

BALL



STATE

THANK YOU SENIORS





Cleveland-bound: Ball State basketball upsets Eastern Michigan in MAC Tournament



After a two-month stretch in which almost nothing seemed to go right, the Ball State men's basketball team suddenly has life. And momentum. And a ticket to Cleveland.

The No. 11 seed Cardinals shrugged off a nine-point deficit late in the first half to win going away at No. 6 Eastern Michigan 61-43.

"It reminded me of how we've been playing a lot of the year," Ball State coach James Whitford said on his postgame radio show. "I thought they got tight. ... The score flipped, and they started not running back on transition defense a couple times. It's not that they don't want to do it or they're feeling tired, it's that they're feeling pressure and it's taking their mind.

"We struggled in that role of being the team that's expected to win. One thing that was good for us is that today, no one expected us to win. It felt good to be the underdog and that it was us against the world."

And Ball State (16-16) actually is the underdog, unlike the New England Patriots. If that's what is going to be the rallying cry, then so be it. Because Ball State has been favored in the majority of its games this season, even during its struggles, and it has rarely worked out. It will be an underdog from here on out.

Tahjai Teague led the Cardinals with 15 points, while Tayler Persons added 12 points, five assists and no turnovers, though Ball State still had 17 turnovers as a team. Ishmael El-Amin (12 points) was huge in the first half with 10 of Ball State's 23 points. He has been a steady presence since returning from a broken wrist. And while Kyle Mallers was 3 of 10 shooting for eight points, he looked confident and wasn't hesitating, as he has at certain points this season.



Life of a college basketball manager: Ball State students grinding now for a shot down the road

MUNCIE, Ind. — It's 11:25 p.m. on a Tuesday in late January, more than two hours since Ball State's men's basketball game against Miami ended. It's mostly quiet in the team's office. James Whitford and his staff are gone, back to their homes to spend the rest of the night with their families.

But there is one person still grinding away in the office as Tuesday turns to Wednesday, and he is a Ball State student. After devouring his Jimmy John's sandwich, he gets to work. Jason Smith, Ball State basketball's head manager, is going through the film from the just-finished game and organizing each play into a myriad of sub-categories.

This is Smith's routine on game nights. It used to take him until about 2 a.m. to finish at the start of the season, but he is usually done around midnight these days as he has sharpened his editing skills. It's a race against time for Smith, whose alarm will go off at 6:30 the next morning so he can arrive at Muncie Central High School by 7:15 to student-teach U.S. history for 110 students, as he will all semester.

Smith is one of Ball State's 11 undergraduate managers, plus one graduate manager, who work long hours for free in hopes that one day, they will replicate Whitford's path to becoming a college basketball coach. When you hear "basketball manager," you probably think of the grunt work, like filling water bottles, wiping the floor and doing laundry. There is certainly some of that. But at Ball State, the managers are a key piece of the puzzle. There are simpler roles for the younger managers, but then there are people like Smith's, who functions in some ways like a full-time staff member. The staff has given him scouting responsibilities, as he pairs up with assistant Jason Grunkemeyer to prepare a report for certain teams on the schedule (graduate manager Winston Yergler and Matt Crenshaw handle the other teams). Spencer Evans and Noah Dell, the other two head managers in addition to Smith, do a little bit of everything, like film work and retrieving specific clips for coaches. Dylan Koehlinger and Garron Laymon sit at the very top of Worthen Arena during games as Koehlinger records the game and Layman edits in real time so that the coaching staff has access to a replay of the game almost as soon as it ends.





Taylor Persons Earns All-MAC Honors for Third Straight Season



MUNCIE, Ind. -- Ball State senior point guard Taylor Persons garnered All-Mid-American Conference recognition for the third consecutive year, earning a third-team nod Monday.

Persons and the Cardinals open MAC Tournament play at 7 p.m. Monday with a first-round game at Eastern Michigan. The winner will advance to meet No. 3 seed Bowling Green in Thursday's quarterfinals at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland.

Persons leads Ball State in scoring and assists this season, as he has done in each of his three years in Muncie, averaging 16.6 points and 4.2 assists per game.

The Kokomo, Indiana, product surpassed 1,900 points for his career in the regular season finale and is one of just five Division I players nationally with at least 1,900 points and 500 assists. He is the active leader in both categories among MAC players.

Persons has started every game for Ball State since joining the Cardinals from Northern Kentucky, where he was the Atlantic Sun Freshman of the Year. He is slated to make his 98th straight start for Ball State in Monday's tournament opener. Only Ray McCallum (104) has started more consecutive games in a BSU uniform.

The No. 11 seed Cardinals are looking to avenge a pair of regular season losses to No. 6 seed Eastern Michigan, including one just last week in Ypsilanti. With a win, Ball State would advance to Cleveland for the fourth straight year.



BALL STATE  **BASKETBALL**

SUMMER 2019



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Men's Basketball Recruiting Class Rated Mid-American Conference's Best



MUNCIE, Ind. -- The Ball State men's basketball team signed three players -- two of Indiana's top high school players and a big man from Canada -- to National Letters of Intent as the November signing period opened.

The Cardinals will welcome point guard Luke Bumbalough from New Castle, wing Lucas Kroft from Richmond and center Ben Hendriks of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, to campus next year.

"I couldn't be more excited about signing all three of these guys," Ball State head coach James Whitford said. "It's certainly as talented a recruiting class as we've had since I've been the head coach here, and it will lead to a very bright future for our program."

Luke Bumbalough, 6-1, PG, New Castle, Ind. (Chrysler HS)

Bumbalough began his senior season for coach Daniel Cox at New Castle after being selected as an Indiana Junior All-Star last year. The 6-foot-1 guard averaged 20.0 points, 5.9 rebounds and 4.0 assists during his junior season while shooting 51 percent from the floor and 49 percent from 3-point range. He helped New Castle to a 27-3 record and a Class 3A semistate appearance. A two-sport standout at New Castle, Bumbalough also held a football scholarship offer from Ball State as a wide receiver. He caught a state-record 27 touchdown passes as a junior in 2017 and recently finished his senior campaign on the gridiron with 16 more total touchdowns. Bumbalough excelled in AAU basketball for G3 Grind in the Under Armour Association. He was rated among the top 20 players in Indiana's 2019 class by Indianapolis Star prep writer Kyle Neddenriep. He intends to major in business at Ball State. "Luke is a terrific athlete, an incredibly high-character kid and a true point guard," Whitford said. "He has scored a lot of points on good teams at New Castle, and he had one of the highest assist rates of any player last spring and summer on the AAU circuit. He can do everything at all levels. Luke is a tough kid who has a knack for the intangibles and does all the little things really well. He's the type of leader and point guard every team wants."

Lucas Kroft, 6-5, G/F, Richmond, Ind. (Richmond HS)

Kroft is entered his senior season at Richmond for coach Shabaz Khaliq after moving from Fort Wayne, where he was an All-Summit Athletic Conference selection at Northside High School. He averaged 12.5 points and five rebounds per game last year, playing alongside top-25 national recruit Keion Brooks on Northside's sectional championship team. The 6-foot-5 Kroft played his AAU basketball for 1Nation out of Michigan in the Under Armour Association. He averaged 16.1 points, 5.1 rebounds and 2.4 assists last year while shooting 42 percent from 3-point range. Kroft was also rated among the top 20 players in Indiana's 2019 class by the Indy Star's Neddenriep. He plans to study architecture at Ball State. "Lucas is a very talented wing," Whitford said. "He has a special talent when the ball is in his hands. He's terrific using pick-and-rolls. Like all these guys, he comes from a great family. He's been around the game his whole life with his dad being a coach, and it really shows when he's on the court. He has an incredibly high basketball IQ, and he's highly competitive with a desire to be a great player."

Ben Hendriks, 6-10, C, Mississauga, Ontario (Orangeville Prep)

Hendriks has just started his final season for Orangeville Prep and coach Tony McIntyre out of The Athlete Institute in Canada. The 6-foot-10 center is in his third year with the program, which travels all over North America. Already 4-0 this season, Orangeville Prep is headed to Phoenix, Arizona, for a tournament this weekend.

Hendriks made it to the final stage of evaluation for Canada's U17 national team but was unable to play because of injury. He competed for CIA Bounce, Canada's top AAU team, on the Nike EYBL circuit.

A hockey player until he became "too tall" for the sport, Hendriks began playing basketball at age 10. He was named his team's Most Improved Player two years ago and earned its Leadership Award last year. He plans to study hospitality management at Ball State.

"Ben is someone we started recruiting this summer, and we fell in love with him as soon as we saw him," Whitford said. "He has incredible size, he's a very good athlete, and he has an extraordinarily high ceiling as a player. Ben has all the skills you want in a big guy. He moves well and has great length, great hands and good feet. He also has the character and work ethic to put all those pieces together."



Ball State's win at Western Michigan sets up critical final week of regular season

MUNCIE, Ind. – The Ball State men's basketball team got one to go its way Saturday afternoon, setting up a critical final week before the Mid-American Conference Tournament begins.

The Cardinals held on 60-58 at Western Michigan, moving into ninth place with two games remaining in the league slate. Trey Moses' late block preserved the win.

Tayler Persons paced Ball State (15-14, 6-10 MAC) with 18 points, while K.J. Walton added 15. Tahjai Teague scored 13.

Ball State is technically tied with Northern Illinois but has the tiebreaker due to its win earlier this season in DeKalb. The Cardinals host the Huskies (13-16, 6-10) on Friday for their annual MuncieOut.

Tuesday's game at Eastern Michigan will be equally important. If Ball State wins both games this week, it could move up to the No. 8 seed and host a play-in game in the league tourney a week from Monday, rather than go on the road as the No. 9 or No. 10 seed.

Akron (15-14, 7-9) and Miami (15-14, 7-9) are one game ahead of the Cardinals. Ball State would have the tiebreaker over Akron but not over Miami.

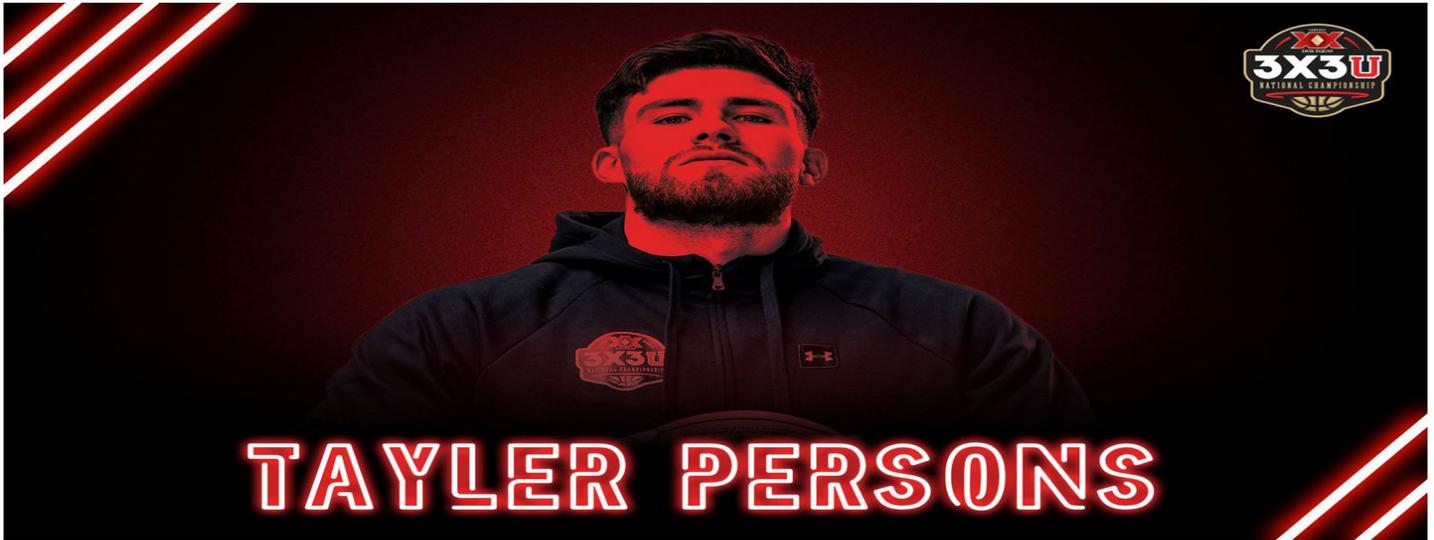
Ball State didn't shoot it well, making just 2 of 14 shots from beyond the arc, but it outscored Western Michigan 28-6 in the paint in the first half and 44-22 for the game.

"A lot of (the paint points) were on pick-and-rolls, a lot of them were on drives," Ball State coach James Whitford said in a release. "We needed to today because we certainly weren't making any shots ... We maintained our poise for 40 minutes, and that was the key for us."





Persons, MAC Teammates Tip off 3X3U Hoops Championship



Tayler Persons' quest for the Dos Equis 3X3U National Championship begins Friday with his Mid-American Conference teammates at the Mall of America in Minneapolis.

The Ball State guard is teaming up with fellow MAC seniors Larry Austin Jr. (Central Michigan), Jaelan Sanford (Toledo) and Jaylin Walker (Kent State) this Final Four weekend with a total purse of \$150,000 on the line.

The MAC team is one of 32 in the running, one representing every Division I conference. The teams are divided into eight pools of four for the first two days of competition at the second-annual 3-on-3 event.

Persons' squad is part of Pool E, along with the Big East, MAAC and Sun Belt. The pool has more Indiana flavor, with Butler's Nate Fowler and Paul Jorgensen competing for the Big East team alongside Marvin Clark of St. John's and Isaiah Jackson of Providence.

Additionally, Indiana's Juwan Morgan is playing for the Big Ten in Pool F and Purdue Fort Wayne's Kason Harrell is suiting up for the Summit League in Pool G.

All teams will play three games over two days in pool play. The MAC team will open Friday at 8:50 p.m. ET against the Big East and then will play twice Saturday -- 12:30 p.m. against the MAAC and 3:40 p.m. against the Sun Belt. All three games will be streamed live on Twitter via @3X3UHoops.

The top two teams from each pool will advance to Sunday morning's round of 16. It will require a total of four wins on Sunday to take home the championship.

The round of 16 and quarterfinal games will be streamed on Twitter via @3X3UHoops, while the semifinals (3:10 and 3:30 p.m.), consolation (4:05 p.m.) and championship (4:35 p.m.) will be televised on ESPN2.

Teams earn \$1,000 for every victory on Friday and Saturday. The championship team will take home \$100,000, while the runners-up will share \$2,000 and the third-place team will win an additional \$1,000.



BALL STATE BASKETBALL DAY CAMP

June 17 - 20, 2019
9am - 4pm daily

Age

2nd - 8th Grade Boys

*Younger boys will be considered based on skill level

Details

Coaching from Ball State coaches and players
1-on-1 and 3-on-3 play; team games
Basic fundamental development
Daily contest and games
Official Ball State Basketball T-Shirt
Certificate of Participation

Price

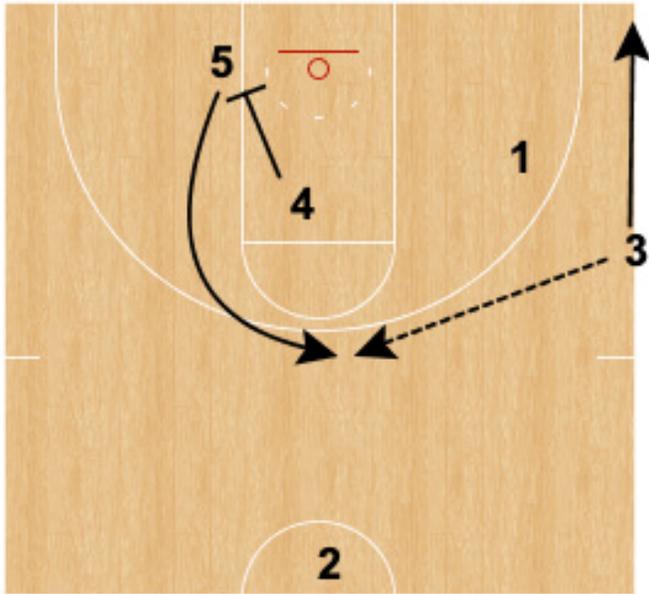
\$175 / Camper
*\$25 discount for employees

Register online at

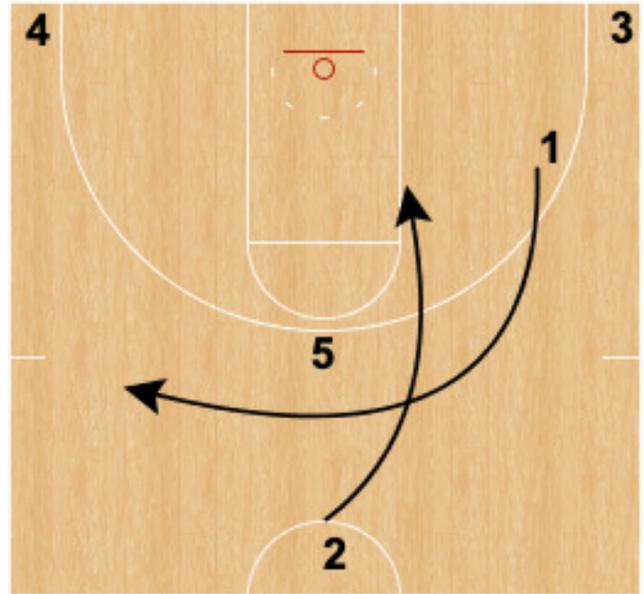
<https://camps.jumpforward.com/ballstatembk>



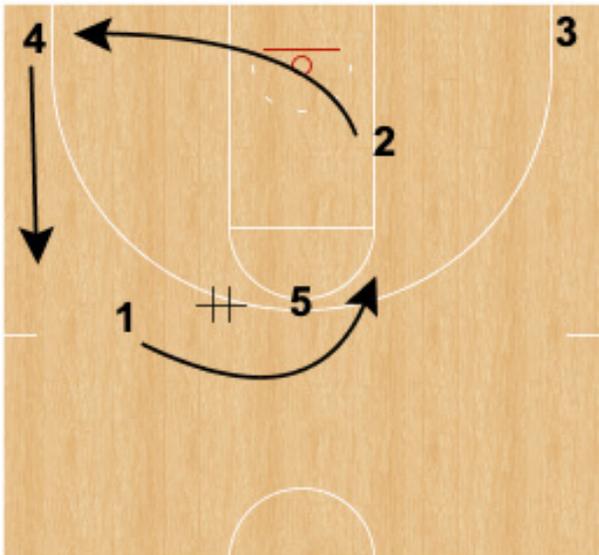
End of Game Scenario - 5.7 seconds on the clock



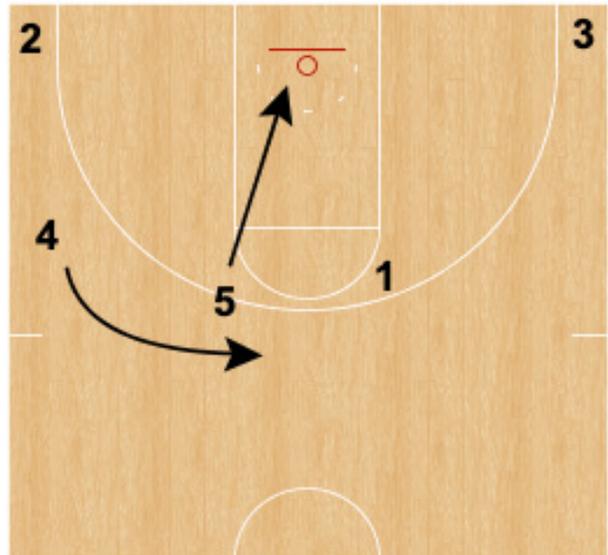
4 Pindown for 5; 5 catches the ball at the top of key



1 Wraps over the 5; 2 runs downhill trying to get DHO from 5



1 comes back for DHO with the 5

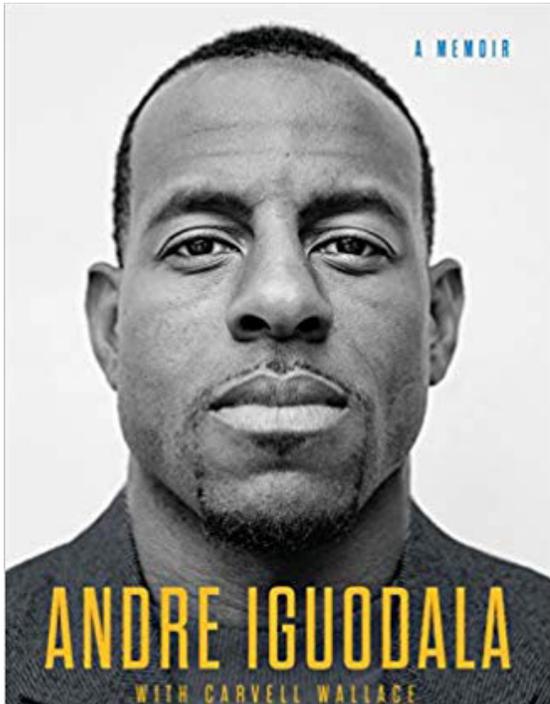


Quote of the Month

“The greatest sin a coach can commit is to allow kids to slide by. This goes for the classroom as well as the court”
– Hubie Brown



Book of the Month



Andre Iguodala: The Sixth Man

In this Andre Iguodala book, it discusses Andre's upbringing from his childhood to the NBA. The book also discusses conflict and tension in the NBA, the relationship between competition and brotherhood among the players of a championship team. Also, the book goes into detail about what motivates an athlete to keep pushing and striving to be the absolute best after reaching their dream of becoming an NBA player.

Manager Program

A reminder about our Manager Program here at Ball State. Our basketball program is always looking for high school students (i.e. former players, student managers, etc.) with an aspiration for a career in coaching or sports administration. Day-to-day responsibilities include film preparation and film exchange, assistance in player development and practice, recruiting, and game day responsibilities. Our coaching network extends far and wide, as past members of our student manager programs have moved on to positions from the NBA to the high school level. If you feel like a member of your program would have interest in this opportunity, please e-mail Kindon Crowder.

Invitation to Campus

If you or any member of your coaching staff has an interest in coming to a workout, skill, or practice please contact our Director of Basketball Operations, Kindon Crowder, at (765) 285-8140 or krcrowder@bsu.edu. Please do not hesitate to call our staff if there is anything we can do to help any member of your program! As always, you and your coaching staff have an open invitation to come to campus.

Ball State Basketball App

BSU Athletics is the official app for interactive annual reports, media guides and more for Ball State University sports. Follow all of the up to date news for the Ball State Men's Basketball program. Compatibility: Requires iOS 8.1 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.

