

AT&T U-verse® High Speed Internet

PLUS U-basic TV PLUS HBO® with HBO GO® PLUS a year of amazon Prime

\$49/mo. Online Only

for 12 months with 1-yr term. Other charges apply.

Geograph

On The Trail

Choose Blog...

TOP EVENTS

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

FT			FT		
GER	1		CHN	0	
FRA	1		USA	1	

Consider

UCLA commit

ESPN

Boxing
Home
Schedule

Lonzo Ball

Share with Facebook

Share with Twitter

Champions
P4PP4P



Lonzo Ball's limited visibility means the UCLA commit remains a mystery to some. AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez



Joel Francisco

0

Shares



Lonzo Ball, a UCLA commit and the No. 11 ranked player in the ESPN 100, has caused more heated discussions among college basketball recruiting observers than any other high school phenom that I can remember. The issue has never been about his basketball prowess, but rather where he chooses to exhibit his immense talents.

Ball doesn't play on any of the three major shoe circuits for AAU, and has declined invitations to the biggest camps. The one time he stepped onto a bigger stage (Adidas Nations), he wasn't dominant. By not exposing himself to the nation's elite, questions have emerged. Is he afraid to step away from his comfort zone? Does he not care about his national rankings? Does he possess enough of the "alpha male" mentality to be successful?

Knowing a few things about Ball -- and his efforts to put his family and winning

Chicago Bears
Detroit Lions
Green Bay Packers
Minnesota Vikings
NFC South
Atlanta Falcons
Carolina Panthers
New Orleans Saints
Tampa Bay Buccaneers
NFC West
Arizona Cardinals
San Francisco 49ers
Seattle Seahawks
St. Louis Rams
AFC East
Buffalo Bills
Miami Dolphins
New England Patriots
New York Jets
AFC North
Baltimore Ravens
Cincinnati Bengals

 Cleveland Browns Browns
 Pittsburgh Steelers Steelers
AFC South AFC South
 Houston Texans Texans
 Indianapolis Colts Colts
 Jacksonville Jaguars Jaguars
Tennessee Titans Titans
AFC West AFC West
 Denver Broncos Broncos
Kansas City Chiefs Chiefs
 Oakland Raiders Raiders
 San Diego Chargers Chargers
NFC East NFC East
Dallas Cowboys Cowboys
 New York Giants Giants
Philadelphia Eagles Eagles
Washington Redskins Redskins
NFC North NFC North
 Chicago Bears Bears
Detroit Lions Lions
Green Bay Packers Packers
Minnesota Vikings Vikings
NFC South NFC South
 Atlanta Falcons Falcons
Carolina Panthers Panthers
New Orleans Saints Saints
 Tampa Bay Buccaneers Buccaneers
NFC West NFC West
 Arizona Cardinals Cardinals
San Francisco 49ers 49ers
Seattle Seahawks Seahawks
 St. Louis Rams Rams
AFC East AFC East
 Buffalo Bills Bills
Miami Dolphins Dolphins
 New England Patriots Patriots
 New York Jets Jets
AFC North AFC North
Baltimore Ravens Ravens
 Cincinnati Bengals Bengals
 Cleveland Browns Browns
 Pittsburgh Steelers Steelers
AFC South AFC South
 Houston Texans Texans
 Indianapolis Colts Colts
 Jacksonville Jaguars Jaguars
Tennessee Titans Titans
AFC West AFC West
 Denver Broncos Broncos
Kansas City Chiefs Chiefs
 Oakland Raiders Raiders
 San Diego Chargers Chargers
NBA NBA
Home Home
Scores Scores
Teams Teams
Schedule Schedule
Stats Stats
Standings Standings
Playoffs Playoffs
Players Players
Draft Draft
Atlantic Atlantic
 Boston Celtics Celtics
 Brooklyn Nets Nets
 New York Knicks Knicks
 Philadelphia 76ers 76ers
 Toronto Raptors Raptors
Central Central
 Chicago Bulls Bulls

first -- can help answer those questions.

Ball plays at Chino Hills High School with his two brothers, LiAngelo and LaMelo, as well as his cousin, Andre. All four are Division I prospects, and their ultimate goal is to win a state title. In a culture driven by "self," this next nine months will likely be the last chance Lonzo Ball has to play with his siblings before he is off to Westwood and in all probability the NBA. What other prospect in the nation has a chance to win a state title -- not to mention a mythical national title -- while playing alongside his two brothers and a cousin? By the way, that is a rhetorical question.

On the floor, Ball is not about one-on-one matchups, he is about winning -- and his overall skill set and Jason Kidd-like approach demonstrates that. Despite his decisions in being evaluated, there is no denying Ball has improved in every area of the game the past three seasons.

Could he have pursued a state title and still played in a bunch of elite events? Sure, but doing so might have prevented him from playing AAU ball with his family. Also, he's already committed to UCLA, so he has less to prove than an unattached recruit would.

Only time will tell whether the decision to decline invitations to various camps hurts his national ranking or the possibility of achieving McDonald's All-American status. However, one thing cannot be denied. If his trend of improvement continues, it will be difficult to deny he is the best guard in the country.

Maranatha Block Party observations

- [Cody Riley](#) (No. 21 in the ESPN 60) has seen his stock dip slightly due to concerns about his already mature frame and a lack of elite explosiveness. At this level, he is a man among boys inside, and though his perimeter skills have evolved, improving his right hand while attacking and continuing to impose his will inside will enhance his stock. Riley has offers from UCLA, Arizona, Kansas, Maryland, USC and UConn.
- Playing with the Oakland Soldiers in the EYBL, [Remy Martin](#) struggled with his decision-making and shot selection. However, at this tournament he was a relentless playmaker, scoring and facilitating at both ends of the floor and proving to be a lock-down defender. USC appears to be out in front of UCLA, Connecticut, North Carolina State, Arizona State, Marquette and Rice for Martin's services.
- [Raysean Scott](#), a 6-foot-6 combo forward out of Compton, has definitely improved his stock by showing increased productivity. Scott's inside-out skills have improved, but keeping his frame lean (he has lost some explosiveness) remains imperative.
- La Mirada has a nice Division I-worthy duo in the ultra-versatile [Vitorrio Avila-Reynoso](#) and improving [Ian Carter](#). Avila-Reynoso is a wing-type with skills as a facilitator, while Carter likes to attack from 15 feet and in.
- The best kept secret in Southern California may be 6-foot-9 Mubashar Ali (St. Bernard/Playa Del Rey, Calif.). Ali runs the floor well and possesses magnetic hands and a high motor. Florida Gulf Coast, UC Santa Barbara and San Diego are on him.
- He will not wow you with explosive dunks, but 6-foot-9 [Henry Welsh](#) is a fundamentally sound stretch 5-man that has UC Irvine, San Diego, Georgia Tech and UC Santa Barbara as part of his growing offer list.

Cleveland CavaliersCavaliers

Detroit PistonsPistons

Indiana PacersPacers

Milwaukee BucksBucks

SoutheastSoutheast

Atlanta HawksHawks

Charlotte HornetsHornets

Miami HeatHeat

Orlando MagicMagic

Washington WizardsWizards

PacificPacific

Golden State WarriorsWarriors

Los Angeles ClippersClippers

Los Angeles LakersLakers

Phoenix SunsSuns

Sacramento KingsKings

SouthwestSouthwest

Dallas MavericksMavericks

Houston RocketsRockets

Memphis GrizzliesGrizzlies

New Orleans PelicansPelicans

San Antonio SpursSpurs

NorthwestNorthwest

Denver NuggetsNuggets

Minnesota TimberwolvesTimberwolves

Oklahoma City ThunderThunder

Portland Trail BlazersTrail Blazers

Utah JazzJazz

MLBMLB

HomeHome

ScoresScores

ScheduleSchedule

StandingsStandings

TeamsTeams

StatsStats

PlayersPlayers

BlogsBlogs

Buster OlneyBuster Olney

SweetSpotSweetSpot

The GM's OfficeThe GM's Office

Keith LawKeith Law

Jayson StarkJayson Stark

MLB DraftMLB Draft

Eric KarabellEric Karabell

Stats & InfoStats & Info

Spring TrainingSpring Training

Boston Red SoxBoston Red Sox

Chicago CubsChicago Cubs

Chicago White SoxChicago White Sox

Los Angeles DodgersLos Angeles Dodgers

New York MetsNew York Mets

New York YankeesNew York Yankees

WritersWriters

Jim BowdenJim Bowden

Howard BryantHoward Bryant

Jim CapleJim Caple

Jerry CrasnickJerry Crasnick

Doug GlanvilleDoug Glanville

Christina KahrlChristina Kahrl

Tim KurkjianTim Kurkjian

Keith LawKeith Law

Buster OlneyBuster Olney

David SchoenfieldDavid Schoenfield

Jayson StarkJayson Stark

Steve WulfSteve Wulf

AL EastAL East

Baltimore OriolesOrioles

Boston Red SoxRed Sox

New York YankeesYankees

Tampa Bay RaysRays

Fairfax Summer Classic observations

- Long Beach Poly has a solid trio of Division I prospects and they're all Ivy League-type students. [Drew Buggs](#) is a jack-of-all-trades type of guard who only needs to smooth out his jump shot to reach his potential, while [Myles Johnson](#) has a huge wing span, big hands and a soft touch and [Zafir Williams](#) is a beastly 4-man with touch.
- The fastest rising senior in Southern California may be [De'Anthony Melton](#). The long-armed, multi-positional talent can guard multiple positions and has improved every aspect of his game. USC is his only offer, but he took a visit to San Diego State as well.
- Recent Mater Dei transfer [Spencer Freedman](#) exhibited his 'clutch' gene with some late-game heroics to preserve the win for Mater Dei over Santa Monica.
- One of the more improved bigs in the nation is [Jayce Johnson](#) (No. 92 in the ESPN 100). His agility and quickness around the basket have gotten better, but he needs to improve his fundamentals (keeping the ball high) and free throw touch. Cal, Oregon, Utah, Arizona State, Boise State, Auburn, Gonzaga, NC State, Tulsa, Portland, UNLV and Nevada have offered.
- Scouts will be hard-pressed to find a better jump-shooter in Southern California than [Jordan Griffin](#). Lightning-quick release and great lift describe this gunslinger, who has offers from Long Beach State, Pacific, UC Santa Barbara, UC Riverside, Cal State Northridge, Cal State Fullerton and Grand Canyon.
- UCLA-bound [Ike Anigbogu](#) has a terrific frame with very long arms and he's an imposing shot-blocker. However, he needs to improve his hands, footwork and post skills to make an immediate impact for the Bruins.



SPONSORED HEADLINES

Recommended by **outbrain**



We Had No Idea They Were Making That Much Until We Read

[The Best Celebrity](#)



Grant Hill hoping to help bring success to Hawks

[MSN](#)



The Most Beautiful Celebrity Women over the age of 50

[She Budgets](#)

[Comments](#)



Scout's Take: SG Jamal Murray commits to Kentucky

3d

[Share with Facebook](#)

[Share with Twitter](#)

