

<b>SF</b>	<b>Michael Beasley</b>		Hght: 6'10"		Exp: 3		Salary: \$6.3 million		<b>SKILL RATINGS</b>													
			Wght: 235		From: Kansas State		TOT	OFF	DEF	REB	PAS	HND	SHT	ATH								
<b>8</b>			2012-13 status: due qualifying offer of \$8.2 million							+1	+1	-1	+3	0	-3	+1	+1					
Year	Team	Age	G	MPG	Usg	3PA%	FTA%	INS	2P%	3P%	FT%	TS%	Reb%	Ast%	TO%	BLK%	STL%	PF%	oRTG	dRTG	Win%	WARP
08-09	MIA	20.3	81	24.8	.278	.068	.090	1.021	.478	.407	.772	.528	.131	.020	.102	.010	.011	.043	109.3	110.8	.454	1.6
09-10	MIA	21.3	78	29.8	.260	.080	.083	1.003	.469	.275	.800	.505	.125	.020	.103	.017	.018	.045	108.0	109.1	.464	2.3
10-11	MIN	22.3	73	32.3	.285	.105	.082	.977	.463	.366	.753	.510	.097	.029	.124	.017	.011	.040	108.1	110.7	.416	0.1
11-12p	MIN	23.3	59	30.0	.265	.110	.082	.973	.490	.366	.781	.538	.108	.026	.108	.019	.013	.039	108.3	108.8	.485	3.2
Most similar to: Joe Smith (98.7), Rudy Gay, Keith Van Horn, Clarence Weatherspoon																	IMP: 65%		BRK: 13%		COP: 0%	

On a superficial level, it was a positive season for Michael Beasley, who started all 73 games and averaged 19.2 points per game, good for 23rd in the NBA. Dig deeper and it becomes clear that Beasley has taken a step backward from where he entered the league in terms of helping his team win games. With the Timberwolves, Beasley almost exclusively played small forward. On the perimeter, many of the skills that made him an elite player at Kansas State are lost. Remarkably, he is now only average as a rebounder.

Beasley did adapt well to handling the basketball on the perimeter. He rarely commits turnovers and has some ability to find teammates. At the same time, he's not quick enough to get into the paint off the dribble on regular basis. That leaves him primarily shooting midrange jumpers, the game's least efficient shots. According to Hoopdata.com, Beasley ranked ninth in the league in attempts per game from 16-23 feet. He shoots them at an above-average percentage, so accuracy is not the problem. It's just that building an offense around long twos is like building a diet around candy--it's not healthy. As a result, Beasley's True Shooting Percentage lags. To make it work, Beasley is going to have to take his game back a step or two and develop three-point range. He did shoot a solid percentage from beyond the arc last season, so there is still hope for his development. SCHOENE is still reasonably optimistic.

<b>SG</b>	<b>Wayne Ellington</b>	Hght: 6'4"	Exp: 2	Salary: \$1.2 million	<b>SKILL RATINGS</b>																	
		Wght: 200	From: North Carolina		TOT	OFF	DEF	REB	PAS	HND	SHT	ATH										
<b>19</b>		2012-13 status: guaranteed contract for \$2.1 million			-2	0	+3	-3	-2	-1	+2	-4										
Year	Team	Age	G	MPG	Usg	3PA%	FTA%	INS	2P%	3P%	FT%	TS%	Reb%	Ast%	TO%	BLK%	STL%	PF%	oRTG	dRTG	Win%	WARP
09-10	MIN	22.4	76	18.2	.175	.293	.056	.763	.441	.395	.871	.527	.065	.023	.134	.003	.007	.023	107.8	112.2	.363	-1.5
10-11	MIN	23.4	62	19.0	.172	.256	.049	.794	.406	.397	.792	.488	.051	.026	.112	.002	.012	.031	106.6	112.0	.334	-2.0
11-12p	MIN	24.4	60	10.0	.172	.349	.056	.706	.431	.421	.829	.545	.052	.028	.116	.003	.010	.027	107.7	110.9	.401	-0.2
Most similar to: Brandon Rush (97.6), Trenton Hassell, Alan Anderson, Allan Houston																	IMP: 62%	BRK: 17%	COP: 5%			

Year two in the NBA saw Wayne Ellington make no discernable development. In fact, he shot worse on two-pointers and free throws, causing his efficiency to tumble. As a result, his career is in danger of stagnating early. Ellington might be more dependent on his three-point shooting than any other player in the league on a single skill. Nowhere else, save avoiding turnovers, is he even average. And Ellington isn't a historically great three-point shooter, like Anthony Morrow. He's very good, which might not be good enough.

To his credit, Ellington did show some growth as a ballhandler, dishing out more assists and turning the ball over less frequently. At the defensive end, he's nearly a complete zero. He's too small to handle most shooting guards or contribute on the glass, and not exceptionally quick either. Ellington also had surprising difficulty last season making shots inside the arc. He rarely got to the rim and made less than half of his attempts once there. Ellington will have to do better to avoid losing minutes starting this season.

<b>SF</b>	<b>Lazar Hayward</b>	Hght: 6'6"	Exp: 1	Salary: \$1.1 million	<b>SKILL RATINGS</b>																	
		Wght: 225	From: Marquette		TOT	OFF	DEF	REB	PAS	HND	SHT	ATH										
<b>11</b>		2012-13 status: team option for \$1.2 million			0	--	-2	--	--	--	--	--										
Year	Team	Age	G	MPG	Usg	3PA%	FTA%	INS	2P%	3P%	FT%	TS%	Reb%	Ast%	TO%	BLK%	STL%	PF%	oRTG	dRTG	Win%	WARP
10-11	MIN	24.4	42	10.0	.196	.313	.097	.783	.404	.283	.786	.464	.094	.029	.099	.013	.014	.045	108.5	110.7	.429	0.1
11-12p	OKC	25.4	61	-	.191	.380	.098	.717	.412	.297	.787	.478	.088	.028	.099	.015	.015	.045	-	-	.447	-
Most similar to: Devean George (99.3), Cartier Martin, Marcus Liberty, Carlos Delfino																	IMP: 55%	BRK: 14%	COP: 4%			

Lazar Hayward was one of Kahn's more curious selections. Experts had the Marquette product pegged as a late second-round pick who would be fairly lucky to be drafted at all. Instead, Kahn took him with the last pick of the first round. Hayward did little to justify that faith as a rookie, playing limited minutes. Kahn moved on quickly, dealing Hayward to Oklahoma City, where he will provide depth at small forward.

A power forward in college, Hayward remains effective on the glass now that he's playing the wing. He hasn't yet figured out how to score at the NBA level, though. He was only average as a three-point shooter from the college line, which translated into sub-30 percent accuracy last season. Hayward still took more than a third of his shots from beyond the arc. He was little better closer to the basket, where his size makes it difficult for him to finish against bigger players. On top of everything else, Hayward was very old when he entered the league after spending four years in college. He turned 25 in November and may already be close to maxing out his potential.

<b>SG</b>	<b>Wesley Johnson</b>	Hght: 6'7"	Exp: 1	Salary: \$4.0 million	<b>SKILL RATINGS</b>																	
		Wght: 205	From: Syracuse		TOT	OFF	DEF	REB	PAS	HND	SHT	ATH										
<b>4</b>		2012-13 status: guaranteed contract for \$4.3 million			-1	0	-2	-1	-1	0	0	-2										
Year	Team	Age	G	MPG	Usg	3PA%	FTA%	INS	2P%	3P%	FT%	TS%	Reb%	Ast%	TO%	BLK%	STL%	PF%	oRTG	dRTG	Win%	WARP
10-11	MIN	23.8	79	26.2	.169	.354	.050	.696	.427	.356	.696	.491	.065	.031	.116	.020	.014	.034	107.7	110.4	.414	-0.1
11-12p	MIN	24.8	61	25.0	.167	.387	.050	.663	.441	.361	.698	.510	.059	.032	.113	.021	.014	.034	107.3	109.3	.437	0.8
Most similar to: Jarvis Hayes (97.4), Eric Washington, Glen Rice, Brandon Rush																	IMP: 55%	BRK: 11%	COP: 2%			

Based on his age and his college performance, Basketball Prospectus was skeptical that Wesley Johnson provided enough upside to be taken with the fourth overall pick. Even the biggest Johnson doubter conceded he would likely contribute right away. Instead, he had a forgettable rookie season, rating right at replacement level. It didn't help Johnson's transition that he played out of position at shooting guard. Johnson is naturally a small forward and played some four at Syracuse. The Timberwolves' desperate need for floor spacing left him beyond the arc much of the time, and Johnson is only average as a three-point shooter. Nearly all of the two-pointers Johnson took were from the perimeter, so his percentage suffered there too.

What is especially disappointing is that Johnson's forward skills did not translate. He was worse than the average shooting guard on the glass, which is problematic for a 6-7 converted small forward. About the only place his height helped him was in terms of blocking the shots of smaller players. Johnson showed relatively little athleticism in transition and was mostly invisible on offense. He can still improve from here, but the situation doesn't figure to get any better for him with the arrival of Derrick Williams.

<b>SG</b>	<b>Malcolm Lee</b>	Hght: 6'5"	Exp: R	Salary: \$0.5 million	<b>SKILL RATINGS</b>																	
		Wght: 197	From: UCLA		TOT	OFF	DEF	REB	PAS	HND	SHT	ATH										
<b>1</b>		2012-13 status: guaranteed contract for \$0.8 million			-5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--										
Year	Team	Age	G	MPG	Usg	3PA%	FTA%	INS	2P%	3P%	FT%	TS%	Reb%	Ast%	TO%	BLK%	STL%	PF%	oRTG	dRTG	Win%	WARP
11-12p	MIN	21.9	61	-	.146	.238	.104	.866	.437	.254	.762	.473	.040	.027	.127	.003	.008	.049	-	-	.282	-
Most similar to: Wayne Ellington (93.3), Maurice Williams, Antoine Wright, Casey Jacobsen																	IMP: -	BRK: -	COP: -			

After Jrue Holiday, Malcolm Lee was considered the second major coup in UCLA's touted 2008 recruiting class. He was rated the consensus No. 20 prospect in the country coming out of high school and earned NBA lottery hype. The marriage never worked out quite so well for either Lee or the Bruins. Forced to play point guard much of his sophomore season, he struggled badly and UCLA missed the NCAA Tournament. Lee and the team did both bounce back last year, when the arrival of Lazeric Jones allowed him to move off the ball. He chose the NBA Draft over his senior season and was taken by Minnesota in the second round. He got a three-year contract, all of it apparently guaranteed.

Defensively, Lee can contribute in the NBA. Though his size is no longer the strength it was in college, he has legitimate stopper ability and quick feet. Like many of his fellow Timberwolves guards, Lee has to figure out how to score efficiently. He knocked down less than 30 percent of his three-point attempts in college and was nothing special as a finisher. Lee was able to boost his True Shooting Percentage by getting to the free throw line more than four times a night. Earning that same kind of respect from referees as a rookie will be difficult. Working in Lee's favor is the tendency for UCLA products to play better as pros than their college stats would indicate.

<b>PF</b>	<b>Kevin Love</b>	Hght: 6'10"	Exp: 3	Salary: \$4.6 million	<b>SKILL RATINGS</b>																		
		Wght: 260	From: UCLA		TOT	OFF	DEF	REB	PAS	HND	SHT	ATH											
<b>42</b>		2012-13 status: due qualifying offer of \$6.1 million			+5	+5	+2	+5	+4	+2	0	+2											
Year	Team	Age	G	MPG	Usg	3PA%	FTA%	INS	2P%	3P%	FT%	TS%	Reb%	Ast%	TO%	BLK%	STL%	PF%	oRTG	dRTG	Win%	WARP	
08-09	MIN	20.6	81	25.3	.211	.020	.155	1.135	.469	.105	.789	.538	.212	.019	.124	.013	.009	.045	111.6	109.9	.555	5.9	
09-10	MIN	21.6	60	28.6	.226	.120	.137	1.017	.474	.330	.815	.549	.216	.035	.132	.010	.012	.035	113.8	109.1	.643	8.1	
10-11	MIN	22.6	73	35.8	.230	.151	.157	1.006	.483	.417	.850	.593	.239	.030	.111	.008	.008	.024	115.7	108.3	.715	16.3	
11-12p	MIN	23.6	58	36.0	.230	.110	.151	1.041	.481	.361	.839	.574	.204	.034	.123	.010	.030	.010	.030	113.1	107.9	.657	13.1
Most similar to: Larry Johnson (94.4), Elton Brand, Chris Bosh, Carlos Boozer																	IMP: 50%	BRK: 0%	COP: 4%				

In the wake of his breakthrough campaign, Kevin Love’s difficulty winning playing time from Kurt Rambis seems sillier in hindsight than it did at the time. Love announced his presence with a 31-point, 31-rebound November effort against the New York Knicks, the NBA’s first 30-30 game since dinosaurs roamed the Earth Moses Malone in 1982. He kept piling up the rebounds and scoring efficiently en route to the first of what promises to be many All-Star berths.

As good as Love’s conventional stats were, his advanced numbers might be even better. Love added a three-point dimension to his game, making him more efficient as a scorer. With his bruising screens and soft touch, Love has become one of the league’s better pick-and-pop options. He also creates plenty of opportunities for himself with the league’s second-best offensive rebound percentage. Love’s post-up game is still in development, and he may never be elite in the post because of his height. He can be more effective from the high post, picking out cutters and making defenses pay for straying too far from him.

There is still work for Love to do at the defensive end. He is better statistically than his reputation, doing an especially good job against roll men in the pick-and-roll. Still, Love struggles one-on-one against long, athletic players like Portland’s LaMarcus Aldridge and the Timberwolves were better defensively with him on the bench. Love led the league in defensive rebound percentage, but it is unclear whether he really had as much impact there since Minnesota was only average on the defensive glass.

<b>C</b>	<b>Darko Milicic</b>	Hght: 7'0"	Exp: 8	Salary: \$4.8 million	<b>SKILL RATINGS</b>																	
		Wght: 275	From: Novi Sad, Serbia		TOT	OFF	DEF	REB	PAS	HND	SHT	ATH										
<b>31</b>		2012-13 status: guaranteed contract for \$5.2 million			-1	-4	+1	-3	+3	+1	0	+3										
Year	Team	Age	G	MPG	Usg	3PA%	FTA%	INS	2P%	3P%	FT%	TS%	Reb%	Ast%	TO%	BLK%	STL%	PF%	oRTG	dRTG	Win%	WARP
08-09	MEM	23.8	61	17.0	.164	.000	.128	1.128	.515	.000	.562	.533	.158	.016	.133	.026	.011	.061	108.2	109.5	.457	0.9
09-10	MIN	24.8	32	21.4	.161	.004	.049	1.045	.493	.000	.536	.497	.124	.030	.139	.037	.016	.053	106.6	108.9	.428	0.2
10-11	MIN	25.8	69	24.4	.198	.000	.065	1.065	.469	-	.557	.482	.119	.026	.194	.063	.016	.058	104.9	107.5	.413	-0.1
11-12p	MIN	26.8	59	24.0	.173	.003	.074	1.071	.498	.004	.550	.507	.116	.027	.171	.050	.014	.056	104.9	107.5	.416	0.0
Most similar to: Luc Longley (96.5), Nenê Hilario, Adonal Foyle, John Salley																	IMP: 49%	BRK: 4%	COP: 5%			

During his second season as a full-time starter, Darko Milicic made it clear that he is not, in fact, “manna from heaven.” He is a solid backup center who is exposed in larger minutes. The addition of Anthony Randolph may put Milicic back in that role.

The Timberwolves made Milicic post-ups a regular part of their offense, resulting in his highest usage since his human victory cigar days in Detroit. At times, Milicic looks like a quality post scorer with his size and a lefty hook. Over the long run, he just doesn’t score efficiently enough to justify frequent touches, even factoring in his solid passing from the post. Milicic is better at the defensive end of the floor. Playing with Love helped hide his greatest weakness, which is defensive rebounding. Milicic is stout in the post and a strong shot blocker. He improved his block rate last season, which was his best since 2005-06, and did so without committing more fouls.

<b>C</b>	<b>Brad Miller</b>	Hght: 7'0"	Exp: 13	Salary: \$4.8 million	<b>SKILL RATINGS</b>																	
		Wght: 261	From: Purdue		TOT	OFF	DEF	REB	PAS	HND	SHT	ATH										
<b>52</b>		2012-13 status: non-guaranteed contract for \$5.1 million			+2	+2	+1	-4	+5	+5	0	+2										
Year	Team	Age	G	MPG	Usg	3PA%	FTA%	INS	2P%	3P%	FT%	TS%	Reb%	Ast%	TO%	BLK%	STL%	PF%	oRTG	dRTG	Win%	WARP
08-09	CHI	33.0	70	30.0	.185	.065	.139	1.074	.482	.411	.824	.566	.151	.050	.151	.009	.012	.048	111.7	110.6	.535	5.2
09-10	CHI	34.0	82	23.8	.182	.168	.123	.955	.474	.280	.827	.530	.113	.036	.136	.011	.011	.044	108.8	110.5	.447	1.2
10-11	HOU	35.0	60	16.9	.171	.273	.106	.832	.487	.374	.830	.566	.124	.064	.138	.014	.014	.043	111.5	109.4	.567	3.2
11-12p	MIN	36.0	43	12.0	.156	.233	.107	.873	.489	.342	.825	.555	.106	.055	.145	.015	.013	.046	109.2	109.3	.498	1.1
Most similar to: Christian Laettner (97.2), Vlade Divac, Bill Laimbeer, Detlef Schrempf																	IMP: 30%	BRK: 0%	COP: 4%			

Who says an old Brad Miller can’t learn new tricks? At 34, Miller made a career-high 40 three-pointers, knocking them down at a strong 37.4 percent clip. The added dimension made Miller a more efficient scorer and helped him in his role as almost exclusively a high-post center. Reunited with Rick Adelman, Miller also posted the best assist rate of his career, one better than any non-point guard on the 2010-11 Minnesota roster.

After the season, Miller underwent microfracture surgery on his left knee, which will likely keep him out until at least the middle of January. Because of the injury and their coaching change, the Rockets found Miller expendable, and dealt him to the Timberwolves on draft night. That proved fortunate when Minnesota hired Adelman months later. Miller has enjoyed his most successful seasons playing in Adelman’s system, which makes good use of a center who can pass and shoot. Miller probably will not be at 100 percent in 2012-13, but in the long term microfracture might not slow him down. After all, Miller has never relied on his quickness. If it poses a problem, it will be at the defensive end trying to guard quicker, younger players.

<b>C</b>	<b>Nikola Pekovic</b>	Hght: 6'11"	Exp: 1	Salary: \$4.6 million	<b>SKILL RATINGS</b>																	
		Wght: 243	From: Montenegro		TOT	OFF	DEF	REB	PAS	HND	SHT	ATH										
<b>14</b>		2012-13 status: guaranteed contract for \$4.9 million			-4	--	0	--	--	--	--	--										
Year	Team	Age	G	MPG	Usg	3PA%	FTA%	INS	2P%	3P%	FT%	TS%	Reb%	Ast%	TO%	BLK%	STL%	PF%	oRTG	dRTG	Win%	WARP
10-11	MIN	25.3	65	13.6	.195	.000	.124	1.124	.517	-	.763	.573	.121	.013	.225	.030	.010	.087	107.0	111.6	.356	-1.1
11-12p	MIN	26.3	58	5.0	.180	.000	.118	1.118	.528	.000	.754	.585	.113	.013	.214	.032	.011	.088	106.2	110.4	.367	-0.4
Most similar to: Melvin Ely (96.0), Eric Leckner, Vitaly Potapenko, Rafael Araujo																	IMP: 59%	BRK: 12%	COP: 6%			

While Nikola Pekovic wasn’t exactly a household name before coming to the NBA, international fans were excited about his prospects to help the Timberwolves based on his impressive Euroleague track record. His translated numbers suggested Pekovic would be a league-average player right away. Based on those expectations, his rookie season was a disappointment.

As advertised, Pekovic was a high-percentage shooter. He does a good job of creating space around the basket to produce good looks in the paint. His problem was about everything else. Scouting reports suggested that Pekovic would have a tough time defending NBA athletes, and that proved the case. He’s stone-footed defensively and got beaten regularly by quicker players. It doesn’t help that Pekovic is poor on the defensive glass because of his inability to rebound out of his area. The biggest surprise was how frequently Pekovic turned the ball over, which was not a major issue in Europe. According to 82games.com, he committed 32 offensive fouls in 887 minutes--one every other game.

The good news for Pekovic is that European players often are much more successful in their second seasons as they adjust to the NBA style of play. The bad news is he faces a lot more competition for playing time in the frontcourt. Pekovic returned to his old Serbian club, Partizan Belgrade, during the lockout. The stint was noteworthy mostly for the fact that Pekovic threw up on the scorer’s table in the middle of a game.

<b>C</b>	<b>Anthony Randolph</b>	Hght: 6'10"	Exp: 3	Salary: \$2.9 million	<b>SKILL RATINGS</b>																	
		Wght: 210	From: Louisiana State		TOT	OFF	DEF	REB	PAS	HND	SHT	ATH										
<b>15</b>		2012-13 status: due qualifying offer of \$4.0 million			+3	0	-1	-1	+3	0	-1	+4										
Year	Team	Age	G	MPG	Usg	3PA%	FTA%	INS	2P%	3P%	FT%	TS%	Reb%	Ast%	TO%	BLK%	STL%	PF%	oRTG	dRTG	Win%	WARP
08-09	GSW	19.8	63	17.9	.218	.007	.108	1.101	.466	.000	.716	.506	.175	.019	.140	.031	.018	.054	108.9	107.9	.532	2.7
09-10	GSW	20.8	33	22.7	.240	.012	.143	1.131	.447	.200	.801	.521	.160	.024	.117	.049	.018	.053	109.8	107.3	.578	2.5
10-11	MIN	21.8	40	14.8	.259	.011	.107	1.095	.469	.250	.674	.505	.153	.024	.149	.031	.018	.045	106.8	107.7	.470	0.7
11-12p	MIN	22.8	58	20.0	.252	.020	.127	1.107	.481	.206	.730	.531	.142	.027	.130	.039	.018	.047	107.8	106.7	.537	3.6
Most similar to: Tyrus Thomas (98.1), Shawn Kemp, Tony Battie, Andray Blatche																	IMP: 65%	BRK: 8%	COP: 2%			

Anthony Randolph is entering his fourth NBA season and his third pegged as a breakout candidate. Statistical analysts can't quit Randolph. Just as he seemed to have lost support by flaming out in New York, Randolph delivered a series of encouraging performances late in the season after being traded to Minnesota at the deadline. With Kevin Love and Darko Milicic out of the lineup, Randolph got big minutes and averaged 19.8 points and 6.6 rebounds over the last five games. The story of Randolph's career is that he has been productive whenever he has seen extended action. It's been convincing coaches to keep him on the floor that has been the challenge. The sense at season's end was that Randolph might enter training camp as the likely starter at center, but that was before the Timberwolves hired Rick Adelman, who might not take kindly to Randolph's inconsistent focus.

As a frontcourt partner for Kevin Love, Randolph makes a lot of sense. He brings length and shot blocking to the frontcourt, while Love can handle more physical post players that give the lanky Randolph trouble. On offense, Randolph is still figuring out how to use his tools. He's a surprisingly good midrange shooter when he gets his feet set. Randolph's problem is taking too many jumpers off the dribble or off balance, which is symptomatic of terrible shot selection. He is decent around the basket and can have success rolling to the basket in a pick-and-roll.

<b>PG</b>	<b>Luke Ridnour</b>	Hght: 6'2"	Exp: 8	Salary: \$3.7 million	<b>SKILL RATINGS</b>																	
		Wght: 175	From: Oregon		TOT	OFF	DEF	REB	PAS	HND	SHT	ATH										
<b>13</b>		2012-13 status: guaranteed contract for \$4.0 million			+1	+2	-1	-2	+1	+2	+1	0										
Year	Team	Age	G	MPG	Usg	3PA%	FTA%	INS	2P%	3P%	FT%	TS%	Reb%	Ast%	TO%	BLK%	STL%	PF%	oRTG	dRTG	Win%	WARP
08-09	MIL	28.2	72	28.2	.181	.192	.082	.890	.420	.350	.869	.500	.065	.081	.157	.004	.023	.044	110.1	110.7	.482	2.8
09-10	MIL	29.2	82	21.5	.221	.212	.072	.860	.513	.381	.907	.570	.048	.084	.124	.003	.016	.047	113.7	111.7	.561	5.3
10-11	MIN	30.2	71	30.4	.178	.205	.067	.862	.479	.440	.883	.567	.052	.076	.176	.004	.020	.029	110.3	110.8	.485	3.2
11-12p	MIN	31.2	60	7.2	.185	.199	.069	.871	.477	.402	.881	.552	.048	.074	.148	.005	.019	.039	109.2	109.9	.479	0.7
Most similar to: Kenny Anderson (98.7), Jay Humphries, Johnny Dawkins, Travis Best																	IMP: 45%	BRK: 5%	COP: 7%			

Of the point guards the Timberwolves have tried the last two seasons, Luke Ridnour was easily the best fit for the triangle. The last two seasons have seen him develop into a dangerous outside shooter. He set career highs for three-pointers and three-point percentage in 2010-11, providing floor spacing that was in short supply elsewhere on the Minnesota roster. Still, Ridnour will surely appreciate a return to a more traditional offense and increased pick-and-roll opportunities.

Ridnour is blessed with excellent court vision. At the NBA level, he has not always been able to take advantage of his ability to see the floor because he has a difficult time penetrating on the dribble. His improved jumper has helped in this regard, forcing teammates to pay him more attention on pick-and-rolls and opening up passing lanes. Defensively, Ridnour's willingness to battle helps make up for his lack of size and strength, though his frame still works against him and he does not move well laterally. Ridnour is right on the cusp between starter and reserve, but vastly overqualified for his new role as third point guard after the Timberwolves added both Ricky Rubio and Jose Barea.

<b>PG</b>	<b>Ricky Rubio</b>	Hght: 6'4"	Exp: R	Salary: \$3.5 million	<b>SKILL RATINGS</b>																	
		Wght: 180	From: Spain		TOT	OFF	DEF	REB	PAS	HND	SHT	ATH										
<b>9</b>		2012-13 status: guaranteed contract for \$3.7 million			+3	+3	-4	+4	+4	+3	-5	+4										
Year	Team	Age	G	MPG	Usg	3PA%	FTA%	INS	2P%	3P%	FT%	TS%	Reb%	Ast%	TO%	BLK%	STL%	PF%	oRTG	dRTG	Win%	WARP
11-12p	MIN	21.5	61	28.0	.163	.296	.159	.862	.367	.257	.875	.504	.072	.103	.204	.001	.025	.049	109.9	109.3	.519	4.6
Most similar to: Sergio Rodriguez (89.2), Russell Westbrook, Shaun Livingston, Sebastian Telfair																	IMP: 67%	BRK: 7%	COP: 13%			

How long did the Timberwolves wait for Ricky Rubio's arrival? Long enough for him to be hyped as the next great point guard and then torn down when his play stagnated in Europe. Despite the wait, or possibly because of it, Rubio's decision to sign with Minnesota created Rubio-mania in the Twin Cities. His debut is probably more anticipated than any other rookie in the NBA this season.

For most American fans, Rubio is a mystery. His only mainstream exposure has come in limited minutes for the Spanish National Team. Even those who have watched him with Regal FC Barcelona the last two seasons have come away with mixed conclusions. Rubio's role for Barcelona in 2010-11 was to make the first pass in the offense and then space the floor, which is about the opposite of how he is best utilized individually. It's unclear whether Rubio was misused or failed to earn more opportunities.

What we know about Rubio, based on observation and the numbers, is that he is best with the ball in his hands and thrives in a pick-and-roll offense. Rubio sees passes other players don't and is unselfish almost to a fault. Like Rajon Rondo, he will sometimes pass up an easy shot attempt to make a more difficult pass. Rubio's outside shot was up and down, and when FIBA moved the three-point line back last season, it had a major impact on his accuracy. The larger issue has been Rubio's finishing; his translated two-point percentage would be among the league's worst. Besides passing, Rubio's strengths include excellent rebounding from the point and racking up steals. Whether he is physically capable of dealing with NBA point guards is an open question.

<b>PF</b>	<b>Anthony Tolliver</b>	Hght: 6'9"	Exp: 3	Salary: \$2.1 million	<b>SKILL RATINGS</b>																	
		Wght: 243	From: Creighton		TOT	OFF	DEF	REB	PAS	HND	SHT	ATH										
<b>44</b>		2012-13 status: free agent			+3	+3	+3	-2	+2	+5	+4	-1										
Year	Team	Age	G	MPG	Usg	3PA%	FTA%	INS	2P%	3P%	FT%	TS%	Reb%	Ast%	TO%	BLK%	STL%	PF%	oRTG	dRTG	Win%	WARP
08-09	SAS	23.9	19	10.9	.179	.537	.058	.521	.417	.220	.500	.375	.117	.040	.092	.003	.013	.037	109.0	111.4	.424	0.0
09-10	GSW	24.9	46	31.0	.167	.274	.106	.832	.481	.329	.769	.531	.126	.026	.083	.017	.011	.039	110.4	110.2	.504	2.6
10-11	MIN	25.9	65	21.0	.132	.274	.137	.863	.475	.409	.802	.585	.121	.026	.117	.016	.010	.046	110.5	110.6	.496	2.3
11-12p	MIN	26.9	58	10.0	.141	.351	.125	.774	.482	.400	.786	.587	.108	.026	.103	.016	.010	.041	110.0	109.5	.516	1.5
Most similar to: Scott Padgett (97.4), Tod Murphy, Brian Cook, Mark Alarie																	IMP: 57%	BRK: 9%	COP: 9%			

In his second full season, 25-year-old Anthony Tolliver qualified as a reliable veteran for the 2010-11 Timberwolves. Coming off the bench, Tolliver supplied perimeter shooting and was one of Minnesota's best defensive players. At \$2.2 million in the first season of a two-year contract, that made him a bargain.

Tolliver's best skill is his shooting range. His three-point accuracy was largely responsible for his high True Shooting Percentage last season. Minnesota liked to use Tolliver as a pick-and-pop option, and he also provided some of the floor spacing the Timberwolves did not get from their forwards. He's comfortable handling the ball on the perimeter and is a good passer for a big man. Defensively, Tolliver has good instincts, which stood out in the Minnesota frontcourt. He rarely blocks shots but is willing to take a charge.

<b>SF</b>	<b>Martell Webster</b>	Hght: 6'7"	Exp: 6	Salary: \$5.3 million	<b>SKILL RATINGS</b>																	
		Wght: 235	From: Seattle Prep HS (WA)		TOT	OFF	DEF	REB	PAS	HND	SHT	ATH										
<b>5</b>		2012-13 status: partially-guaranteed contract for \$5.7 million			+1	+2	-1	-3	-3	-2	+3	-1										
Year	Team	Age	G	MPG	Usg	3PA%	FTA%	INS	2P%	3P%	FT%	TS%	Reb%	Ast%	TO%	BLK%	STL%	PF%	oRTG	dRTG	Win%	WARP
08-09	POR	22.4	1	5.0	.095	1.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	101.0	114.3	.151	0.0
09-10	POR	23.4	82	24.5	.183	.433	.089	.656	.440	.373	.813	.543	.083	.015	.078	.016	.012	.037	110.0	110.5	.485	2.8
10-11	MIN	24.4	46	23.8	.177	.292	.119	.827	.466	.417	.770	.575	.076	.021	.128	.006	.012	.040	109.5	111.4	.440	0.6
11-12p	MIN	25.4	55	15.0	.178	.369	.117	.747	.463	.400	.785	.581	.071	.019	.108	.011	.012	.037	109.1	110.0	.474	1.2

October back surgery cost Martell Webster the season’s first 24 games. Once he returned, Webster was Minnesota’s second-best wing, yet the team was far worse with him on the court. This can be traced to Kurt Rambis’ bizarre rotation. Instead of starting Webster at shooting guard to space the floor, Rambis used him off the bench at small forward alongside fellow perimeter specialist Wayne Ellington, making their skills somewhat redundant. Back issues also lingered for Webster, who had a second microdiscectomy in late September but was still not ready to play when training camps opened two and a half months later.

Webster’s three-point percentage was a career high, and it powered far and away the best True Shooting Percentage he has posted. If anything, Webster could stand to take more threes than he did last season and fewer long two-pointers (he shot 39.0 percent from 16-23 feet, per Hoopdata.com). For a shooting guard, Webster is only adequate as a ballhandler, and his turnover rate went up last year when he was asked to make more plays. Webster has developed into a quality defender at either wing position. He’s better as a two, because he gives up size to most small forwards.

<b>PF</b>	<b>Derrick Williams</b>	Hght: 6'9"	Exp: R	Salary: \$4.6 million	<b>SKILL RATINGS</b>																	
		Wght: 250	From: Arizona		TOT	OFF	DEF	REB	PAS	HND	SHT	ATH										
<b>7</b>		2012-13 status: guaranteed contract for \$4.9 million			+1	+3	-4	0	-1	-4	+3	+3										
Year	Team	Age	G	MPG	Usg	3PA%	FTA%	INS	2P%	3P%	FT%	TS%	Reb%	Ast%	TO%	BLK%	STL%	PF%	oRTG	dRTG	Win%	WARP
11-12p	MIN	20.9	61	24.0	.203	.099	.171	1.071	.495	.491	.732	.597	.131	.017	.160	.011	.012	.063	109.6	110.1	.482	2.5
Most similar to: J.J. Hickson (95.4), Brandon Bass, Ryan Anderson, Mike Miller																	IMP: -	BRK: -	COP: -			

Entering 2010-11, Derrick Williams wasn’t considered one of the consensus 10 best returning NCAA prospects (as compiled in our sister publication, *College Basketball Prospectus*). By the end of his sophomore season, he had established himself near the top of the draft board as arguably the country’s most productive collegian. Despite the fact that he doesn’t fill a need, Williams was too good for the Timberwolves to pass on with the No. 2 overall pick.

As a freshman, Williams dominated the paint, using his quickness and soft touch to shoot a high percentage from the field and get to the free throw line. Last season, he added an outside element to his game. Taking advantage of the space defenders accorded him, Williams knocked down a remarkable 56.8 percent of his three-pointers. Add in nearly nine free throw attempts a night and Williams scored with an efficiency usually reserved for specialists, not go-to players.

The improved perimeter game will help Williams in the pros. He’s a bit undersized for a power forward, though smaller players have succeeded at the position. Williams is a very good rebounder who picked his spots on defense, in part to avoid foul trouble. Despite an ordinary block rate, he came up with a pair of game-saving blocks last season, one in the NCAA Tournament. Because of Kevin Love’s presence, Williams is expected to play both forward positions in Minnesota. The danger is that, like Beasley, Williams will lose what made him so effective in college in the transition to the wing.

<b>SF</b>	<b>Tanguy Ngombo</b>	Hght: 6'6"	Exp: R	Salary: N/A	<b>SKILL RATINGS</b>							
		Wght: 204	From: Brazzaville, Congo		TOT	OFF	DEF	REB	PAS	HND	SHT	ATH
<b>--</b>		2012-13 status: rights held by Timberwolves			--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

NBA teams spend hundreds of thousands of dollars scouting for the NBA Draft, so it seems inconceivable that a player could falsify his eligibility. Yet that’s what apparently happened with Tanguy Ngombo, who was drafted 57th overall as “Targuy Ngombo” after being discovered playing for Qatar’s National Team by Minnesota scout Pete Philo. (Technically, he was picked by the Dallas Mavericks, who had traded the pick to the Portland Trail Blazers, who sold it to the Timberwolves.) A day later, international blogger sJacas pointed out that Tanguy Ngombo--his real name--had previously been listed by FIBA as 26 years old. That would make Ngombo ineligible for the draft and a free agent.

Ultimately, the league ruled that Minnesota could keep Ngombo’s rights. It’s no longer clear why anyone would be interested in drafting a player who is already near peak age and is not apparently ready to play in the NBA. When Ngombo was believed to be 22, he was a longshot. At 26, he was a wasted draft pick.

Unfortunately for Ngombo, his tumultuous summer continued when he was one of five naturalized Qatari players ruled ineligible for the FIBA Asia Championship. Qatar responded to the decision by having players intentionally foul out of the first three games of the tournament before forfeiting the last two games on the schedule.

<b>SG</b>	<b>Maurice Ager</b>	Hght: 6'5"	Exp: 4	Salary: free agent	<b>SKILL RATINGS</b>																	
		Wght: 202	From: Michigan State		TOT	OFF	DEF	REB	PAS	HND	SHT	ATH										
<b>--</b>		2012-13 status: free agent			-2	-1	0	0	+1	0	+1	-3										
Year	Team	Age	G	MPG	Usg	3PA%	FTA%	INS	2P%	3P%	FT%	TS%	Reb%	Ast%	TO%	BLK%	STL%	PF%	oRTG	dRTG	Win%	WARP
08-09	NJN	25.2	20	4.9	.245	.119	.070	.951	.405	.000	.500	.365	.062	.015	.079	.011	.005	.083	101.4	114.2	.160	-0.5
10-11	MIN	27.2	4	7.3	.221	.267	.000	.733	.429	.750	-	.682	.039	.015	.267	.000	.017	.059	107.2	112.3	.344	0.0
11-12p	AVG	28.2	60	7.3	.163	.296	.091	.795	.455	.387	.688	.538	.065	.039	.163	.004	.012	.033	107.0	110.2	.397	-0.2
Most similar to: David Wingate (98.2), Doug Overton, Raja Bell, Stephen Graham																	IMP: 61%	BRK: 24%	COP: 8%			

After a year’s absence, Maurice Ager returned to the NBA at the start of last season, lasting four games before being waived on Nov. 12. It looks like the career of the former first-round pick may be over, in part because he’s already begun his next role as a music producer. Ager caught on with Konvict Musik, a label founded by Akon, and told TrueHoop over the summer he’s reluctant to give up his fledgling music career for another season in the D-League.

<b>C</b>	<b>Eddy Curry</b>	Hght: 7'0"	Exp: 10	Salary: \$1.4 million	<b>SKILL RATINGS</b>																	
		Wght: 295	From: Thornwood HS (IL)		TOT	OFF	DEF	REB	PAS	HND	SHT	ATH										
<b>34</b>		2012-13 status: free agent			--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--										
Year	Team	Age	G	MPG	Usg	3PA%	FTA%	INS	2P%	3P%	FT%	TS%	Reb%	Ast%	TO%	BLK%	STL%	PF%	oRTG	dRTG	Win%	WARP
08-09	NYK	26.4	3	4.0	.194	.000	.248	1.248	1.00	.000	.333	.753	.189	.000	.376	.000	.000	.182	102.7	115.4	.164	-0.1
09-10	NYK	27.4	7	8.9	.304	.000	.180	1.180	.381	-	.588	.456	.120	.000	.313	.012	.000	.095	97.6	113.9	.103	-0.4

Picking up Eddy Curry's contract was the price to the Timberwolves for adding Anthony Randolph at the deadline. Naturally, Curry did not suit up for Minnesota; he hasn't played an NBA game since Dec. 12, 2009 and has played a total of 74 minutes since the Sonics were still in Seattle. Comeback talk lingered, centered mostly on the possibility of Curry joining the Miami Heat. The Heat finally signed him at the start of training camp. A return would not be unprecedented, but there is little history of a player successfully making it back after such a long absence. Even before his three-year sabbatical, Curry was a below-replacement player. He may still be able to score efficiently around the basket, which was always the strength of his game. What's difficult to imagine is Curry being able to defend any NBA opponent or getting in the kind of shape that would allow him to play regular minutes.

PG	Sebastian Telfair		Hght: 6'0" Exp: 7 Salary: \$1.1 million			SKILL RATINGS																
			Wght: 175 From: Abraham Lincoln HS (Brooklyn, NY)			TOT	OFF	DEF	REB	PAS	HND	SHT	ATH									
31			2012-13 status: free agent			0	+1	-2	-4	+1	0	-1	-1									
Year	Team	Age	G	MPG	Usg	3PA%	FTA%	INS	2P%	3P%	FT%	TS%	Reb%	Ast%	TO%	BLK%	STL%	PF%	oRTG	dRTG	Win%	WARP
08-09	MIN	23.9	75	27.9	.198	.231	.077	.846	.399	.346	.819	.481	.036	.074	.160	.003	.018	.040	109.5	112.5	.405	-0.5
09-10	CLE	24.9	43	15.3	.185	.210	.061	.851	.483	.232	.784	.479	.040	.087	.187	.006	.019	.049	108.5	111.8	.394	-0.3
10-11	MIN	25.9	37	19.2	.200	.235	.080	.844	.423	.359	.733	.497	.043	.067	.193	.003	.017	.039	108.2	111.7	.392	-0.3
11-12p	PHX	26.9	56	15.0	.216	.307	.075	.768	.432	.341	.761	.501	.040	.074	.178	.005	.017	.041	108.4	110.5	.434	0.4
Most similar to: Winston Garland (97.6), Travis Best, Troy Hudson, Jose Juan Barea																	IMP: 50%		BRK: 18%		COP: 9%	

Sebastian Telfair's second stint in Minnesota saw him serve as Luke Ridnour's backup when Jonny Flynn was out of the lineup. Telfair delivered his fifth consecutive sub-replacement season, and sixth in seven years in the NBA. Telfair's .497 True Shooting Percentage was, remarkably, a career high. However, he generated few assists in the Timberwolves' triangle offense and turned the ball over too frequently.

Telfair has probably seen his last multi-year contract in the NBA. Even SCHOENE, which touted Telfair's chances of breaking out as recently as last season, has given up hope, but Telfair still thinks he can contribute to a contender. When asked by CBSsports.com's Benjamin Golliver what he brings to a winning team, Telfair responded, "I bring myself. I bring Sebastian Telfair." He ended up getting a one-year deal from the Suns, where he will serve as the backup to Steve Nash. Even compared to the poor play Phoenix got from Nash's backups last season, that represents a downgrade.