

Top 10 Underrated Transfers in Mid-Major Hoops

By: Matthew Kostoff

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Javan Buchanan

Height	Class	Position	School
6'7"	JR	SF	Boise St

The 6'7" NAIA All-American 1st teamer, possibly the best non-D1 transfer in the portal this offseason, will be a valuable asset for Boise State. The all-around talented wings stuffed the stat sheet last year, averaging 20.5 ppg, 6.5 rpg, and 2.6 apg on 52/36/85 splits at Indiana Wesleyan. On offense, Buchanan explodes down the lane for easy layups, violent dunks, or finding the open teammate when help side swarms him. On defense, Javan has great instincts when timing his jump to pin shots on the glass or jumping into passing lanes, averaging one block and one steal per game. Aside from the obvious, Buchanan is great at pushing the ball in the open floor, rebounding, and is completely capable of spreading the floor. Javan's impressive physique and playing style show how obviously capable he was of competing at a higher level than the NAIA. His athleticism, skill set, and frame will make his transition to Mountain West quite effortless.

2



Deywilk Tavarez

Height	Class	Position	School
6'2"	SO	PG	Charleston

Tavarez found himself this past season at Delaware St., and plenty of schools took notice. His 13.7 ppg, 3.6 apg, and 3.3 rpg averages led Tavarez to MEAC Rookie of the Year and All-MEAC 3rd team honors. The 6'2" New Jersey native is a fantastic shooter from range, adept at dribbling into his shots and using a variety of crossovers, spin moves, and step-backs to create space for his jumper. I also really enjoy the pace Tavarez plays at; he doesn't allow the defense to speed him up, which leads to excellent vision to find open teammates. Another thing to like about his game is his on-ball defensive upside, where he creates 2.0 spg. Look out for Tavarez as he looks to fill in guard play that left in the portal for the Cougars.

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Dennis Evans

Height	Class	Position	School
7'1"	SO	C	Grand Canyon

Dennis Evans, a former top 25 recruit with a 7'7" wingspan, still could be one of the nation's premier interior defenders and shot blockers. Despite his strong ranking, the 7'1" center got injured and failed to get much playing time at Louisville during his freshman year, prompting him to move to the strong Grand Canyon team. Evans's impressive size and length make him a dangerous offensive and defensive force. On offense, he excels when finishing powerfully at the rim and shooting over outstretched arms. Surprisingly, despite his size, Evans is a smooth shooter with solid mechanics. Evans could significantly elevate his draft stock with increased playing time in the WAC.

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Nils Cooper

Height	Class	Position	School
6'5"	SO	SG	UC Davis

Nils Cooper, the son of former NBA player Michael Cooper, has recently transferred from Pepperdine to UC Davis. Cooper, who possesses the intangibles of a quality off-ball combo guard, looks to improve his shooting consistency and possibly develop into a primary ball handler. Cooper loves to set up shop in corners waiting for spot-up threes, but he only shot 21% from three, which is something I see him bolstering in his sophomore season. His length, improved strength, and persistent hustle make him an intriguing asset for the Aggies. Nils is a super exciting player who is always attacking and drives the lane hard, and I think in a larger role, he could be a great prospect.

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Melvin Council Jr.

Height	Class	Position	School
6'4"	SR	SG	St Bonaventure

Council, a former JUCO product, plays with a chip on his shoulder, showcasing his tenacity on both ends of the floor. His offensive prowess, relentless energy, and hustle make him one of the most interesting transfers in the A10. Council is a fiery offensive player who loves getting into his jumper, taking the ball hard to the rack, and does not mind when the offense runs straight through him. Council has a bag full of different layup packages, a great pick pocketer on defense, and plenty of upside as a shooter. Council's fearlessness and desire for taking big shots, combined with his NBA-caliber length, agility, and creativity, make him a promising prospect who is ready to showcase his skills in the A10. Council makes every play count when he is on the court, which is why he finished on the 1st Team All-NEC selection last season after averaging 15 ppg, 6 rpg, and 3.5 apg in 36 mpg.

6



Eric Acker

Eric Acker, a 6'2" guard from New York, moved to La Salle following his freshman year at LIU. Acker, the youngest player in NCAA basketball last season, displays a unique combination of talent, quickness, pace, and composure. He's good at making plays with the ball in his hand in the PNR or when driving to see his teammate cutting. Acker's swift and shifty handle is incredibly advanced, allowing him to get into his jumper and floater. While his flashes of talent are clear, more freedom and playing time might speed up his growth, making him a potential difference-maker in the A10. As a freshman, Acker received All-NEC Rookie Team accolades, averaging 12 points, 4 rebounds, and 4 assists per game.

Height	Class	Position	School
6'2"	SO	PG	La Salle

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Lajae Jones

Height	Class	Position	School
6'7"	JR	SG	St Bonaventure

Lajae Jones, a former NJCAA 2nd Team All-American, excelled this past year, averaging 15.4 ppg and 9.2 rpg while shooting an impressive 54% from the field and over 42% from three-point range. Jones is an exciting offensive talent who loves to isolate his defender and take them to the rim to finish beautifully. Beyond his ability to drive to the basket, Jones is a skilled shooter renowned for his graceful fade away and his knack for finding open spots beyond the three-point line to showcase his smooth shooting form. Lajae's natural skill and dynamic style of play, along with his clear leadership characteristics, as seen by his team's remarkable 36-1 record last season, make him look to be a coach's dream.

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Jaylen Jones

Height	Class	Position	School
6'0"	SO	PG	Oakland

Jaylen Jones, a former Tennessee State freshman, has moved to Oakland under Coach Greg Kempe to pair up with his brother Isaiah Jones. Jones, known for his outstanding speed, is a blur when pushing it coast to coast in transition or when leading the pack on fastbreaks. He's also an extremely confident outside shooter who loves to lurk around the arc to get himself open for catch-and-shoot. Jones is aggressive when he attacks the rim and finishes his layups in acrobatic fashion. In his freshman campaign, Jones averaged 9 ppg, 4 rpg, and 3 apg in and has plenty of time to grow into a dynamic guard. Jaylen is going to provide a ton of energy and excitement to one of the most popular mid-majors after this past year's March madness.

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Jeremiah Hernandez

Height	Class	Position	School
6'5"	GR	PG	Ball St

Former 1st Team All-OVC was a hot commodity in the transfer portal due to his offensive versatility and overall growth from freshman to senior year. Hernandez finished his final year at Southern Indiana with a team-best 17.2 ppg, 3.3 rpg, and was one of the best at getting to the free throw line. Jeremiah thrives when driving baseline with the ball in his hands, either finishing at the hoop or luring defensive attention to find an open teammate. Last year, opponents played Hernandez aggressively, forcing him to get off-ball screens to create space for his three-pointer. When it comes to finishing at the rim, the feisty Puerto Rican guard isn't afraid to make contact, which is why he routinely gets to the foul line. Don't be shocked if Jeremiah Hernandez is selected MAC Newcomer of the Year upon his return to the conference.

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Ben Schweieger

Height	Class	Position	School
6'5"	R-JR	SG	Northern Iowa

Going into his 2nd year, all the signs pointed to Schweiger having a breakout season after his 9.2 ppg, 4 rpg A10 All-Rookie showing in his freshman year at Loyola Chicago. Unfortunately, Schweiger's sophomore season didn't go as planned. The 6'7" Chicago native struggled to find playing time and appeared in only 10 games. Now at UNI seeking a fresh start; it's difficult to envision the lengthy 6'7" shooting guard, Schweiger, staying off the court due to his impressive shooting ability and offensive versatility. On offense, Schweiger is a spark plug who constantly pesters defenses with his relentless off-ball movement to find open, cutting lanes. His cutting and driving ability allow him to finish around the hoop with explosive dunks. He is a versatile player who, while not the most athletic, compensates with his intellect, steadfast decision-making, and ability to be in the right place at the right time.