HUSKIES IN THE PROS:

REVIEWING THE HUSKIES' MID-SEASON PERFORMANCES

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Stephon Castle:

In his second year in the NBA, Castle has done nothing but continue to blow people away with his talent.

Through 46 games with the San Antonio Spurs, the former Husky has contributed slightly over 16.5 points, five rebounds and tops the team with seven assists, per meeting.

Not to mention, the 21-year-old also leads the squad with just over a steal per contest.

Midway through the 2025-2026 season, Castle shoots a little over 44.5% from the field, splashes just over 27.5% from downtown and converts almost 72.5% of free throws.

As the league inches closer to the NBA All-Star weekend, fans can watch the Georgia native perform in his second consecutive Rising Stars matchup. The event is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 13, at 9 p.m. on Peacock or NBC Sports.

Donovan Clingan:

Similar to Castle, players have felt Clingan's dominance in year two of the NBA.

Currently, the center averages just over 11 points, about two assists and tops the team with a little more than a block per clash.

Additionally, the 21-year-old not only leads the Portland Trail Blazers with 11 rebounds per match but also ranks No. 4 amongst the league in boards.

While emerging as one of the best rim protectors on the court, the former Husky saved just under 9 points per 100 possessions in mid-November.

Alongside Castle, Clingan will play in his first Rising Stars outing on Friday, Feb. 13.

Cam Spencer:

In year two with the Memphis Grizzlies, Cam Spencer increased his production once again and is becoming an amazing off-the-bench contributor.

So far, the guard has posted a little less than 12 points, just under three boards and tops the squad with slightly over 5.5 assists per battle.

Within 27 minutes, Spencer swishes nearly 42% from the floor-banks just over 36% from deep and makes a little over 92% of free throws.

As the Maryland native continues to make a name for himself in the NBA, his work has not gone unacknowledged. For the first time, the 25-year-old will take the court in the 2025-2026 Rising Stars contest on Friday, Feb. 13.

Tristen Newton:

After the Minnesota Timberwolves waived Newton on Oct. 18, the guard had not seen the court for two months until the Houston Rockets claimed him on Jan. 3.

The franchise signed the 24-year-old to a $1.05 million two-way contract and has crushed the G League once again.

In 14 matches, the former Husky has registered just over 26.5 points, a little more than four rebounds and about 4.5 assists per outing. As of now, Newton lands at No. 3 in points per game in the G League.

For the first time, the second-year player will perform in the Rising Stars clash on Friday, Feb. 13.

Liam McNeeley:

Unlike Castle, adjusting from college to the pros has not gone smoothly for McNeeley.

After making 18 appearances for the Charlotte Hornets and not producing, the team decided to send him down to the G League on Dec. 10.

In two meetings with the Greensboro Swarm, the rookie has dominated, registering 21.5 points, six boards and nearly 4.5 assists.

Since then, the franchise has called him up nine times, but his talent did not transfer. Within the Hornets nine showdowns, McNeeley recorded just over five points per game.

Jordan Hawkins:

In Hawkins' third campaign with the Pelicans, the year has not looked stellar.

For starters, the franchise decreased his court time from just over 23.5 minutes in the 2024-2025 stretch to slightly over 14 minutes this year.

To add on, the Maryland native has not notched double-digit points since Dec. 2 against the Timberwolves.

Currently, the 23-year-old averages slightly over four points, a little under two rebounds and less than one assist per matchup.

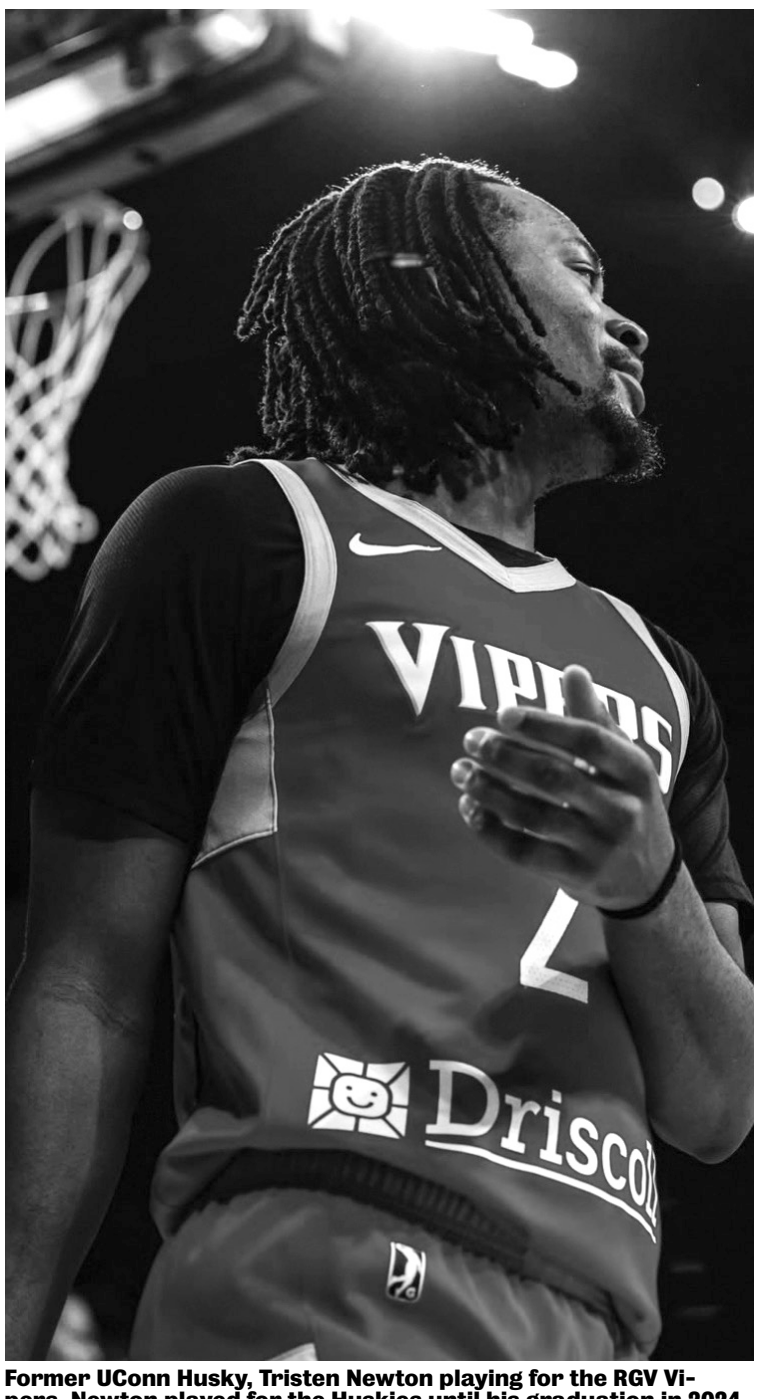
Andre Jackson Jr.:

Similar to Hawkins, Jackson Jr. has declined in production. Within 19 appearances for the Milwaukee Bucks, the guard posted a little under two points, less than a board and slightly over an assist per contest.

Samson Johnson:

In the Noblesville Boom's 118-98 victory over the Wisconsin Herd, Johnson made his debut in the G League for the Indiana Pacers.

Within 17 meetings, the undrafted rookie has accumulated almost 9.5 points, four rebounds and slightly less than an assist per game.



Former UConn Husky, Tristen Newton playing for the RGV Vipers. Newton played for the Huskies until his graduation in 2024, before being picked second round by the Indiana Pacers shortly later.
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WILKER'S WEEKLY: PRE- SUPER BOWL MOCK DRAFT SEES GIANTS LAND DEFENSIVE STAR AND THE JETS IMPROVE THEIR DEFENSE (MOCK DRAFT 1.0)

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1.1 | Las Vegas Raiders: QB Fernando Mendoza, Indiana

After winning the Heisman and National Championship, Mendoza completes the trifecta as Vegas's selection with the No. 1 pick.

1.2 | New York Jets: LB/ED Arvell Reese, Ohio State

Reese may have the highest ceiling of any player in the draft class. The Jets' defense was decimated by the midseason trades of Quinnen Williams and Sauce Gardner, and free agency will likely see Quincy Williams depart.

1.3 | Arizona Cardinals: ED Rueben Bain Jr., Miami

With no top-five level QB option to replace Kyler Murray, they select Bain, who led No. 10 Miami to the CFB Championship.

1.4 | Tennessee Titans: WR Carnell Tate, Ohio State

Robert Saleh's Jets took an OSU receiver in the top ten in 2022, now history repeats. Chimere Dike and Elic Ayomanor are building blocks, but Tate would be a massive upgrade over both.

1.5 | New York Giants: SAF Caleb Downs, Ohio State

Harbaugh's best teams in Baltimore had elite safety play. Jevon Holland's first season was underwhelming, while Dane Belton is an impending free agent. There's an argument that Downs is the best player in the entire draft.

1.6 | Cleveland Browns: OT Francis Mauigoa, Miami

The Browns will need to find an answer at quarterback, but until then, they need to continue to construct their offensive line. Both guards are set to be free agents, and left tackle Cam Robinson is also likely to depart.

1.7 | Washington Commanders: ED David Bailey, Texas Tech

The Commanders need to get younger on the edge. Bailey led TTU's famed $7 million defensive line, notching 14.5 sacks.

1.8 | New Orleans Saints: WR Jordyn Tyson, Arizona State

The Saints lack difference makers for Tyler Shough, but a trio of Olave, Tyson and tight end Juwan Johnson is respectable.

1.9 | Kansas City Chiefs: OT Spencer Fano, Utah

The Chiefs are slated to be $62 million over the cap to start 2026. Releasing Jawaan Taylor, who had 13 penalties this season, would save them $20 million. Josh Simmons looks to be a stud on the left side, and with Fano on the right, the Chiefs line becomes younger, cheaper and better.

1.10 | Cincinnati Bengals: CB Mansoor Delane, LSU

The Bengals will be annoyed they missed out on Fano, but Delane is an excellent consolation prize. The Bengals are in a position to immediately compete, so forgoing the potential injury issues that come with Jermod McCoy could be wise.

1.11 | Miami Dolphins: CB Jermod McCoy, Tennessee

Jeff Hafley's Dolphins could enter full scale rebuild mode. McCoy's ACL injury could raise concerns, but the Dolphins' need at the position is too great. Not looking to compete immediately, they take the player with the highest ceiling.

1.12 | Dallas Cowboys: LB Sonny Styles, Ohio State

The Cowboys were desperate defensively this season without Micah Parsons and wound up being the league's worst unit. The 6-foot-5 former safety is an excellent athlete and would immediately be the Cowboys' best at the position.

1.13 | L.A. Rams: RB Jeremiyah Love, Notre Dame

The Heisman finalist finished with nearly 1,400 rushing yards for the Fighting Irish and would join a backfield already featuring Kyren Williams and Blake Corum.

1.14 | Baltimore Ravens: DT Peter Woods, Clemson

It's unlikely Nnami Madubuike will ever play again, and new head coach Jesse Minter will want to ensure the future of his defense. Woods had a down '25 but was excellent in '24.

1.15 | Tampa Bay Buccaneers: TE Kenyon Sadiq, Oregon

Assuming Mike Evans returns, Baker Mayfield's cache of weapons would expand even further with Sadiq.

1.16 | New York Jets: CB Avieon Terrell, Clemson

The Jets set an unbreakable record by not recording a single interception all season. Former corner Aaron Glenn gets his guy.

1.17 | Detroit Lions: ED Cashius Howell, Texas A&M

Howell's short arms may cause him to slide, but he was an exceptionally productive player at A&M. Howell would make an excellent running mate to Aidan Hutchinson.

1.18 | Minnesota Vikings: WR Makai Lemon, USC

Lemon being a slot exclusive player will likely result in a fall down the board. Loading up on weapons may be the best plan to give J.J. McCarthy the best possible chance to succeed. Lemon would also give them the flexibility to trade Jordan Addison.

1.19 | Carolina Panthers: LB C.J. Allen, Georgia

Christian Rozeboom needs replacing, and the athletic Allen quarterbacked an excellent Georgia defense.

1.20 | Dallas Cowboys: ED T.J. Parker, Clemson

The Cowboys continue to add to their dismal defense. Donovan Ezeiruaku has a chance to become one of the league's best, and adding Parker alongside him could help the defense reach new heights.

1.21 | Pittsburgh Steelers: WR Denzel Boston, Washington

Regardless of quarterback, the Steelers' pass catchers aren't good enough. Adding Boston gives the next QB another big target alongside D.K. Metcalf.

1.22 | L.A. Chargers: OG Vega Ioane, Penn State

The Chargers' interior will likely all be replaced this offseason. Ioane is the best IOL on the board.

1.23 | Philadelphia Eagles: WR KC Concepcion, Texas A&M

Whether A.J. Brown stays or not, Jahan Dotson is a free agent. Concepcion slides into the slot and is one of the fastest players the draft has to offer.

1.24 | Cleveland Browns: WR Chris Bell, Louisville

Double dipping on offense seems a given for the Browns. Jerry Jeudy is the only legitimate receiving threat, so adding to the receiver room is key. Bell had 72 catches this year.

1.25 | Chicago Bears: DT Caleb Banks, Florida

The Bears are one of the league's most exciting teams, but they could stand to improve in the trenches. Banks was hurt for much of this year, but at 6-foot-6, 330 pounds, they're getting a people mover.

1.26 | Buffalo Bills: ED Keldric Faulk, Auburn

Joey Bosa and A.J. Epenesa are pending free agents, and the Bills need immediate playmaking help. Using free agency to fix the offense while Faulk fills the edge hole would be best practice.

1.27 | San Francisco 49ers: OG Emmanuel Pregnon, Oregon

Colton McKivitz has quietly become one of the league's best tackles, but the line still needs improvement. With Joey Bosa and Mykel Williams set to return next year, keeping Purdy protected should be John Lynch's priority.

1.28 | Houston Texans: OL Kadyn Proctor, Alabama

The Texans' line is far from elite. They need help at both tackle and guard, and Proctor could fill either. He's an excellent athlete but must get stronger to be great at the next level.

1.29 | L.A. Rams: CB Colton Hood, Tennessee

After selecting Love at No. 13, the Rams address the defense through Hood. An excellent tackler who spent just one season with the Vols, he's very young: 21 in February. Emmanuel Forbes and Cobie Durant are okay, but Hood could step in as a starter quickly.

1.30 | Denver Broncos: SAF Emmanuel McNeil-Warren, Toledo

Jahdae Barron moving back to safety could be an in-house option, but they instead opt to pair Talanoa Hufanga with McNeil-Warren. P.J. Locke becomes the next man up.

1.31 | New England Patriots: OT Carter Smith, Indiana

Protecting Drake Maye should be the priority, and Smith can do just that. Morgan Moses turns 35 this offseason, and Smith could step in as the swing tackle before succeeding him.

1.32 | Seattle Seahawks: ED Zion Young, Missouri

Boye Mafe is a free agent and Derrick Hall has just two sacks this year. 7/8 of Young's sacks came against teams from the SEC.

Teams without a first-round pick:

Indianapolis Colts (47): DL LT Overton, Alabama

Atlanta Falcons (48): WR Zachariah Branch, Georgia

Green Bay Packers (52): CB D'Angelo Ponds, Indiana

Jacksonville Jaguars (56): C Logan Jones, Iowa