2017-18 Schedule

November (4-3)
11 WAGNER L, 60-49
14 LAFAYETTE W, 96-80
18 at No. 22 Seton Hall L, 82-53
22 KEAN UNIVERSITY (NJ) W, 116-63
25 DREXEL W, 65-53
28 LIU BROOKLYN W, 73-69
30 at No. 19 West Virginia L, 102-69

December (1-0)
3 UMASS LOWELL W, 78-65
7 at Rutgers 7 PM
9 IONA 4 PM
12 at Colgate 7 PM
16 FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON 4 PM
18 at Florida Gulf Coast* 7 PM
22 BRYN ATHYN (PA) 2 PM
25 DREXEL W, 65-53
28 at Bu...
FGCU GRABS PRESEASON TOP SPOT; GOODWIN & AMINU COLLECT INDIVIDUAL HONORS

LAKEPOINT, GA -- After winning back-to-back ASUN Conference Men’s Basketball Championship titles, FGCU was voted the favorites to three-peat in the Preseason Coaches & Media Polls. Lipscomb, which finished second during the regular season last year, was voted second in both polls, while North Florida followed the Bisons in third.

FGCU senior guard Brandon Goodwin was the unanimous selection for Preseason Player of the Year by the league’s head coaches. He was a unanimous ASUN Newcomer of the Year last season and capped off his incredible year with ASUN Championship MVP honors after leading the Eagles to their third ASUN Men’s Basketball Championship crown. Goodwin scored 18.2 PPG last season.

North Florida’s Wajid Aminu took home the ASUN Preseason Defensive Player of the Year award. The reigning ASUN Freshman of the Year had 36 blocks last season, 20 of them coming in conference play. That mark set a new UNF freshman single-season record. He also corralled 6.5 rebounds per game.

NJIIT rounded out the selection by the league’s head coaches and media poll.

PRESEASON COACHES POLL:
Rank (1-Place Votes) Total Pts
1. FGCU (7) 63
2. Lipscomb 55
3. North Florida (1) 46
4. USC Upstate 33
5. Kennesaw State 28
6. Stetson 22
7. Jacksonville 21
8. NJIT 20

PRESEASON MEDIA POLL:
Rank (1-Place Votes) Total Pts
1. FGCU (48) 398
2. Lipscomb 338
3. North Florida (2) 256
4. Jacksonville 206
5. Kennesaw State 190
6. USC Upstate 176
7. Stetson 116
8. NJIT 112

PRESEASON INDIVIDUAL HONORS:
Preseason Player of the Year: Brandon Goodwin, FGCU
Defensive Player of the Year: Wajid Aminu, North Florida

PRESEASON ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM:
Pos Name School Year
*G Brandon Goodwin FGCU Sr.
*G Zach Johnson FGCU Jr.
*C Rob Marberry Lipscomb Jr.
*G Garrison Mathews Lipscomb Jr.
*G Mike Cunningham USC Upstate Jr.
*G Divine Myles Stetson Sr.
G Nick Masterson Kennesaw State Sr.
F Abdulf Lewis NJIT Jr.
F Anthony Tarke NJIT Jr.
F Wajid Aminu North Florida So.

* Denotes unanimous selection

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ASUN CONFERENCE:

ASUN OFFENSIVE RANKINGS:

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<tr>
<th>RK NAME</th>
<th>GP</th>
<th>FG</th>
<th>PCT</th>
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GAME 9: AT RUTGERS
**HIGHLANDERS BY THE NUMBERS**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior/G/F Chris Jenkins on NJIT’s roster, after losing four senior starters. Seven of the 13 Highlanders are underclassmen.</td>
<td>Years as NJIT Head Coach for Brian Kennedy, who started as top assistant at NJIT for his first four seasons on staff.</td>
<td>Years as member of the ASUN after two seasons as an independent. NJIT was in the Great West Conference from 2009-13.</td>
<td>Rebounds per game for Abdul Lewis, which leads the ASUN and ranks 30th among D-I national leaders.</td>
<td>Victories in the history of the NJIT men’s hoops program, which dates back to 1922 (102 against D-I programs).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THREE-POINT LAND-ERS!**

NJIT ranks third in the ASUN in three-point field-goal percentage at .36. The Highlanders have four members in the top 11 in ASUN individual ranks. Sophomore Shyquan Gibbs leads the conference at .476; 10-for-21, while senior Chris Jenkins (.478; 11-for-23) ranks fifth, junior Diandre Wilson (.476; 10-for-21) ranks sixth and freshman Zach Cooks sits 11th at .419 (9-for-21).

**THOU SHALT STEAL!**

NJIT ranks 20th in the nation and first the ASUN in steals per game at 9.4 – a total that is 1.8 spg higher than the team ranking second in the conference (Florida Gulf Coast, 7.6)… The Highlanders boast five players in the top 15 of the ASUN in spg, as junior Diandre Wilson ranks eighth (1.8) and freshman Zach Cooks sits tied for tenth (1.5), while junior Reilly Walsh and sophomores Shyquan Gibbs and Anthony Tarke are in a three-way tied for 13th (1.1).

**AB-NORMAL!**

Junior Abdul Lewis had a monster performance against LIU Brooklyn on Nov. 28 in which he posted game-highs in points (23) and rebounds (18) while dishes out a team-high four assists. The Newark native was one point shy of his career-high scoring output set at Florida Gulf Coast on Jan. 21, 2017, and one rebound short of his NJIT single-game record of 19 set Jan. 19, 2017 at Stetson.

• Lewis leads the ASUN in rpg (9.9) – a figure that ranks 30th in Division I. He also sits ninth among all active D-I players in career rebounding average at 8.8 rpg. He has led (or co-led) the Highlanders in rebounds in seven of eight games this season.

• The 6’10” big also ranks second in the conference in double-doubles (3) after starting his season with 12 points and a game-high 12 rebounds against Wagner (Nov. 11) and 10 points and a game-high 15 rebounds against Lafayette (Nov. 14)… He logged five double-doubles in his first year at NJIT in 2016-17, one short of Tim Coleman’s team-high.

• Going back to last season, the South Alabama transfer is averaging 6.5 ppg (110) in his last 17 G – shoo

**TARKE DIRTY TO ME!**

Anthony Tarke sits 11th at .419 (9-for-21) and would rank second in the conference in bpg (1.3)… The preseason ASUN All-Conference selection and member of the 2017 ASUN All-Freshman finished ranked sixth in the ASUN in FG% (.522), ninth in spg (1.1), tied for ninth in o-rpg (1.6) 18th in rpg (4.7) and 24th in ppg (9.9). His total of 307 points was the most by an NJIT freshman since Damon Lynn scored 500 points in 2013-14. The Gaithersburg, Md., native led all freshmen in scoring in ASUN conference play at 12.5 ppg.

**DON’T FORGET ABOUT ‘DRE!**

Last year, Lewis also set the NJIT single-season rebounding record (264). He’s also places 11th in 3FG% (.429), 13th in assist-to-turnover ratio (1.5) and 17th in assists per game (2.4).

**NEVER ENOUGH COOKS IN THE KITCHEN!**

Freshman Zach Cooks currently ranks tied for 10th in the ASUN in steals per game (1.5) – which included an NJIT season-high five thefts against Kean (Nov. 22). He’s also places 11th in 3FG% (.429), 13th in assist-to-turnover ratio (1.5) and 17th in assists per game (2.4).

**ONES BITTEN, TWICE SHY!**

Sophomore Shyquan Gibbs currently leads the ASUN in three-point field-goal percentage (.800; 8-for-10) and would rank second in field-goal percentage (.607; 17-for-28), if he had enough attempts to qualify… Going back to last season, he is averaging 6.5 ppg (110) in his last 17 G – shooting a robust 39-for-76 FG (.513) and 18-for-33 3FG (.545)... The former pupil of Bob Hurley at St. Anthony’s moved into the starting lineup for the Highlanders’ final 12 contests during his freshman campaign.

**HEAD COACH BRIAN KENNEDY**

Alma Mater: Montmouth ’90

Seasons: 2nd as Head Coach [6th season at NJIT]

Career Record: 16-23 (.410)

ASUN Record: 3-11 [214]; 0-1 in Postseason

**TEAM INFORMATION**

Assistant Coaches: Jeff Rafferty (2nd season)

• Stephen Sauers (1st season)

• Kim Waiters (3rd season)

• Joe Gutowski (1st season)

• Athletic Trainer: Matt Koscs

• Dir. of Basketball Ops: Job Gutowski (1st season)

**SPORTS INFORMATION**

Men’s BB Contact: Matt Provence

Phone / Email: 610-504-1037 / provence@njit.edu

Assistant SID: Stephanie Pillari

Phone / Email: 973-596-8324 / pillarj@njit.edu

**PROGRAM RECORDS**

Inaugural Season: 1922

All-Time Record: 903-808 (.528) / 1,711 games

Pre-NCAA (1922-73): 264-270 (.494)

Division III Era (1974-96): 368-160 (.697) / 538 games

Division II Era (1997-06): 118-133 (.470) / 251 games

Division I Era (2006-): 132-215 (.380) / 347 games

Vs. Division I Teams: 105-215 (.328) / 320 games

Vs. Division II Teams: 20-0 (1.000)

Vs. Non NCAA Teams: 7-0 (1.000)

Conference Titles (Reg): 1 (Great West 2012-13)

Conference Titles (Tour): 0

National Postseason Tour: 6-2

**WELLNESS & EVENTS CENTER (WEC)**

Address: 100 Lock St., Newark, NJ 07102

Year Opened: 2017

Capacity: 3,500

Home Record (WEC): 5-1 (.833) / 6 games

Home Record (D-I Era): 92-61 (.601) / 153 games

Home Record (Kennedy): 13-5 (.722)

Home Record (Conference): 23-10** (.697); doesn’t incl. ASUN tourney

**ASUN CONFERENCE**

Established: 1978

Former Name: Trans America Athletic Conf. [1978-01]

Number of Teams: 8

Headquarters: Macon, Georgia

Commissioner: Ted Gumbarit (since 2007)

Asst Commissioner (Media): Patrick McCoy

Website: www.asunsports.org

2016-17 Champs (Reg): Florida Gulf Coast

2016-17 Champs (Tour): Florida Gulf Coast

NJIT All-Time Record: 11-17 (.393); doesn’t incl. ASUN tournament

NJIT Tournament Record: 0-2 (.000)
FLEA... FROM THREE:

Senior Chris Jenkins currently ranks fifth in the ASUN in 3FG% (47.8) and 19th in three-pointers per game (1.4) after finishing 13th in both categories a season ago... Including a freshman season at Hofstra University, 85.3% of Jenkins’ FGM (191) are 3FG (163) -- including all 10 this season -- which accounts for 489 (87.0%) of his career 565 points. The native of Hillside, NJ, currently ranks tied for 68th among all active D-I players with 164 career treys.

ABLE TO SLAY KEAN:

In its 116-63 victory over Kean University on Wednesday, NJIT posted its largest point total since the D-III Highlanders’ 118-74 win over Concordia (NY) on Jan. 4, 2019. The team shattered a robust 44-0 FG% (677) and 14-24 3FG (583) while setting a program record with 32 assists (previously 29 in a 133-61 win over PSU-Abington on Nov. 14, 2011)... In the game, all 13 players on the roster entered the scoring column while freshmen combined for 55 points on an impressive 22-for-32 (.688) shooting. Shawndale Jones paced the attack with a game-high 23 points while Zach Cooks finished with 17 points on the strength of five triples... NJIT improved to 27-0 all-time against non-D-I opponents.

#PROTECTTHEWEC:

After calling Fleisher Athletic Center “home” for the past 50 years, NJIT has a new court in the state-of-the-art Wellness and Events Center (WEC) beginning with the 2017-18 season -- and have started 5-1... The WEC is a three story, 220,000-square-foot building that features a 3,500-seat basketball arena that compares favorably with many Division-I mid-major facilities throughout the country. The design of the $102 M building features a number of flexible spaces that can be quickly configured to support the numerous and varied missions of the university community. Designed and engineered by AECOM and built by Torcon, the exterior design reinforces the university’s position as a leader in engineering and technology education, featuring a 52-foot-high glass wall on the north facade that offers an excellent view of the playing floor as well as NJIT’s academic campus. Previously, the Highlanders played in Fleisher Athletic Center since 1967 and posted an 8-4 record there last season and an 87-60 mark during its Division-I era.

A NEW ERA IN NEW-ARK:

After the program bid adieu to four starting seniors, the Highlanders are a young team with a much different look. In large part to losing the school’s all-time leading scorer in Damon Lynn (2,153) and rebounder in Tim Coleman (762), the Highlanders return just 46.1% of their scoring -- including just 42.6% of their three-point field goals -- and 51.5% of their rebounding from a season ago. In fact, the roster features just one senior and just 40 combined starts at NJIT from its upperclassmen -- returning just 37.4% of its starts and 53.9% of its minutes... Of the 13 players on the roster, there is one senior (7.7%), five juniors (38.5%), three sophomores (23.0%) and four freshmen (30.8%).

FORWARD THINKING:

Two Highlanders -- junior F Abdulf Lewis and sophomore F Anthony Tarke -- were among the three forwards selected to the Preseason ASUN All-Conference Team... In his first season with NJIT, Lewis averaged 9.7 ppg to go along with 8.5 rebounds per game -- second in the ASUN conference -- and 6.3 blocks per game. A native of Salmon, AL, Lewis has set program records for single-season rebounds (264) and single-game rebounds (19). A two-time ASUN Newcomer of Week as a sophomore, Lewis' growth was evidenced by the fact he averaged 13.4 ppg and 8.5 rpg over 14 games in ASUN play... Tarke, the first-ever Highlander selected to the postseason ASUN All-Freshman Team, became the focus of the offense following the season-ending injury to Damon Lynn on Jan. 21, 2017. Over his last 14 games, the Gaithersburg, MD., native averaged 14.0 ppg while shooting .565 (74-for-131 FG). Among ASUN freshmen, Tarke ranked second in per-game averages for points (9.9), rebounds (4.7), steals (1.1) and blocks (0.5). He finished with 307 points, the highest scoring total by an NJIT freshman since Lynn scored 500 points in 2013-14... The only other frontcourt player honored was Lipscomb center Rob Marberry.

THE YOUNG AND THE... TALENTED:

"I'm very impressed with NJIT's 2017 class. Their speed, athleticism and basketball savvy are what it takes to build a solid program in the Atlantic Sun Conference."

-- Adam Finkelstein, National Recruiting Analyst for ESPN, Recruiting Nation

Head Coach Brian Kennedy welcomes in the highest-rated recruiting class in the history of the program which, by many sources, was ranked as the top recruiting class in the ASUN this season... Forward San Antonio Brinson (Augusta, Ga.) in a 6-foot-8, 200-pounder arrives at NJIT as one of the highest-rated recruits in program history after attending South Kent School (CT)... Zach Cooks (Lawrenceville, Ga.), who figures to handle a share of the point guard duties, displayed both excellent ball-handling and play-making abilities while at Berkmar High School in Lilburn, Ga... Shawndale Jones (Pittsburgh, Pa.) is a 6-3 combo guard who athleticism shined not only on the hardwood, but also on the gridiron as a WR/DB at The Kiski School in Saltsburg, Pa. In its recap of all ASUN early signings, Hoopseen.com commented that Jones "could be the steal of the class"... Guard David Kachelries (Emmanus, Pa.), described as playing with an incredibly high motor, finished his high school career as Emmanuel's all-time leading scorer with 1,910 points.

TWO MORE HIGHLANDERS GO PRO:

Two members of NJIT’s Class of 2017 are playing basketball professionally, as both guards Tim Coleman (Union, NJ) and Rob Ukawuba (East Brunswick, NJ) have signed to compete in the NBA Development League Draft.

Coleman signed a professional contract with the Halifax Hurricanes, located in Nova Scotia, Canada. Coleman was selected by the program’s all-time leading rebounder (762) and fourth all-time leading scorer (1,429). As a senior, he ranked fifth in the ASUN Conference in steals per game (1.2), sixth in rebounding and blocks per game (6.9) and 15th in points per game (12.5). He departed the NCAA ranks as the only active Division-I player with at least 1,400 points, 750 rebounds, 225 assists (244), 150 steals (154) and 135 blocks (135). Ukawuba was selected by the Windsor Express in the second round of the NBLC draft after averaging 7.9 ppg and 4.3 rpg as a senior last season.

He appeared on ESPN SportCenter’s Top 10 plays twice last season for a dunk over Purdue’s 6-foot-9 Caleb Swanigan (current Portland Trail Blazer) on Nov. 26, 2016, and a reverse dunk from a half-court, alley-oop feed from teammate Damon Lynn against Jacksonville on Jan. 12, 2017.

A year prior, guard Ky Howard ’16 was been selected by the Greensboro Swarm in the 2016 NBA Development League Draft.

NON-CONFERENCE, NO NONSENSE:

The Highlanders will again have a grueling, non-conference schedule that features road games at West Virginia, Seton Hall, Rutgers and Buffalo and home tilts against the likes of Lafayette, Drexel, LIU Brooklyn and Iona... However, after traveling for 11 (68.8%) of their 16 non-conference contests a year ago, the Highlanders play nine (60.0%) of 15 non-conference games at the WEC this season.

THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION:

Head Coach Brian Kennedy begins his second season at the helm of the NJIT program after four seasons as a top assistant under Jim Engles. Since joining the program, “BK” has helped guide NJIT to a combined 82-78 record – including back-to-back, 20-win seasons and back-to-back appearances in the CIT semifinals (2014-16). A talented recruiter, Kennedy was extremely instrumental in luring some of the Highlanders most talented all-time performers -- such as Tim Coleman, Damon Lynn, Anthony Tarke and Rob Ukawuba -- to Newark. That reputation has continued with the 2021 class, which -- on paper -- is the highest rated recruiting class in program history with San Antonio Brinson, Zach Cooks, Shawndale Jones and David Kachelries.

HIGHLANDERS SIGN KJELL DE GRAAF FOR 2018:

NJIT men’s basketball head coach Brian Kennedy announced that Kjell De Graaf has signed a national letter of intent to attend NJIT and play basketball for the Highlanders in the fall of 2018.

De Graaf, a 6-foot-10 native of Rotterdam, Netherlands, is currently playing for the Canaries Basketball Academy in Gran Canaria, Spain. This season, he is averaging 14.5 points per game and 7.2 rebounds per game while shooting 45-percent from three-point territory for the Elite A Team.

“We are very excited to have Kjell join our family here at NJIT,” said Kennedy. “He is regarded as one of the highest rated scholar-athletes in all of Europe and plays at the prestigious school, The Academy in Spain/Gran Canaria.”

The Academy, considered the top prep school in Europe both academically and athletically, has sent over 80 players to Division-I schools in recent years. A very good student with a 3.8 grade point average, De Graaf is interested in NJIT’s Honors Program and in studying either chemical engineering or biomedical engineering. He is currently a post-graduate student after spending his first two years of high school at The Thornbecke Voortgezet Onderwijs (Holland) and his last two at The Canterbury School (Gran Canaria, Spain).

De Graaf has also played on the Netherlands Junior National Team since he was 14 years old and was a member of the 14U European Championship team in 2013. He committed to NJIT after also considering Fordham, New Mexico, Old Dominion, Bucknell and Gonzaga.
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<td>80 LAFAYETTE (11/14/17)</td>
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<td>at West Virginia (11-30-17)</td>
<td>69 LIU BROOKLYN (11/28/17)</td>
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| Field Goals Made | 44 KEAN (11/22/17) | 35 at West Virginia (11-30-17) |
| Field Goal Attempts | 70 LAFAYETTE (11/14/17) | 71 at West Virginia (11-30-17) |
| Field Goal Percentage | .677 44-65 KEAN (11/22/17) | .519 27-52 LAFAYETTE (11/14/17) |
| 3 PT Field Goals Made | 14 KEAN (11/22/17) | 14 at West Virginia (11-30-17) |
| 3 PT FG Attempts | 27 at Seton Hall (11/18/17) | 34 at West Virginia (11-30-17) |
| 3 PT FG Percentage | .583 14-24 KEAN (11/22/17) | .196 10-20 LAFAYETTE (11/14/17) |
| Free Throws Made | 17 at West Virginia (11-30-17) | 17 at West Virginia (11-30-17) |
| Free Throw Attempts | 30 WAGNER (11/11/17) | 25 LIU BROOKLYN (11/28/17) |
| Rebounds | 40 KEAN (11/22/17) | 42 DREXEL (11/25/17) |
| Assists | 32 KEAN (11/22/17) | 19 KEAN (11/22/17) |
| Steals | 16 KEAN (11/22/17) | 17 at West Virginia (11-30-17) |
| Blocked Shots | 5 WAGNER (11/11/17) | 9 at West Virginia (11-30-17) |
| Fouls | 26 DREXEL (11/25/17) | 8 at West Virginia (11-30-17) |

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<td>328 19-58 DREXEL (11/25/17)</td>
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| 5     | DREXEL (11/25/17) | .364 20-55 WAGNER (11/11/17) |
| 5     | LIU BROOKLYN (11/28/17) | .289 10-32 DREXEL (11/27/17) |
| 5     | UMASS LOWELL (12/3/17) | .286 4-14 UMASS LOWELL (12/3/17) |
| 17     | LIU BROOKLYN (11/28/17) | .286 10-32 DREXEL (11/27/17) |
| 17     | at West Virginia (11-30-17) | 18 KEAN (11/22/17) |
| 18     | LIU BROOKLYN (11/28/17) | 18 KEAN (11/22/17) |
| 18     | WAGNER (11/11/17) | 10 LIU BROOKLYN (11/11/17) |
| 26     | DREXEL (11/25/17) | 10 KEAN (11/22/17) |
| 25     | WAGNER (11/11/17) | 8 LIU BROOKLYN (11/11/17) |

<p>| Free Throws Made | 500 5-10 at Seton Hall (11/18/17) | 529 9-17 UMASS LOWELL (12/3/17) |
| Free Throw Attempts | 500 10-20 LIU BROOKLYN (11/28/17) | 28 ASSISTS | 5 DREXEL (11/25/17) |
| Free Throw Percentage | .500 10-20 WAGNER (11/11/17) | .500 10-20 LIU BROOKLYN (11/11/17) |
| 29     | at Seton Hall (11/18/17) | 29 DREXEL (11/25/17) |
| 29     | UMASS LOWELL (12/3/17) | 7 WAGNER (11/11/17) |
| 8      | at West Virginia (11-30-17) | 8 LIU BROOKLYN (11/11/17) |
| 3      | at Seton Hall (11-30-17) | 3 LAFAYETTE (11/14/17) |
| 0      | at Seton Hall (11/18/17) | 2 LIU BROOKLYN (11/11/17) |
| 1      | LIU BROOKLYN (11/11/17) | 1 LIU BROOKLYN (11/11/17) |
| 8      | LIU BROOKLYN (11/11/17) | 8 LIU BROOKLYN (11/11/17) |
| 19     | KEAN (11/22/17) | 19 KEAN (11/22/17) |
| 20     | UMASS LOWELL (12/3/17) | 20 UMASS LOWELL (12/3/17) |</p>
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### 2017-18 Individual Stat Leaders

#### Points
- Lewis, Abdul vs LIU Brooklyn (11/28/17) - 23
- Jones, Shadondale vs Kean (11/22/17) - 23

#### Rebounds
- Lewis, Abdul vs LIU Brooklyn (11/28/17) - 15
- Lewis, Abdul vs Lafayette (11/18/17) - 16
- Lewis, Abdul vs Seton Hall (11/18/17) - 10

#### Assists
- Lewis, Abdul vs LIU Brooklyn (11/28/17) - 15
- Lewis, Abdul vs Seton Hall (11/18/17) - 10
- Lewis, Abdul vs UMass Lowell (11/30/17) - 18

#### Steals
- Lewis, Abdul vs LIU Brooklyn (11/28/17) - 5
- Lewis, Abdul vs UMass Lowell (11/30/17) - 5
- Lewis, Abdul vs Seton Hall (11/18/17) - 5

#### Blocks
- Lewis, Abdul vs LIU Brooklyn (11/28/17) - 3
- Lewis, Abdul vs UMass Lowell (11/30/17) - 3
- Lewis, Abdul vs Seton Hall (11/18/17) - 3

#### Minutes Played
- Lewis, Abdul vs LIU Brooklyn (11/28/17) - 38
- Lewis, Abdul vs UMass Lowell (12/3/17) - 37
- Lewis, Abdul vs Seton Hall (11/18/17) - 36

### 2017-18 Ind. Stat Distribution

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# ProtectTheWEC

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**2017-18 Individual Team-Leaders**

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**Opponent Individual Game Highs**

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**2017-18 Individual Team-Leaders**

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**Opponent Individual Game Highs**

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TONIGHT'S OPPONENT: RUTGERS

PISCATAWAY, NJ – The NJIT Highlanders (5-3) will play the last of three Power 5 foes this season when they visit in-state rival Rutgers (6-3, 0-2 Big Ten) on Thursday night. Opening tip from Rutgers Athletic Center (RAC) is set for 7 p.m. and the game can be seen on BTN Plus.

NJIT won their fifth straight at home with a 78-65 win over UMass Lowell on Sunday, while Rutgers battled for all 40 minutes in a 62-52 loss vs. No. 3 Michigan State on Tuesday.

With a win, head coach Brian Kennedy's squad would snap a nine-game road losing streak dating back to last season. The Highlanders' last road win came in a 64-61 victory Stony Brook on Dec. 28, 2016.

NJIT would also notch their best nine-game start in school history with a victory on Thursday after having matched their best start through eight games with the win on Sunday.

The Scarlet Knights have dropped three straight after a 6-0 start to the season.

The Highlanders fell 82-53 to No. 22 Seton Hall on Nov. 18 and dropped a 102-69 decision to No. 19 West Virginia on Nov. 30 in their other battles against Power 5 foes this season. In the Seton Hall contest, NJIT trailed for just four points in the early going of the second half.

All-Time Series

Thursday marks the sixth all-time meeting between NJIT and Rutgers, but the first between the two schools since a 77-53 Scarlet Knights win on Dec. 22, 2011 at The RAC.

Rutgers leads the all-time series 5-0 with all five previous meetings coming during the Scarlet Knights’ tenure as a Big East member.

The two teams played for five consecutive seasons from the 2007-08 campaign until the 2011-12 season.

NJIT is 1-3 all-time against Big Ten foes with the lone win coming in a 72-70 upset victory at No. 17 Michigan on Dec. 6, 2014. Last season, the Highlanders battled in a 79-68 loss at No. 17 Purdue on Nov. 26, 2016 and a 74-68 defeat at the hands of Minnesota on Dec. 6, 2016.

Knights in Shining Armor

The game was tied at halftime, but Rutgers fell short in the 62-52 loss to No. 3 Michigan State on Tuesday as the Spartans closed on a 17-9 run over the final 8:14.

The Scarlet Knights shot just 25.8% (17-66) from the floor and 4-15 (26.7%) from beyond the arc in the contest.

Senior forward Deshawn Freeman paced Rutgers with 13 points and was joined in double figures by freshman guard Geo Baker and sophomore forward Eugene Omoruyi who added 11 points apiece.

Head coach Steve Pikiell’s squad is allowing a Big Ten average of 68 points per game and ranks second in scoring (11.6 ppg). Junior Freeman leads the team in rebounding at 9.2 boards per game and ranks second in scoring (11.6 ppg). Baker (11.4 ppg) and Omoruyi (10.9 ppg) also average in double figures.

Pikiell is in his second year as the head man at Rutgers after leading Stony Brook to six postseason appearances in seven seasons at the helm of the Seawolves.

Rutgers went 15-17 (3-15 Big Ten) a year ago in Pikiell’s first season.

During his seven seasons at Stony Brook, Pikiell won four America East regular season titles and led his team to the school’s first NCAA Tournament appearance in 2016 as a No. 13 seed where they fell to No. 4 Kentucky.

The Connecticut native was also a four-time recipient of the America East Coach of the Year award.

Senior graduate guard Anthony Tarke led the Highlanders with 16 points on 7-of-11 shooting in a 70-62 win over No. 17 Michigan on Dec. 6, 2014. Last season, the Highlanders battled in a 79-68 loss at No. 17 Purdue on Nov. 26, 2016 and a 74-68 defeat at the hands of Minnesota on Dec. 6, 2016.

NJIT led by double digits for the majority of the second half and led by as many as 20 at 56-36 with 11:19 to play.

Tarke led the Highlanders with a season-high 18 points on 7-of-12 shooting including a 3-of-3 performance from downtown, while junior center Mohamed Bendary matched his career-high with 16 points on 7-of-9 shooting and was joined in double figures by freshman guard Zach Cooks and junior forward Abdul Lewis who added 10 points apiece.

Bendary had previously scored 16 on Jan. 24, 2016 vs. Jacksonville State.

NJIT continues to rank second in the ASUN in both scoring defense (71.8 ppg) and field goal percentage defense (43.2%).
LAST TIME OUT: NJIT 78, UMASS LOWELL 65 IN NEWARK (12/3/17)

NJIT USES FIRST HALF RUN TO TOP UMASS LOWELL, 78-65

Bendary Matches Career-High with 16 Points in Fifth-Straight Home Win; NJIT Ties its Best Start All-Time

NEWARK, NJ – Junior center Mohamed Bendary matched his career-high with 16 points on 7-of-9 shooting and the NJIT Highlanders (5-3) won their fifth straight at home with a 78-65 victory over the UMass Lowell River Hawks (5-3) on Sunday afternoon at the Wellness and Events Center (WEC) in Newark.

The Highlanders have now won three straight meetings against the River Hawks and lead the all-time series, 4-3.

NJIT has also matched the best eight-game start in school history at 5-3 (2015-16).

After UMass Lowell’s Rinardo Perry hit a layup to give the visitors a 25-23 lead with 3:06 to play in the first half, Anthony Tarke buried a three-point shot to trim the lead back to double digits and ignite a 17-6 run for NJIT over the next six minutes. Cooks capped the run with a pair of free throws and the hosts led by as many as 20 at 56-36 with 11:19 left to play.

Tarke paced head coach Brian Kennedy’s squad with a season-high 18 points on 7-of-12 shooting including a three-of-three performance from beyond the arc, while Bendary added 16 and the pair was joined in double figures by Cooks (10 points) and junior forward Abdul Lewis (10 points).

Bendary had previously scored 16 points on Jan. 24, 2016 vs. North Florida at Fleisher Athletic Center.

NJIT shot 30-of-61 (49.2%) from the field and 4-of-14 (28.6%) from three.

The run was capped by a layup from freshman guard Zach Cooks with one second left in the opening stanza.

A jumper from Ryan Jones brought UML within nine at the 17:31 mark of the second half, but that was the closest the River Hawks would get the rest of the way.

Following the jumper from Jones, the Highlanders’ Diandre Wilson converted a layup to stretch the lead back to double digits and ignite a 17-6 run for NJIT over the next six minutes. Cooks capped the run with a pair of free throws and the hosts led by as many as 20 at 56-36 with 11:19 left to play.

Mohamed Bendary

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### 2016-17 ROSTER FACTS

#### BY STATE:

- **Florida (1):** Diandre Wilson
- **Georgia (2):**
  - San Antonio Brinson
  - Zach Cooks
- **Maryland (1):** Anthony Tarke
- **New Jersey (5):**
  - Mohamed Bendary
  - Shyquan Gibbs
  - Abdul Lewis
  - Taj Price
  - San Antonio Brinson
- **New York (1):** Reilly Walsh
- **Pennsylvania (2):**
  - Shawndale Jones
  - David Kachelries
- **Texas (1):** Donovan Greer

#### BY CLASS:

- **Seniors (1):** Chris Jenkins
- **Juniors (5):**
  - Mohamed Bendary
  - Donovan Greer
  - Abdul Lewis
  - Diandre Wilson
  - Anthony Tarke
- **Sophomores (3):**
  - Shyquan Gibbs
  - Taj Price
  - Anthony Tarke
- **Freshmen (3):**
  - Shyquann Gibbs
  - Taj Price
  - Reilly Walsh

### ASUN RANKINGS

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### ACTIVE D-1 RANKS

#### CAREER RPG

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Statistics as of 12/4/17
After calling Flesher Athletic Center "home" for the past 50 seasons, the NJIT men's basketball team will officially become a tenant of the state-of-the-art Wellness and Events Center (WEC) for its 2017-18 season opener on Nov. 11. Not only will the Highlanders be revealing this brand new arena when they play host to Wagner, they will also be unveiling a much different look on the floor.

"2017-18 presents a new era for NJIT basketball," said NJIT Head Coach Brian Kennedy. "We have graduated arguably the top class in the school's history headlined by All-American Damon Lynn and All-ASUN player Tim Coleman. They have been replaced by a solid recruiting class that will be called on to contribute right away along with our returning players."

The Highlanders lost four senior starters from last season, including the program's all-time leading scorer (Lynn) and all-time leading rebounder (Coleman). They also record revenues for which the team posted an 8-4 record last season and an 87-60 mark during its Division-I era. Just as it was not an easy process to erect the WEC, it will not be easy to replace Lynn's 2,153 career points or Coleman's 762 career rebounds. Yet, the key for the 2017-18 NJIT Highlanders men's basketball team may be summed up in one word: depth.

The Highlanders' high hopes heading into the 2016-17 season took a large hit when Lynn tore his Achilles just four games into conference play. Despite an impressive 8-8 start through a grueling non-conference schedule, NJIT finished 11-19 overall and seventh in the ASUN. If there could be a "silver lining" to Lynn's absence, it came in the form of valuable, on-the-job experience for several key newcomers.

Two of those newcomers, junior Abdul Lewis (Newark, NJ) and sophomore Anthony Tarke (Gaithersburg, MD) were both impressive enough in their NJIT debuts to garner preseason All-ASUN honors this October. Another, freshman Shyquan Gibbs (Hillside, NJ), took over as the starting point guard for the last 12 games of the season and received a significant education in nearly 32 minutes per game during the span.

Added to the mix this season is the highest-rated recruiting class in the history of the program consisting of San Antonio Brinson (Augusta, GA), Zach Cooks (Lawrenceville, GA), David Kachelries (Emmanuel, PA) and Shawndale Jones (Pittsburgh, PA).

In addition, the program added a high-scorin junior college transfer in Diandre Wilson (Fort Lauderdale, FL), who ranked 11th in the nation while averaging 22.3 points per game as a sophomore at Mott Community College in St. Flint, Mich., in 2016-17.

"We will definitely have one of the youngest teams in Division-I basketball this year," said Kennedy. "Our roster features just one senior compared to seven underclassmen. "But we will be talented and will play a deep roster led by Abdul Lewis and Anthony Tarke, who are both entering their second year with the program."

FRONTCOURT

With a pair of preseason All-ASUN selections, NJIT could have one of the best frontcourts in the conference. In fact, Lewis and Tarke were two of just three forwards to receive such honors.

Lewis, a 6-foot-10 product of Newark East Side High School, lived up to expectations in his first season at NJIT after transferring from University of South Alabama. He finished the season averaging 9.7 ppg and 8.5 rebounds per game while setting program records for single-season rebounds (264) and single-game rebounds (19). A two-time ASUN Newcomer of Week as a sophomore, Lewis' growth was evidenced by the fact he averaged 13.4 ppg and 8.5 rpg over 14 games in ASUN play. Tarke, the first-ever Highlander selected to the postseason ASUN All-Freshman Team, became the focus of the offense following the Lynn injury. Over his last 14 games, he averaged 14.0 ppg while shooting .565 (74-for-131 FG). Among ASUN freshmen, Tarke ranked second in per-game averages for points (9.9), rebounds (4.7), steals (1.1) and blocks (0.5). He finished with 307 points, the highest scoring total by an NJIT freshman since Lynn in 2013-14 (500).

Junior Mohamad Bendary (Jersey City, NJ) continues to show improvement while providing size (6'9") off the bench. The St. Anthony's product scored 16 points over the final two games last season. Additionally, athletic sophomore Taj Price (Newark, NJ) will look to provide more depth in the low post.

The recruiting class as well as the frontcourt received a significant boost with the April signing of freshman San Antonio Brinson. The 6-foot-8, 200-pound forward arrived at NJIT as one of the highest-rated recruits in program history after attending South Kent School (CT).

BACKCOURT

Lynn's injury last year left a big void in the backcourt. Perhaps the biggest beneficiary was point guard Shyquan Gibbs, a product of Bob Hurley's legendary program. The St. Anthony High School (Jersey City, NJ) valedictorian finished his first collegiate season ranked 12th in the ASUN in assists-to-turnover ratio (1.6) and 25th in steals per game (0.7). More impressively, he averaged 6.8 ppg while shooting .457 (22-for-48 FG) over his last nine affairs.

Versatile junior Reilly Walsh (Staten Island, NY) proved last season that he could also facilitate the offense. The 2017 ASUN All-Academic selection averaged 8.0 ppg over his last three affairs and poured in a career-high 15 points in the final game of the season in the quarterfinal round of the ASUN tournament at Lipscomb.

NJIT also features a pair of accomplished long-range shooters. Senior Chris Jenkins (Hillside, NJ) has placed in the top 13 in the ASUN in three-pointers per game during each of his first two seasons at NJIT after transferring from Hofstra University. Although injured a majority of last season, junior Donovan Greer (Houston, TX) scored 11 points in his Highlanders debut at Lipscomb on Feb. 4 after averaging 8.8 ppg as freshman at San Jacinto College-Central (Pasadena, TX) in 2015-16.

Junior Diandre Wilson provides another scoring threat in Coach Kennedy's arsenal, as the NJCAA All-American first-team honoree scored 1,253 career points in two seasons at MotCC.

The three freshmen guards are expected to carve their way into the rotation.

Zach Cooks figures to handle a share of the point guard duties. He displayed both excellent ball-handling and playmaking abilities while at Berkmar High School in Lilburn, Ga.

Shawndale Jones is a 6-3 combo guard who athleticism shined not only on the hardwood, but also on the gridiron as a WR/CB at The Kiski School in Saltsburg, Pa. In its recap of all ASUN early signings, Hoopsensen.com commented that Jones "could be the steal of the class."

David Kachelries, described as playing with an incredibly high motor, finished his high school career as Emmanuel's all-time leading scorer with 1,910 points.

OUTLOOK

Last year, NJIT got a glimpse of the future in the final two games of the regular season. After initially struggling to adjust on the fly following Lynn's injury, the Highlanders reinvented their identity in time to post impressive, back-to-back wins against Seton and USC Upstate.

This crash course provided valuable experience for a youthful roster that features just one senior and just 40 combined starts at NJIT from its upperclassmen.

Another positive factor could be a home-court advantage developed in the new, 3,500-seat basketball arena that will compare favorably with many mid-major facilities throughout the country. After traveling for 11 of their 16 non-conference contests a year ago, the Highlanders play nine of 15 non-conference games at the WEC this season.

Still, the young squad will be put to task early with another challenging scheduling that features road games at West Virginia, Seton Hall, Rutgers and Buffalo and home tilts against the likes of Drexel, LIU Brooklyn and Iona.

How the Highlanders fare in the ASUN after being selected eighth in the preseason coaches and media poll will largely depend on the pace of their learning curve in advance of the conference opener on Jan. 6 against USC Upstate.

"I'm excited about the make-up of our roster and the opening of the WEC provides tremendous opportunities for our students and athletes here at NJIT," said Kennedy. "We have significant challenges ahead of us this season, but we certainly have the building blocks in place for the future as we continue to grow the program."

#ProtectTheWEC
NUMERICAL

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ALPHABETICAL

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PRONUNCIATIONS:

- Taj Price       TAAJ (like: Taj Mahal)
- David Kachelries KACK-ull-reese
- Shyquan Gibbs   SHY-qwan
- Damon Lynn      dah-MONN
- Anthony Tarke   TARK
- Diandre Wilson  dee-ON-dray
- Shawndale Jones Shawn-DELL
- Mohamed Bendary ben-DARR-ee

Head Coach: Brian Kennedy (Monmouth ’90), second season
Assistant Coaches: Jeff Rafferty (Springfield ’97), second season
Stephen Sauers (Albany ’90), first season
Kim Waiters (Robert Morris ’11), third season
Dir., Basketball Operations: Joe Gutowski (Roanoke College ‘13), first season
Basketball Manager: Aditya Patel (NJIT ’19)
Head Athletic Trainer: Matt Koscs
Brian Kennedy, 51 was introduced as the 11th head men’s basketball coach in program history on April 15, 2016, after serving as the NJIT’s top assistant under Jim Engles for four seasons (2012-16).

Coach Kennedy, whose involvement with the sport of basketball literally covers his entire life, is the son of the late Bob Kennedy, a former college and high school coach and the nephew of Pat Kennedy, who was a Division I head coach for 31 years at Iona, Florida State, DePaul, Montana, and Towson. The Kennedy family business, the Hoop Group, began in the Trenton, NJ, CYO in 1963 with summer basketball camps and moved in 1969 to Cherry Valley, PA, and the Pocono Invitational began.

In 1991, the Hoop Group acquired the Eastern Invitational camp and renamed it the Hoop Group New Jersey Camp. A few years later, the Hoop Group began running grassroots tournaments and the subsequent years have seen numerous alumni go on to play in the NBA, including Kobe Bryant, Amar’e Stoudemire 2010 #1 overall pick John Wall, 2011 #1 pick Kyrie Irving and 13 other first-round picks that year. Numerous legendary coaches have lectured at the camp, including the late Jim Valvano and Hall of Famers Lou Carnesecca, Rollie Massimino, Hoop Group Skills Camp Director Bob Hurley, Bob Knight, and Herb Magee.

Brian Kennedy, who played at both Princeton and Monmouth (1990 graduate), took over the family business after graduating from Monmouth in 1990 and was President and co-founder when it was rebranded from the Pocono Invitational to the Hoop Group and became the largest basketball instructional organization in the world.

He entered the college coaching ranks in 1997 as an assistant coach at DePaul on the staff headed by his uncle Pat. There, he was part of one of major college basketball’s great turn-arounds, as the Blue Demons, who won fewer than five games the year before he arrived, made the NIT quarterfinals in 1999 and then the NCAA Tournament in 2000 as a team ranked in the Top 25.

“BK” as he is known to his many friends, was involved in all aspects of the DePaul program and was a leader in efforts that brought in a group named as the nation’s top recruiting class in 1998 by The Sporting News.

Among the players he helped bring to DePaul five future NBA players: Quentin Richardson, Bobby Simmons, Steven Hunter, Paul McPherson, and Andre Brown.

He stepped aside from coaching from 2002 through 2009, when he worked on Wall Street in the financial sector. He returned to the Hoop Group as Athletic Director, serving in that capacity from 2009 until 2012, when he joined the staff at NJIT.

In his first year as an assistant, the Highlanders captured their first Division I league title when they were regular season champions of the old Great West Conference.

As with DePaul in his first turn as a college coach, Kennedy spearheaded the recruiting efforts for NJIT and he faced a major task in his first recruiting year, with all three double-figure scorers from the 2012-13 Great West champions graduating in May 2013.

Kennedy’s first recruiting class (Class of 2017) has gone down as the best to date in the history of the program were vital to the Highlanders men’s basketball reaching unprecedented success.

The extremely inexperienced 2013-14 team finished with a 13-16 record. But over the three seasons, the squads won a combined 52 games -- including 20 win seasons in 2014-15 (21-12) and in 2015-16 (20-15). In fact, in each of those two seasons, the Highlanders advanced to the semifinals of the national CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament (CIT).

In addition, the Highlanders won their first-ever game over a ranked opponent when they upset #17/#16 Michigan in December 2014 and scored their first-ever win over a BIG EAST Conference opponent when they topped St. John’s in December 2015.

Two members of that first recruiting class put their names all over the NJIT record books. Damon Lynn, who was picked second-team all-league (all groups) by the Star-Ledger as a senior at Union Catholic High School and became the program’s all-time leading scorer. In November 2016, he finished his career with 2,153 points. He currently ranks fifth in Division-I history with 434 career three-pointers.

Tim Coleman came in the same class, entering NJIT after graduating from St. Anthony High School in Jersey City, NJ, where he played for Nasmith Memorial Hall of Fame coach Bob Hurley. At St. Anthony, Coleman was a contributor on teams that won New Jersey state Tournament of Champions crowns following his sophomore and junior seasons.

Coleman carried that success into his NJIT career, as he finished as the program’s all-time leading rebounder (762) and fourth all-time scorer (1,462). He departed the NCAA ranks as the only active Division-I player with at least 1,400 points, 750 rebounds, 225 assists (244), 150 steals (154) and 135 blocks (135).

Coleman and Rob Ukawuba, also part of BK’s inaugural recruiting class, are now both playing professionally in the National Basketball League of Canada.

Brian Kennedy is the proud father of four children: daughters Taylor, Tatum, and Kelly; and son Brian, Jr.
Jeff Rafferty joined the NJIT staff after serving nine years at the University of Delaware -- where he earned the title of Associate Head Coach for the 2013-14 season... The 1997 graduate of Springfield College enjoyed one of his highlight seasons in 2013-14, when the Blue Hens finished 25-10, tying for the second-most wins in program history, and made the 2014 NCAA Tournament as the #13 seed in the East Regional...Rafferty’s work in helping to build the UD program was recognized by FOXSports.com as one of the Top 10 Mid-Major Assistant Coaches in the country in 2008 and by Recruiting.com as the top assist coach in the CAA in 2012... Prior, he was an assistant coach at the University of New Hampshire and for four years as the top assistant at UMass Lowell (then Division II). In his time at UML, the River Hawks were a combined 40-17 and reached the Division III Sweet Sixteen in his second season on staff. He began his coaching career with an internship with the NBA’s Boston Celtics and coached in 1997-98 at one-time NJIT opponent Texas Pan American.

KIM WAITERS

Kim Waiters enters his third season in his first full-time college coaching position after joining NJIT as an assistant in July 2015... In his two seasons in Newark, the Highlanders have gone 41-27 with back-to-back appearances in the semifinals of the CIT... Waiters got involved with coaching when he was an undergraduate at Robert Morris (PA) University, working as a student assistant... He is a tremendous addition to our coaching staff, a tireless recruiter, terrific relationship builder and someone who believes in the values that align with both the NJIT community and our men’s basketball program.”

INDIVIDUAL HONORS

PRESEASON

ASUN Conference (official)
Preseason All-Atlantic Sun

Damon Lynn
Tim Coleman

WEKELY

Nov. 14-20
ASUN Player of the Week
Damon Lynn

Nov. 14-20
ASUN Co-Player of the Week
Tim Coleman

IN-SEASON

2016-17

Dec. 26 - Jan. 2
ASUN Newcomer of the Week
Abdul Lewis

Jan. 10-16
ASUN Newcomer of the Week
Anthony Tarke

Jan. 16-22
ASUN Newcomer of the Week
Abdul Lewis

Feb. 20-23
ASUN Newcomer of the Week
Anthony Tarke

2017-18

ASUN Conference (official)
Preseason All-Atlantic Sun

Damon Lynn

POSTSEASON

ASUN Conference (official)

Second-Team All-Conference
Damon Lynn

All-Freshman Team
Anthony Tarke

All-Academic Team
Reilly Walsh

#ProtectTheWEC
**LEWIS’ CAREER STATISTICS (SOUTH ALABAMA 2014-15)**

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**LEWIS’ GAME-BY-GAME**

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**SEASON/CAREER HIGHS**

- Points: 23 vs. LIU Brooklyn -- 11/28/17
- Career: 24 at FGCU -- 1/21/17
- Rebounds: Season: 18 vs. LIU Brooklyn -- 11/28/17
- Career: 19* at Stetson -- 1/19/17
- Assists: Season: 4 (2); last: vs. LIU Brooklyn -- 11/28/17
- Career: 6 at Temple -- 12/17/16
- Steals: Season: 1 vs. Lafayette -- 11/14/17
- Career: 2 vs. Kennesaw St. -- 1/19/17
- Blocks: Season: 3 at Lafayette -- 11/14/17
- Career: 2 vs. Lafayette -- 11/14/17
- 3-Pointers: Season: 1 at West Virginia -- 11/30/17
- Career: 2 at Lipscomb -- 2/4/17
- Minutes: Season: 38 vs. LIU Brooklyn -- 11/28/17
- Career: 38 (3); last: vs. LIU Brooklyn -- 11/28/17

- *Set NJIT D-I Record; **Tied NJIT D-I Record

**HIGH SCHOOL:**

Abdul Lewis was a standout for two New Jersey state champion teams at Newark’s East Side High School... Born in Newark, Lewis was All-State Group 3, All-Essex County, All-Newark, and All-Super Essex Conference following a senior season that saw East Side claim a second consecutive state title and post a 30-2 record for a team ranked second in the state. He averaged 11.2 points and 10.5 rebounds. Abdul was second-team All-Newark and Essex County All-Junior after his team capped his junior year with a Group 3 state title...

**PERSONAL:**

Abdul-Wai Lewis... son of Terri Pettaway and Wayne Lewis... undecided major... born 12/27/95 in Newark, NJ

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Currently ranks 9th among all active Division-I players in career rebounding average (8.8 rpm)
- Set NJIT’s single-season record with 264 rebounds in 2016-17 (previously 262 set by Tim Coleman in 2015-16)
- 1/19/17 at SU: Set the program single-game rebounding record with 19 (prev. 17. Daquan Holiday, 1/12/13)
- Transferred from University of South Alabama (Sun Belt Conference) in Mobile following the 2014-15 season

**HONORS/AWARDS:**

- 2017-18 (JR): Selected to the preseason ASUN All-Conference Team
- 2016-17 (SO): ASUN Newcomer of the Season
- 2016-17 (SO): ASUN Newcomer of the Year

**CAREER: 72 66 1995 27.7 228 499 .457 170 400 570 7.9 217 13 83 168 37 26 615 8.5
TAJ PRICE
SO | F | 6-7 | 210 | Newark, NJ | Newark East Side

/TAJ/ like: Taj Mahal

COACH KENNEDY ON PRICE:
“Taj is a Newark product who played his HS basketball under Coaches Tavares, Garvin and Hawkins at East Side. He is a tireless worker who has a very high basketball ceiling and I believe he is just scratching the surface with his abilities. Taj will be called upon to give us immediate support “up front” as he improves his perimeter skills. His Post Grad year playing for the famed Roadrunners AAU team run by Coach Sandy Pyonin and at The Phelps School under Coach Brian Shanahan really helped to prepare him for the rigors he will face this year.”

2017-18:
• Career vs. Non-D-I Opponents: Averaging 9.7 ppg (29) and 5.7 rpg (17) in 15.7 mpg (47) in 3 G
• 11/22 vs. Kean: Logged season-highs in points (7), rebounds (5), assists (2) and minutes (15)
• 11/14 vs. Lafayette: Scored 2 points with a rebound and an assist in 4 M in his first action of the season

2016-17:
• DNP in 10 of the last 16 G... Didn’t scored (or take a shot) in final 7 G after a career-high 13 pts, 12/22 vs. Dean
• Vs. Non-D-I Opponents: Averaged 11.0 ppg (22) and 6.0 rpg (12) in 16.0 mpg (32)
• 12/22: Notched career-high 13 pts (5-7 FG, 3-4 FT) after not scoring since opener (0-1 FG in 9 M over 5 G, 7 DNP)
• 11/11 vs. Sarah Lawrence: Started season with 9 points (4-10, 1-6) and 1 rebound in 17 minutes off bench

HIGH SCHOOL:
A forward from Newark’s East Side High School, Taj Price, joins sophomore transfer Abdul Lewis on the Highlanders squad after the pair guided East Side to the 2014 NJSIAA North 2 Group 3 State title, defeating Summit, 54-25. East Side, ranked second in the state in 2014, posted a 30-2 overall record. The NCAA ruled Price a prep school, in Pennsylvania, during the 2015-16 season...

PERSONAL:
Taj Awan-Ali Price... intends to major in engineering at NJIT

PRICE'S GAME-BY-GAME

SEASON/CAREER HIGHS
Points
Season: 7 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Career: 7 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Rebounds
Season: 5 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Career: 5 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Assists
Season: 2 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Career: 2 (2); last: vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Blocks
Season: Career
Steals
Season: Career
Minutes
Season: 15 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Career: 18 vs. Dean College (USCAA) -- 12/22/16

PRICE'S CAREER STATISTICS

PRICE'S CAREER STATISTICS

#PROTECTTheWEC
**SAN ANTONIO BRINSON** 2
FR | F | 6-8 | 200 | Augusta, GA | Thomson/South Kent School (CT)

**COACH KENNEDY ON BRINSON:**

“He is an excellent basketball player as well as a tremendous person and accomplished student. He joins our program as one of the highest-rated recruits in the program’s history. He’s a high-major athlete that I think NJIT fans are going to love. He reminds me a bit of Anthony Tarke, as both flew a bit under the radar and both possess excellent length, versatility, athleticism and upside. The sky is the limit for him. He should have a great career here at NJIT.”

---

**2017-18:**

- DNP in NJIT’s first two games this season after sustaining a concussion in preseason
- 11/22 vs. Kean: Recorded career-highs in points (7), rebounds (2), assists (3) and minutes (11)
- 11/18 @ Seton Hall: Played his first career NCAA game and logged his first point and rebound in 7 minutes
- Scored 2 points with 3 rebounds in lone exhibition game vs. St. Peter’s (DNP vs. Princeton)

**HIGH SCHOOL:**
The 6-foot-8, 200-pound forward, comes to NJIT after attending South Kent School in Connecticut. South Kent School, which plays in the New England Preparatory School Athletic Conference, advanced to the AAA Semifinals against Northfield and played in the National Prep School Championship Tournament first round, defeating Tilton and advancing to the quarterfinals against Hargave Military Academy. ...Brinson graduated Thomson High School in 2016, which he also attended as a freshman. As a sophomore and junior, Brinson attended Aquinas High School in Augusta, Georgia, where he was named to the 2015 All-State Class A honorable mention. ...He played AAU for the Georgia Power, based in Augusta, leading the team in points and rebounds.

**PERSONAL:**

San Antonio Brinson... intends to major in business information systems at NJIT

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**BRINSON’S CAREER STATISTICS**

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**SEASON/CAREER HIGHS**

**Points**
Season: 7 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Career: 7 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17

**Rebounds**
Season: 5 at West Virginia -- 11/30/17
Career: 5 at West Virginia -- 11/30/17

**Assists**
Season: 3 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Career: 3 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17

**Blocks**
Season: 1 (2); last: vs. LIU Brooklyn -- 11/28/17
Career: 1 (2); last: vs. LIU Brooklyn -- 11/28/17

**Steals**
Season: 1 (2); last: vs. UMass Lowell -- 12/3/17
Career: 1 (2); last: vs. UMass Lowell -- 12/3/17

**3-Pointers**
Season: 6 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Career: 6 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17

**Minutes**
Season: 14 at West Virginia -- 11/30/17
Career: 14 at West Virginia -- 11/30/17

*set NJIT D-I Record; ^tied NJIT D-I Record*
HIGHLIGHTS:
- Currently ranks t68th among all active Division-I players in career 3FGM with 164 (includes season at Hofstra)
- Transferred from Hofstra University (CAA) in Hempstead, NY, following the 2013-14 season

HONORS/AWARDS:
- 2015-16 (SO): A-Sun Co-Newcomer of the Year, Dec. 14-20... Scored a career-high 19 points at St. John’s (12/20)

2015-17:
- Ranks tied for 5th in ASUN in 3FGA (399) and 19th in ASUN in 3FG/G (1.4)
- Last 4 G: 3 points on 1-5 FG, 1-4 3FG... Started season averaging 10.0 ppg through first 4 contests
- In NCAA career, 85.4% of FGM (192) are 3FG (164) -- inc. all 11 FGM this season -- for 492 (87.1%) of his 565 pts
- 11/11 vs. Wagner: Knocked down 2-of-5 field goals (all 3FG) for 6 points and a career-high-tying 4 reb in 15 M
- Averaged 9.0 ppg in two exhibition games; scored all 18 pts on 6-8 FG, 8-36 FG vs. Princeton

2016-17:
- ASUN final ranks: 13th in FG% (.465) and 13th in 3FG% (.370)
- As Starter (8 G): 6.3 ppg on 16-58 FG (.276), 16-52 3FG (.308)... Off Bench (21 G): 6.4 ppg on .429 FG, .404 3FG
- Prior 9 G before joining starting lineup (1/25-2/18): Avg’d 9.3 ppg (84) on 30-for-69 FG (.435), 24-for-57 3FG (.421)

2015-16:
- A-Sun Ranks: 8th in 3FGM (399), 9th in 3FG% (2.0), T-13th in 3FGM (57) and 37th in ppg (7.0)
- Last 13 G: Averaged 7.9 ppg (103) on .403 3FG (31-for-77)
- Since Willis Injury (12/10): 8.0 ppg (191), 55-136 3FG (404) in 24 G... Prior: 1.5 ppg in 58 mpg in 4 G (5 DNP)
- 3/16 vs. Army (Cit): Did not play due to illness
- 2/25 at USCU: Scored 9 points on 3-8 3FG -- including a go-ahead triple from corner with less .07 left
- 2/18 at UNF: Scored a team-high 16 points (5-12, 3-9, 3-3) with an assist; 2nd time led team in scoring
- 2/1 at Lipscomb: Tied career-high with 5 3FGM; scored 15 points on 5-8 shooting, all from beyond perimeter
- 1/16 at Stetson: Set career-highs in assists (3) & steals (3) while adding 14 pts, 2 reb in a season-high 28 min
- 1/25 vs. Stony Brook: Scored 15 points in a then season-high 27 min, again tying career-high with 5 3FGM
- 1/12 at Stetson: Set career-highs in assists (3) & steals (3) while adding 14 pts, 2 reb in a season-high 28 min
- 1/12 at Kennesaw State: Started for the first time in his NCAA career; scored 6 points (2-9, 2-9 3 FG) in 32 M
- 1/12 vs. Jacksonvile: Finished with a season-high 15 points, all from the arc on 5-for-9 3FG shooting
- 12/22 vs. Dean College: Scored a then season-high 14 points in just 8 minutes, draining 5-for-9 3FG, 4-for-6 3FG
- 12/14 at Iona: Scored a then season-high 13 pts (5-11, 3-9, 0-0) w/ season-highs in reb (3), ast (2) & min (31)
- 11/26 at Purdue: Scored a then season-high 12 points on 4-for-6 3FG in a season-high 30 minutes

2014-15:
- Was not able to compete under NCAA transfer rules
- Played in 28 out of Hofstra’s 33 contests, averaging 5.4 ppg
- Ranked third on the team with 42 three-point baskets made
- Scored a career-high 17 points (5-12, 1-2) in opener (11/8 vs. Monmouth); hit a career-high, five 3-pointers
- Hit four 3-pointers on two occasions (12/30 vs. NJIT, 11/19 @ SU)
- 12/30: Scored 12 points in game vs. NJIT (4-8, 4-7), added a rebound, assist, steal and block in 30 minutes

HIGH SCHOOL:
Attended Gill St. Bernard’s High School in Gladstone, NJ, for his senior season (2012-13), where he helped guide the Knights to a 19-8 record and a No. 17 state ranking by the Newark Star Ledger...earned third-team all- Somerset County honors and ranked 29th-best player in the state by ESPN...one of the state’s top three-point shooters, sinking 59 for an average of 3.3 ppg, including seven in the NSJAA/ShopRite South Jersey, Non-Public B semifinal against the Patrician School...averaged 12.9 points and 4.1 rebounds in 2012-13, while scoring a season-high 29 points (on nine 3-pointers) against St. Joseph in the NSJAA Tournament on February 27, 2013...he averaged 17 ppg for Morristown-Beard as a junior before transferring to Gill St. Bernard’s...
ZACH COOKS
FR | G | 5-9 | 155 | Lawrenceville, GA | Beckmar

COACH KENNEDY ON COOKS:
"I saw him playing in an AAU game last summer and I said, 'That's the kid that I want, right there.' He is a tremendous outside shooter and a leader on the court. He's sees the court very well. He's also one of the best on-the-ball defenders I've seen in a long time at the high-school level."

2017-18:
- Ranks ranks 10th in ASUN in spg (1.5), 11th in 3FG% (.429), 13th in ast/TO ratio (1.5) and 17th in mpg (2.4)
- ASUN's 5th-leading freshman scorer at 7.1 ppg... Leads NJIT freshmen in ppg (7.1) and mpg (17.5)
- Last 7 G: Averaging 7.9 ppg (17-35 FT (.486), 9-21 3FG (.429)
- 11/22 vs. Kean. Notched career-highs in points (17), rebounds (4), assists (5) and steals (5) in 22 minutes
- 11/11 vs. Wagner: Registered 2 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists and 2 steals in 19 minutes in his NCAA debut
- Scored 2 pts w/ game-highs in assists (5) & steals (4) in lone exhibition game vs. Princeton (DNP vs. St. Peter's)

HIGH SCHOOL:
A 5-foot-9 point guard known for both excellent ball-handling and play-making abilities. ...spent his first two high school seasons at Norcross HS. ...he transferred to Berkmar HS last season and helped guide the Patriots to a Sweet 16 in the State Tournament. ...averaged 11.4 points per game and 2.5 assists per game at Berkmar as a junior while earning a Scholar Athlete Award. ...Cooks plays AAU basketball with the Southern Stampede and named co-MVP of the 2016 Best of the South AAU Tournament after averaging 27 points per game.

PERSONAL:
Zach Cooks.... intends to major in marketing

COOKS' CAREER STATISTICS

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SEASON/CAREER HIGHS

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*set NJIT Record | ^tied NJIT Record

SEASON 2017-18

Game Notes: @NJITHOOPS 2017-18 GAME NOTES

GAME 9: AT RUTGERS

ZACH COOKS 4
COACH KENNEDY ON KACHELRIES: "He is a very electric player. He’s only six-foot but he can dunk on you at any time and is also a tremendous outside shooter."

2017-18:
• Last 6 G: Averaging 5.0 ppg (30) on 13-22 FG (.591), 2-5 3FG (.400) in just 9.3 mpg (56)
• 11/30 at No. 19 West Virginia: Scored 8 pts on 3-6 FG in just 8 minutes; added 1 rebound and 1 steal
• 11/18 at No. 22 Seton Hall: Knocked down all 3 FGA (1 3FG) for 7 points in 8 minutes
• 11/14 vs. Lafayette: Scored the first 9 pts of his NCAA career (4-6 FG; 1-1 3FG) added 1 reb, 2 ast, 2 stl & 1 blk
• Scored 10 pts on 4-6 FG, 2-2 3FG shooting with 2 stl in lone exhibition game vs. St. Peter’s (DNP vs. Princeton)

HIGH SCHOOL:
Emmus High School all-time leading scorer David Kachelries ended his high school career with 1,910 points. ... Kachelries earned Class 6A second-team honors while averaging 23.8ppg. ... the 6-foot-1 point guard, a first-team all-league and third-team all-State selection as a junior led the Green Hornets to a third-place finish in the District 11 tournament and advance to the second round of the PIAA 4A state tournament in 2016. ...As a junior, he averaged 20.8 points per game, including 5.3 assists, 2.1 rebounds and 2.7 steals per game. ...a standout shooter and 1,000-point career scorer, Kachelries, drained 54 three-pointers while posting a 60 field-goal percentage. ...In the PIAA opener, he posted a 37-point performance against Martin Luther King (Philadelphia) H.S. ...plays AAU with Sports U/Team Izod, one of the top basketball powers in New Jersey.

PERSONAL:
David Kachelries... son of Bob and Susan Kachelries... undecided major

KACHELRIES’ CAREER STATISTICS

SEASON/CAREER HIGHS
Points
Season: 9 vs. Lafayette -- 11/14/17
Career: 9 vs. Lafayette -- 11/14/17
Rebounds
Season: 1 (4); last: at West Virginia -- 11/30/17
Career: 1 (4); last: at West Virginia -- 11/30/17
Assists
Season: 4 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Career: 4 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Blocks
Season: 1 (2); last: vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Career: 1 (2); last: vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Steals
Season: 4 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Career: 4 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
3-Pointers
Season: 1 (2); last: at Seton Hall -- 11/18/17
Career: 1 (2); last: at Seton Hall -- 11/18/17
Minutes
Season: 21 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Career: 21 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17

*set NJIT D-I Record; ^tied NJIT D-I Record

#ProtectTheWEC
COACH KENNEDY ON GIBBS:

“Shyquan is a coach’s dream. He is a Valedictorian in the classroom and a State Champion on the court. His apprenticeship under his father Shelton (former St. Peter’s college great and current Snyder HS Head Coach) and Hall of Fame Coach Bob Hurley have Shy more than prepared for great success as a Highlander.”

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Scored the first four points in history of the Wellness & Events Center (WEC) on a four-point play, 11/11 vs. WU

2017-18:

- Leads ASUN in 3FG% (.800; 8-for-10)... Would rank 2nd in FG% (17-28, .607), but does not qualify
- Going back to last season, is averaging 6.5 ppg (110) in his last 17 G on 39-76 FG (.513), 18-33 3FG (.545)
- Last 9 G: 6-8 FG, 2-3 3FG along with 3 rebounds, 2 assists and 2 steals in 25 M
- 11/11 vs. Wagner: Loged 9 points, 2 rebounds and and

2016-17:

- ASUN final ranks: 12th in assists/TO ratio (1.6), 25th in spg (0.7)... First 21 G: 38 points... Last 9 G: 61 points
- Last 9 G: 6-8 FG (61), 1-6 FG (14), 2-0 FG (18), 1-3 FG (12) on 22-48 FG (.457), 10-23 3FG (.435)
- As a Starter* (13 G): 5.4 ppg (70), 2.0 apg (26) with just 1.2 TO/G (15)...*first starts of career
- Started season averaging 23.5 mpg in prior 8 G; added 4 ast, 3 reb, 1 stl
- 11/14 vs. Lafaye
- 11/30 vs. Saint Francis: Recorded then-career-high 6 pts (2-2, 0-0, 2-2) and 4 rebounds in 27 M; added 2 asts
- Going back to last season, is averaging 6.5 ppg (110) in his last 17 G on 39-76 FG (.513), 18-33 3FG (.545)

HIGH SCHOOL:

Shyquan Gibbs a graduate of St. Anthony’s High School in Jersey City, where he was coached by Bob Hurley, a 2010 inductee into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, will be the third St. Anthony alumnus on the Highlander roster, which features senior Tim Coleman and sophomore Mohamed Bendary.

PERSONAL:

Shyquan Wanya Gibbs. ... son of Shelton and Elyse Gibbs. ... Shelton, a longtime boys basketball coach at Henry Snyder (NJ) H.S., is a member of the Saint Peter's (NJ) University Athletic Hall of Fame and still ranks fourth on the Peacocks’ all-time career scoring list. ... Shyquan’s older brother, Shelton Jr., was a key player on St. Anthony’s 2004 undefeated team... Gibbs, who intends to major in business at NJIT, was named St. Anthony High School Valedictorian, News12 co-Scholar-Athlete of the Week (November 15, 2015) and recipient of the Investors Bank Academic Excellence Award.
COACH KENNEDY ON TARKE:

"Anthony is a tremendous athlete who should have an immediate impact in the ASUN. His versatility on the court should prove invaluable as the season progresses and he becomes adjusted to the college game. The experience he gained playing for Coach Ian Turnbull at Coastal Academy combined with his experience under the tutelage of Arty Jones are invaluable as he begins his career in Brick City."

HIGHLIGHTS:

• 2016-17 (FR): Selected to the preseason ASUN All-Conference Team
• 2016-17 (FR): ASUN Newcomer of Week, Feb. 20-23... Notched team-high 18 pts with 7 reb, 2 ast, 1 blk in win
• 2016-17 (FR): ASUN Newcomer of Week, Jan. 9-15... Averaged 17.5 ppg, 8.0 rpg, 2.0 ast, 1.5 spg in 2 G

2017-18:

• Ranks 2nd in ASUN in bpg (1.6), 9th in spg (1.1), t9th in o-rpg (1.6), 18th in rpg (4.7)

2016-17:

• ASUN final ranks: 6th in FG% (.522), 9th in spg (1.1), t9th in o-rpg (1.6), 18th in rpg (4.7) and 24th in ppg (9.9)
• Among ASUN freshman*, ranked 2nd in ppg (9.9), FG% (.522), rpg (4.7), o-rpg (1.6), spg (1.1) and bpg (0.5)

HIGH SCHOOL:
Anthony Tarke, a 2015 graduate of Gaithersburg High School, helped Gaithersburg to an 18-7 overall record and attended Coastal Academy US in Neptune, New Jersey for the 2015-16 season.

PERSONAL:
Anthony Shey Tarke... son of Elizabeth Tarke... intends to major in business

TARKE’S CAREER STATISTICS

- **TARKE’S GAME-BY-GAME**

- **SEASON/CAREER HIGHS**

- **TARKE’S CAREER STATISTICS**

- **@NJITHOOPS 2017-18 GAME NOTES**

- **GAME 9: AT RUTGERS**

- **ANTHONY TARKE**

- **SO | F | 6-6 | 205 | Gaithersburg, MD | Gaithersburg**

- **TARK/**

- **12**

- **/TARK/**
**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **2016-17 (FR):** Selected ASUN All-Academic Team (first NJIT player to earn this honor; only selection with a 4.0)
- **Won the Warren Jaques Award in 2014-15, presented annually to the top high school player on Staten Island**

**2017-18:**

- Ranks 14th in ASUN in spg (1.1)... Has started all 8 games this season (firsts of NCAA career)
- Last 11 G (going back to last season): Averaging 6.0 ppg (12), 3.5 rpg (7), 1.0 apg (2), 1.5 spg (3) & 1.0 bpg in 18.0 mpg (36)
- 1st NJIT player to earn this honor; only select

**PERSONAL:**

Reilly Walsh... son of John and Christine Walsh... John was the starting point guard on the 1983 St. Peter's team that is the only Staten Island team ever to capture the New York City CHSAA AA City championship.

**HIGH SCHOOL:**

Playing at St. Peter's, Walsh averaged 25 points per game as a senior, making 103 3-point baskets in the process. He topped 30 points in a game nine times and topped 40 twice, including a season-best 43 points, including 10 threes, against Susan Wagner High. ...Walsh finished his high school career with 1,388 points, fourth on the all-time list at St. Peter's and 17th all-time for the entire borough of Staten Island. He scored 751 of his points in career led NJIT in scoring); added 3 ast, 3 stl, 2 reb

**SEASON/CAREER HIGHS**

Points: 14 vs. Drexel -- 11/25/17
Career: 14 (2); last: vs. Drexel -- 11/25/17

Rebounds: Season: 4 vs. Wagner -- 11/11/17
Career: 5 (2); last: vs. Stetson -- 2/18/17

Assists: Season: 3 vs. Drexel -- 11/25/17
Career: 3 (3); last: vs. Drexel -- 11/25/17

Blocks: Season: 1 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Career: 2 vs. Dean College (USCAA) -- 12/22/16

Steals: Season: 3 (2); last: vs. Drexel -- 11/25/17
Career: 3 (3); last: vs. Drexel -- 11/25/17

3-Pointers: Season: 1 (3); last: vs. LIU Brooklyn -- 11/28/17
Career: 4 at Lipscomb -- 2/27/17

Minutes: Season: 36 vs. Drexel -- 11/25/17
Career: 36 vs. Drexel -- 11/25/17

*set NJIT D-I Record; *tied NJIT Record
COACH KENNEDY ON WILSON:

“His experience at the Junior College level is an added bonus to a young and talented roster. He is a dynamic scorer and player, who possesses great court vision and is one of the better players we have seen play off the pick-and-roll. We look forward to having him join the Highlander family.”

HIGHLIGHTS:

• 2016-17 (SO): Selected to NJCAA All-American first-team (ranked 11th in nation averaging 22.3 ppg)

2017-18:

• Ranks 6th in the ASUN in 3FG% (.476), 8th in spg (1.8), 8th in FG% (.542), 22nd in ppg (11.2)
• Has scored in double-figures in 4 of the last 5 G, averaging 12.4 ppg (62) on 23-40 FG (.572), 6-11 3FG (.545)
• Last 7 G: Averaging 12.4 ppg (87) on 32-for-56 FG (.571), 10-for-18 3FG (.556)
• 11/28 vs. LIU: Scored 16 points on 6-9 FG, 1-3 3FG; added 5 rebounds, 2 assists and a career-high 3 steals
• 11/25 vs. Drexel: Scored 12 points with a career-high 6 rebounds and 2 blocks, career-high-tying 3 steals
• 11/22 thru 11/25: Scored 13 points on 5-6 FG, 3-3 3FG; added season-highs in assists (3) and steals (3)
• 11/14 vs. Lafayette: Scored a game-high 20 points on 7-9 FG, 3-4 3FG, 3-FT; added 2 assists in 23 M
• Averaged 9.0 ppg, 3.0 rpg in two exhibition games, including 10 pts vs. Princeton; shot 6-12 FG

2016-17 (MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE):

• An NJCAA All-American first-team honoree, Wilson scored 1,253 career points in two seasons and ranked 11th in the nation with 22.3 point per game in 2016-17. ...Wilson helped guide Mott to the NJCAA District 10 Tournament semifinals as the team finished with a 25-7 overall mark and 10-3 in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCAA). The athletic guard scored in double-figures in 29 games and combined for six 30+ games, including a career-best 37 points vs. Oakland on February 4, 2017

2015-16 (MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE):

• As a freshman, led nation in free throw attempts (290) and ranked 19th in scoring at 19.5 points per game

HIGH SCHOOL:

Wilson attended Boyd Anderson High School in Lauderdale Lakes, Florida, as a freshman through his junior campaign, guiding Boyd Anderson to the state finals as a junior. ...He graduated in 2015 and played one season at Blanche Ely High School in Pompano Beach, Florida. An all-Broward County Honorable Mention as a senior, Wilson led Blanche Ely to an undefeated season, 28-0, and State Championship. The Tigers became the second team in Broward history to finish as an undefeated state champion.

PERSONAL:

Diandre Wilson. ... son of Tricia Porter. ...intends to major in law, technology and society at NJIT

### WILSON’S GAME-BY-GAME

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### SEASON/CAREER HIGHS (D-I)

- Points: Season: 20 vs. Lafaye -- 11/14/17  Career: 20 vs. Lafaye -- 11/14/17
- Assists: Season: 3 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17  Career: 3 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
- Steals: Season: 4 vs. LIU Brooklyn -- 11/28/17  Career: 4 vs. LIU Brooklyn -- 11/28/17
- 3-Pointers: Season: 3 (2); last: vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17  Career: 3 (2); last: vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
- Minutes: Season: 33 vs. LIU Brooklyn -- 11/28/17  Career: 33 vs. LIU Brooklyn -- 11/28/17

### WILSON’S CAREER STATISTICS (MOTT CC NJCAA STATS NOT INCLUDED IN CAREER TOTALS)

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### #ProtectTheWEC
COACH KENNEDY ON JONES:
“Shawndale is a tremendous scorer. He can do a little bit of everything... and he is a ferocious competitor.”

HIGHLIGHTS:
• In its recap of all ASUN early signings, Hoopseen.com commented that Jones "could be the steal of the class”

2017-18:
• Last 5 G: Averaging 8.2 ppg (42)... Started at 1.3 ppg (4) over his first 3 contests
• 11/14 at No. 19 West Virginia: Scored 9 points (career-best against a D-I foe); added 3 reb, 1 ast, 1 stl in 15 M
• 11/22 vs. Kean: Scored a game-high 23* pts (10-16, 2-4, 1-1) with 3* reb, 5* assists, 2* steals (*career-highs)

HIGH SCHOOL:
A 6-3 combo guard who athleticism shines not only on the hardwood, but also on the gridiron as a WR/CB at The Kiski School in Saltsburg, PA. ... Prior to The Kiski School, Jones played two seasons at North Hills H.S. (Pitts- burgh) and averaged 20 points per game as a sophomore. ...In his first season at The Kiski School, he was the 2015 Peddie School Invitational Tournament (PSIT) Most Valuable Player. ...played AAU for the 2016 BIG SHOTS MYRTLE BEACH tournament, where he led the entire league in scoring at 25 points per game

PERSONAL:
Shawndale Jones... son of Shawndale and Iesha Jones... communications/journalism major

JONES’ CAREER STATISTICS

SEASON/CAREER HIGHS

MIN TOTAL 3-PTS FG-THROWS REBOUNDS SCORING
YEAR GP GS TOT AVG FG FGA PCT FG FGA PCT FT FTA PCT OFF DEF TOT AVG PF FO A TO BLK STL PTS AVG
2017-18 8 0 94 11.8 19 43 .442 3 10 .300 5 6 .833 8 8 16 2 0 7 0 7 6 1 5 46 5.8
2018-19
2019-20
2020-21
CAREER 8 0 94 11.8 19 43 .442 3 10 .300 5 6 .833 8 8 16 2 0 7 0 7 6 1 5 46 5.8

*set NJIT D-I Record; ^tied NJIT D-I Record

JONES’ GAME-BY-GAME

SEASON/CAREER HIGHS

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• Averaged 8.5 ppg, 2.0 rpg in two exhibition games, including 11 pts vs. St. Peter’s; shot 5-9 FG, 1-3 3FG

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*set NJIT D-I Record; ^tied NJIT D-I Record
DONOVAN GREER
JR | G | 6-3 | 165 | Houston, TX | Hillcrest Academy (San Jacinto CC)

HIGH LIGHTS:
• Transferred from San Jacinto College-Central (NJCAA) in Pasadena, TX, following the 2015-16 season
• Cousin (Jabari) played for the New Orleans Saints from 2004-13; cousin (Rashaun) played WR for Colorado St.

2017-18:
• Last 4 G: Averaging 6.0 ppg (24) on 8-18 FG (.444), 4-10 3FG (.400)... First 3 G: 1.0 ppg on 1-13 FG, 1-12 3FG
• 11/22 vs. Kean: Scored a season-high 10 points (3-6, 2-4, 2-2); added 2 rebounds and 3 assists in 15 M
• Averaged 14.5 ppg in two exhibition games, inc. team-high-tying 17 vs. St. Peter’s; shot 10-21 FG, 9-18 3FG

2016-17:
• Last 3 G: 1-14 FG, 1-12 3FG... First G: 4-5 FG, 2-3 3FG (2 DNP in between)
• Missed the first 24 games with an ankle injury
• 2/18 vs. Stetson: Made Newark debut... posted career-highs in reb (2), ast (3), stl (1) and M (19) after 3 DNP
• 2/4 at Lipscomb: Made his D-I debut and scored 11 points (4-5, 2-3, 0-0) in 9 M; drained first 4 FG (3, 3FG)

2015-16 (SAN JACINTO COLLEGE-CENTRAL):
• Starting guard as a freshman for a team that posted a 20-10 overall record and was a Region XIV runner-up
• Averaged 8.8 ppg and 2.5 rpg; 11 double-digit games, inc. season-high 20 pts vs. Coastal Bend College on 1/30
• Ranked 16th in Region XIV in 3FGM (58)

HIGH SCHOOL:
Two-time first-team all-District selection... averaged 18 ppg as a senior.

PERSONAL:
Donovan Jacob Greer... son of Hope and Jacob Greer... business management major.

GREER'S CAREER STATISTICS (SAN JACINTO NJCAA STATS NOT INCLUDED IN CAREER TOTALS)

SEASON/CAREER HIGHS

Points
Season: 10 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Career: 11 at Lipscomb -- 2/4/17

Rebounds
Season: 2 (4); last: vs. UMass Lowell -- 12/3/17
Career: 2 (5); last: vs. UMass Lowell -- 12/3/17

Assists
Season: 3 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Career: 3 (2); last: vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17

Blocks
Season: Career

Steals
Season: 1 vs. UMass Lowell -- 12/3/17
Career: 1 (3); last: vs. UMass Lowell -- 12/3/17

3-Pointers
Season: 2 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Career: 3 at Lipscomb -- 2/4/17

Minutes
Season: 22 vs. UMass Lowell -- 12/3/17
Career: 22 vs. UMass Lowell -- 12/3/17

*set NJIT D-I Record | ^tied NJIT D-I Record

GREER'S GAME-BY-GAME

SEASON/CAREER HIGHS
Mohamed Bendary

Mohamed Bendary, a senior forward for the NJIT Highlanders, is a 2015 graduate of St. Anthony High School in Jersey City. He was coached by Tim Coleman, a 2013 St. Anthony grad, who was a stalwart for the record-setting 2014-15 Highlanders, who won 21 games and reached the semifinals of the national postseason CollegeInsider.com Tournament (CIT). A member of the National Honor Society in high school, Bendary has a brother and two cousins who are NJIT graduates.

PERSONAL:
Mohamed M. Bendary... son of Nabil and Mohamed Bendary... his brother and two cousins graduated from NJIT... business major... born 11/18/96 in Bayonne, NJ.

HIGH SCHOOL:
Bendary is a 2015 graduate of St. Anthony High School in his hometown, Jersey City. He was coached by St. Anthony’s Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame coach Bob Hurley... Bendary joins NJIT two years after Tim Coleman, a 2013 St. Anthony grad, who was a stalwart for the record-setting 2014-15 Highlanders, who won 21 games and reached the semifinals of the national postseason CollegeInsider.com Tournament (CIT)... A member of the National Honor Society in high school, Bendary has a brother and two cousins who are NJIT graduates.

HIGHLIGHTS:
• Holds a career .644 field-goal percentage (76-for-118)

2017-18:
• Last 5 G: Averaging 5.6 ppg on 13-for-17 (.765) shooting... started season at 2.3 ppg though first 3 contests
• Has recorded at least 1 point and 1 rebound in all but one game (0-0 in 2 M on 11/28 vs. LIU)
• 12/3 vs. UMass Lowell: Tied his career-high with 16 points on 7-of-9 FG in just 14 M; added 3 reb, 1 ast, 1 STL
• 11/22 vs. Kean: Logged season-highs in points (6) and rebounds (6) in 14 minutes
• Averaged 4.5 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 1.0 bpg in two exhibition games; shot 4-5 FG

2016-17:
• Last 2 G: Averaged 8.0 ppg (16*), 3.0 rpg (6) and 2.0 app (4)... *16 points exceeds total in prior 12 G (14 pts)
• Scored at least 2 points in 11 of his last 17 G, averaging 2.2 ppg (37) on 17-26 FG (.654) during the span
• Registered at least one offensive rebound in his last 4 G (1.8) and in 6 of his last 7 G (1.3)
• Recorded at least 1 rebound in each of first 12 G (0 in 4 M at Temple)... Grabbed at least 1 board in 23 of 30 G
• Averaged 1.8 rpg in 8.9 mpg this season
• 2/27 vs. Lipscomb: Scored 6 points on a perfect 3-for-3 FG, added 3 rebounds and an assist in just 7 M
• 2/23 vs. USC Upstate: Scored a season-high 10 points (5-5 FG) with 3 reb and a career-high 3 assists
• 2/16: Grabbed 5 boards -- a season-high vs. a D-I foe and most since season opener -- w/ a season-high 2 blocks
• 11/11 vs. Sarah Lawrence: Started season with 5 points and 7 rebounds -- one board shy of career high (8)

14th in bpg (0.5)
In A-Sun Conference Play: Ranked T-11th in bpg (0.6), T-15 in o-rpg (1.5) and 27th in rpg (4.1)
• Last 16 G: Averaging 3.5 ppg, 3.4 rpg (56, 55) -- shooting 28-for-40 FG (.700)
• Led team in blocks in seven games... Also led team in scoring twice and rebounding three times
• Registered at least 2 points in 22 of his first 34 games of NCAA career
• 2/20 vs. Jacksonville: Scored a team-high 14 points on 6-for-7 FG; added six rebounds in 17 minutes
• 1/27 vs. Lipscomb: Made first career start; held to just 10 M due to foul trouble; 0 pts (0-0 FG), 5 reb, 2 blk
• 1/24 vs. UNF: Shattered old career high with 16 pts (8-10 FG), added 5 reb and an assist in a career-high 24 M
• 1/21 vs. Jacksonville: Tied then-career high with 6 points (3-4 FG), added 4 reb and 2 assists in 17 M
• 1/9 vs. USC Upstate: Recorded a career-high 4 blocks (an NJIT season high) along with 3 rebounds and an assist
• 1/6 at Yale: Logged a career-high 23 minutes; contributed 2 points, 3 rebounds (all offensive) and 2 assists
• 12/30 at Saint Francis: Grabbed a career-high and game-high tying 8 rebounds; added 4 points and a steal
• 12/28 vs. Stony Brook: Scored a then-career-high 6 pts (2-4 FG) & added 5 reb in a then-career-high 19 M
• 12/7 vs. Kent State: Grabbed a team-high and then-career-high 7 rebounds in just 11 minutes; added 2 points
• 11/24 at Providence: Best game to date, scoring 4 points (2-2 FG) with 3 rebounds and an assist, steal and block
• 11/16 at South Florida: Scored a then-career-high four points (2-3 FG) with two rebounds in 12 minutes
• 11/14 at #2 Kentucky: Scored three points with three rebounds and a block in his NCAA debut

GAME 9: AT RUTGERS

BENDARY’S CAREER STATISTICS

BENDARY’S GAME-BY-GAME

BENDARY’S CAREER STATISTICS

MIN TOTAL 3-PTS F-THROWS REB SCORING

YEAR GP GS TOT AVG FG FGA PCT FT FTA PCT OFF DEF TOT AVG PF FO A TO BLK STL Pts AVG
2015-16 34 1 408 12.0 42 64 .656 0 0 .000 10 19 .526 42 65 107 3.1 85 1 20 26 18 6 94 2.8
2016-17 30 0 266 8.9 25 41 .610 0 0 .000 7 12 .583 29 24 53 1.8 49 2 13 16 9 4 57 1.9
2017-18 8 0 80 10.0 16 22 .727 0 0 .000 3 6 .500 5 16 21 2.6 20 0 2 3 3 3 35 4.4
2018-19 CAREER 72 1 754 10.5 83 127 .654 0 0 .000 20 37 .541 76 105 181 2.5 154 3 35 45 30 13 186 2.6

NJITHOOPS 2017-18 GAME NOTES

MOHAMED BENDARY 34

JR | F | 6-9 | 235 | Jersey City, NJ | St. Anthony’s

Game started | *set NJIT Record | *tied NJIT Record

POINTS
Season: 16 vs. UMass Lowell -- 12/3/17
Career: 16 (2); last: vs. UMass Lowell -- 12/3/17

REBOUNDS
Season: 6 vs. Kean University -- 11/22/17
Career: 8 at Saint Francis U -- 12/30/15

ASSISTS
Season: 1 (2); last: vs. UMass Lowell -- 12/3/17
Career: 3 vs. USC Upstate -- 2/23/17

STEALS
Season: 1 (3); last: at West Virginia -- 11/30/17
Career: 4 vs. USC Upstate -- 1/9/16

3-POINTERS
Season: Career

MINUTES
Set NJIT D-I Record; *tied NJIT D-I Record
THE STAT CREW SYSTEM
NJIT Combined Team Statistics (as of Dec 03, 2017)

All games

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**Total 3-Point F-Throw Rebounds**

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**Team Total**

- Points: 0,000
- Field Goals: 1600
- 3-Point Field Goals: 580
- Free Throws: 224
- Rebounds: 271
- Assists: 110
- Steals: 75
- Blocks: 36
- Attendance: 5042

**Opponents**

- Points: 0,000
- Field Goals: 1600
- 3-Point Field Goals: 580
- Free Throws: 224
- Rebounds: 271
- Assists: 110
- Steals: 75
- Blocks: 36
- Attendance: 5042

**Date**

- 11/11/17 WAGNER
- 11/14/17 LAFAYETTE
- 11/18/17 at Seton Hall
- 11/22/17 KEAN
- 11/25/17 DREXEL
- 11/28/17 LIU BROOKLYN
- 11/30/17 at West Virginia
- 12/3/17 UMASS LOWELL

**Score by Periods**

- NJIT: 1st 301, 2nd 286, Total 599
- Opponents: 1st 272, 2nd 302, Total 574

* Conference game

#PROTECTTheWEC
## NJIT Highlanders: 2016-17 Final Statistics

### The Stat Crew System
NJIT Combined Team Statistics (as of Nov 07, 2017)

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### Team Statistics
NJIT Combined Team Statistics (as of Nov 07, 2017)

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* = Conference game
% = Cancun Challenge

#ProtectTheWEC
2017-18 NJIT HIGHLANDERS HEAD SHOT CHART

HEAD COACH
BRIAN KENNEDY

ASSISTANT COACH
JEFF RAFFERTY

ASSISTANT COACH
STEPHEN SAUERS

ASSISTANT COACH
KIM WAITERS

DIR, BASKETBALL OPS
JOE GUTOWSKI

0 ABDUL LEWIS

1 TAJ PRICE

2 SAN ANTONIO BRINSON

3 CHRIS JENKINS

4 ZACH COOKS

10 DAVID KACHELRIES

11 SHYQUAN GIBBS

12 ANTHONY TARKE

14 REILLY WALSH

15 DIANDRE WILSON

23 SHAWNDALE JONES

32 DONOVAN GREER

34 MOHAMED BENDARY

MBB CONTACT
MATT PROVENCE

NJIT SPORTS INFO
STEPHANIE PILLARI

#ProtectTheWEC