



Offseason Summary:

Our first move was to settle on a primary objective for the offseason together and determine our organizational direction. When we evaluated the Pacers, we saw a small-market team that has historically struggled to be consistent playoff contenders. We agreed our goal would be to lay the foundation for long term success through the NBA Draft, even if it meant a lengthier wait before contention. It was best not to prematurely rush to contend with a young roster just to restart the process in a few years. Our reasoning stemmed from Indiana's poor track record as a free agent destination limiting our flexibility to create a cohesive unit. Focusing on competing free agents would likely result in acquiring players that do not fit our specific vision.

We felt we had a young star in Tyrese Haliburton and planned to retool around him. As a lengthy 22-year-old guard who can facilitate and score with incredible efficiency (50% from the floor and 42% from 3), he is the perfect player to lay our foundation. We determined the best way to build around him was to acquire draft picks so that our scouts could surround him with players that complement his play style. In the short term, we wanted to fill the roster with young players on controllable rookie contracts to provide our array of young players opportunities to develop. If they complement Haliburton, then our foundation is improved; if they don't, we can gauge the market for teams that may value his services more.

Next, we looked to our roster and determined we would actively try to move Myles Turner and Buddy Hield. Although Turner is relatively young at 25-years-old, he didn't quite fit our timeline and concerningly only has one year remaining on his contract before becoming an unrestricted free agent. The thought process was another team looking to contend may value him more and would likely be willing to trade significant draft capital to acquire him. The Dallas Mavericks sent us two 1st round draft picks for Turner along with Dwight Powell, Josh Green, and salary filler. One pick is unprotected in 2027 and the other lightly protected in 2029. Both Mavericks picks conveyed following the expiration of Luka's contract, so we valued them highly. We saw potential in 21-year-old Green and believed Powell, who has played under Coach Carlisle, would be a good veteran presence for our young guys.

Then, we moved Hield to Charlotte in exchange for Gordon Hayward and a 2029 unprotected 1st round pick. We saw Hield as disposable because he far from fit our timeline at 30 years old. We knew Charlotte was actively trying to get below the tax by moving the \$60 million left on Hayward's deal and we had more than enough cap space to absorb it. Charlotte having only 3 playoff appearances in nearly 20 years made this unprotected 1st extremely valuable to us. We also like the idea of Hayward as an Indiana native increasing ticket sales (we were 30th in attendance last year). Additionally, Hayward is an above average shooter and a good veteran presence for our developing guys.

After these two moves, we have twelve 1st round draft picks in the next seven years. Seven of these are our own 1st round picks, which will likely be in the lottery the first few seasons when we are developing young players. We have three 2023 1st round picks, so we can begin building around Haliburton immediately. Our roster consists of twelve players age 25 or younger and seven of those players were former 1st round picks. We believe in 4-5 years, the foundation will be built to make the Pacers a consistent playoff contender and have the cap space to make even more moves. Ultimately, our trades align perfectly with our vision and we are extremely proud of the work we put in. Thank you.

Team Members: Kyle Goodier, Preston Klaus, Zuhair Rizvon, Owen Boquette, Sabrina White, Classie Kelise