



(5-5) Albuquerque Thunderbirds at (7-6) Utah Flash
 D-League Game # 95 / AWAY GAME # 6
 MCKAY EVENTS CENTER. Orem, UT
 Saturday, December 29, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. (MST)



ALBUQUERQUE THUNDERBIRDS PROBABLE STARTERS

<u>Position</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Comments:</u>
Guard	8	D.J. Strawberry	6-5	201	Selected by the Suns in the second round of the 2007 NBA Draft, the guard tested as the best athlete at the Orlando Pre-Draft camp. Strawberry was named to the All-ACC Second Team and ACC All-Defensive Team. He scored in double figures in all 25 Maryland victories. Earned ACC All-Defensive Team Honorable Mention honors as a Junior. Acquired: Assigned to the Thunderbirds from the Phoenix Suns 12/18/07 (2 nd Round – 59 th Pick Overall – 2007 NBA Draft).
Guard	24	Abdul Mills	6-3	190	Started the 2007-08 season in Syria with InterCollege Etha Engomis before deciding to return home. He had a strong season at Milford Academy where he averaged 17.0 points, 7.0 rebounds and 7.5 assists per game....Averaged 22.0 points per game in his final season at Martin Luther King High School. Acquired: Acquired by the Thunderbirds through Local Player Tryouts.
Forward	7	Josh Gross	6-6	205	Started the 2007-08 season in Finland with Karhut Kauhajoen, appearing in three games and averaging 12.7 points and 7.0 rebounds. Played with the Los Angeles D-Fenders in the NBA Development League in 2006-07, averaging 5.8 points and 1.4 rebounds in 14 games. Selected by the D-Fenders as the fifth pick of the 2006 D-League Expansion Draft. Appeared in six games with the Florida Flame in the NBA. Acquired: Acquired by the Thunderbirds through the D-League Draft on 11/01/07 (7 th Round – 87 th Pick Overall).
Forward	11	Darvin Ham	6-7	230	Played with six teams in the NBA from 1996 to 2005. Ham was a member of the 2004 World Champion Detroit Pistons. Participated in NBA training camp with the New Jersey Nets in the fall of 2006. Played with Maratonistas de Coamo in Puerto Rico in the summer of 2006, averaging 11.3 points and 5.0 rebounds in three games. Acquired: Acquired by the Thunderbirds through the D-League Draft on 11/01/07 (1 st Round – 3 rd Pick Overall).
Forward / Center	32	Ejike Ugboaja	6-9	225	Started the 2006-07 season with Kager Gdynia in Poland, averaging 4.0 points and 3.0 rebounds in four games. Finished the year in Cyprus with Deltalcon APOEL Nicosia (statistics unavailable). Participated in NBA summer league with the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2006. Selected by the Cleveland Cavaliers in the second round (55 th pick overall) of the 2006 NBA Draft. Played the 2005-06 season for Union Bank Lagos in the Nigeria Premier League. Acquired: Acquired by the Thunderbirds through the D-League Draft on 11/01/07 (5 th Round – 59 th Pick Overall).

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THUNDERBIRDS PLAYER MOVEMENT



Injured List

NONE

Transactions

12/18/07 Recalled (F) Alando Tucker from Phoenix Suns, Assigned (G) D.J. Strawberry from Phoenix Suns
 11/29/07 Assigned (F) Alando Tucker from Phoenix Suns
 11/20/07 Released (C) Michael Adams and (G) Tim Smith
 11/14/07 Released (G) Steven Barber, (G) Kris Collins, (F) Harry Good, (G/F) Tiras Wade and (C) Jackson Marlow

RECORDS:

	Record:	Home:	Road:	Overtime:	2 Overtimes:
Overall:	5-5 (50.0)	3-2 (60.0)	2-3 (40.0)	0-0 (0.000)	0-0 (0.00)

THUNDERBIRDS UPCOMING SCHEDULE:

GAME	DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	TIME (MST)	BROADCAST	SITE
# 106	01/04/08	Friday	Anaheim Arsenal	8:30 p.m.	KBZU 96.3 FM "The Buzz"	ANAHEIM CONVENTION CENTER, Anaheim, CA
# 108	01/05/08	Saturday	Fort Wayne Mad Ants	7:00 p.m.	KBZU 96.3 FM "The Buzz"	Tingley Coliseum, Albuquerque, NM
# 117	01/10/08	Thursday	Austin Toros	7:00 p.m.	KBZU 96.3 FM "The Buzz"	AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER, Austin, TX
# 125	01/12/08	Saturday	Austin Toros	7:00 p.m.	KBZU 96.3 FM "The Buzz"	AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER, Austin, TX
# 129	01/13/08	Sunday	Rio Grande Valley Vipers	4:00 p.m.	KBZU 96.3 FM "The Buzz"	DODGE ARENA, McAllen, TX

D-LEAGUE STANDINGS

(as of 12.28.07)

Central Division

	W-L	Pct.	GB
Iowa Energy	9-6	0.600	0.0
Dakota Wizards	7-5	0.583	0.5
Sioux Falls Skyforce	5-8	0.384	3.0
Fort Wayne Mad Ants	4-8	0.333	3.5

Southwest Division

	W-L	Pct.	GB
Austin Toros	9-4	0.692	0.0
Colorado 14ers	9-5	0.642	0.5
Rio Grande Valley Vipers	8-5	0.615	1.0
Albuquerque Thunderbirds	5-5	0.500	2.5
Tulsa 66ers	4-8	0.333	4.5

West Division

	W-L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles D-Fenders	9-4	0.692	0.0
Idaho Stampede	9-5	0.642	0.5
Utah Flash	7-6	0.538	2.0
Anaheim Arsenal	4-9	0.307	5.0
Bakersfield Jam	3-14	0.176	8.0



UPCOMING D-LEAGUE GAMES

Saturday, December 29 (All Times Eastern)

Los Angeles	@ Bakersfield	3:00pm
Colorado	@ Dakota	8:00pm
Rio Grande Valley	@ Iowa	8:30pm
Anaheim	@ Idaho	9:00pm
Albuquerque	@ Utah	9:00pm

Sunday, December 30 (All Times Eastern)

Austin	@ Tulsa	4:00pm
Sioux Falls	@ Fort Wayne	6:00pm

Monday, December 31 (All Times Eastern)

Iowa	@ Dakota	8:00pm
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Thursday, January 3 (All Times Eastern)

Sioux Falls	@ Fort Wayne	7:00pm
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Friday, January 4 (All Times Eastern)

Dakota	@ Los Angeles	6:30pm
Rio Grande Valley	@ Austin	8:00pm
Iowa	@ Sioux Falls	8:00pm
Tulsa	@ Idaho	9:00pm
Bakersfield	@ Utah	9:00pm
Albuquerque	@ Anaheim	10:30pm

Saturday, January 5 (All Times Eastern)

Rio Grande Valley	@ Austin	8:00pm
Fort Wayne	@ Albuquerque	8:00pm
Bakersfield	@ Idaho	9:00pm
Tulsa	@ Utah	9:00pm
Dakota	@ Anaheim	10:30pm



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Thunderbirds 2007-08 Results / Score

Date	Opponent	Result / Score
11/23	Idaho	W / 94 - 92
11/25	@ Fort Wayne	W / 98-79
11/26	@ Iowa	L / 98-101
12/1	@ Idaho	L / 84 - 92
12/7	Colorado	L / 70 - 105
12/8	Colorado	L / 102 - 85
12/14	@ Bakersfield	W / 109 - 102
12/15	Anaheim	W / 100 - 97
12/23	@ Colorado	L / 94- 109
12/28	Utah	W / 112 - 104
12/29	@ Utah	7:00pm
1/4	@ Anaheim	8:30pm
1/5	Fort Wayne	7:00pm
1/10	@ Austin	6:00pm
1/12	@ Austin	6:00pm
1/13	@ RGV	4:00pm
1/15	@ Colorado	1:45pm *
1/16	Tulsa	1:45pm *
1/18	@ Sioux Falls	6:00pm
1/19	@ Dakota	6:00pm
1/23	RGV	10:30am +
1/25	RGV	7:00pm
1/26	Sioux Falls	7:00pm
2/1	Dakota	7:00pm
2/5	Bakersfield	10:30am +
2/8	@ Tulsa	6:00pm
2/9	@ Tulsa	6:00pm
2/11	@ Colorado	7:00pm
2/13	@ Colorado	7:00pm
2/22	RGV	7:00pm
2/23	RGV	7:00pm
2/28	Tulsa	7:00pm
2/29	Colorado	7:00pm
3/2	Iowa	3:00pm
3/2	@ Tulsa	6:00pm
3/8	Austin	7:00pm
3/11	Austin	7:00pm
3/13	Austin	7:00pm
3/14	Austin	7:00pm
3/16	Los Angeles	3:00pm
3/17	@ RGV	6:00pm
3/20	Tulsa	7:00pm
3/21	Tulsa	7:00pm
3/23	@ Los Angeles	3:30pm
3/28	@ RGV	6:00pm
3/29	@ RGV	6:00pm
4/2	@ Austin	6:00pm
4/5	@ Tulsa	6:00pm
4/11	@ Austin	6:00pm
4/12	Colorado	7:00pm

* Indicates Showcase Games in Boise, ID
 + Indicates School Day Game



Top Performances in the D-LEAGUE

(Through 12/28/07)

Points: Top 5

51, Almond, Morris (Utah) vs Austin, 12/21/07
41, Strawberry, D.J. (Albuquerque) vs Utah, 12/28/07
 41, Mejia, Sammy (Fort Wayne) vs Rio Grande Valley, 12/28/07
40, Tucker, Alando (Albuquerque) at Bakersfield, 12/14/07

Rebounds:

40, Richardson, Jeremy (Fort Wayne) at Iowa, 11/29/07
 28, Benson, Rod (Dakota) at Sioux Falls, 12/09/07

Assists:

22, Livingston, Randy (Idaho) vs Bakersfield, 12/26/07

Field Goals Made:

18, Almond, Morris (Utah) vs Austin, 12/21/07

Free Throws Made:

18, Mitchell, Dwayne (Iowa) vs Tulsa, 12/23/07

3PT Field Goals:

8, Taylor, Kenny (Rio Grande Valley) at Dakota, 12/22/07

Blocked Shots:

10, Akindele, Ayudeji (Iowa) vs Sioux Falls, 12/14/07

Steals:

6, Calloway, Earl (Fort Wayne) vs Dakota, 12/14/07

Minutes:

6, Gross, Josh (Albuquerque) vs Idaho, 11/23/07

Field Goals Att:

54, Kruger, Kevin (Utah) vs Los Angeles, 12/15/07

Free Throws Att:

37, Almond, Morris (Utah) vs Los Angeles, 12/15/07

3PT Field Goals Att:

21, Mitchell, Dwayne (Iowa) vs Tulsa, 12/23/07
13, Mills, Abdul (Albuquerque) at Colorado, 12/23/07

Personal Fouls:

13, Taylor, Kenny (Rio Grande Valley) at Dakota, 12/22/07

6, Brown, Kedrick (Anaheim) vs Colorado, 12/21/07

6, Samb, Cheikh (Fort Wayne) vs Dakota, 12/13/07

6, Lyde, Kevin (Dakota) vs Iowa, 11/23/07

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D-LEAGUE Statistical Leaders

(through 12/28/07)

SCORING AVERAGE	G	PTS	Avg	SCORING AVERAGE	G	PTS	Avg
1. Morris Almond, Utah	7	213	30.4	9. Kaniel Dickens, Colorado	13	287	22.1
2. Jeremy Richardson, Fort Wayne	8	228	28.5	10. Kasib Powell, Sioux Falls	8	176	22.0
3. Alando Tucker, Albuquerque	5	141	28.2	10. Dwayne Mitchell, Iowa	15	330	22.0
4. Gabe Muoneke, Rio Grande Valley	12	314	26.2	12. Elton Brown, Colorado	14	300	21.4
5. CJ Watson, Rio Grande Valley	13	329	25.3	13. Ramon Sessions, Tulsa	12	255	21.3
6. Carlos Powell, Dakota	12	293	24.4	14. Sean Banks, Los Angeles	13	271	20.8
7. Keith Langford, Austin	9	209	23.2	15. Lance Allred, Idaho	14	276	19.7
8. James Curry, Iowa	9	200	22.2	16. Steven Smith, Anaheim	13	254	19.5

REBOUNDS PER GAME	G	REB	Avg	MINUTES PER GAME	G	MIN	Avg
1. Rod Benson, Dakota	12	162	13.5	1. Keith Langford, Austin	9	383	42.6
2. Elton Brown, Colorado	14	150	10.7	2. Carlos Powell, Dakota	12	501	41.8
3. Lance Allred, Idaho	14	143	10.2	2. Damone Brown, Sioux Falls	8	334	41.8
4. Julian Sensley, Colorado	7	62	8.9	4. Jeremy Richardson, Fort Wayne	8	330	41.3
5. Damone Brown, Sioux Falls	8	70	8.8	5. Dontell Jefferson, Dakota	12	481	40.1
6. Nick Fazekas, Tulsa	12	103	8.6	6. James Curry, Iowa	9	359	39.9
7. Kevin Lyde, Dakota	7	58	8.3	7. Gabe Muoneke, Rio Grande Valley	12	478	39.8
8. Brandon Bowman, Bakersfield	17	130	7.6	8. Morris Almond, Utah	7	275	39.3

ASSISTS PER GAME	G	AST	Avg	STEALS PER GAME	G	ST	Avg
1. Randy Livingston, Idaho	12	129	10.8	1. Brian Hamilton, Utah	12	30	2.5
2. Andre Barrett, Bakersfield	13	125	9.6	2. Billy Thomas, Colorado	12	29	2.4
3. Kevin Kruger, Utah	13	96	7.4	3. Damone Brown, Sioux Falls	8	16	2.0
4. Ramon Sessions, Tulsa	12	75	6.3	4. Marcus Williams, Austin	9	17	1.9
5. James Curry, Iowa	9	52	5.8	5. Dwayne Mitchell, Iowa	15	28	1.9
6. David Bailey, Sioux Falls	13	75	5.8	6. Andre Barrett, Bakersfield	13	24	1.8
7. Ali Berdiel, Albuquerque	10	54	5.4	7. Earl Calloway, Fort Wayne	12	21	1.8
8. Earl Calloway, Fort Wayne	12	63	5.3	7. Maurice Baker, Dakota	12	21	1.8

FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE	FGM	FGA	Pct	FREE THROW PERCENTAGE	FTM	FTA	Pct
1. Mustafa Al-Sayyad, Tulsa	8	12	0.667	1. Blake Ahearn, Dakota	42	44	0.955
2. Ian Mahinmi, Austin	70	109	0.642	2. Randy Livingston, Idaho	57	60	0.950
3. Abdoulaye N'Diaye, Los Angeles	34	53	0.642	3. Marcus Williams, Austin	26	28	0.929
4. Louis White, Colorado	32	52	0.615	4. Jeremy Richardson, Fort Wayne	46	50	0.920
5. Ayudeji Akindele, Iowa	36	59	0.610	5. Kevin Kruger, Utah	55	60	0.917
6. Kyrylo Fesenko, Utah	42	70	0.600	5. Roberto Bergersen, Idaho	22	24	0.917
7. Jesse Smith, Rio Grande Valley	42	71	0.592	7. Steve Novak, Rio Grande Valley	19	21	0.905
8. Brian Hamilton, Utah	60	102	0.588	8. Scooter McFadgon, Bakersfield	64	71	0.901
8. Dwight Brewington, Tulsa	30	51	0.588				

3 POINT FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE	3PM	3PA	Pct	BLOCKED SHOTS PER GAME	G	BS	Avg
1. Louis White, Colorado	5	6	0.833	1. Stephane Lasme, Los Angeles	10	28	2.8
2. Cory Minnifield, Fort Wayne	2	3	0.667	2. Kyrylo Fesenko, Utah	7	19	2.7
3. Quannas White, Rio Grande Valley	3	5	0.600	3. Kevin Lyde, Dakota	7	14	2.0
4. Julian Sensley, Colorado	11	19	0.579	4. Ayudeji Akindele, Iowa	12	19	1.6
5. Jovan Harris, Bakersfield	12	21	0.571	5. Kosta Perovic, Bakersfield	16	24	1.5
6. Adam Harrington, Tulsa	21	38	0.553	5. Damone Brown, Sioux Falls	8	12	1.5
7. Josh Gross, Albuquerque	10	19	0.526	7. Ian Mahinmi, Austin	12	16	1.3
8. Daniel Horton, Albuquerque	16	31	0.516	7. Cory Minnifield, Fort Wayne	12	16	1.3
				7. Kieth Closs, Tulsa	12	16	1.3

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2007-08 Game-by-Game Recap

Date	Opponent	W/L	Rec	Score	High Scorer	High Rebounder	Assist Leader	Att.
Nov 23	IDAHO	W	1-0	94-92	Daniel Horton 24	Josh Gross 8	Ali Berdiel 6	3994
Nov 25	Fort Wayne	W	2-0	98-79	Josh Gross 31	Serge Angounou 11	Ali Berdiel 4	4992
Nov 26	Iowa	L	2-1	98-101	Josh Gross 27	Josh Gross 7	Ali Berdiel 6	8842
Dec 1	Idaho	L	2-2	84-92	Alando Tucker 25	Alando Tucker 12	Daniel Horton 4	3362
Dec 7	COLORADO	L	2-3	70-105	Josh Gross 17 Alando Tucker 17	Josh Gross 9	Abdul Mills 7	1769
Dec 8	COLORADO	L	2-4	85-102	Alando Tucker 27	Ramon Dyer 7	Ali Berdiel 4	1693
Dec 14	Bakersfield	W	3-4	109-102	Alando Tucker 40	Ramon Dyer 10	Ali Berdiel 14	1055
Dec 15	ANAHEIM	W	4-4	100-97	Alando Tucker 32 Daniel Horton 32	Darvin Ham 11	Daniel Horton 6	1671
Dec 23	Colorado	L	4-5	94-109	Abdul Mills 26 D.J. Strawberry 26	Ramon Dyer 10	Ali Berdiel 9	1512
Dec 28	UTAH	W	5-5	112-104	D.J. Strawberry 41	Ramon Dyer 9	Elijah Ingram 5	3384

CAPS indicate home game

*indicates overtime

Top Team Performances

(through 12/28/07)

Points:	41, D.J. Strawberry	vs	UTA, 12/28/07
	40, Alando Tucker	at	BAK, 12/14/07
Rebounds:	12, Alando Tucker	at	IDA, 12/01/07
	11, Darvin Ham	vs	ANA, 12/15/07
	11, Serge Angounou	at	FRT, 11/25/07
Assists:	14, Ali Berdiel	at	BAK, 12/14/07
	9, Ali Berdiel	at	COL, 12/23/07
Field Goals Made:	15, D.J. Strawberry	vs	UTA, 12/28/07
	15, Alando Tucker	at	BAK, 12/14/07
Field Goals Att:	27, Alando Tucker	vs	ANA, 12/15/07
	25, D.J. Strawberry	vs	UTA, 12/28/07
	25, Alando Tucker	at	BAK, 12/14/07
	25, Alando Tucker	at	IDA, 12/01/07
Foul Shots Made:	11, Josh Gross	at	FRT, 11/25/07
	8, Josh Gross	vs	IDA, 11/23/07
Foul Shots Att:	12, Abdul Mills	vs	COL, 12/08/07
	11, Josh Gross	at	FRT, 11/25/07
3PT Field Goals Made:	7, Daniel Horton	vs	UTA, 12/28/07
	6, Abdul Mills	at	COL, 12/23/07
3PT Field Goals Att:	13, Abdul Mills	at	COL, 12/23/07
	7, Daniel Horton	vs	UTA, 12/28/07
	7, Alando Tucker	at	IDA, 12/01/07
	7, Daniel Horton	vs	IDA, 11/23/07
Blocked Shots:	3, Ramon Dyer	vs	UTA, 12/28/07
	2, D.J. Strawberry	vs	UTA, 12/28/07
	2, Darvin Ham	vs	UTA, 12/28/07
	2, Ramon Dyer	at	COL, 12/23/07
	2, Darvin Ham	vs	ANA, 12/15/07
	2, James Smith	at	FRT, 11/25/07
Steals:	6, Josh Gross	vs	IDA, 11/23/07
	5, Abdul Mills	at	IDA, 12/01/07
Turnovers:	8, D.J. Strawberry	vs	UTA, 12/28/07
	7, Josh Gross	vs	COL, 12/07/07
Personal Fouls:	6, Darvin Ham	vs	UTA, 12/28/07
	6, James Smith	at	COL, 12/23/07
	6, Darvin Ham	vs	ANA, 12/15/07
	6, Abdul Mills	at	IOW, 11/26/07
	6, James Smith	vs	IDA, 11/23/07
Minutes:	46, Abdul Mills	at	COL, 12/23/07
	43, Alando Tucker	vs	COL, 12/08/07
	43, Josh Gross	at	FRT, 11/25/07

FEEL THE THUNDER!

IN THE NEWS

THUNDERBIRDS BLITZ FLASH 112 - 104

Strawberry Nets 41 in Home Debut

The Albuquerque Thunderbirds defeated the Utah Flash 112 – 104 Friday night, holding off a late fourth quarter rally by the flash. D.J. Strawberry led all scorers in the game with 41 points on 15 of 25 shooting.

The Flash had five players score double digit points in a losing effort and were led by Morris Almond's 21 points and James Lang's 12 points and 9 rebounds. Brian Jackson and Brian Hamilton pitched in 11 and 16 points respectively for the Flash, and Andre Ingram had 18 points off the bench.

Daniel Horton added 27 points for the Thunderbirds in the win including hitting on 7 out of 7 three point attempts. Ramon Dyer added a team high 9 rebounds to go along with 7 points off the bench.

"It was a good win for us, everyone contributed," Albuquerque Head Coach Jeff Ruland said. "We just need to go out there and do it again tomorrow."

Horton led all scorers in the third quarter with 15 points, all of which came by the way of the three - ball. Strawberry chipped in another 11 in the quarter helping the Thunderbirds stretch their lead to 86 – 69.

Andre Ingram scored 10 points on 4 of 4 shooting for the Flash in the second quarter, including a streak of 7 straight, helping to keep Utah close at the half. Albuquerque shot 83 % from three point range in the second quarter though helping to push their halftime lead to 58 – 51.

Strawberry led all scorers in the first quarter scoring 13 of Albuquerque's 23 points, including 11 of their first 13 points. Utah shot 50% from the field in the quarter keeping the score close after one quarter of play; Thunderbirds 23, Flash 21.

Both teams get back to action tomorrow night, against one another, in Orem, Utah at 7:00 pm. The Thunderbirds return home Saturday, January 5th to take on the Fort Wayne, Indiana, Mad Ants; game time is set for 7:00 pm.

COLORADO'S SECOND HALF RALLY TOPS THE T-BIRDS

The Colorado 14ers completed a big second half comeback to beat the Albuquerque Thunderbirds 109-94 at the Broomfield Event Center on Sunday night. After trailing by 20 points in the second quarter, Colorado completed a 40 point turnaround early in the fourth period, and cruised to the 15 point victory. The 14ers improve to 9-4 on the season with the win, while the Thunderbirds fall to 4-5 with the loss.

Brian Greene returned to the Colorado line-up after missing seven games due to injury and led the way with 18 points and four steals. Kaniel Dickens added 17 points, and Lou White came off the bench to add 14 points, four rebounds, and three assists in the win.

"Brian did a nice job defensively inside returning from his injury," said 14ers Head Coach Joe Wolf. "And Lou White came off the bench to run the show playing good, solid defense and leading his team which we needed from the back-up point guard tonight."

Albuquerque ran out to a double-digit lead after starting the game on a 24-5 run. The Thunderbirds led by as many as 20 points in the first half before Colorado began its comeback. The 14ers outscored Albuquerque 34-15 in the third quarter led by nine points from Kaniel Dickens and eight from Mo Charlo in the period. Colorado expanded the lead to 20 points in the fourth quarter to complete a 40 point turnaround from the first half.

D.J. Strawberry made his debut for Albuquerque on assignment from the Phoenix Suns. Strawberry finished with 26 points, four rebounds, and three assists in the loss. Abdul Mills scored 18 of his 26 points in the first half to match Strawberry for game-high honors.

STRAWBERRY SECOND ASSIGNED PLAYER TO THE THUNDERBIRDS IN 2007–08 SEASON

Suns Recall Tucker Assign 59th Pick of the 2007 NBA Draft to Albuquerque

The Albuquerque Thunderbirds and the Phoenix Suns announce today that the Suns have recalled Alando Tucker and assigned rookie guard D.J. Strawberry to the Albuquerque Thunderbirds. The official announcement was made by Suns President of Basketball Operations and General Manager Steve Kerr.

The 59th selection in the 2007 NBA Draft, the Maryland product has made appearances in six games for Phoenix this season, averaging 2.0 points and 0.7 rebounds and 0.5 assists in 37 minutes of action.

A product of Maryland, Strawberry as a junior earned ACC All-Defensive Team Honorable Mention honors. As a senior, Strawberry was named to the All-ACC Second Team and ACC All-Defensive Team. He scored in double figures in all 25 Maryland victories that season.

Phoenix recalled Tucker Monday on the same day he was named the D-League's Performer of the Week after leading the Thunderbirds to two victories while averaging 36.0 points and 6.5 rebounds and shooting 51.9 percent (27-of-52) from the field, including 6-of-10 from three-point range. Tucker scored a D-League season-high 40 points in an Albuquerque victory over the Bakersfield Jam on Friday. The Wisconsin product was originally assigned to the Thunderbirds on Nov. 28 and averaged 28.2 points and 7.0 rebounds in five games with Albuquerque.



Photo by: NBA E Photo/Getty Images

Strawberry joins an Albuquerque squad with a 4-4 record on the season, coached by 1984 NBA All-Star Jeff Ruland and features 2004 NBA champion Darvin Ham.

Strawberry is the 19 NBA player assigned to a D-League affiliate this season. Twenty-seven (27) NBA teams have designated 72 players to D-League affiliates since the start of the 2005-06 season.

Strawberry is expected to be in uniform for Sunday's game when the Thunderbirds (4-4) visit the Colorado 14ers (6-3) wearing No. 8.

THUNDERBIRDS SQUEAK PAST ARSENAL FOR SECOND STRAIGHT WIN

Horton and Tucker Each Score 32 in Thunderbirds Victory

The Albuquerque Thunderbirds defeated the Anaheim Arsenal 100 – 97 improving their record to 4 and 4 on the season, the loss drops the Arsenal to 3 and 8. Alando Tucker and Daniel Horton led the Thunderbirds with 32 points each on a collective 24 of 49 shooting.

Steven Smith led the Arsenal with 25 points in a losing effort and Ivan Johnson registered a double – double with 19 points and 15 rebounds. Davin White pitched in 21 points to go along with Guillermo Diaz's 17 points.

Josh Gross was the only other Thunderbird to score double digits with 11 points. Ramon Dyer and Darvin Ham each pitched in on the boards registering a combined 21 rebounds for Albuquerque.

Despite jumping out to an early lead in the first quarter, Albuquerque managed to shoot only 28% from the field. Anaheim was led by Davin White's 8 points in the quarter helping them to a 28 – 19 lead after one.

Three different players for Anaheim scored double digits in the second quarter alone; Smith led the effort scorers with 15 points. Tucker and Horton had 12 and 13 points each for the Thunderbirds helping to keep the game close at half, 60 – 54.

The Thunderbirds went 3 for 3 on three pointers in the third quarter helping them cut into the Arsenal lead. Tucker led all scorers in the quarter with 9 helping to bring Albuquerque within one at the end of the quarter, 77 – 76.

The Thunderbirds get back to action December 23rd on the road against the Colorado 14ers before returning home on Friday, December 28th to take on the Utah Flash. Friday will be "Home for the Holidays" night, show an out of state I.D. and get one free general admission ticket, game time is set for 7:00 pm.

Anaheim heads home to take on Colorado, Saturday, December 21st before heading to Idaho on Friday the 28th to take on the Stampede.

JAM LOSE FIRST HOME GAME OF SEASON, 109-102

Thunderbirds Tucker Pours in Season-High 40 Points in Win

The Bakersfield Jam returned home following a two-game road trip and dropped their first home contest of the season to the Albuquerque Thunderbirds, 109-102 at Rabobank Arena.

The night belonged to Albuquerque's Alando Tucker, on assignment from the Phoenix Suns, who scored 15 points in the first quarter and 21 points in the first half as the score was tied 58-58 going into intermission. Tucker finished with a season-high 40 points while Ramon Dyer added 20 points and Ali Berdiel dished out 14 assists for the Thunderbirds.

Brandon Bowman started off fast for the Jam, scoring 10 points in the first quarter on 4 of 4 shooting. Bowman led six Jam players in double figures, finishing with 18 points, and Andre Barrett scored 10 points and 11 assists. James Peters had 17 points and Anthony Wilkins contributed with 13 points off the bench.

"We missed a lot of shots we usually make." said Jam Head Coach Jim Harrick. "I felt like we were in a great position to win this ballgame but you have to give credit to their guys who made the shots when they needed to."

The win snaps a four-game skid for Albuquerque, raising their record to 3-4. Bakersfield dropped to 2-9 on the season. The Jam will have a day off before heading to Los Angeles on Sunday while the Thunderbirds visit Anaheim tomorrow.

The Jam return back to Rabobank Arena for a pair of games against the Idaho Stampede next Wednesday and Friday.

ISOTOPES MARKETING EXECUTIVE JOINS THUNDERBIRDS

Team President Billy Widner to Become COO of Austin Toros

The Albuquerque Thunderbirds announced today that Chris Holland formerly of the Albuquerque Isotopes has joined the NBA Development League's Albuquerque Thunderbirds as Chief Operating Officer. Billy Widner, the first team president in Thunderbirds history, is leaving to become the COO of the Toros, the D-League team in Austin, Texas.

"I have truly enjoyed my time with the Thunderbirds," said Widner, who attended the University of New Mexico and returned to Albuquerque from the Dallas Mavericks. "Bringing NBA basketball to my home town and watching young players chase their dreams while inspiring young people in the community has been amazing."

"I am excited about the future of the franchise and I have complete faith that Chris Holland will bring new experiences and a new energy that will take the team to a new level," said Widner.

"Billy Widner has done a phenomenal job for the Thunderbirds and has been a major part in two great seasons," said Sam Bregman, local owner of the Thunderbirds. "We wish him luck in Austin, except when they play the Thunderbirds."

Holland brings years of experience and success in sports from the baseball world as the Corporate Sales & Promotions Manager for the Class Triple-A Isotopes. A graduate of Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado, Holland earned his B.A. in Communications/Journalism.

"I'm just thrilled at the opportunity," said Holland. "I look forward to building on the early success of the staff as we continue to strengthen our position within the community."

"We are also excited about adding Chris Holland to the Thunderbirds front office," said Bregman. "His experience and capabilities are a perfect fit."

"We're grateful we had somebody as talented as Billy for as long as we did," said David Kahn of Southwest Basketball, LLC, which owns the Thunderbirds in conjunction with Bregman and Michael Cooper. "I also think it speaks volumes about the D League and the NBA that Billy has chosen to remain in the league, in a location where his family has roots."

"In the meantime, we're pleased to have somebody of Chris' caliber joining us. The Isotopes have set the standard for minor league sports in New Mexico and I am certain Chris will help us immensely."

14ERS DROP THUNDERBIRDS FOR THE SECOND NIGHT IN A ROW

Thunderbirds Head Coach Ejected in Loss

The Colorado 14ers defeated the Albuquerque Thunderbirds for the second night in a row 102 to 85 pushing their record on the season to 5 -2 and dropping the Thunderbirds to 2 – 4 on the season. Kaniel Dickens led all scorers in the game with 28 points on 10 of 16 shooting.

Colorado had five scorers in double figures including Elton Brown's double – double, 14 points and 12 rebounds. Julian Sensley and Brandon dean pitched in 11 points each for the 14ers.

Albuquerque was led by Alando Tucker's 27 points on 11 of 20 shooting. Josh Gross and Daniel Horton were the only other Thunderbirds to score in double digits, pitching in 14 and 16 points apiece.

Dickens had 11 points for the 14ers in the first quarter to lead all scorers and Albuquerque only shot 28 percent from the floor as a team, helping Colorado to a 29 – 19 lead after the first quarter.

Colorado hit all 11 of their free throws in the second quarter helping to extend their lead at half to 57 – 41. Tucker helped keep the Thunderbirds within striking distance by leading all scorers in the quarter with 12 points on 6 of 8 shooting.

Albuquerque's head coach Jeff Ruland was ejected early in the third quarter for his second technical foul of the game. The Thunderbirds rallied for the remainder of the quarter holding Colorado to 17 points in the quarter to cut the 14ers lead to 74 – 67 after three.

Albuquerque rallied in the fourth quarter several times but was never able to cut the 14ers lead to less than six points. Colorado pulled away in the fourth quarter by hitting three straight from three point range and never looked back as they cruised to a 102-85 victory.

The Thunderbirds get back to action, on the road, Friday, December 14th against the Bakersfield Jam before returning home Saturday the 15th to take on the Anaheim Arsenal. Saturday will be Toys for Tots night, bring a toy and get in free, game time is set for 7:00 pm at Tingley Coliseum.

Colorado continues their road trip in Texas next week, taking on the Austin Toros on Friday the 14th and the Rio Grande Valley Vipers on Saturday the 15th before returning home to take on Austin on Tuesday the 18th.

14ERS DOWN THUNDERBIRDS 105 -70 IN PLAYOFF REMATCH

Sensley records double – double as 14ers win easily

The Colorado 14ers downed the Albuquerque Thunderbirds 105 - 70 in a rematch of last year's Eastern Conference Semifinals. Elton Brown was one of six 14ers to score in double digits, leading all scorers with 18 points.

Colorado outpaced Albuquerque all night long, led by a strong performance from their bench as well as Julian Sensley's double – double, 15 points and 13 rebounds. Kaniel Dickens pitched in 13 points for the 14ers, Brandon Dean and Mo Charlo combined for 23 of Colorado's 41 bench points.

The Thunderbirds were led by Alando Tucker and Josh Gross who pitched in 17 points each in a losing effort. For Tucker the loss spoiled his first home game since being assigned to the Thunderbirds from the Phoenix Suns a week ago. Abdul Mills had a game high 7 assists for the Thunderbirds to go along with 5 rebounds and 8 points.

Albuquerque jumped out to an early 7 – 1 first quarter lead. Colorado climbed back into the lead though thanks to 9 points in the quarter from Brown as well as 10 Albuquerque turnovers. At the end of the first quarter the 14ers had a scant 21 - 18 lead.

Sensley led all second quarter scorers pitching in 10 of Colorado's 35 second quarter points. Colorado outpaced Albuquerque throughout the quarter, as their bench outscored Albuquerque's 13 to 3, stretching their lead at half time to 56 – 39.



Photo by: Layne Murdoch / NBA E Photo / Getty Images

Colorado shot just under 70 percent from the field in the third quarter helping their lead grow to 28 points after three quarters, 85 – 57. Albuquerque was able to cut the 14ers lead to 11 early in the quarter before Colorado went on a four minute 10 – 0 run to secure their lead.

Both teams get back to action tomorrow night, Saturday, December 8th at Tingley Coliseum. Saturday will be Press Pass night, show your Albuquerque Journal Press Pass and get a free general admission ticket with the purchase of any ticket, game time is set for 7:00 pm.

IDAHO TOPS THUNDERBIRDS FOR FOURTH STRAIGHT WIN

Roberto Bergersen scores season-high 30 points in victory

The Idaho Stampede utilized a strong defensive performance in the fourth quarter to defeat the Albuquerque Thunderbirds 92-84 for their fourth straight win. Idaho improves to 4-1 on the season, as they held the Thunderbirds to 16 points on 5-of-20 shooting in the final period, and avenges a 92-94 loss in Albuquerque on November 23.

Albuquerque committed two key turnovers and Stampede forward Ernest Scott blocked an Alando Tucker shot in the final minute to seal the win.

The Thunderbirds shot 38.6% from the field for the game, though a controlled style of play as they committed only 9 turnovers the entire contest. Idaho finished with a 54-37 rebounding edge.

Roberto Bergersen scored 12 of his game and season-high 30 points for the Stampede in the fourth quarter, who also had three others score in double figures. Randy Livingston finished with 16 points and eight assists, Scott had 12 points and a season-high 13 rebounds, and Cory Violette added 14 points, eight rebounds and a season-high six assists.

The game started out as a sluggish defensive affair, as each team shot under 40% in the first quarter. The Stampede took control early in the contest, utilizing an advantage in the middle to build a nine-point lead with two minutes remaining in the first quarter. Idaho continued to build upon that advantage as they built an 11-point lead with 9:36 remaining in the first half on a Bergersen jumper from the paint.

The Thunderbirds roared back with an 18-2 run midway through the second quarter to take a 35-32 lead with 3:27 remaining in the half. The Stampede answered back in the final minutes with an 8-2 run for a 40-37 advantage heading into halftime.

Neither team led by more than six points in the second half until the final minute of the game.

Tucker, on NBA assignment from the Phoenix Suns, finished with 25 points and 12 rebounds for Albuquerque. Josh Gross added 20 points, while Darvin Ham contributed 11 points in a losing effort.

Albuquerque returns home for a back-to-back series against the Colorado 14ers on Friday, December 7 and Saturday, December 8. Idaho hosts the Sioux Falls Skyforce on Tuesday, December 4 before heading on a six-game road trip.

TUCKER ASSIGNED TO THE THUNDERBIRDS

Suns Assign 29th Pick of the 2007 NBA Draft to Albuquerque

The Albuquerque Thunderbirds and the Phoenix Suns announce today that the Suns have assigned rookie forward Alando Tucker to the Albuquerque Thunderbirds. The official announcement was made by Suns President of Basketball Operations and General Manager Steve Kerr.

The 29th selection in the 2007 NBA Draft, Tucker has made appearances in two games for Phoenix this season, averaging 6.0 points and 1.0 rebounds in 8.0 minutes of action. This is the first time in the Thunderbirds team history a first round NBA Draft pick has been assigned to the organization.

A product of the University of Wisconsin, Tucker finished his college career as the all-time leading scorer with 2,217 points, averaging 16.5 points, 5.7 rebounds and 1.7 assists in 134 games. During his senior season he earned Big Ten Player of the Year honors and was named First-Team All-American by the Associated Press.



Photo by: NBA E Photo/Getty Images

Tucker is the record-setting 12th NBA player assigned to the D-League this season. On this date last year there had been a total of three players assigned to the D-League. In 2005-06 there were eight players assigned to the NBA Development League at this point.

Tucker joins an Albuquerque squad with a 2-1 record on the season, coached by 1984 NBA All-Star Jeff Ruland and features 2004 NBA champion Darvin Ham.

Tucker is the 12th NBA player assigned to a D-League affiliate this season. Twenty-seven (27) NBA teams have designated 65 players to D-League affiliates since the start of the 2005-06 season.

Tucker is expected to be in uniform for Saturday's game when the Thunderbirds (2-1) visit the Idaho Stampede (2-1) wearing No. 42.

ENERGY SURGE OVER THUNDERBIRDS KEEPS IOWA UNBEATEN

Dwayne Mitchell led the Iowa Energy to a come-from-behind victory in front of a D-League record crowd to beat the Albuquerque Thunderbirds, 101-98.

Mitchell led all Energy players with 27 points and 14 rebounds as the team outscored the Thunderbirds 37-29 in the fourth quarter to capture their third straight win this season.

"There are a million ways to win a game and we found a new one tonight," said Energy head coach Nick Nurse.

James OnCurry finished with 21 points, three rebounds and two assists. Swingman Josh Gross led the Thunderbirds with 27 points and seven rebounds.

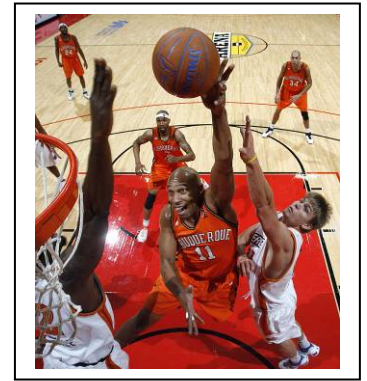


Photo by: Larry W. Smith/NBA E Photo/Getty Images

THUNDERBIRDS STOMP MAD ANTS IN FIRST ROAD VICTORY OF THE SEASON

Gross Lead All Scorers with 31 Points

The Albuquerque Thunderbirds came out hot and stayed hot all night as they defeated the Fort Wayne Mad Ants 98-79 on Sunday afternoon at the Memorial Coliseum. The Thunderbirds' Josh Gross was more than the Mad Ants could handle with an outstanding 31 points, shooting 63% from the floor.

The Thunderbirds dominated the first half, heading into the locker room with a comfortable 23 point lead. The second half did not get much better for the Mad Ants; they would cut the lead to 14 at the end of the third quarter with back to back layups from Earl Calloway and Rod Wilmont but would not get any closer.

Along with Gross's 31 point showcase, Albuquerque had three others in double figures: Serge Angounou (17), Ali Berdiel (16), Ramon Dyer (12). Jeremy Richardson led the Mad Ants in scoring and rebounds with 22 and 10 respectively. Eric Smith also had a big night for the Ants with 18 points.

With the loss, the Mad Ants fall to 0-2 while the Thunderbirds advance to 2-0.

THUNDERBIRDS DEFEAT STAMPEDE 94 - 92 IN HOME OPENER

Thunderbirds Win in Jeff Ruland's Debut as Head Coach

The Albuquerque Thunderbirds defeated the Idaho Stampede 94 - 92 in their first game of the 2007 - 2008 season. The win also ushered in the Jeff Ruland era as the Thunderbirds new head coach. Lance Allred led all scorers in a losing effort for the Stampede with 30 points and 9 rebounds.

The Thunderbirds were led in scoring by Daniel Horton who had 24 points, with 16 in the 4th quarter. Albuquerque had three other scorers in double digits, Josh Gross with 20 to go along with 8 rebounds, Darvin Ham had 14 points and Ali Berdiel pitched in 10 points off the bench.

"It was a great way for us to open the season with a win like this," Coach Ruland said, "but we still have a lot of work to do, I'm just glad to have this win."

The game also marked the beginning of the Thunderbirds career for two New Mexico locals, Serge Angounou and Elijah Ingram. Serge, a graduate of Rio Grande High School, had 7 points and former Aggie Ingram pitched in 5 points for the Thunderbirds.

Abdul Mills took the opening tip off and laid it in for the Thunderbirds first points of the 2007 - 2008 season. Albuquerque built off its early two point advantage by shooting over 50 % from the floor in the first quarter, including 3 for 3 from three point range. Idaho managed to keep it close by hitting all seven first quarter free throws. The score after one was Thunderbirds 26, Stampede 19.

Allred led all scorers in the second quarter scoring 10 of Idaho 26 second quarter points. The Stampede held the Thunderbirds to 33 percent shooting in the quarter while they shot 50 percent from the floor to take a 45 - 40 halftime lead.

Despite Idaho's 60 percent shooting average in the third quarter Albuquerque still managed to outscore them 26 - 23, bringing the score after 3 quarters to; Idaho 68, Albuquerque 66. The real story of the quarter though was the ejection of Idaho's Marcus Campbell, with just over 4 minutes left in the quarter Campbell elbowed the Thunderbirds James Smith in the back of the head drawing an immediate ejection.

The Thunderbirds hit the road for their next three games at Indiana, Iowa and Idaho before returning home to take on the Colorado 14ers on December 7th and 8th. Both game times are set for 7:00pm at Tingley Coliseum. All Thunderbirds games can be heard on KBZU 96.3 "The Buzz" FM. Idaho continues their three game road trip at Colorado on Saturday, November 24th.

THUNDERBIRDS PRESENT NBA, (N)O (B)OYS (A)LLOWED

Event to Familiarize Women with the Game of Basketball While Having Fun

The Albuquerque Thunderbirds will host NBA, (N)o (B)OYS (A)LLowed on Thursday, November 15, at Tingley Coliseum, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The event, which is aimed at educating women about the rules of basketball features the chance to win two round-trip tickets on American Airlines and refreshment, is free to the public.

Thunderbirds players, along with members of the coaching staff will be on hand to interact with participants during on-court demonstrations of team defensive and offensive philosophies, while answering questions from the participants. Attendees will also tour the locker rooms and seating areas for a look "behind the scenes" at Tingley Coliseum. Women can also expect to learn basic rules of the NBA, referee signals and about the work the Thunderbirds do in the community.



Photo by: NBA E Photo/Getty Images

"This is a great opportunity for ladies of all ages to learn a little more about the game and hopefully, a few of them will knock out some holiday shopping while they are there", said Thunderbirds Team President Billy Widner. "My wife attended a similar event with the Dallas Mavericks and loved it."

Thunderbirds training camp continues through November 22nd. Sessions are considered open practices for members of the media. Please contact Sean McLaughlin in advance to confirm location and time of practice sessions.

THUNDERBIRDS TRAINING CAMP OPENS NOVEMBER 11

Seventeen Players will compete for 10 Roster Spots

The Albuquerque Thunderbirds will begin the first season under Coach Jeff Ruland by making some tough decisions. A total of seventeen players will report to the first practice on Sunday, November 11th at Isleta Recreation Center at 9:00am and the team must be reduced to twelve players by Thursday, November 15th.

Training camp sessions are considered open practices for members of the media. Please contact Sean McLaughlin in advance to confirm location and time of practice sessions. All season ticket holders and media members are invited to meet the team at Carrabba's Restaurant on Wednesday, November 14th from 5:30 to 7:00pm. Details about media day (November 14th from 1 to 3) will be sent in an additional release.

The Thunderbirds and the Tulsa 66ers will play a preseason contest in Bartlesville, Oklahoma on the evening of November 17th. The roster will be reduced to ten players on Wednesday, November 21st before the season opens at Tingley Coliseum on November 23rd at 7:00 pm. NBA D-League rosters can expand to twelve with the assignment of NBA first or second-year players. The Thunderbirds are affiliated with the Phoenix Suns and Philadelphia 76ers this season and both have expressed interest in sending young players to Albuquerque this year.

2007-08 Albuquerque Thunderbirds Training Camp Roster

<u>Player</u>	<u>Pos</u>	<u>Ht</u>	<u>Wt</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>Year</u>
Darvin Ham	SF	6-7	230	Texas Tech	1996
Daniel Horton	PG	6-3	200	Michigan	2006
James Smith	C	7-0	250	Marist	2007
Tiras Wade	G/F	6-5	205	Louisiana-Lafayette	2005
Ejike Ugboaja	PF/C	6-9	225	Nigeria	
Ali Berdiel	PG	6-5	200	Valparaiso	2006
Josh Gross	SF	6-6	205	UNC-Greensboro	2006
Michael Adams	C	6-11		Youngstown St.	2007
Ramon Dyer	SF	6-7	200	Houston	2006
Tim Smith	PG	5-9	170	E. Tennessee St.	2006
Steven Barber	G	5-10	160	University of Texas – Arlington	2002
Abdul Mills	G	6-3	190	University of Nebraska – Omaha	2003
Serge Angounou	F	6-8	236	Arizona State	2007
Kris Collins	G	6-3	190	University of New Mexico	2006
Jackson Marlow	C	7-0	315	Fresno State	
Harry Good	F	6-10	255	Rutgers University	2005
Elijah Ingram	G	5-11	166	New Mexico State University	

THUNDERBIRDS PICK 3rd, CHOOSE HAM AS NUMBER ONE PICK

Thunderbirds Select Ten New Faces to Join Training Camp

The Albuquerque Thunderbirds selected ten players in Thursday's D-League Draft who will join others when training camp begins on November 11th. Joining training camp from the Thunderbirds Open Try Outs will be Abdul Mills (University of Nebraska - Omaha), Serge Angounou (Arizona State), Kris Collins (University of New Mexico), Jackson Marlow (Fresno State), Harry Good IV (Rutgers University), Steve Barber (UT-Arlington), and Elijah Ingram (St. Johns University).

The Thunderbirds used their first pick, 3rd overall, to select Darvin Ham, a 6'7, 240 pound forward-guard from Texas Tech University. Ham was a member of the Philippine Basketball Association in 1997. Ham was also a member of the 2004 NBA Champion Detroit Pistons and spent time with the Denver Nuggets and Milwaukee Bucks.

Ham has earned himself the nickname "Dunkin Darvin" for his powerful dunks. Most notably in the 1996 NCAA Tournament when he shattered the backboard in a second round game against North Carolina, propelling Texas Tech to their first sweet 16 appearance.

With the twelfth pick in the second round, 26th pick overall, the Thunderbirds selected Daniel Horton; a 6'3, 205 pound guard from the University of Michigan. Horton was signed by the Miami Heat in 2006. At Michigan he was named the 2004 NIT MVP; he averaged 14.7 points per game to go along with 4.4 assists in his four year college career.

Additional 2007 Thunderbirds Draft Picks include: James Smith (Colorado State), Tiras Wade (Louisiana - Lafayette), Ejike Ugboaja (Nigeria), Ali Berdiel (Valparaiso), Josh Gross (UNC - Greensboro), Michael Adams (Youngstown State), Ramon Dyer (Houston), and Tim Smith (East Tennessee State).

Prior to the draft, Head Coach Jeff Ruland said that it would be interesting to see if the Thunderbirds could get the players they wanted since they were only returning one player from last year. Both coaches are very pleased with the 10 new faces they selected.

"I think we did pretty well" Worthen said, "we got shooters, big men, and a balanced roster. It should make for a pretty competitive training camp!" Coach Ruland seemed to agree:

"We addressed all of our needs tonight. We are athletic, long, and have a very good basketball I.Q., now its up to the coaches to make it work. I can't wait to get started!" Ruland said.

FEEL THE THUNDER!

THUNDERBIRDS IN THE NBA

#44 CHUCK HAYES FORWARD 6'6" 238 KENTUCKY '05



Photo by: NBA E Photo/Getty Images

In his first season with the Rockets, averaged 3.7 points and 4.5 rebounds in 40 games ... finished third among all rookies in rebounds per 48 minutes played (15.8) and tied for eighth in boards per game (4.5) ... had five double-digit rebounding performances ... led or tied for the team lead in rebounding in six games ... signed as a rookie free agent with Houston on Oct. 3 ... waived by Houston on Oct. 25 ... selected sixth overall in the 2005 NBA D-League Draft by the Albuquerque Thunderbirds ... averaged 11.6 points and a league-leading 12.2 rebounds in 14 games (13 starts) with Albuquerque ... re-signed by the Rockets to a 10-day contract on Jan. 18 ... played in his first NBA game vs. Dallas (1/18/06) ... in his second NBA game, registered the first double-double of his career with 12 points (4-5 FG, 4-4 FT) and a career-high 13 rebounds at Chicago (1/20/06), adding a career-best two blocks, one assist and one steal in a career-most 32:55 off the bench.



NBA PLAYERS ASSIGNED DURING THE 2007 - 08 THUNDERBIRDS SEASON

#42 ALANDO TUCKER FORWARD 6'6" 205 Wisconsin '07

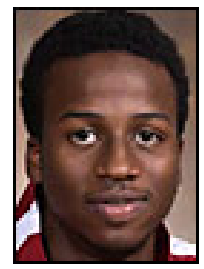


Photo by: NBA E Photo/Getty Images

Tucker, the 2007 Big Ten Player of the Year and a First Team All-American by The Associated Press, averaged 19.9 points, 5.4 rebounds and 2.0 assists in 36 games in his senior season with the Badgers. He was also one of four finalists for the Naismith Trophy given to the national player of the year, along with eventual winner Texas forward Kevin Durant (2nd overall to Seattle), Texas A&M guard Acie Law IV (11th overall to Atlanta) and North Carolina forward Tyler Hansbrough.

The 6-6, 205-pound forward finished as Wisconsin's all-time leading scorer (2,217 points), surpassing former Suns draft pick Michael Finley (21st overall in the 1995 NBA Draft). Tucker, 23, also holds seven other school records, including games played (134), games started (126), minutes played (4,297), field goals (798), free throws (520), free throw attempts (817) and offensive rebounds (314).

As a senior, Tucker led Wisconsin to heights unparalleled in school history. The Badgers won 17 consecutive games, the longest single-season streak in school history, earned a No. 1 ranking in The Associated Press poll for the first time, and garnered their highest seed ever in the 2007 NCAA Tournament (No. 2).



#8 D.J. STRAWBERRY GUARD 6'5" 201 Maryland '07



Photo by: NBA E Photo/Getty Images

Selected by the Suns in the second round of the 2007 NBA Draft, the guard tested as the best athlete at the Orlando Pre-Draft camp. Strawberry was named to the All-ACC Second Team and ACC All-Defensive Team. He scored in double figures in all 25 Maryland victories. Earned ACC All-Defensive Team Honorable Mention honors as a Junior.

Strawberry is son of Lisa Watkins and former Major League Baseball player Darryl Strawberry and has two brothers and four sisters. He served as a bat boy for the New York Yankees, while his father was on the roster. He matched up against the Cavaliers' LeBron James in high school, limiting the future All-Star to 33-percent shooting (0-8 from the outside) and forcing seven turnovers on the night. He was a communications major at Maryland.



FEEL THE THUNDER!

NBA PLAYERS ASSIGNED DURING THE 2006 - 07 THUNDERBIRDS SEASON

#27 DWAYNE JONES FORWARD/CENTER 6'11" 251 ST. JOSEPH'S (PA) '05



Photo by: NBA E Photo/Getty Images

Cleveland acquired Dwayne's rights from the Boston Celtics during the 2006 -07 season. Dwayne was signed as an un-drafted free agent in August 2005 by the Minnesota Timberwolves to a two-year contract. In November of 2005 he was placed on the inactive list. He was assigned twice to the Florida Flame of the D-League during the 2005 - 06 season. In February of 2005 the Boston Celtics acquired his rights. n early entry candidate for the draft after spending three seasons at St. Joseph's University (2002-03 - 2004-05) Along with senior Jameer Nelson, junior guard Delonte West, junior guard Pat Carroll, Dwayne Jones was an integral part of the undefeated regular season of 2004.... Averaged 7.1 ppg (.522 FG%), 8.5 rpg, 2.1 apg, and 2.37 bpg in 98 games (started 69)... Atlantic 10 Conference Defensive Player of the Year and Second Team All Conference selection in 2004-05... Twice named to Atlantic 10 All-Defensive Team



#6 SHANNON BROWN GUARD 6'4" 205 MICHIGAN STATE '06

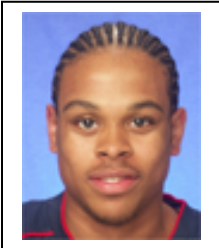


Photo by: NBA F Photo/Getty Images

Played three seasons at Michigan State and was named All-Big Ten Second Team by media and coaches and Big Ten All-Defensive Team by league's coaches as a junior...also named to NABC All-District First Team and USBWA All-District honoree after his junior season...scored his 1,000th career-point with a 22-point game versus Northwestern...scored a career-high 31 points against Wisconsin....scored 15 or more points in 21 of 34 games as a junior...dished out a career-high eight assists to go with 26 points versus UW-Green Bay, including a career-best six three-pointers...was named All-Big Ten Honorable Mention by league's coaches as a sophomore...selected as Most Outstanding Player of the Austin Regional, averaging 13.5 points and 3.3 rebounds in first four games of 2005 NCAA Tournament...scored a season-high 24 points in NCAA Elite Eight versus Kentucky, including 5-6 from behind the arc...shot a team-best .500 from three-point range (10-20) in five NCAA Tournament games...ranked second in the Big Ten in free throw percentage (.848)...finished second on the team in steals (41)...was named to the Big Ten All-Freshman Team.

NBA PLAYERS ASSIGNED DURING THE 2005 - 06 THUNDERBIRDS SEASON

#34 CJ MILES GUARD 6'6" 220 SKYLINE HS (DALLAS, TX)



Photo by: NBA E Photo/Getty Images

Appeared in 23 games during his rookie season, averaging 3.4 points and 1.7 rebounds in 8.8 minutes ... Registered 27 DNP-CDs this season ... Missed three games (3/5-3/8) with right foot inflammation ... Posted career-highs in points (23), field goals made and attempted (8-13), assists (4) and blocks (2), and tied career-high in rebounds (6) in a career-high 33 minutes in season finale vs. Golden State on 4/19 ... Only double-digit scoring performance of season ... Inactive for 14 games while on assignment with the Albuquerque Thunderbirds of the NBA Developmental League (1/4-2/3) ... Appeared in 11 games for Albuquerque, starting nine ... Averaged 12.7 points, 3/5 rebounds, 1.6 assists and 1.00 steals in 27.0 minutes per game in D-League ... Scored in double-figures seven times for Albuquerque, hitting for a high of 19 on three occasions (1/31 vs. Arkansas, 1/21 vs. Austin and 1/15 vs. Tulsa) ... Inactive seven straight games for Jazz prior to D-League assignment (12/21-1/3) ... Scored nine points vs. Indiana, 11/29 ... Grabbed a career-high six rebounds at Sacramento on 11/15 ... Inactive first six games of season ... Scored two points in 13 minutes in NBA debut vs. New York on 11/14 ... The 18-year-old became the youngest player in Jazz history (19, DeShawn Stevenson).

FEEL THE THUNDER!

THE COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH: JEFF RULAND

Ruland becomes the Thunderbirds second overall Head Coach in the team's third season, taking the reins from former Head Coach and current Head Coach of the Los Angeles Sparks (WNBA) Michael Cooper.

Ruland was an All-American honoree during his three-year career, helping lead the Iona Gaels to a 69-21 record, including back-to-back appearances in the NCAA Tournament. Iona was ranked #6 in the country according to Sports Illustrated and defeated eventual national champion Louisville, 77-60, at Madison Square Garden on February 21, 1980.

As a student-athlete, Ruland had an immediate impact during his first season playing for the Gaels. He led all Division I freshmen in scoring and rebounding, averaging 22.3 points and 12.8 rebounds per game. During the following two seasons, Ruland continued to impress, twice leading the Gaels to the NCAA Tournament and twice receiving All-American accolades. He ended his collegiate career as the college's third all-time leading scorer (1,855 points/20.8 ppg) and second leading rebounder (1,067 rebounds/12.0 rpg). In addition, he is Iona's career leader in field goal percentage (63.5%). Ruland passed up his final year of college eligibility to turn pro.

Ruland was drafted by the Golden State Warriors as an undergraduate in the second round (25th overall) of the 1980 NBA draft, which included such names as Kevin McHale, Kiki Vandeweghe, Rick Mahorn, Larry Smith and Kurt Rambis. Ruland opted to play one season of professional basketball in Barcelona, Spain, where he averaged 21 points and 11 rebounds per game. His draft rights were traded by Golden State to Washington in 1981 for a second round draft pick.

Ruland spent five seasons in Washington and led the Bullets in rebounding and field goal percentage each of those five years. He was selected to the 1984 and 1985 Eastern Conference All-Star teams and named to the 1982 NBA All-Rookie squad. His best season in Washington, and as a professional, came during the 1983-84 campaign when he averaged 22.2 points and 12.3 rebounds while shooting 57.9% from the floor. Following the 1983-84 season, Ruland suffered a left knee injury. Prior to the 1986-87 campaign, he was traded to the Philadelphia 76ers for Moses Malone, Terry Catledge and two future first round draft picks. He played in just five games for the Sixers before his knee injury forced him to retire. Following a five-year layoff, Ruland came out of retirement in 1991 and signed with the 76ers. He played in just 13 games before a tear to his Achilles tendon forced him to miss the remainder of the season. His last stint in the NBA came during the 1992-93 season when the Detroit Pistons signed him to a free agent contract. He played in 11 games before being waived in January of 1993. During his 332-game NBA career, that spanned eight seasons, Ruland averaged 17.4 points and 10.2 rebounds per game while shooting 56.4% from the field.

For the past eight years Ruland had been Head Coach at his Alma Mater (Iona College), in which he compiled 137 wins, an average of more than 17 wins per season and guided the Gaels to three 20-win seasons, three MAAC Championships and three NCAA Tournament appearances.

ASSISTANT COACH: JOHN COFFINO

Coffino joins the Thunderbirds staff as an Assistant Coach in the team's third season. Most recently Coffino was with St. Peter's College as an Admissions Counselor.

He served as an assistant coach at St. Peter's for the past four years. Coffino started his coaching career at Westchester Community College in Valhalla, NY where he served as an assistant and associate head coach for six seasons. There, Coffino assisted Ralph Arietta, the all-time winningest coach in junior college history.

After his stint at Westchester, Coach Coffino spent time at the Division I level as an administrative assistant at Iona College. In his two years at Iona, Coffino was on the staff when the Gaels advanced to the 1998 NCAA Division I Tournament. Before coaching his four years at St. Peter's he spent three seasons at Niagara. John Coffino is a native of the Bronx, where he graduated from Mt. St. Michael Academy.

HEAD ATHLETIC TRAINER: MARK SHIRES

Mark is entering his first season as the Athletic Trainer for the Thunderbirds. Mark is also an Athletic Trainer for the Baltimore Orioles, working for their AAA minor league affiliate Norfolk Tides (2007). Prior to the Tides, Shires worked with Bowie Baysox (2004-2006), Frederick Keys (2001-03), the 2000 SAL champion Delmarva Shorebirds, and the Gulf Coast League Orioles (1999). At the end of the 2007 minor league season, Mark was asked to complete the Major League season assisting the Athletic Training Staff for the Orioles. Mark was twice named Athletic Trainer of the Year for the Carolina League (2001 and 2003). Mark earned his Bachelor's Degree from West Chester University of Pennsylvania in 1998 and his Master's Degree in Exercise Science from California University of Pennsylvania in 2004. Mark is a certified member of the National Athletic Trainers Association. Shires and his wife Alison currently live in Albuquerque, NM. Mark's Hobbies include reading and playing golf.



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Photo by: NBA E Photo/Getty Images



Photo by: NBA E Photo/Getty Images

PLAYER BIOS



#7 JOSH GROSS - FORWARD



Selected by: Albuquerque Thunderbirds
Round: 7 - 2007 Draft
Pick (Overall): 3 (87)

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COLLEGE/YEAR	LAST PLAYED
6-6	205	UNC-Greensboro '06	Karhut Kauhajoen (Finland)

Pro Career Highlights: Started the 2007-08 season in Finland with Karhut Kauhajoen, appearing in three games and averaging 12.7 points and 7.0 rebounds. Played with the Los Angeles D-Fenders in the NBA Developmental League in 2006-07, averaging 5.8 points and 1.4 rebounds in 14 games. Selected by the D-Fenders as the fifth pick of the 2006 D-League Expansion Draft. Appeared in six games with the Florida Flame in the NBA Developmental League in 2005-06, averaging 7.2 points and 1.5 rebounds in 14.5 minutes a contest.

College Highlights: Finished collegiate career as the ninth all-time in UNC-Greensboro's Division I history with 431. Played in 111 career games, which ranks seventh in school D-I history. Started 42 times, scored in double figures 29 times, and posted five career double-doubles.

ABQ THUNDERBIRDS

G	GS	MIN	FGM	FGA	Pct.	3PM	3PA	Pct.	FTM	FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	REB	Avg.	AST	PF	TO	BS	ST	PTS	Avg.
8	4	279	55	107	0.514	10	19	0.526	36	43	0.837	15	30	45	5.6	9	15	20	1	8	156	19.5



#8 D.J. STRAWBERRY - GUARD



Selected by: Phoenix Suns
Round: 2 - 2007 Draft
Pick (Overall): 29 (59)

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COLLEGE/YEAR	LAST PLAYED
6-5	201	Maryland '07	Phoenix Suns (NBA)

Career Highlights: Selected by the Suns in the second round of the 2007 NBA Draft, the guard tested as the best athlete at the Orlando Pre-Draft camp.

Strawberry was named to the All-ACC Second Team and ACC All-Defensive Team as a senior at Maryland.

As a Junior, he earned ACC All-Defensive Team Honorable Mention honors.

Strawberry is son of Lisa Watkins and former Major League Baseball player Darryl Strawberry and has two brothers and four sisters. He served as a bat boy for the New York Yankees, while his father was on the roster. He matched up against the Cavaliers' LeBron James in high school, limiting the future All-Star to 33-percent shooting (0-8 from the outside) and forcing seven turnovers on the night. He was a communications major at Maryland.

ABQ THUNDERBIRDS

G	GS	MIN	FGM	FGA	Pct.	3PM	3PA	Pct.	FTM	FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	REB	Avg.	AST	PF	TO	BS	ST	PTS	Avg.
2	2	80	25	45	0.556	4	8	0.500	13	20	0.650	2	5	7	3.5	7	8	12	2	5	67	33.5



#11 DARVIN HAM- FORWARD



Selected by: Albuquerque Thunderbirds
Round: 1 - 2007 Draft
Pick (Overall): 3 (3)

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COLLEGE/YEAR	LAST PLAYED
6-7	230	Texas Tech '96	Dallas Mavericks (NBA - 07)

Pro Career Highlights: Played with six teams in the NBA from 1996-97 to 2004-05. Participated in NBA training camp with the Dallas Mavericks in the fall of 2007. Participated in NBA training camp with the New Jersey Nets in the fall of 2006. Played with Maratonistas de Coamo in Puerto Rico in the summer of 2006, averaging 11.3 points and 5.0 rebounds in three games. Spent the 2005-06 season with Talk N Text Phone Pals in the Philippines (statistics unavailable). Spent the 2004-05 season in the NBA with the Detroit Pistons, averaging 1.8 points and 1.7 rebounds. With the Pistons in 2003-04, averaged 1.8 points and 1.7 rebounds in 54 games. With the Atlanta Hawks in 2002-03, averaged 2.4 points and 2.0 rebounds in 75 games. With the Milwaukee Bucks in 2001-02, averaged 4.3 points and 2.9 rebounds in 70 games. With the Bucks in 2000-01 he averaged 3.8 points and 4.2 rebounds in 29 games. With the Bucks in 1999-00, averaged 5.1 points and 4.9 rebounds in 35 games. Spent the 1998-99 season in Spain with Granada, averaging 11.7 points and 7.0 rebounds in 12 games. With the Washington Bullets in the NBA in 1997-98, averaged 2.0 points and 1.8 rebounds in 71 games. Split his rookie season in the NBA with the Denver Nuggets and Indiana Pacers, averaging 2.3 points and 1.6 rebounds in 36 total games. Played in the USBL in the summer of 2006 with the Jacksonville Barracudas and the Florida Sharks, averaging 7.2 points and 5.0 rebounds in 24 total games.

ABQ THUNDERBIRDS

G	GS	MIN	FGM	FGA	Pct.	3PM	3PA	Pct.	FTM	FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	REB	Avg.	AST	PF	TO	BS	ST	PTS	Avg.
10	8	291	32	66	0.485	0	0	0.000	18	39	0.462	20	38	58	5.8	15	42	26	7	14	82	8.2

FEEL THE THUNDER!



#14 ELIJAH INGRAM - GUARD

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COLLEGE/YEAR	LAST PLAYED
5-11	166	New Mexico State	New Mexico State (NCAA)

College Highlights (UMS) In his first season with the Aggies Ingram adjusted quickly to his new environment as he was named second team All-WAC and to the All-WAC Newcomer Team. Ingram played in 29 of the Aggies' 30 games last year while making 27 starts at the guard position. Ingram ranked second on the team and 14th in the WAC in scoring, averaging 13.4 points per game while helping the Aggies tie for the fifth-best turnaround in all of Division I men's basketball.

Personal: The son of Carrie Ingram. He is majoring in Family & Child Sciences at New Mexico State University.

ABQ THUNDERBIRDS

G	GS	MIN	FGM	FGA	Pct.	3PM	3PA	Pct.	FTM	FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	REB	Avg.	AST	PF	TO	BS	ST	PTS	Avg.
4	0	68	6	19	0.316	4	7	0.571	3	3	1.000	1	4	5	1.3	8	4	6	0	3	19	4.8



Selected by: Albuquerque Thunderbirds
 Round: 6 - 2007 Draft
 Pick (Overall): 12 (82)



#17 ALI BERDIEL - GUARD

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COLLEGE/YEAR	LAST PLAYED
6-5	200	Valparaiso '06	Puerto Rican U21 National Team

College Highlights: Earned Second Team All-Mid-Continent honors as a junior. Berdiel was a member of the Puerto Rican U21 National Team. In 2006 he averaged 8.4 points, 3.4 rebounds, and 3.8 assists. Scored in double figures 13 times. Recorded season high 25 points vs. Oakland. Berdiel tallied 15 points and seven assists vs. IUPUI. Scored 16 points and dished out four assists vs. Oral Roberts. He registered ten points and a season-high eight assists vs. Indiana-South Bend.

Personal: Majored in finance and marketing.

ABQ THUNDERBIRDS

G	GS	MIN	FGM	FGA	Pct.	3PM	3PA	Pct.	FTM	FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	REB	Avg.	AST	PF	TO	BS	ST	PTS	Avg.
10	1	271	25	67	0.373	4	20	0.200	20	27	0.741	9	25	34	3.4	54	22	26	4	11	74	7.4



Selected by: Albuquerque Thunderbirds
 Round: 2 - 2007 Draft
 Pick (Overall): 12 (26)



#18 DANIEL HORTON - GUARD

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COLLEGE/YEAR	LAST PLAYED
6-3	200	Michigan '06	Deltalcon APOEL Nicosia (Cyprus)

Pro Career Highlights: After going undrafted the 2006 NBA draft, he was signed by the Miami Heat during the 2006 preseason, but was waived before the start of the regular season. On July 9, 2006 he again signed for Miami Heat. He played only one game in the beginning he was waived by the heat in October, and then moved to Turkey. Played with Deltalcon APOEL Nicosia in Cyprus at the start of the 2007-08 season before making the decision to return home (statistics unavailable). Started the 2006-07 season in Turkey with Pinar Karsiyaka SK Izmir, averaging 10.8 points, 2.4 rebounds, and 2.5 assists in eight games. Finished the year with the Los Angeles D-Fenders in the NBA Developmental League, averaging 5.7 points, 1.9 rebounds, and 1.8 assists in 14 games. Participated in NBA training camp with the Miami Heat in the fall of 2006.

ABQ THUNDERBIRDS

G	GS	MIN	FGM	FGA	Pct.	3PM	3PA	Pct.	FTM	FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	REB	Avg.	AST	PF	TO	BS	ST	PTS	Avg.
7	4	187	40	87	0.460	16	31	0.516	18	23	0.783	5	15	20	2.9	18	13	15	1	9	114	16.3

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Selected by: Albuquerque Thunderbirds
 Round: 9 - 2007 Draft
 Pick (Overall): 3 (115)



#22 RAMON DYER - FORWARD

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COLLEGE/YEAR	LAST PLAYED
6-7	200	HOUSTON '06	University of Houston (NCCA)

College Highlights: Named Second Team All-Conference USA as a senior. Started 69 of 100 career games. As a Senior he averaged 12.1 points, a team-high 6.1 rebounds, 1.1 blocked shots, and 1.8 steals. Started 27 of 31 games. Posted five double-doubles. Posted 12 points, 12 rebounds, and a career-high six blocked shots vs. Marshall. Recorded 16 points and five rebounds vs. Missouri State in the second round of the post-season NIT.

ABQ THUNDERBIRDS

G	GS	MIN	FGM	FGA	Pct.	3PM	3PA	Pct.	FTM	FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	REB	Avg.	AST	PF	TO	BS	ST	PTS	Avg.
10	3	28.2	36	87	0.414	9	30	0.300	6	10	0.600	20	44	64	6.4	9	25	8	7	9	8.7	8.7



#23 SERGE ANGOUNOU - FORWARD

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COLLEGE/YEAR	LAST PLAYED
6-8	236	Arizona State '07	BEAC Yaounde (Cameroon)

College Highlights: Started 83 of 103 career games. Posted four 20-point games and ten double-doubles over his four-year career. Redshirted the 2002-03 season while recovering from knee surgery. A local product Angounou attended Rio Grande High School.

Personal: Graduated with a bachelor's degree in Spanish in May of 2006. Is fluent in five languages - English, Spanish, French, Eton, and Bulu. Also practices Karate and Tae Kwon Do.

ABQ THUNDERBIRDS

G	GS	MIN	FGM	FGA	Pct.	3PM	3PA	Pct.	FTM	FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	REB	Avg.	AST	PF	TO	BS	ST	PTS	Avg.
10	0	16.6	18	48	0.375	1	3	0.333	18	24	0.750	16	23	39	3.9	4	24	11	1	4	5.5	5.5



#24 ABDUL MILLS - GUARD

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COLLEGE/YEAR	LAST PLAYED
6-3	190	University of Nebraska - Omaha	InterCollege Etha Engomis (Syria)

Pro Career Highlights: Started the 2007-08 season in Syria with InterCollege Etha Engomis before deciding to return home. He had a strong season at Milford Academy where he averaged 17.0 points, 7.0 rebounds and 7.5 assists per game....Averaged 22.0 points per game in his final season at Martin Luther King High School.

General: Majored in Social Science. Son of Charles Allen and Rozena Mills; has three brothers, Abdul Tawaub Mills, Kimu Ziths and Deshaun Ziths and two sisters, Ceida Allen and Casheda Allen.

ABQ THUNDERBIRDS

G	GS	MIN	FGM	FGA	Pct.	3PM	3PA	Pct.	FTM	FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	REB	Avg.	AST	PF	TO	BS	ST	PTS	Avg.
10	8	29.2	25	76	0.329	12	32	0.375	22	33	0.667	7	17	24	2.4	3.3	20	20	0	13	8.4	8.4

FEEL THE THUNDER!



Selected by: [Albuquerque Thunderbirds](#)
 Round: 5 – 2007 Draft
 Pick (Overall): 3 (59)



#32 EJIKE UGBOAJA – FORWARD / CENTER

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COLLEGE/YEAR	LAST PLAYED
6-9	225	Nigeria	Kager Gdynia (<i>Poland</i>)

Pro Career Highlights: Started the 2006-07 season with Kager Gdynia in Poland, averaging 4.0 points and 3.0 rebounds in four games. Finished the year in Cyprus with Deltalcon APOEL Nicosia (statistics unavailable). Participated in NBA summer league with the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2006. Selected by the Cleveland Cavaliers in the second round (55th pick overall) of the 2006 NBA Draft. Played the 2005-06 season for Union Bank Lagos in the Nigeria Premier League

Played in the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, averaging 15.4 points and 9.8 rebounds, earning All-Tournament Second Team honors. Member of the Nigerian National Team. Participated in the Under-21 World Championships in Argentina. Member of the Nigerian Under 21 National Team. Participated in the Under-18 World Championships in Greece in 2003, averaging 5.3 points and 5.5 rebounds. Won a gold medal at the Under-18 African Championships in 2002. Played for the Nigerian Under-18 National Team.

ABQ THUNDERBIRDS

G	GS	MIN	FGM	FGA	Pct.	3PM	3PA	Pct.	FTM	FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	REB	Avg.	AST	PF	TO	BS	ST	PTS	Avg.
10	4	116	14	33	0.424	0	1	0.000	2	6	0.333	11	19	30	3.0	3	26	8	2	3	30	3.0



Selected by: [Albuquerque Thunderbirds](#)
 Round: 3 – 2007 Draft
 Pick (Overall): 3 (31)



#34 JAMES SMITH - CENTER

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COLLEGE/YEAR	LAST PLAYED
7-0	250	Marist '07	Algodoneros de La Comarca (<i>Mexico</i>)

Pro Career Highlights: Started the 2007-08 season in Mexico with Algodoneros de La Comarca before deciding to return home.

College Highlights: Finished collegiate career at Marist after playing first two seasons at Westchester Community College in New York. Made a name for himself in his first year in the MAAC, proving a threat both in the paint and beyond the arc for the Red Foxes... Finished the regular season averaging better than 12 points and six rebounds per game for Marist... Led the team in scoring three times and in rebounding seven, tallying four double-doubles on the season and 20 or more points in three contests... Shot 36.9 percent from beyond the three-point arc (24-65)...Ranked among the top ten in the MAAC during the season in rebounds, blocks and defensive rebounding.

ABQ THUNDERBIRDS

G	GS	MIN	FGM	FGA	Pct.	3PM	3PA	Pct.	FTM	FTA	Pct.	OR	DR	REB	Avg.	AST	PF	TO	BS	ST	PTS	Avg.
10	1	173	12	51	0.235	1	18	0.056	10	14	0.714	7	21	28	2.8	4	41	10	5	4	35	3.5



FEEL THE THUNDER!