

= Mitch McGary =

Mitchell Neil William " Mitch " McGary ( born June 6 , 1992 ) is an American professional basketball player for the Oklahoma City Thunder of the National Basketball Association ( NBA ) . A native of Chesterton , Indiana , McGary declared for the NBA draft after completing his sophomore season for the 2013 ? 14 Michigan Wolverines men 's basketball team . He was drafted 21st overall by the Thunder in the 2014 NBA draft .

At the time of his National Letter of Intent signing with Michigan Wolverines basketball , ESPN.com and Scout.com ranked McGary as the number two player in the United States high school class of 2012 , while Rivals.com ranked him as the number three prospect . He was not only the consensus top power forward recruit in the nation , but also the top big man according to most sources at the time . After his signing , however , McGary fell down in the rankings as his underdeveloped offensive skills became apparent .

At Michigan , McGary became the sixth man as well as the leading shot blocker and rebounder for the 2012 ? 13 Michigan Wolverines men 's basketball team . During the season , he was twice named Big Ten Freshman of the Week . He became the regular starter during the 2013 NCAA Men 's Division I Basketball Tournament and earned South All @-@ Regional Team and NCAA All @-@ Tournament Team recognition as he helped the team reach the championship game . He led all Big Ten Freshman in rebounding .

= = Background = =

Mitch McGary was born on June 6 , 1992 , and grew up in the Chesterton , Indiana , area . He played in YMCA and Amateur Athletic Union ( AAU ) basketball leagues as a youth , and his father , Tim , who had never played organized sports , coached him until fourth grade . McGary 's mother is named Valerie . When McGary was younger , his father thought his athletic future was in baseball . McGary played on the 2007 ? 08 Chesterton High School junior varsity team as a freshman , while eventual three @-@ time Michigan Wolverines captain Zack Novak was a senior on the varsity team . That year he also was a 6 @-@ foot @-@ 6 @-@ inch ( 1 @. @ 98 m ) , 190 @-@ pound ( 86 kg ) freshman tight end on the high school football team , but his father made him quit football as he continued to grow . His local Indiana SPY Players AAU basketball team included future Michigan teammates Max Bielfeldt and Glenn Robinson III , son of Glenn Robinson . McGary joined the varsity basketball team the following season and played two years . McGary is afflicted with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder . He eventually transferred to Brewster Academy , a prep school in Wolfeboro , New Hampshire , to repeat his junior year because his parents thought the discipline would be good for him . Before transferring to Brewster , McGary was the tallest kid in his school and in the basketball conference that he played in . McGary shoots left @-@ handed .

As late as March 2011 , McGary ranked 92nd in the national class of 2012 by Rivals.com. During the LeBron James Skills Academy in July , McGary stood out as the best player in attendance . He was invited to participate in the 5th annual Nike Global Challenge the following month . Due to an ankle injury he did not participate . However , later that month , he participated in the Boost Mobile Elite 24 event , where he shattered a backboard . His other 2011 summer camps included Pittsburgh Jam Fest , the National Basketball Players Association Top 100 camp and the Under Armour Best of the Best Camp , where he was the most valuable player . Also in August , ESPN reported that McGary had narrowed his list of schools to six : University of Florida , University of Maryland , University of North Carolina , University of Michigan , Duke University and University of Kentucky . Because McGary does not like to be the bearer of bad news , when he narrowed his list , he had his father contact the coaches of the teams no longer in contention for his services . McGary scheduled his official Michigan visit for the beginning of September . McGary completed his official campus visits to University of Michigan , University of North Carolina , and Duke University , in that order , by October 4 . However , due to injuries suffered a few weeks earlier while shattering the backboard , he only played pick @-@ up games at Duke . He also made an unofficial visit to Florida prior to these official visits . While Michigan assistant coach Bacari Alexander was recruiting him , a

Brewster Academy groundskeeper relayed a story about McGary consoling a freshman who was in tears when his parents dropped him off on the first day of school . Alexander says the groundskeeper told him that " McGary spotted the kid from a distance , stopped his conversation and ran to him , consoled him and brought him into school with his group of friends . " Alexander said that McGary 's character made him a great fit for Michigan .

His reported best friend , Robinson had committed to Michigan on September 14 , 2010 . In a press conference broadcast on ESPNU on November 3 , 2011 , McGary announced his verbal commitment to Michigan over his other two finalist Florida and Duke . Within hours of the commitment , ESPN ranked Michigan 's recruiting class the fifth best in the nation . After several other schools announced their commitments , Michigan , which had been outside the top 25 at the end of October , ranked the number 7 class in the nation , according to ESPN . He waited until November 9 to sign his National Letter of Intent so that his parents , who were still living in Indiana , could be present . Both of his parents had liked head coach Mike Krzyzewski and had hoped that he would choose Duke . At the time of their November 2011 National Letter of Intent signings , Nik Stauskas , Robinson and McGary gave Michigan a consensus top 10 entering class for its 2012 class .

McGary was technically eligible for the 2012 NBA Draft . Brewster entered the 2012 NEPSAC Class AAA Boys ' Basketball Tournament undefeated and ranked number 1 in the nation according to the Five @-@ Star Basketball Rankings published in Sports Illustrated , but lost in the semifinals of the tournament to Northfield Mount Hermon School , who was led by future teammate Spike Albrecht , in overtime on March 2 . In the overtime period , McGary missed a game @-@ tying free throw with 17 @. @ 3 seconds remaining . His Brewster team defeated Massanutten Military Academy and Notre Dame Prep to reach the March 7 championship game in the National Prep Championship against Hargrave Military Academy . Brewster won the National Prep Championship Game . The 2011 ? 12 Brewster team was reported to have eight future Division I basketball players , including Florida State commit Aaron Thomas , Xavier commit Semaj Christon , NC State commit T. J. Warren , and JaKarr Sampson . JaKarr Sampson earned both the 2012 National Prep Championship MVP and New England Preparatory School Athletic Council ( NEPSAC ) AAA Player of the Year , leaving McGary with a supporting role .

McGary was invited to participate in the four @-@ team All @-@ American Championship along with future teammate Robinson in New Orleans on April 1 , 2012 . Six days later , McGary represented USA Basketball at the 15th annual Nike Hoops Summit as part of the 2012 USA Junior National Select Team . Following the season , he was named as one of 40 Parade All @-@ Americans .

During his senior season , scouts became aware that McGary was less polished offensively than he had appeared . By January , his ranking had been reduced from number 2 overall to about number 20 . He eventually settled between 26th and 30th by Scout.com , ESPN and Rivals.com in the final class of 2012 overall rankings .

= = 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 .

= = Freshman = =

In the third game of the season and the third of his career , McGary posted a game @-@ high 9 rebounds in 17 minutes of play off the bench against Cleveland State on November 13 . McGary also went 3 @-@ for @-@ 3 on his field goals . McGary reached double figures in scoring for the first time December 4 against Western Michigan ( Michigan 's eighth game of the season ) when he scored 10 points on 5 @-@ for @-@ 5 shooting in 14 minutes of play off the bench . He had his first

10 @-@ rebound game on December 11 against the Binghamton Bearcats . On December 20 , he posted his first double @-@ double with a then career @-@ high 11 rebounds and 10 points as well as a then career @-@ high 3 steals in just 18 minute of play against Eastern Michigan . On December 24 , he was recognized as Big Ten Freshman of the Week . On January 6 , McGary tied then career high with 11 rebounds , tied a then career high 2 assists and set a career high with 3 blocked shots against Iowa . On January 28 , Michigan was ranked number one in the AP Poll with 51 of the 65 first place votes . It marked the first time Michigan ranked atop the AP Poll since the Fab Five 1992 ? 93 team did so on December 5 , 1992 .

After enduring an injured ankle against Illinois , starting center Jordan Morgan sat out the January 30 Northwestern game . McGary posted 11 rebounds again , against Northwestern . In the subsequent games , Morgan continued to be in a day @-@ to @-@ day condition , playing minimal or no minutes . McGary played a career @-@ high 29 minutes , tallying then career highs of 14 points and 4 steals , along with 6 rebounds , on February 5 in an overtime victory against Ohio State . On February 9 , McGary played 32 minutes in an overtime loss to Wisconsin , totaling 12 points , 3 steals and 8 rebounds . For his efforts in two overtime games on the week , McGary earned his second Big Ten Freshman of the Week honor on February 11 . On February 12 in Michigan 's 25th game of the season , McGary made his first appearance in the starting lineup in the rivalry game against Michigan State . Michigan lost 75 ? 52 with McGary posting a team @-@ high 4 rebounds . Morgan returned to the starting lineup in the February 17 Penn State contest , but he only played 7 minutes . Although McGary started again against Illinois on February 24 , Morgan played more minutes than McGary and Jon Horford . On March 14 , in the first round of the 2013 Big Ten Conference Men 's Basketball Tournament against Penn State , McGary posted his second career double @-@ double , reaching 10 points and 10 rebounds in the first half , but only adding one more rebound in the second half .

Prior to the 2013 NCAA Men 's Division I Basketball Tournament , Jeff Goodman of CBSSports.com named Michigan with McGary first among tournament teams in terms of having the most future NBA talent on its roster ( in the absence of Kentucky who was relegated to the 2013 National Invitation Tournament ) . As a number four seed , Michigan defeated its first NCAA tournament opponent , South Dakota State , 71 ? 56 on March 21 with McGary making his third start of the season and contributing 13 points and 9 rebounds . The 27th victory of the season gave the team its most wins in 20 years and matched head coach John Beilein 's career high . Two days later McGary made his fourth career start , adding career highs of 21 points on 10 @-@ for @-@ 11 shooting and 14 rebounds against VCU in a 78 ? 53 victory . In the first two tournament games combined , he shot 16 @-@ for @-@ 20 . On March 29 against Kansas , McGary earned his third consecutive start and 5th start of the season . He scored a career @-@ high 25 points and career @-@ high tying 14 rebounds , marking his second consecutive and fourth career double @-@ double . He shot 12 @-@ for @-@ 17 in the game . McGary joined Blake Griffin ( 2009 ) as the only two players in the last 15 NCAA Men 's Division I Basketball Tournaments to achieve 14 or more rebounds and 21 or more points in back @-@ to @-@ back games . With his tournament run , McGary became the Big Ten Conference leader in field goal percentage ( although he slipped just below Victor Oladipo at the end of the season ) . In the regional finals on March 31 against Florida , McGary contributed 9 rebounds and 11 points , including 8 points as Michigan opened up a 13 ? 0 lead to start the game . McGary , also added a career @-@ high 5 steals during his fourth consecutive start . McGary and Stauskas joined Most Outstanding Player Trey Burke on the 5 @-@ man South All @-@ Regional team . Following the regional championship postgame prayer and with Mrs. Beilein 's consent , McGary and Tim Hardaway , Jr. gave head coach John Beilein a gatorade shower . In the April 6 national semifinal against Syracuse , McGary contributed 10 points and 12 rebounds along with a career @-@ high 6 assists . Two nights later , Michigan lost in the championship game to Louisville by an 82 ? 76 margin as McGary contributed 6 points , 6 rebounds , a steal , a block and an assist . McGary made the 7 @-@ man All @-@ Tournament team ( which was revised multiple times ) along with teammates Burke and Albrecht . In his six NCAA Tournament starts , he averaged a double @-@ double with 14 @-@ 3 points and 10 @-@ 8 rebounds . McGary finished the season as the Big Ten conference freshman leader in rebounding

and placed second to Victor Oladipo in field goal percentage ( 59 @. @ 87 % vs. 59 @. @ 82 % ) .

== == 2013 NBA Draft == ==

Prior to the Final Four , McGary stated that he would not enter the 2013 NBA Draft , but a few days later said he had been caught off guard and would prefer to respond after he has time to reflect on his season . On April 9 before boarding the airplane to return from the NCAA Final Four , Beilein met with Burke , Hardaway , Robinson and McGary to direct them to seek the advice of the NBA advisory committee . The draft board has until April 15 to develop each individual report and the players have until April 28 to enter the draft . On April 12 , ESPN journalist Myron Medcalf described McGary 's likelihood of entering the draft as " borderline , " noting that his NCAA tournament performance may have given him a sudden chance to be a lottery selection . Several sources regarded him as a likely first round draft choice in the NBA Draft , so there was much speculation about him entering his name into the draft . On April 18 , he and Robinson held a joint press conference to announce that they would not enter the draft . This came after Burke and Hardaway entered the draft on the 14th and 17th , respectively .

== == Sophomore == ==

== == Preseason == ==

On April 30 , ESPN 's Eamonn Brennan named him a first team 2013 @-@ 14 pre @-@ offseason All @-@ American selection . In June 2013 , Sporting News ' Mike DeCourcy named McGary the best center for the upcoming season . McGary declined an invitation to try out for the USA Basketball team that competed at the 2013 Summer Universiade , opting instead to attend the Nike Skills Academy for big men featuring Amar 'e Stoudemire and Anthony Davis and the LeBron James Skills Academy .

On September 6 , Sporting News named McGary to its preseason All @-@ American first team ( along with Doug McDermott , Marcus Smart , Jabari Parker and Andrew Wiggins ) , as well as the best overall player in the Big Ten Conference after he led Michigan to the championship game by averaging 14 @. @ 3 points and 10 @. @ 7 rebounds per game in the tournament . NBC Sports named him a second team selection . Later that month , McGary joined McDermott , Smart , Wiggins and Julius Randle as first team preseason All @-@ Americans by USA Today Sports 2013 @-@ 14 College Basketball Preview Magazine . However , USA Today sports staff later selected him as second team . Blue Ribbon College Basketball Yearbook named McGary a preseason second team All @-@ American . Lindy 's Sports selected McGary to the preseason All @-@ Big Ten second team and named him the nation 's second best power forward . Athlon Sports selected McGary to its preseason All @-@ American second team and preseason All @-@ Big Ten first team . CBS Sports selected McGary as a second team preseason All @-@ American . Dick Vitale selected McGary to his All @-@ Solid Gold preseason first team ( along with McDermott , Smart , Russ Smith and Aaron Craft ) . On November 4 , McGary was named first team preseason All @-@ American by the Associated Press along with McDermott , Smart , Wiggins and Smith . McGary was on the 50 @-@ man Naismith Award and Wooden Award preseason watchlists .

In September , McGary experienced an unspecified lower back condition that impaired his basketball activity . He sat out the first exhibition game on October 29 against Concordia University . McGary was a preseason All @-@ Big Ten selection in both the official media poll released by the Big Ten Conference and the unofficial media poll released by the Big Ten Network . He was also on the 15 @-@ man Oscar Robertson Trophy Preseason Watch List .

== == Regular season == ==

McGary sat out the season opener on November 8 due to his back problems . By November 11 ,

head coach Beilein stated that McGary had begun participating in limited full @-@ speed workouts . After missing the preseason and first two regular season games , McGary returned to play against Iowa State on November 17 posting 9 points , 6 rebounds and 4 steals . McGary posted a 14 @-@ point and 12 rebound double @-@ double in his third game , which was the November 22 Puerto Rico Tip @-@ Off semifinal against Florida State . With leading scorer Stauskas sidelined with an injury , the November 29 contest against Coppin State was McGary 's first start of the season . On December 3 , McGary had 15 points and 14 rebounds against Duke . McGary tied his career high with 6 assists as Michigan defeated Houston Baptist by the 54 points on December 7 . On December 21 , McGary sat out against Stanford due to assorted ailments . On December 27 , McGary announced that he would have back surgery . On January 3 , the surgery date was announced as January 7 . By March 15 , he had progressed to running on hardcourt surfaces , after some time spent running on an underwater treadmill . He was nearing jumping activities . The 2013 ? 14 team advanced to the elite eight round of the 2014 NCAA Men 's Division I Basketball Tournament before being eliminated by Kentucky on March 30 .

= = Professional career = =

= = = 2014 NBA Draft = = =

Following the season , McGary , who had slipped from a projected 2013 first round selection to a projected 2014 second round selection , stated that he had to evaluate whether he was mentally and physically ready to pursue a professional career . McGary and teammates Robinson and Stauskas all submitted evaluation requests to the NBA Undergraduate Advisory Committee which must respond by April 14 , giving the players until April 27 to make themselves eligible for the draft if they so choose . Many in the press felt he should return to " rebuild his draft stock " . Upon learning that he had tested positive for marijuana following the Sweet Sixteen victory over Tennessee and was facing a one @-@ year suspension , McGary declared for the draft , following teammates Stauskas and Robinson who had declared ten days earlier . Of Michigan 's prior 14 early NBA draft entrants , 10 were selected in the first round and 3 in the second . McGary was tested 18 days before the NCAA decided to reduce the automatic punishment for marijuana use to a half a season and his appeal for lenience was unsuccessful . During his two years with Michigan , the school enjoyed its winningest two @-@ year stretch in school history marked by a total of 59 wins . McGary signed with sports agent Mark Bartelstein ( along with teammate Stauskas ) . Bartelstein is the father of former Michigan teammate Josh Bartelstein , and agent for former teammate Tim Hardaway , Jr . Due to his continuing rehabilitation for his back , it was unclear whether McGary would attend the NBA Draft Combine . McGary and Bartelstein decided that McGary should not participate in combines at less than 100 % .

= = = Oklahoma City Thunder ( 2014 ? present ) = = =

McGary was drafted 21st overall by the Oklahoma City Thunder . With teammates Stauskas and Robinson also being drafted , it marked the first time Michigan had at least three draft picks since the 1990 NBA draft . With Burke and Hardaway having been drafted the year before , every player that started in the 2013 NCAA Men 's Division I Basketball Championship Game was drafted either in the 2013 or 2014 NBA draft .

On July 5 , 2014 , McGary signed with the Thunder and joined them for the 2014 NBA Summer League . On the first possession of his first NBA Summer League game , McGary issued a halfcourt pass for a lob slam dunk by Jeremy Lamb , highlighting the passing that he is known for . On October 8 during training camp , McGary fractured the second metatarsal of his left foot , causing him to be sidelined for an estimated six weeks . This occurred three weeks before the team 's October 29 season opener and meant McGary was expected to miss the first 14 games of the season . After missing the first 14 games , he began to be a limited participant in practices . McGary

debuted with the Thunder on December 14 with 4 rebounds and 3 points in 7 : 15 of play against the Phoenix Suns . Subsequently , McGary was sidelined for 2 ? 3 weeks with periostitis ( inflammation ) in his left tibia . He returned from injury on February 2 as he appeared in just his second NBA game in a 104 @-@ 97 win over the Orlando Magic . On February 8 , in his third NBA game , McGary posted a double double with 19 points and 10 rebounds against the Los Angeles Clippers , while energizing the crowd and team . Then on February 9 , he posted a 17 @-@ point , 10 @-@ rebound double double against the Denver Nuggets . He was one of the finalists for NBA Western Conference Rookie of the Month . On March 13 , McGary made his first start against the Minnesota Timberwolves in place of an injured Serge Ibaka , scoring 12 points in 22 minutes . At power forward , his defensive assignment was supposed to have been Kevin Garnett , but Garnett sat out a third consecutive game and was replaced by fellow rookie ( and former Michigan State rival ) Andrei Payne who had replaced Garnett in the two previous games as well . McGary had made his first college basketball start against Payne 's 2012 ? 13 Michigan State team . On March 16 , McGary established a new career high by nabbing 11 rebounds in his first 6 minutes of play before going on to post a double double with 13 rebounds and 12 points in 17 minutes against Dallas Mavericks . In the April 15 season finale against the Minnesota Timberwolves , McGary posted a season @-@ high 4 blocked shots in just 14 : 54 of play . During his rookie and sophomore seasons , he had multiple assignments with Oklahoma City Blue , the Thunder 's D @-@ League affiliate .

On October 16 , 2015 , McGary suffered a loose ball collision with Matt Barnes of the Memphis Grizzlies that resulted in concussion @-@ like symptoms . On October 21 , the Thunder exercised their third @-@ year team option on McGary 's rookie scale contract , extending the contract through the 2016 ? 17 season . On October 26 , he was cleared for the October 28 season opener . However , McGary did not appear in the game .

On July 8 , 2016 , McGary was suspended for five games by the NBA for a failed drug test .

= = NBA career statistics = =

= = = Regular season = = =

= = Personal life = =

McGary 's father is a Chesterton High School alumnus and his mother worked there as the school treasurer . McGary entertains his teammates with rapping on and off the court . McGary 's older brother Ryan bought him a unicycle for his 12th birthday and McGary quickly became proficient , eventually delivering newspapers on unicycles with his childhood friend Spencer who had a paper route and also had a unicycle . According to his AAU basketball coach , Wayne Brumm , McGary is said to have thrown a baseball in the mid to high 80 miles per hour range . McGary is an avid skateboarder , with a set of skateboard ramps built by his father in his backyard .