

# SPORTS

## NBA » UTAH JAZZ MOCK DRAFT ROUNDUP



Tennessee guard Dalton Knecht, right, shown driving against Wofford guard Corey Tripp last November, is "one of the surest bets on the board," Bleacher Report's Jonathan Wasserman says.

## The perfect 10

The Jazz fell two spots in the NBA draft lottery, but they still think there will be a player they want at No. 10.

By ANDY LARSEN | The Salt Lake Tribune

The Utah Jazz learned their fate Sunday in the NBA's draft lottery: They're down two slots from where they expected to be.

So after prepping for No. 8, how does owning the No. 10 pick instead change the player the Jazz might get?

Jazz management says it doesn't, really.

"We've been studying the draft already for the eighth pick, and there's a lot of players there that we like," Jazz vice president of player personnel Bart Taylor said. "I think there will still be a good player at 10, so we're not too worried about it."

But which players will still be there? More than perhaps ever before, the draft picture is opaque. Now, and even through draft day, the Jazz will likely have little idea as to who will actually be available when NBA commissioner Adam Silver puts Utah on the clock.

With that in mind, let's see how a few draft experts see the draft slinking up, and who the Jazz might end up with at No. 10.

### ESPN & NBA Draft.net

Ron Holland, G League Ignite

Ron Holland was once viewed as the likely No. 1 overall pick in this class. Then, he led the G League Ignite to a 2-32 record on the season — scoring 20 points



Colorado forward Cody Williams shoots in front of Richmond center Neal Quinn during the second half of a game on Nov. 20, 2023, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

per game, but doing it on abysmal efficiency with a huge number of missed shots and turnovers.

But ESPN and NBA Draft.net see Ron Holland as a good fit on the Jazz anyway. Jonathan Givony, ESPN's lead draft expert, feels Holland would be a good fit

because Keyonte George and Collin Sexton would be able to lessen Holland's scoring load, turning him into more of a helpful role player. There, Holland would represent a value play because of his "competitiveness, defensive versatility and aggressiveness," Givony wrote.

### USA Today & Bleacher Report

Dalton Knecht, Tennessee

Unlike most lottery picks these days, Dalton Knecht is a senior, already 23 years old. But unlike most seniors, Knecht looks likely to be able to fit in a lineup right away, thanks to his ability to score from everywhere. He has a terrific shot, and is a good finisher at 6-foot-6, too. The questions come on the defensive side, where Knecht was frequently targeted.

USAToday notes that the Jazz ranked 22nd in the NBA in 3-point percentage, and could use a shooter of Knecht's class. Bleacher Report's Jonathan Wasserman feels that "later in the lottery, teams may start to value certainty over upside," writing that "Dalton Knecht is perceived as one of the surest bets on the board."

### SBNation & Yahoo

Cody Williams, Colorado

Cody Williams is the younger brother of Oklahoma City star Jalen Williams, but didn't have the freshman season his brother did. At Colorado, he showed the ability to fit into team basketball with a smart nose for making the right pass, but simply wasn't aggressive in shooting the ball. He only had 41 3-point attempts all year long. Nor was he a great driver. Injuries may

Photo: AP/WIDE WORLD

## Nacho, Sergio Ramos, Marco Reus and more: European free agents who could land in MLS

By TOM BOGERT | The Athletic

Olivier Giroud

With European seasons ending this month, plenty of contracts on the continent are ending too. MLS clubs are certainly gauging the market, looking to find key additions for the secondary transfer window ahead of Leagues Cup and the business end of the 2024 season.

Here are 11 players who should be targeted this summer and some educated guesses on potential destinations based on fit, roster need and salary flexibility rather than sources.

Let's start with a layup. LAFC will sign Olivier Giroud this summer when his contract with AC Milan expires, as first reported by The Athletic. However, nothing has been officially announced yet, so he's technically still a free agent to be.

Continuing his career in MLS makes a lot of sense for Giroud. France's all-time leading scorer. His game has aged gracefully, so he could have an impact like Zlatan Ibrahimovic. Robbie Keane and Didier Drogba before him in MLS.

The 37-year-old remains extremely productive for AC Milan, with 14 goals and eight assists in 2,229 Serie A minutes this year. Giroud will join LAFC after Euro 2024, which runs from June 14 through July 14. MLS's summer transfer window opens on July 18.

Best fit: LAFC

### Sergio Ramos

Legendary Spanish defender Sergio Ramos is a free agent this summer and a move to MLS seems more realistic

Photo: AP/WIDE WORLD



Paris Saint-Germain's Sergio Ramos celebrates after scoring a goal during the French Super Cup final between Nantes and PSG at Bloomfield Stadium in Tel Aviv, Israel, on July 31, 2022.

Photo: AP/WIDE WORLD