

NBA Mock Draft Roundup: Marcus Smart, Nerlens Noel or Ben McLemore to Phoenix Suns

Written by
Friday, 12 April 2013 09:28 -



When your best player is somewhere between the 10th and 20th best at his position - PG [Goran Dragic](#) - and your top draft pick is in the top 6 overall it makes sense that, despite it being a down year, whoever the [Phoenix Suns](#) draft will instantly become the most talented player on the team.

This 2013 NBA Draft has no [LeBron James](#). Heck, it doesn't even boast a [Kyrie Irving](#) or even a [Damian Lillard](#) for that matter.

Yet, when David Stern calls out a name in the first round of the 2013 NBA Draft for the Phoenix Suns, that player will have the greatest upside and talent on the team.

The Suns' current draft position is #3 overall, but with the lottery, that could move to anywhere from #1 to #6.

[DraftExpress Mock Draft](#)

First Round	
1	 Nerlens Noel C 19 years old; 6'11"; 216 lbs. Kentucky, Freshman
2	 Ben McLemore SG 20 years old; 6'4"; 195 lbs. Kansas, Freshman
3	 Marcus Smart PG 19 years old; 6'4"; 200 lbs. Oklahoma State, Freshman
4	 Athanasios Rountas PF 20 years old; 6'7"; 239 lbs. UNLV, Freshman
5	 Victor Oladipo SG/SF 20 years old; 6'5"; 210 lbs. Indiana, Junior
6	 Cody Zeller C 20 years old; 7'0"; 240 lbs. Indiana, Sophomore

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DraftExpress is not looking at team rosters for "fit" yet, but I still think the Suns would do well to bring in Marcus Smart despite having Goran Dragic on the roster. Smart is a big combo guard that gets to the line, is a team leader, and plays relentless defense. Having him and Dragic running a two-headed attack would be a tough matchup for opponents. Remember the days when the Suns forced their opponent to play weird lineups to match up with the Suns? Those days could be back with a Smart/Dragic backcourt.

[ESPN's Chad Ford](#)



3 Ben McLemore Phoenix Suns (15-8)
COLLEGE: Kansas AGE: 20 HT: 6-4 WT: 195 POS: SG

Analysis: The Phoenix Suns shot 22 percent on 3-pointers this season and desperately need to improve. Their starting 2-guard, Shannon Brown and Wesley Johnson, both struggled from 3. Adding McLemore makes a lot of sense. He's one of the two or three best pure shooters in the draft and has great length and athleticism at his position. He can be a bit of a wallflower, but when he gets going he's as good as anyone in the draft.

Ford already has Noel and Smart off the board with the top 2 picks, leaving the Suns with sweet-shooting Ben McLemore. Clearly, McLemore could be a [Joe Johnson](#) type that scores consistently on jumpers and screens. Ben's problem is that he's not an "alpha" and the Suns desperately need an alpha next season.

[NBA Draft Insider](#) (our own Kris Habbas' real job)

#	Player	HT	WT	Pos.	School
1	Ben McLemore	6-6	195	SG	Kansas
2	Marcus Smart	6-4	225	PG	Oklahoma State
3	Nerlens Noel	6-11	228	C	Kentucky
4	Clayton Kasper	6-8	205	SF	Georgetown
5	Anthony Bennett	6-8	240	PF	UNLV
6	Trey Burke	6-1	180	PG	Michigan

Kris has Nerlens Noel dropping out of the top spot due to knee concerns and going to the Suns. Maybe that's wishful thinking? While Noel's lower body is wafer-thin, he is sturdy nonetheless at 225 at only 18 years old. Noel has tremendous defensive potential and is a clean slate on the offensive end. He will only get better and could be the only contender of the draft to be a perennial all-star and/or player-of-year candidate.

[NBADraft.net](#)

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1		Charlotte	Ben McLemore	Fr.
2		Orlando	Nerlens Noel	Fr.
3		Phoenix	Marcus Smart	Fr.
4		Cleveland	Otto Porter	So.
5		Detroit	Anthony Bennett	Fr.

CBS Mock Draft
Smart dropping from #1, but not all the way to #3 like Kris did. Here, the

#	Round 1	Previous
1	Ben McLemore, 6-5, 195, SG, Fr., Kansas	2
2	Nerlens Noel, 6-10, 228, C, Fr., Kentucky	1
3	Anthony Bennett, 6-8, 240, PF, Fr., UNLV	4
4	Otto Porter, 6-8, 205, SF, Soph., Georgetown	8
5	Cody Zeller, 7-0, 240, C, Soph., Indiana	3
6	Trey Burke, 6-0, 190, PG, Soph., Michigan	9

Not even yet paired to teams, the CBS mock draft has a whole different look and feel. Apparently, Anthony Bennett and Cody Zeller are higher-rated, while Marcus Smart doesn't even sniff the top 6.