

= Caris LeVert =

Caris Coleman LeVert (born August 25 , 1994) is an American professional basketball player for the Brooklyn Nets of the National Basketball Association (NBA) . He played college basketball for the Michigan Wolverines . As a freshman for the 2012 ? 13 team , he nearly redshirted but earned a key role off the bench as the team went on to reach the championship game in the 2013 NCAA Men 's Division I Basketball Tournament . As a sophomore for the 2013 ? 14 team , he became a regular starter and was selected as a second team 2013 ? 14 All @-@ Big Ten player for the outright Big Ten regular season champions . His junior and senior seasons where interrupted by injury . LeVert is related to Eddie Levert , Gerald Levert and Sean Levert .

= = Early life = =

LeVert grew up in Northeast Columbus but moved to nearby Pickerington in second grade . As a high school senior , he led Pickerington High School Central to a 26 ? 2 record and the 2012 OHSA Division I state championship . LeVert was a 2012 Associated Press All @-@ Ohio Second Team high school basketball player and the 2012 Columbus Dispatch Metro Player of the Year for Pickerington High School Central . He was not heavily recruited in high school and his only official visit was to Alabama State . He committed to play basketball for John Groce and the Ohio Bobcats men 's basketball program in November 2011 . Meanwhile , when future teammates Mitch McGary and Stauskas joined Glenn Robinson III by committing to Michigan in November 2011 , Michigan became the fifth best recruiting class in the country .

When Groce got hired by Illinois Fighting Illini men 's basketball in March 2012 , LeVert got lost in the shuffle and decided to commit to Michigan . Ironically , Groce 's 2011 ? 12 Ohio Bobcats ' upset of the 2011 ? 12 Michigan team in the 2012 NCAA Men 's Division I Basketball Tournament was probably the reason that Groce was hired by Illinois and LeVert withdrew his National Letter of Intent to play for Ohio .

= = College career = =

The 2011 ? 12 Michigan Wolverines men 's basketball team had been co @-@ champions of 2011 ? 12 Big Ten Conference , but lost both of its co @-@ captains , Zack Novak and Stu Douglass , to graduation and three players as transfers . The team was returning a nucleus of All @-@ Big Ten players Trey Burke and Tim Hardaway , Jr .

= = = 2012 ? 13 season = = =

LeVert arrived at Michigan weighing 152 pounds (68 @.@ 9 kg) . As a freshman , he began the year behind Stauskas , Robinson , Tim Hardaway , Jr . , and Matt Vogrich on the depth chart for the shooting guard / small forward positions and did not play in the first six games as a result . LeVert was a part of an incoming class that included McGary , Stauskas , Robinson , and Spike Albrecht . Eventually , Michigan head coach John Beilein decided that LeVert had value as a perimeter defender and decided to play him rather than redshirt him . On December 1 against Bradley Beilein juggled his lineup : Stauskas made his first career regular season start and LeVert saw his first action . By late December , LeVert became the one @-@ on @-@ one partner for Burke after practices . LeVert made his first start on December 29 against Central Michigan , when Tim Hardaway , Jr. was unavailable . The 3 freshmen in the starting lineup ? Robinson , Stauskas and LeVert ? combined for 48 points , 12 rebounds and 8 assists . That night LeVert tallied 9 points and 5 assists . LeVert averaged 2 @.@ 3 points in under 11 minutes of play per game . He never scored in double digits as a freshman , but he scored 8 points each in conference wins over Illinois and Michigan State as well as the 2013 NCAA Men 's Division I Basketball Tournament final four victory over Syracuse in 21 minutes of play .

== 2013 ? 14 season ==

LeVert 's classmates all made names for themselves as freshmen . During the Spring and Summer semesters (the offseason) of 2013 LeVert and Stauskas trained together on the court and in the weight room . He followed fellow Columbus native and National Player of the Year Burke as a key contributor to Michigan basketball as a sophomore . After opening the season with career @-@ highs of 17 points and 5 rebounds on November 8 against UMass Lowell , he posted 24 points on November 12 against South Carolina State . When Michigan played (# 10 AP Poll / # 8 Coaches ' Poll) Duke in the ACC ? Big Ten Challenge on December 3 , LeVert again posted 24 points , including a 7 ? 7 free throw performance . On January 18 , Michigan defeated (# 3 AP / # 3 Coaches) Wisconsin at the Kohl Center for the first time since the 1998 ? 99 team did so on February 27 , 1999 . It was the highest ranked team Michigan has ever beaten on the road . LeVert contributed a career @-@ high 4 steals and 20 points . LeVert posted his first double double on January 30 at home against Purdue with a career @-@ high 11 rebounds and 14 points . On February 16 , Michigan lost to (# 21 / 21) Wisconsin , despite a career @-@ high 25 points from LeVert . He was a 2014 second team 2013 ? 14 All @-@ Big Ten selection (coaches and media) . On March 11 LeVert was named to the all @-@ District V (OH , IN , IL , MI , MN , WI) team by the United States Basketball Writers Association (USBWA) . The 2013 ? 14 team was eliminated in the elite eight round of the 2014 NCAA Men 's Division I Basketball Tournament by Kentucky . LeVert and teammate Stauskas , joined Julius Randle , Aaron Harrison and Marcus Lee on the All @-@ Midwest Regional team .

On May 12 , LeVert underwent surgery to repair a stress fracture in his foot . He was expected to be sidelined for 8 ? 10 weeks , but be available for the team 's August trip to play in Europe . LeVert returned to action just before the team 's August 15 ? 24 10 @-@ day , 4 @-@ game trip to Italy .

== 2014 ? 15 season ==

Prior to the 2014 ? 15 season , LeVert was named a first team All @-@ Big Ten preseason selection along with Frank Kaminsky , Yogi Ferrell , Terran Petteway , and Sam Dekker . LeVert was selected by NBCSports.com to its Preseason All @-@ American first team , by SB Nation , Blue Ribbon College Basketball Yearbook , Athlon Sports , Bleacher Report , Sports Illustrated , and CBSSports.com to their second teams and by USA Today to its third team . In its preseason top 100 player ranking , LeVert was listed at number 13 by ESPN . He was also listed as a John R. Wooden Award Preseason Top 50 candidate . LeVert also was named to the Oscar Robertson Trophy Watch List on November 24 . He was also included in the early December Naismith Award top 50 watch list .

LeVert was named co @-@ captain of the team along with Spike Albrecht . He opened the season with 9 assists against Hillsdale College on November 15 , surpassing his previous career @-@ high of five . On November 24 , against Oregon , LeVert established a career high by making 11 free throws helping the team to a 70 ? 63 victory in the Legends Classic semifinal game . He posted a career @-@ high 32 points and tied a career @-@ high 4 steals on December 6 in an upset loss to NJIT . He posted 4 steals again against Minnesota on January 10 . On January 17 against Northwestern , he reinjured the foot that he had had surgery on the prior May and was lost for the season . At the time of his injury , LeVert led Michigan in scoring (14 @-@ 9) , rebounds (4 @-@ 9) , assists (3 @-@ 7) , steals (1 @-@ 7) and minutes (35 @-@ 8) . LeVert was on crutches until early March and in a protective walking boot until early April .

LeVert had been expected to be a 2015 NBA Draft selection , but following his injury some felt his draft stock was impaired . Following the season , he sought advice from the NBA Undergraduate Advisory Committee , but decided that he needed a second evaluation from them as the field of declared underclassmen became more clear with the thinking that " I don 't think it really makes sense to (leave school) early and get drafted in the second round " . On April 21 , LeVert announced that he would return for his senior season . According to CBSSports.com 's Sam Vecenie , this would give LeVert a chance to improve his pick and roll decision making , his

midrange offensive game and his defense , especially against screens .

== 2015 ? 16 season ==

Prior to the 2015 ? 16 season , LeVert was named an All @-@ Big Ten preseason selection , for the second straight year . LeVert became the fourth Wolverine to earn the award multiple times in their career , following Maurice Taylor , LaVell Blanchard and Manny Harris . He was also one of five All @-@ Big Ten preseason selections according to the Big Ten Network . He was one of three Big Ten selections to the 20 @-@ man Jerry West Award preseason watchlist (along with James Blackmon , Jr. and Rasheed Sulaimon) announced by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame . He was an Athlon Sports Preseason All @-@ American 3rd team selection . In preseason top 100 player rankings LeVert was ranked 16 by ESPN and 23 by NBC Sports . He made the initial 50 @-@ man John R. Wooden Award watch list on November 17 . On December 2 , Levert earned recognition on the 50 @-@ man Naismith College Player of the Year watchlist and 33 @-@ man Robertson Trophy watchlists .

After being sidelined for the final 14 games of the prior season for the 2014 ? 15 Wolverines , LeVert began the season with a game @-@ high 18 points and 5 assists as a starter against Northern Michigan . On November 16 against Elon , LeVert tied his career high with four steals . On December 5 against Houston Baptist , LeVert made his first start at point guard while Derrick Walton sat out due to a sprained ankle and posted 25 points and 8 rebounds . On December 8 , Michigan lost 82 ? 58 to (19 / -) SMU as LeVert slumped on 1 ? 13 field goal shooting and 3 ? 6 free throw shooting . On December 15 against Northern Kentucky , LeVert posted 13 points , 10 rebounds and 10 assists , becoming the fourth player in Michigan program history to record a triple @-@ double , and the 49th Wolverine to eclipse 1 @,@ 000 career points . Based on his triple double against Northern Kentucky and a 19 @-@ point effort against Youngstown State , LeVert earned Co @-@ Big Ten Player of the Week honors (along with Malcolm Hill) on December 21 . On December 30 , Michigan defeated Illinois 78 ? 68 in its Big Ten Conference opener as LeVert posted a 22 @-@ point , 10 @-@ assist double @-@ double . LeVert missed the January 2 game against Penn State with a lower left leg injury . At the time , he was the team leader in points , rebounds and assists .

On January 13 , LeVert was one of four Big Ten athletes (along with Melo Trimble , Jarrod Uthoff and Denzel Valentine) among the 25 players included in the Wooden Award Midseason Top 25 Watch List . On the eve of LeVert 's sixth missed game , head coach Beilein finally clarified that LeVert 's left leg injury was not related to the two previous left foot stress fractures that LeVert had endured . On February 2 , LeVert was one of two Big Ten athletes (along with Malcolm Hill) named one of 10 finalists for the Jerry West Award , despite having missed the last 8 of Michigan 's 22 games . On February 10 , Brendan F. Quinn of MLive.com broke the story that LeVert had been cleared to play . On February 13 , Michigan defeated (# 18 / 16) Purdue 61 ? 56 with LeVert recording five rebounds and one assist in 11 minutes after missing the previous 11 games . On March 1 , the team announced that the injury would end LeVert 's season and collegiate career . On March 22 , LeVert had a third surgical procedure in 22 months performed on his left foot in New York City by specialist Dr. Martin O 'Malley . By late April , the draft stock of LeVert had slipped to the second round . According to the Michigan Basketball Twitter feed , he attended graduation in crutches at the end of April . He was invited to the May 11 ? 15 NBA Draft Combine . While still on crutches at the combine , LeVert clarified that his injury was a Jones fracture of the fifth metatarsal and that Kevin Durant who has the same agency and used the same doctor had called to offer him encouragement .

== Professional career ==

The day before the 2016 NBA draft , LeVert authored an open letter to NBA general managers to assure them of his resiliency in the face of all of his doubters due to his injury . On June 23 , LeVert was selected with the 20th overall pick in the 2016 draft by the Indiana Pacers . He became Michigan 's fifth first @-@ round draft selection since 2013 and the fourth player drafted from

Michigan 's 2012 entering class . His rights were later traded to the Brooklyn Nets on July 7 , in exchange for Thaddeus Young . Dr. O 'Malley , who had performed LeVert 's most recent foot surgery , was on the Brooklyn Nets medical staff at the time of the trade . On July 14 , he signed his rookie scale contract with the Nets .

= = Personal = =

LeVert is the son of Kim and Darryl LeVert and has one sibling , Darryl , who is his junior by 11 months . His mother is a Columbus City Schools first grade teacher . His father , who was a graphic designer , died on April 4 , 2010 at the age of 46 . As of February 2014 , his brother , Darryl , played basketball for Connors State College . LeVert comes from a musical family as he is the third cousin of Eddie LeVert , the lead vocalist of the O 'Jays . Eddie 's sons include singers Gerald LeVert of LSG and LeVert (along with Sean LeVert) .