018-19), Bilbao (ESP; 2019-20)  
**BCL season-high:** 5 points (multiple times)  
**BCL career-high:** 11 points (@ VEF Riga; Mar 31, 2021)

A basketball player from the island Tenerife, whose name is Sergio Rodriguez. However, this is not the legendary point guard, who was born in San Cristobal de La Laguna, this is the small forward who grew up in Los Realejos, Santa Cruz de Tenerife. Rodriguez playing for Tenerife gives out strong family vibes of the club, and reflects their goal to have more players from the Canary Islands on the team. Sergio picked up experience in lower divisions in Spain, then got his grand opening in the city he is visiting right now, in Bilbao. A single season there was enough for Txus Vidorreta to make a couple of calls and lure the forward back home, where his professional career started 10 years ago. Rodriguez is a big body covering the wing, doing his bits for the team, and ready to knock down open jumpers on the catch-and-shoots.

## 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:** 15 points (v Pinar Karsiyaka; Jan 20, 2022)  
**BCL career-high:** 15 points (v Pinar Karsiyaka; Jan 20, 2022)

Joan Sastre probably dreamed of playing for an island team at an elite level. Instead of realizing his dream with his home island Mallorca, he had to move a bit more to the southwest, joining Lenovo Tenerife just in time to give the team a big boost in terms of his clutch-ness. His best game of the season came when it was needed most, in a close one against Pinar Karsiyaka, when he scored 8 of his 15 points in the final two minutes, sending last season's finalists out, pushing Tenerife through that Play-In Series matchup. Sastre's instincts are what makes him such a perfect team player, not only for Tenerife, but also for Sevilla, Zaragoza and especially Valencia earlier on in his career. He helped Valencia win the Spanish League in 2017, he also picked up the EuroCup trophy a couple of years later, and he was part of the Spanish national team that won bronze at the FIBA EuroBasket 2017.

## DEJAN TODOROVIC



**Date of birth:** 29/05/1994  
**Position:** small forward  
**Height:** 196cm/6'5"  
**Club career:** Unicaja (ESP; 2011-12, 2014), Clinicas Rincon (ESP; 2012-14), Bilbao (ESP; 2014-18), UCAM Murcia (ESP; 2018-19), MoraBanc Andorra (ESP; 2019-20), Tenerife (ESP; 2021- )  
**BCL season-high:** 11 points (v Pinar Karsiyaka; Jan 20, 2022)  
**BCL career-high:** 11 points (v Pinar Karsiyaka; Jan 20, 2022)

Let's all just take a deep breath and thank whoever we need to thank for allowing Dejan Todorovic a way back onto the basketball floor. The Serbian forward had back-to-back troubling injuries, last one sidelining him for 15 excruciating months, after he fell down in pain in the last warm-up game before the 2020-21 season. He admits that he thought it was all over for him, but patience is a virtue, and in 15 months of being out, Todorovic found a way to improve his mental and physical approach to sports, changing his diet and habits to make sure he sticks around for a long time. Tenerife were patient enough to get him back on the court, now it's a matter of integrating him into a system long term. Dejan had a big game in the Play-In Series against Pinar Karsiyaka, and had a 23-point game in the Spanish League in December, showing he can hurt teams if they focus too much on Salin, Huertas and other perimeter dangers.

## EMIR SULEJMANOVIC



**Date of birth:** 13/07/1995  
**Position:** power forward  
**Height:** 204cm/6'8"  
**Club career:** Petrol Olimpija (SLO; 2012-13), Barcelona (ESP; 2013-15, 2015-16), Orlandina (ITA; 2015), Cibona (CRO; 2016-17), Rio Breogan (ESP; 2017-19), Fuenlabrada (ESP; 2017-19), Bilbao (ESP; 2019-20), Tenerife (ESP; 2020- )  
**BCL season-high:** 9 points (v Prometej; Nov 10, 2021)  
**BCL career-high:** 16 points (v Sidigas Avellino; Nov 1, 2016)

For Emir Sulejmanovic, non-sports images of 2022 are all too familiar. Emir was born in the woods just outside of Srebrenica, BIH, while his town was under attack during the war. His mother somehow found a way out of the occupation and into safety, while his father was captured and moved around camps for the next eight months. Father managed to move to Finland in April 1996, and saw a one-year-old Emir for the first time in October 1996. They created a new life in Finland, both Emir and his brother dominated on the football field, with Emir being the top scorer in youth leagues in the country. However, his wish was to play basketball. He moved from Finland to Slovenia and then to Spain as a teenager, and kept improving all the way to making Tenerife his home. His athleticism allows him to cover the center position, but in Txus Vidorreta's system Emir is much more useful as a power forward next to either Giorgi Shermadini or Fran Guerra.

## KYLE WILTJER



**Date of birth:** 20/10/1992

**Position:** power forward

**Height:** 206cm/6'9"

**Club career:** Kentucky (USA; 2011-13), Gonzaga (USA; 2014-16), Houston Rockets (USA; 2016-17), Rio Grande Valley Vipers (USA; 2016-17), Olympiacos (GRE; 2017-18), Unicaja (ESP; 2018-19), Turk Telekom (TUR; 2019-21), Tenerife (ESP; 2021- )

**BCL season-high:** 25 points (v Rytas Vilnius; Feb 8, 2022)

**BCL career-high:** 33 points (twice)

People thought Tenerife would have a hard time replacing Tyler Cavanaugh when the power forward made his move to Zalgiris Kaunas. Instead, Tenerife got even better, by putting one of the best players in all of BCL into Txus Vidorreta's hands. Wiltjer was selected to the Star Lineup Second Team back in 2020, and his days in Turk Telekom saw him climb over 30 points multiple times, with his hot shooting and smart inside game. Wiltjer knows how to win, he won the NCAA with Kentucky in 2012, and was named SEC Sixth Man of the Year in 2013. The awards kept coming once he moved to Gonzaga, and his European days are all about big club names. He played with both Giorgi Shermadini and Sasu Salin in Unicaja, which made his transition to Tenerife smoother. Vidorreta struggled to find a go-to guy to get buckets in big elimination games over the course of last two seasons, with Wiltjer on board, he got one of the best scorers in Europe right now, capable of carrying Tenerife all the way to the top.

## 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:** 12 points (@ Tofas Bursa; Apr 12, 2022)

**BCL career-high:** 23 points (v Filou Oostende; Jan 11, 2017)

The only returning member from the 2016-17 campaign, Aaron Doornekamp knows how good it feels to lift the spiky BCL trophy at the end of the season. The Canadian forward was so impressive in the inaugural BCL season, he earned himself a spot on the Star Lineup First Team, and it wasn't the only time he was lifting trophies in his career. Alongside Joan Sastre, Doornekamp won the EuroCup with Valencia in 2019, and also picked up the Spanish SuperCup that same year. Being a rock-solid team player paid off for Doornekamp back in 2016, too, when he won the FIBA Europe Cup with Skyliners Frankfurt. Aaron will take a lot of pride in his defense, and when it comes to offense, his points total usually is easily divided by three these days. He's a catch-and-shoot specialist, and his last second three-pointer won the game against Prometey to kick-start Tenerife's campaign in 2021-22.

## 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:** 17 points (v Dinamo Sassari; Oct 13, 2021)

**BCL career-high:** 17 points (v Dinamo Sassari; Oct 13, 2021)

As part of bringing in the kids from Canary Islands, Txus Vidorreta knew who to call to cover the backup center position. Fran Guerra, a native of Las Palmas, was under Vidorreta's supervision in Estudiantes from 2012 to 2014, and when he signed with Tenerife in 2018, the club made sure to have him back full of confidence by loaning him to Palma in 2018-19. Guerra dominated the Second Division, and was able to contribute as soon as Tenerife called him back. His physicality serves as good balance to Shermadini's finesse, his quick rolls and high-flying dunks make him a formidable target for Marcelinho Huertas and Bruno Fitipaldo alley-oops, and his growth got him all the way to being a member of the Spanish national team in the Qualifiers for both the FIBA EuroBasket 2022 and the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023.

## TOBIAS BORG



**Date of birth:** 02/11/1993

**Position:** point guard

**Height:** 183cm/6'0"

**Club career:** Talje (SWE; 2009-10), Sodertalje Kings (SWE; 2010-14, 2017-18), Bilbao (ESP; 2014-17), Tenerife (ESP; 2018, 2021- ), Real Betis (ESP; 2018-21), Prienai (LTU; 2021)

**BCL season-high:** 8 points (@ Falco Szombathely; Jan 25, 2022)

**BCL career-high:** 8 points (@ Falco Szombathely; Jan 25, 2022)

Being reliable is sometimes the best thing you can do for your team. Tobias Borg's job is not to win basketball games, or to be the MVP of the competition, he is here to keep the team on a high level when they need something more from the point guard position. Borg already played for the team back in 2018, and did not hesitate to move back to the island when Vidorreta needed another guard in the Huertas-Fitipaldo rotation. The Swedish national team member knows the Bilbao arena, he spent three seasons there, and three more in Real Betis, making Spain feel like a home away from home. He is in the middle of an impressive national team campaign, scoring in double digits in all four games, sending Sweden to a 2-2 record, keeping their hopes of making the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 alive.

# MHP RIESEN LUDWIGSBURG



## RELEASE THE PRESSURE

There are few things in European basketball more imposing than a John Patrick defense with the right personnel. Of the four seasons that MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg have played in the Basketball Champions League, they have only failed to reach the Quarter-Finals once and have now made the Final Four twice. The last time they reached this stage, they travelled to Athens rocked by injuries and struggling with recent fixture schedules in the German BBL. This time they have no games on the schedule after the first of May and will make the two hour flight to Bilbao fresh and rested. The season saw Ludwigsburg top their group in the Regular Season after doing the double over fellow Final

Four contenders Lenovo Tenerife, then finish second in the Round of 16 after also being beaten twice by fellow Final Four contenders Hapoel U-NET Holon. This is a team that is absolutely capable of beating anyone at the Final Four.

There isn't much more that needs to be said about the way that Ludwigsburg play under John Patrick. Put simply, there isn't a more physical team in the world. They press full court like a pack of wolves, they crash the offensive glass like a viking raid, in the half-court they are looking to trap and get in every passing lane, then they run the ball in transition at a breakneck pace. And they do all of that relentlessly, every



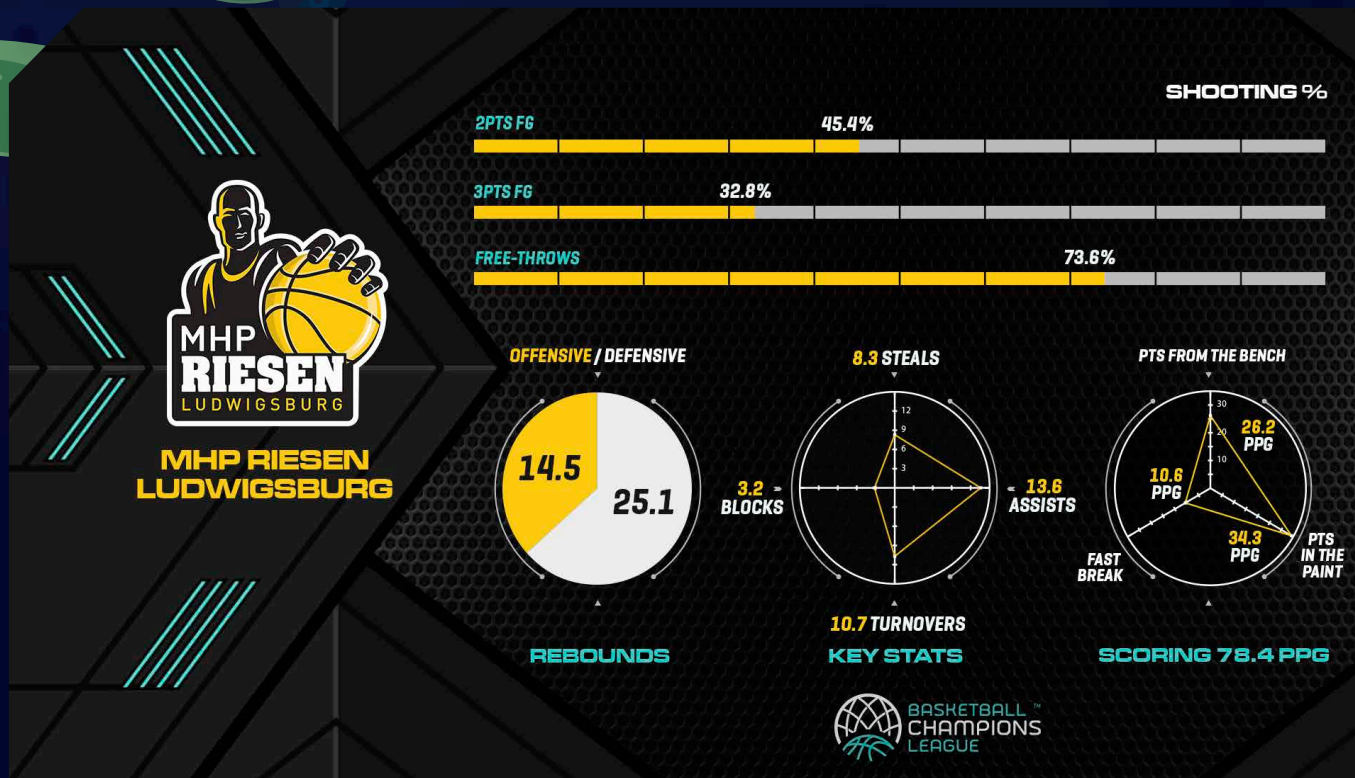
single possession of the game. They have the best defense in the entire league, conceding just 99 points per 100 possessions - the only team in the league to give up less than 100. They also not only have the highest Steal Percentage at the Final Four with 11.4 - meaning that they record a steal on 11.4 percent of their opponent's possessions - but they also have the lowest opposition Steal Percentage at 7.8 percent. They pull down 28.6 percent of the offensive rebounds available from their own misses, which is the best percentage amongst Final Four teams and they also score more points in the paint than any team in Bilbao with 34.2. If that wasn't a complete enough picture of their physical dominance, they block a shot on ten percent of their opponents' possessions, also top-ranked at the Final Four.

If we look at the chart below, Ludwigsburg clearly have two hotspots on the floor; directly at the rim where they shoot 69 percent and the top of the key three-point zone, where they shoot

a crazy 51 percent. The left corner three is also a very efficient spot for John Patrick's squad, where they shoot 42 percent but on a very low volume with only 12 attempts all season.

On the offensive end, in general they have been less efficient than their Final Four opponents scoring 107 points per 100 possessions. Some of those struggles can be attributed to their record from behind the three-point line, where they attempt the joint-least at 25.5 and knock them down at 32.9 percent, which is the lowest amongst teams at the Final Four. It's clear from the chart above and Ludwigsburg's overall shooting data that this is clearly a team with the potential to get hot from behind the arc but they do it on a low volume and like to pick their spots.

The season started with three wins on the bounce against Dinamo Sassari, Prometey, and Tenerife. Jonah Radebaugh introduced himself to the European stage with 24 points, 5 rebounds, and 5 assists against Sassari on Gameday 1. There was also 2 steals in that



individual box score and a strong hint towards the coming arrival of one of the most remarkable two-way guards to enter the scene in some time. If the first game was about introducing Jonah Radebaugh to the BCL, then the Prometei game was all about illustrating exactly how well Justin Simon fits in the John Patrick system. He recorded 18 points, 12 rebounds, 2 steals, and 2 blocks. This kind of complete box score contribution would continue for the rest of the season. Their first loss didn't come until the road game in Sardegna against Sassari but they bounced straight back with a dominant 83-99 win over Tenerife, in the Santiago Martin. Radebaugh was impressive again with 20 points but seven players scored double-digits in the game and youngster Jacob Patrick also put up an impressive 13 points.

The Round of 16 started in equally dominant fashion with a 22 point win over JDA Dijon. Justin Simon's 22 point and 12 rebound double-double stood out as they forced their opponents to make 19 turnovers and had their best shooting night of the season with 55 percent from three and 50.8 percent overall. As dominant as they looked against Dijon, the opposite couldn't have been further from the truth in the next game against Holon, as they only scored 51 points, their lowest of the season. They bounced back with two wins on the bounce against Dijon and Galatasaray. Radebaugh again displayed his multi-faceted way of impacting the game as a guard with 17 points, 8 rebounds, and 3 assists against Galatasaray. After losing to Holon again, qualification to the Quarter-Finals had gone from being a formality, to very much in doubt. Ludwigsburg responded with one of their best defensive performances of the season, holding the free-scoring Galatasaray to just 58 points. They again forced 19 turnovers and Justin Simon put up a huge double-double with 18 points and 14 rebounds.

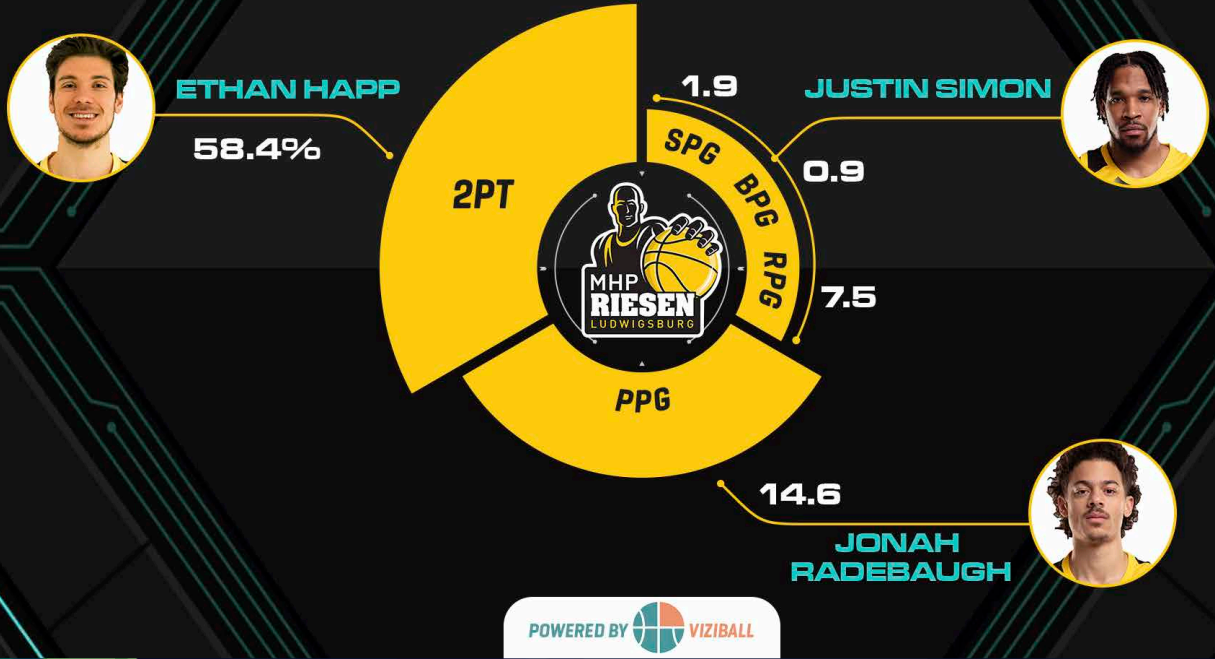
The Quarter-Finals against U-BT Cluj-Napoca was the only series that went to 3 games and was

packed with drama. Their Romanian opponents were enjoying the best European season of any Romanian club, possibly ever. Packed houses of more than 10,000 fans awaited Ludwigsburg on both occasions they visited Cluj, as they needed to win on the road twice to make it to Bilbao. It required the full depth of this Ludwigsburg squad to get through the series. They got huge contributions from Ethan Happ - who proved to be a huge matchup problem for Cluj - and in the decider, Jordan Hulls had his best game of the season with 21 points and several huge hustle plays. Game 1 of the series was a close 76-73 win for Cluj but the tide turned completely in Game 2. John Patrick's squad picked up a 92-75 win, riding huge performances from Simon, Radebaugh, Polas Bartolo, and Happ. Whenever this team has needed a result to release the pressure, they have responded by turning up the heat on their own pressure defense. Game 2 was no different as they forced 21 Cluj turnovers. If that wasn't enough, they then forced 25 turnovers in the decisive Game 3 and picked up a 73-79 win, on the road, in the most emotional of environments. If there were any doubters left before that game, there can be nobody that still has question marks about this team's threat at the Final Four.

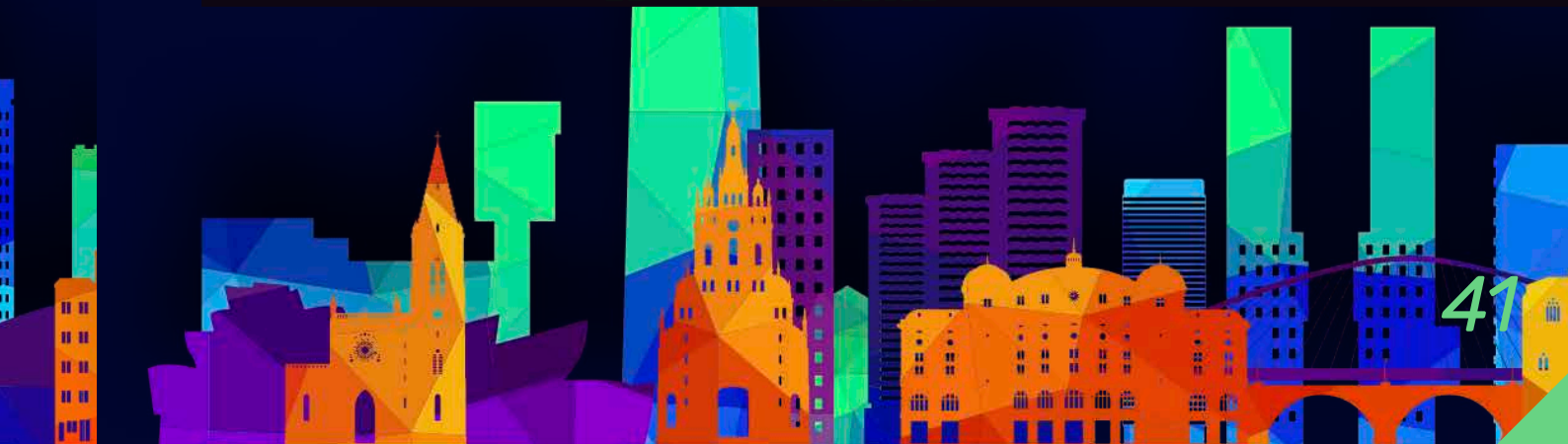
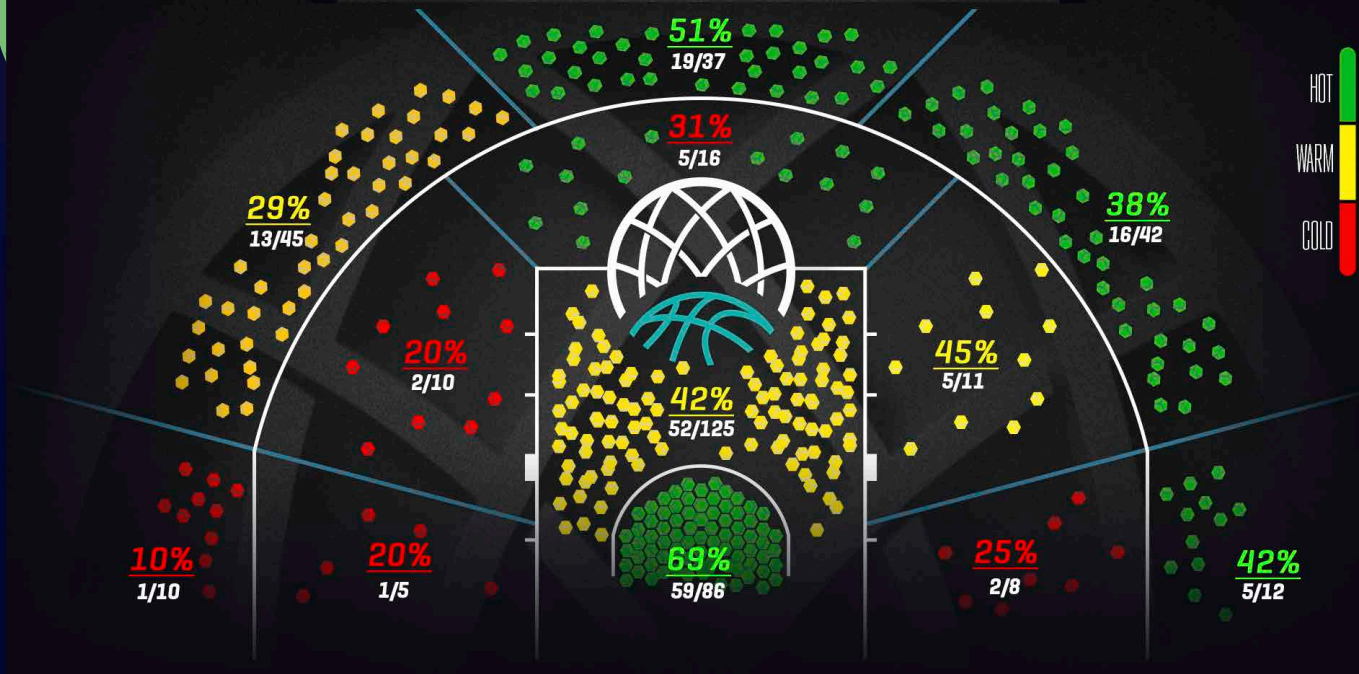
The first time Ludwigsburg arrived at the BCL Final Four in 2018, they did so after coming through the Qualifiers and were very much outsiders in a field of clubs from Spain, Greece, and France. This time they are very much a club that has proved they belong at this level and absolutely nobody in that BAXI Manresa organization will be under any illusions about the challenge they face on the sixth of May. Both teams play at breakneck tempo and the game will likely feel like it will be over in the blink of an eye. For Ludwigsburg, the theme - as always - will be about pressure. They have proved they are at their best when under pressure and also exerting the highest level of pressure possible on their opponents.



# MHP RIESEN LUDWIGSBURG



# MHP RIESEN LUDWIGSBURG



## JOHN PATRICK



**Date of birth:** 29/02/1968  
**Coaching career:** Gottingen (GER; 2003-05, 2006-11), Toyota Alvark (JPN; 2005-06), s.Oliver Wurzburg (GER; 2011-12), MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg (GER; 2013- )  
**BCL coaching record:** 39-30  
**BCL ranking in coaching wins:** #2

Getting to the BCL Final Four for the second time in his career was a personal goal for coach John Patrick, for sure. And with MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg's Quarter-Finals series going the distance, Game 3 saw not only the Giants advancing to the Final Four, but also John Patrick picking up win number 39 in this League. That means he is now in sole possession of the second spot on the all-time list, escaping from Oren Amiel, trailing only Txus Vidorreta. Ludwigsburg's playcaller was also named the Coach of the Year in 2018 when his side reached the Final Four in Athens, and he also has three Bundesliga Coach of the Year awards to his name, two of them coming from his Gottingen days. His basketball education took him all over the world, from the United States, through 13 years in Japan, to the most notable Euro Camps in Barcelona and Treviso during the 1990s and early 2000s. He took a bit from all of those, and ended up developing a style of playing with four guards at the same time, or having a center who is shorter than the opposing point guard. Patrick's basketball is not for everyone, and teams in Germany have prepared by practicing 5v6 to get used to the hectic, full-court-pressing style of Ludwigsburg. But even that couldn't help you prepare for all of Patrick's schemes.

## JORDAN HULLS



**Date of birth:** 16/04/1990  
**Position:** point guard  
**Height:** 180cm/5'11"  
**Club career:** Indiana Hoosiers (USA; 2009-13), Energa Czarni (POL; 2013-14), Sigal Prishtina (KOS; 2014-15), Limburg United (BEL; 2015-16), Eisbaren Bremerhaven (GER; 2016-18), s.Oliver Wurzburg (GER; 2018-20), MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg (GER; 2020- )  
**BCL season-high:** 21 points (@ U-BT Cluj Napoca; Apr 19, 2022)  
**BCL career-high:** 21 points (@ U-BT Cluj Napoca; Apr 19, 2022)

Imagine growing up with your grandfather being a shooting coach on coach Bob Knight's staff at Indiana. Jordan Hulls fell in love with the Hoosiers, and got a chance to play for the school as the hometown kid, on a roster that featured players like Victor Oladipo, Cody Zeller and Yogi Ferrell. Of course, his three-point shooting was his biggest power, and when combine good shooting with high basketball IQ, it was a natural move for Hulls to come to Europe in 2013. He played in Poland, Kosovo and Belgium before becoming a legend of the Bundesliga in Germany. He's a fan favorite wherever he shows up, he was voted FIBA Europe Cup Fan Vote MVP in 2019, and coach Patrick absolutely adores him. In weeks when Hulls was out with an injury, coach Patrick kept repeating the phrase "we're missing Jordan a lot." His trust paid off when it mattered most. Jordan played his best game of the season in Game 3 of the Quarter-Finals, scoring 13 points before the break, getting to his season-high of 21 points, just enough to squeeze Ludwigsburg over the line, into the Final Four.

## JONAH RADEBAUGH

STAR  
PLAYER



**Date of birth:** 17/06/1997  
**Position:** point guard  
**Height:** 191cm/6'3"  
**Club career:** Northern Colorado (USA; 2016-20), Koping Stars (SWE; 2020), MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg (GER; 2020- )  
**BCL season-high:** 24 points (v Dinamo Sassari; Oct 5, 2021)  
**BCL career-high:** 24 points (v Dinamo Sassari; Oct 5, 2021)

Fear the mullet! Jonah Radebaugh is the player you'll first notice when watching MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg, because of his wild hair that bounces along through all the sprints and flights he takes. Radebaugh wasn't supposed to be as good of an offensive player as he is, but he does rely on his smarts to keep him on the right track, saying stuff like "I might not be the most talented, but I'm one of the smartest and probably the best player on the floor more often than not." He specialized in defense, earning the defensive player of the year award three times at Northern Colorado, and he improved daily, because he had to chase current UCAM Murcia guard Jordan Davis around in practices. It's not just the guards, Radebaugh's sneaky athleticism had allowed him to guard power forwards and even centers in college, despite being just 191cm/6'3" tall. All of those are exactly the ingredients John Patrick wants in Ludwigsburg, so it was no wonder that the front office made the call to Sweden early during the 2020-21 season, ending Jonah's run in Koping Stars, and allowing him to compete on a higher level in Germany. He lists Pat Beverley and PJ Tucker as the two players he studied the most in terms of defense, and Paul George in terms of offense. Put those three in a blender and you get Radebaugh's BCL season numbers: 14.3 points, 5.5 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 1.4 steals per game, done while flirting with a 50-40-90 season - he is at 49.7-43.8-70.7 with two games to play.

## JACOB PATRICK



**Date of birth:** 21/11/2003  
**Position:** shooting guard  
**Height:** 194cm/6'4"  
**Club career:** MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg (GER; 2020- )  
**BCL season-high:** 13 points (@ Lenovo Tenerife; Dec 8, 2021)  
**BCL career-high:** 13 points (@ Lenovo Tenerife; Dec 8, 2021)

It's never easy playing for your father, but at the same time, it's the easiest thing possible. Jacob Patrick is growing up right in front of us, and the fact that he had the green light to take transition threes in the Quarter-Finals against U-BT Cluj-Napoca speaks volumes of his growing confidence. It's a scary sight to see when an 18-year-old gets participates in serious minutes, in a serious competition, on a serious roster with seasoned veterans from all over the world. Add to that the fact that his best game came in one of the toughest European arenas - the one in San Cristobal de La Laguna - the future belongs to Jake. For sure, as the youngest man in rotation, opponents will target him on the defensive end, but Patrick proved he can hold his own even against a Cluj backcourt that has guys like Patrick Richard and Brandon Brown.

## JOHANNES PATRICK



**Date of birth:** 30/12/2001  
**Position:** point guard  
**Height:** 185cm/6'1"  
**Club career:** MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg (GER; 2018- )  
**BCL season-high:** 4 points (@ Hapoel U-NET Holon; Feb 9, 2022)  
**BCL career-high:** 4 points (@ Hapoel U-NET Holon; Feb 9, 2022)

Mr. Worldwide. Johannes Patrick was born into an American family in Tokyo, Japan and then grew up in Germany. Three different countries for the older Patrick brother, who is seeing less minutes than Jacob, but with bragging rights about being the best shooter in the family. He gets to say it, because he once scored 12 points in 11 minutes of work in the Bundesliga. Johannes is in his third season as a pro, all three have been with Ludwigsburg, and as long as the team keeps on winning, he is happy to stick around for a long time.

## JUSTIN SIMON



**Date of birth:** 06/05/1996  
**Position:** small forward  
**Height:** 196cm/6'5"  
**Club career:** Arizona Wildcats (USA; 2015-16), St. John's Red Storm (USA; 2017-19), Windy City Bulls (USA; 2019-20), Illawarra Hawks (AUS; 2020-21), ratiopharm Ulm (GER; 2021), MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg (GER; 2021- )  
**BCL season-high:** 26 points (@ Dinamo Sassari; Nov 8, 2021)  
**BCL career-high:** 26 points (@ Dinamo Sassari; Nov 8, 2021)

John Patrick loves playing small-ball. In order to do that, he has to have a powerful man on the wing, one that's fast enough to matchup with the guards, and one that's strong enough not to be pushed out under the rim. Maybe Jonah Radebaugh is the star player for this team, but Justin Simon is the glue that connects all of Ludwigsburg's pieces together. He is usually the one handling the toughest defensive assignments, and on offense, he'll play above the rim and use his big body to get to the painted area. There is a lot of room for improvement, shooting 18 percent from beyond the arc is not the best stat for modern basketball, but even without a perimeter threat, Simon still averaged 14.6 points, 7.5 rebounds, 1.9 assists, 1.9 steals and a block per game. Just imagine how tough he is going to be when he gets his percentages to 30 or even 40... Simon celebrates his 26th birthday on the day of the Semi-Finals.

## JONATHAN BAEHRE



**Date of birth:** 12/09/1996  
**Position:** power forward  
**Height:** 208cm/6'10"  
**Club career:** UNC Asheville Bulldogs (USA; 2016-18), Clemson Tigers (USA; 2019-21), MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg (GER; 2021- )  
**BCL season-high:** 15 points (v Lenovo Tenerife; Oct 27, 2021)  
**BCL career-high:** 15 points (v Lenovo Tenerife; Oct 27, 2021)

Early in the season, it seemed Jonathan Baehre was the man who will have the usual Ludwigsburg breakthrough year. He had three games in double digits in scoring over the first five weeks of the BCL season, but after that, he scored a total of eight points over the next seven games. It's not the first time that Baehre's career got off track. With an NCAA transfer and a torn ACL, he barely played in his final two seasons in the United States, not being able to build on his strong campaign at UNC Asheville, where he was the third best blocker in the entire Big South Conference. Baehre is an emotional guy who will be the loudest person on the bench, cheering his teammates on, and trying to silence the opposing fans - exactly what he did in the Quarter-Finals series against U-BT Cluj-Napoca.

## JAMES WOODARD



**Date of birth:** 24/01/1994  
**Position:** shooting guard  
**Height:** 191cm/6'3"  
**Previous clubs:** Tulsa Golden Hurricane (USA; 2012-16), Rouen (FRA; 2016-17), Nevezis (LTU; 2017-18), MZT Skopje (MKD; 2018-19), medi Bayreuth (GER; 2019-20), Cantu (ITA; 2020-21), Peristeri (GRE; 2021), MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg (GER; 2021-)  
**BCL season-high:** 14 points (v JDA Dijon; Jan 26, 2022)  
**BCL career-high:** 14 points (v JDA Dijon; Jan 26, 2022)

All teams should have at least one lefty shooter. James Woodard fits the role with Ludwigsburg, and his stroke has been awesome in the Quarter-Finals, getting to double digits in two wins over U-BT Cluj-Napoca. In fact, the only other two times he has been in double figures in the BCL, they swept JDA Dijon, and when you add in the Bundesliga games, MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg are 9-0 when James Woodard scores 10+ points. His best game in Ludwigsburg's jersey came against Brose Bamberg, when he scored 28 points in just 23 minutes of action. Woodard broke a lot of records in his time with Tulsa, and stated his favorite NBA team were the Philadelphia 76ers at the time. Also, he said the most memorable place he's been to is Toronto, Canada. Maybe it's time to add Bilbao to that spot, after a memorable Final Four.

## YORMAN POLAS BARTOLO



**Date of birth:** 08/08/1985  
**Position:** small forward  
**Height:** 191cm/6'3"  
**Club career:** Tigres de Camaguey (CUB; 2005-12), Munchen Basket (GER; 2012-13), Crailsheim Merlins (GER; 2013-14), Giessen 46ers (GER; 2014-16), Telekom Baskets Bonn (GER; 2016-20), Skyliners Frankfurt (GER; 2020), MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg (GER; 2020-)  
**BCL season-high:** 14 points (v U-BT Cluj Napoca; Apr 13, 2022)  
**BCL career-high:** 22 points (v JDA Dijon; Jan 28, 2020)

When you take care of your body, 36 is just a number. Yorman Polas Bartolo would've been a catch for all other Bundesliga teams, but when Ludwigsburg snatched him in 2020, a whole new level of defensive firepower was unlocked. Polas Bartolo won the Bundesliga Best Defender award for the third time in his career in 2021, and the Cuban forward is especially important because he can go and guard centers if coach John Patrick opts for a completely small lineup. Similar to James Woodard, whenever Polas Bartolo reaches double figures in points, it's time to pack your bags and leave with an L - Ludwigsburg are 6-0 when YPB scores 10 or more in the BCL this season. If Ludwigsburg go all the way, Yorman would not be the first Cuban to win the BCL. Jasiel Rivero did it twice with Hereda San Pablo Burgos.

## LUKAS HERZOG



**Date of birth:** 10/09/2001  
**Position:** shooting guard  
**Height:** 188cm/6'2"  
**Club career:** MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg (GER; 2017-)  
**BCL season-high:** 6 points (@ JDA Dijon; Mar 9, 2022)  
**BCL career-high:** 6 points (@ JDA Dijon; Mar 9, 2022)

It's amazing that Lukas Herzog is still just a 20-year-old. He's made his debut back in 2017-18, and he is on pace to have 30+ Bundesliga games in consecutive seasons, doing his best in an underappreciated skill of being available for your team 24/7. Herzog started playing basketball with his twin brother Manuel at the age of ten, around the time when Dirk Nowitzki led the Dallas Mavericks to their 2011 NBA championship. Lukas grew up in a football city of Stuttgart, but enjoyed going to Ludwigsburg games as a fan even before he joined their youth academy. His favorite player at the time was Lucca Staiger. Now he achieved the same kind of BCL success as Staiger, who played at the Final Four with Tenerife back in 2019.

## JONAS WOHLFARTH-BOTTERMANN



**Date of birth:** 20/02/1990  
**Position:** center  
**Height:** 208cm/6'10"  
**Club career:** Telekom Baskets Bonn (GER; 2008-13), Dragons Rhondorf (GER; 2009-11), Alba Berlin (GER; 2013-16), Skyliners Frankfurt (GER; 2017-19), MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg (GER; 2019-)  
**BCL season-high:** 8 points (@ Prometey; Oct 13, 2021)  
**BCL career-high:** 8 points (@ Prometey; Oct 13, 2021)

The only man with a nickname on his BCL jersey, WoBo channeled his inner Giovanni van Bronckhorst, who only had Gio written on his back. Aside from the nickname, there are a lot of leadership and defensive qualities that also connect the basketball center and the football full back. Jonas is the team captain for MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg, one that will do a lot of dirty work on the defensive end, but won't force the issue in the offensive part of the game. In fact, he will be a menace on the offensive glass. He's had games with 3 or more offensive rebounds even when playing limited minutes, giving coach John Patrick a nice backup plan if small-ball isn't working. WoBo's biggest success in 2021-22 so far? Being called up to the national team again, eight years removed from his first callups to the national team.

## TREMMELL DARDEN



**Date of birth:** 17/12/1981  
**Position:** small forward  
**Height:** 196cm/6'5"  
**Club career:** Niagara (USA; 2000-04), Erdemirspor (TUR; 2004-05), Leuven (BEL; 2005-06), Spirou Charleroi (BEL; 2006-08), South Dragons (AUS; 2008-09), SIG Strasbourg (FRA; 2009-10), SLUC Nancy (FRA; 2010-11), Unicaja (ESP; 2011-12), Zalgiris Kaunas (LTU; 2012-13), Real Madrid (ESP; 2013-14), Olympiacos (GRE; 2014-15), Besiktas (TUR; 2015-16), Cantu (ITA; 2016-17), Antwerp Giants (BEL; 2018), Mittel-

deutscher BC (GER; 2018-20), MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg (GER; 2020- )  
**BCL season-high:** 16 points (v Lenovo Tenerife; Oct 27, 2021)  
**BCL career-high:** 16 points (v Lenovo Tenerife; Oct 27, 2021)

How is it possible to be this good at 40!? Tremmell Darden became not only the first 40-year-old to score in the BCL, but also the first 40-year-old to dunk in the history of the Basketball Champions League. Youngsters like Lukas Herzog and the Patrick brothers have praised Darden's professionalism, saying Tremmell was the first man to offer them advice on and off the court, making their transition into the world of professional basketball somewhat smoother. It's incredible that he's still doing it, he literally could be a father to these kids, and his college days were before some of his current teammates were even born. So why is he still here? Because he's collecting trophies wherever he shows up - Belgian champ, Australian champ, French champ, Lithuanian Supercup winner, Spanish League, Cup and Supercup winner, Greek champ. He needs a separate room for all that silverware...

## ETHAN HAPP



**Date of birth:** 07/05/1996  
**Position:** center  
**Height:** 208cm/6'10"  
**Club career:** Wisconsin (USA; 2015-19), Olympiacos (GRE; 2019-20), Vanoli Cremona (ITA; 2019-20), Fortitudo Bologna (ITA; 2020-21), Dinamo Sassari (ITA; 2021), MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg (GER; 2022- )  
**BCL season-high:** 18 points (v U-BT Cluj Napoca; Apr 13, 2022)  
**BCL career-high:** 19 points (v Bilbao Basket; Dec 8, 2020)

Another late arrival to the team, Ethan Happ is looking good within Ludwigsburg's system. He is athletic enough to cover the middle of the floor, he is smart so he makes the right passes regularly, and his soft touch will always get points on the board. He is one of just six players in NCAA history to record 2000 points, 1000 rebounds and 400 assists, done while playing for Wisconsin. He hoped for an NBA future, but after he went undrafted at the 2019 NBA Draft, it was time to move to another continent. He only played one game for Olympiacos, a team that loaned him to Vanoli Cremona where he averaged 18.3 points, 9.3 rebounds and 2.5 assists per game. That was more than enough to secure a deal with Fortitudo Bologna, and another Italian stop followed in Dinamo Sassari. In a way, staying in Italy was a part of honoring his family roots, because his great grandfather was from Sicily.

## RAWLE ALKINS



**Date of birth:** 29/10/1997  
**Position:** shooting guard  
**Height:** 196cm/6'5"  
**Club career:** Arizona (USA; 2016-18), Chicago Bulls (USA; 2018-19), Windy City Bulls (USA; 2018-19), FC Porto (POR; 2020), Raptors 905 (CAN; 2021), Giessen 46ers (GER; 2021), MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg (GER; 2021- )  
**BCL season-high:** 12 points (v Galatasaray Nef; Mar 14, 2022)  
**BCL career-high:** 12 points (v Galatasaray Nef; Mar 14, 2022)

Rawle Alkins is one of the rare MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg players with NBA experience under their belt. He appeared in ten games in 2018-19, but spent most of that season in the G League, before realizing there could be something across the pond. It was a rocky journey, with a two-game stop in Portugal before the lockdown, three-game stop with the Raptors 905 and another two-game stop with Giessen. Ludwigsburg came through, offering what Rawle had been missing in Europe. Stability and an opportunity to do his thing full time. The trust is paying off, especially in the Bundesliga, where he's getting to double digits with regularity. Finally, Alkins is starting to regain his Arizona-days confidence.

## TEKELE COTTON



**Date of birth:** 27/05/1993  
**Position:** shooting guard  
**Height:** 188cm/6'2"  
**Club career:** Wichita State (USA; 2011-15), MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg (GER; 2015-17, 2022- ), Fiat Torino (ITA; 2018-19), Kalev/Cramo (EST; 2020), Tramec Cento (ITA; 2020-21)  
**BCL season-high:** 8 points (multiple times)  
**BCL career-high:** 20 points (@ AEK; Jan 10, 2017)

There will be a Wichita State reunion in Bilbao. Tekele Cotton played alongside Joe Ragland for a season there, before four years older Ragland decided to go pro. Cotton soon joined his former teammate in Europe, but took a different path, getting to Ludwigsburg as a rookie back in 2015. He extended his stay in Germany, playing the first ever BCL season, too, and having some memorable games, like the 20-point outing against AEK in January 2017. Cotton then went to Italy, averaged 10.3 points for Fiat Torino for the season, and had a short adventure in Estonia with Kalev/Cramo. When it was time to find his shooting stroke again, Tekele went to the lower division in Italy and left it with 14.5 points per game, the highest scoring season of his career. Cotton will finish the BCL season without a single home game - he only played the three road games in Holon, Dijon and Istanbul, facing Galatasaray Nef.

# FINAL 4 OFFICIALS

## REFEREES



**Mr. Martin HOROZOV**  
BUL



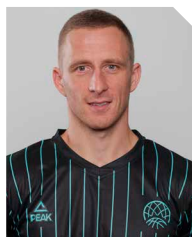
**Mr. Wojciech LISZKA**  
POL



**Mr. Geert JACOBS**  
BEL



**Mr. Manuel MAZZONI**  
ITA



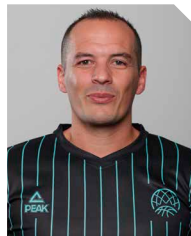
**Mr. Martins KOZLOVSKIS**  
LAT



**Mr. Michal PROC**  
POL



**Mr. Saverio LANZARINI**  
ITA



**Mr. Yohan ROSSO**  
FRA

## TECHNICAL DELEGATES



**Mr. Fernando GARZÓN**  
ESP



**Mr. Emir TURAM**  
TUR



**Mr. Andreas PAPADOPOULOS**  
GRE

# OFFICIAL PRACTICES

The last 10 minutes of all Official Team Practices are open to media. Accredited media representatives and photographers can enter the court area.

All times indicated are local times.

Practices will take place in the Bilbao Arena (14 Avenida Askatasuna, 48003 Bilbao, Spain), the main arena of the event.

## THURSDAY MAY 5, 2022

START TIME	END	ACTIVITY	COURT	TEAM	NOTE
11:00	12:00	PRACTICE	Main Court, Bilbao Arena	MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg	Official, Mixed Zone & Media Access
12:10	13:10	PRACTICE		BAXI Manresa	
13:20	14:40	PRACTICE		Lenovo Tenerife	
16:30	17:50	PRACTICE	Main Court, Bilbao Arena	Hapoel U-NET Holon	Official, Mixed Zone & Media Access
20:00	21:20	PRACTICE		MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg	
21:30	22:50	PRACTICE		BAXI Manresa	

## FRIDAY MAY 6, 2022

START TIME	END	ACTIVITY	COURT	TEAM	NOTE
09:30	10:30	PRACTICE	Main Court, Bilbao Arena	Lenovo Tenerife	Official, Mixed Zone & Media Access
10:40	11:40	PRACTICE		Hapoel U-NET Holon	
11:50	12:50	PRACTICE		BAXI Manresa	
13:00	14:00	PRACTICE		MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg	

## SATURDAY MAY 7, 2022

START TIME	END	ACTIVITY	COURT	TEAM	NOTE
16:20	17:50	PRACTICE	Main Court, Bilbao Arena	L Team SF1	Official, Mixed Zone & Media Access
18:00	19:20	PRACTICE		L Team SF2	
19:30	20:50	PRACTICE		W Team SF1	
21:00	22:20	PRACTICE		W Team SF2	

## SUNDAY MAY 8, 2022

START TIME	END	ACTIVITY	COURT	TEAM	NOTE
10:00	11:00	PRACTICE	Main Court, Bilbao Arena	L Team SF2	Official, Mixed Zone & Media Access
11:10	12:10	PRACTICE		L Team SF1	
12:20	13:20	PRACTICE		W Team SF2	
13:30	14:30	PRACTICE		W Team SF1	

# MEDIA ACTIVITIES

## 1. OFFICIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES

### THURSDAY MAY 5, 2022

- **15:00-16:00:**

Official Press Conference, with the Head Coaches and Captains of the four participating teams.

**Location:** Bilbao Arena, 14 Avenida Askatasuna, 48003 Bilbao, Spain

All accredited media are invited.

### FRIDAY MAY 6, 2022

- Media working room and Media tribune
- Mixed zone
- Post-game press conferences

**Location:** Bilbao Arena, 14 Avenida Askatasuna, 48003 Bilbao, Spain

All accredited media will be able to attend the above mentioned activities.

### SATURDAY MAY 7, 2022

- **10:00-10:30:**

Finalists Press Conference, with the Head Coaches and Captains of the two finalists' teams.

**Location:** Hotel Gran Bilbao, Auditorium Gran Bilbao

- **10:30-11:30:**

BCL CEO Press Conference

**Location:** Hotel Gran Bilbao, Auditorium Gran Bilbao

- **13:00:**

BCL Season Awards Ceremony

**Location:** Sociedad Filarmónica de Bilbao, 2 Portuko Markesaren Kalea, 48009 Bilbao, Spain

All accredited media are invited.

Players, coaches, BCL and FIBA management will be available to media during and after the ceremony.

### SUNDAY MAY 8, 2022

- Media working room and Media tribune
- Mixed zone
- Post-game press conferences

**Location:** Bilbao Arena

All accredited media will be able to attend the above mentioned activities.



## 2. GAMES

All games will be played in the Bilbao Arena  
(14 Avenida Askatasuna, 48003 Bilbao, Spain)

FINAL 4				TIME (LOCAL)	TIME (CET)	TIME (GMT)
<b>FRIDAY, MAY 6</b>						
SF1	Hapoel U-NET Holon (ISR)	V	Lenovo Tenerife (ESP)	18:00	18:00	16:00
SF2	MHP Riesen Ludwigsburg (GER)	V	BAXI Manresa (ESP)	21:00	21:00	19:00
<b>SUNDAY, MAY 8</b>						
3 <sup>RD</sup>	Third Place Game			17:00	17:00	15:00
FINAL	Final			20:00	20:00	18:00





**FINAL FOUR**  
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE  
BILBAO 2022

**6-8 MAY**







**FINAL FOUR**  
BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE  
BILBAO 2022

**Wilson**

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