

= Mamadou N 'Diaye (basketball , born 1993) =

Mamadou N 'Diaye (born September 14 , 1993) is a Senegalese basketball player who played for the UC Irvine Anteaters men 's basketball team and remained in the NBA draft following his junior season , ending his college eligibility . He was one of the tallest basketball players in the NCAA Division I level , standing 7 ft 6 in (2 @. @ 29 m) . N 'Diaye attended Brethren Christian Junior / Senior High School in Huntington Beach , California , where he was labeled one of the tallest high school players in the United States .

N 'Diaye , a center , was named Big West Conference Defensive Player of the Year after the 2013 ? 14 NCAA Division I men 's basketball season and earned all @-@ conference honorable mention accolades as well . He most recently completed his sophomore year at University of California , Irvine and his second season with the Anteaters in 2014 ? 15 . He is considered a talented shot @-@ blocker , having accumulated 131 blocks in his first 49 collegiate games .

He now plays for the Golden State Warriors Development League Team .

= = Early life = =

N 'Diaye was born in Dakar , Senegal to Seynabou and Mbad N 'Diaye . He has an older brother , named Adam . He grew up playing soccer and did not seriously begin playing basketball at a young age . In 2010 , Amadou Koundoul , who was the assistant coach for the UC Irvine Anteaters men 's basketball team at the time , saw N 'Diaye participate in a pick @-@ up game in a gymnasium at Dakar . He asked him to travel to the United States , and N 'Diaye accepted the offer . He arrived in the US without knowing how to speak English . In the new country , he initially had trouble with speaking English and often needed things to be translated to French .

After experiencing headaches upon his arrival to America , N 'Diaye saw a doctor and it was discovered that he was suffering from a golf ball @-@ sized tumor in his pituitary gland , which had caused his excessive growth and was threatening his vision . Afterwards , he recalled the moment , " For me , it wasn 't a big deal because I didn 't know what a tumor was . Once I found out , it was tough to hear I had one . " The condition was treated in the Hoag Memorial Hospital following several charitable donations from around the area . A married couple who lived in Huntington Beach , California , a city close to N 'Diaye 's future school , offered to become his guardians to ease his commute for medical treatment .

= = High school career = =

Prior to participating in sports , N 'Diaye attended Stoneridge Prep in Simi Valley , California , who steered him through his early years in the United States . The school had a history of producing high @-@ caliber international basketball players , including Enes Kanter and Nikola Vu?evi? . However , N 'Diaye was not allowed to play the sport during his first year in the high school because of California Interscholastic Federation rules . As a sophomore , he was officially granted the permission to transfer to another high school .

N 'Diaye attended Brethren Christian School in Huntington Beach , California . He played under head coach Jon Bahnsen . According to Bahnsen upon arriving at the school , N 'Diaye " could barely get up and down the court more than a few times " due to his poor fitness after rehabilitation . In his high school years , N 'Diaye , who stood 7 ft 5 in (2 @. @ 26 m) at the time , was considered one of the tallest to play at that level . He was also approached by the Guinness World Records to determine the authenticity of the claims . Bahnsen said , " Our school wouldn 't cooperate with them , but Guinness probably wanted to see if he was the world 's tallest high school basketball player . "

As a junior at Brethren Christian , N 'Diaye finished the season averaging 24 points and 14 rebounds . CBS News wrote that he was " impossible to defend " because of his height . At the conclusion of his final , senior season with Brethren Christian , N 'Diaye averaged about 27 points , 14 rebounds , and 4 @. @ 5 blocks . He partook his highest scoring game in January 2013 against Oxford Academy , with 45 points and 15 rebounds coming off an illness that kept him out of the

initial games . After the year , N 'Diaye earned All @-@ State honors and was named CIF @-@ 5AA Player of the Year . He also earned the 2013 John R. Wooden High School Player of the Year award for CIF Division V. In the same season , N 'Diaye garnered National Christian Schools Athletic Association Player of the Year and Far West Super @-@ Region team accolades . Also , he was named Academy League Most Valuable Player .

According to the ESPN Recruiting Nation , N 'Diaye was the 6th most promising high school player in his state . ESPN analysts commented on N 'Diaye 's basketball talent by saying , " Ndiaye is a legit 7 @-@ foot @-@ 5 prospect with extraordinary length and huge hands . " He officially committed to play with the UC Irvine Anteaters men 's basketball team , following matriculation at the University of California , Irvine , on November 14 , 2012 . He also considered Oregon , Georgetown , and Pepperdine . N 'Diaye said that he selected UC Irvine because he " felt very comfortable at the university and with the coaching staff . "

= = Collegiate career = =

= = = Freshman = = =

Upon joining the UC Irvine basketball program , N 'Diaye was instantly recognized as the tallest player in the NCAA Division I. Russell Turner , the head basketball coach , said , " I 'm excited to add a player of Mamadou 's quality and character to our program . "

On November 2 , 2013 , N 'Diaye represented UC Irvine for the first time in an exhibition game vs. Chapman . He finished with 9 points , a team @-@ high 7 rebounds and 5 blocks. Turner said after the game , " I was pleased with Mamadou 's play . He is a dominating factor at times and he will be a factor that other teams will have to deal with . " N 'Diaye made his collegiate debut on November 8 , 2013 against Fresno State with 5 points , 4 rebounds , and 1 block as the starting center . He also shot 1 @-@ of @-@ 1 from the field and 3 @-@ of @-@ 10 from the free throw line . However , the team lost the game because of a buzzer beater from the opposing side .

When the Anteaters defeated the Washington Huskies men 's basketball team on November 14 , 2013 , N 'Diaye recorded a season @-@ high 18 points . He also added 8 rebounds and 9 blocks . The game was also his first experience in the 2K Sports Classic . His blocked shots total broke the school 's single @-@ game record under the category . He recorded his first career double @-@ double with Irvine on December 28 , 2013 against Arizona State , with 12 points , 4 blocks , and a career @-@ high 12 rebounds . In January at rival Long Beach State , N 'Diaye 's size was said to be so intimidating , coach Dan Monson of the 49ers told reporters that his presence was felt in a way where even when he was sitting on the bench , his players were still afraid to attack the paint . In early February , N 'Diaye broke the school 's single @-@ game block record for the second time in the season , totaling with 11 blocked shots and 10 rebounds against Long Beach State . N 'Diaye also broke the conference 's all @-@ time record . It would be his first career game in which he recorded a double @-@ double without scoring over ten points .

N 'Diaye finished the 2013 ? 14 season with averages of 7 @.@ 8 points , 6 @.@ 2 rebounds , 0 @.@ 2 assists , 3 @.@ 1 blocks , and 1 @.@ 7 turnovers per game . Following the year , he was labeled a future top prospect by Kevin Pelton of ESPN.com , strongly due to his performance against Washington , in which he broke the school record for blocks for a single game . UC Irvine lost 58 @-@ 64 in the first round of the 2014 National Invitation Tournament against SMU . They fell to Cal Poly in the 2014 Big West Conference Men 's Basketball Tournament shortly before .

= = = Sophomore and junior = = =

N 'Diaye debuted as a sophomore on November 14 , 2014 , recording 9 points , 2 rebounds , and 1 block against Chapman University . He scored a career @-@ high 21 points on November 29 , vs Loyola Marymount . This was the first time he notched over 20 points in his college career as well . This would be his season @-@ high scoring total . N 'Diaye was sidelined for two months in his

second year due to a foot injury . After his team qualified for the 2015 NCAA Men 's Division I Basketball Tournament , he drew attention on Twitter . Louisville Cardinals men 's basketball head coach Rick Pitino , who coached against UC Irvine 's Russell Turner in the first round , said , " I thought he was eight feet tall . " The Anteaters ' season ended when they lost 55 @-@ 57 to Louisville , in spite of the 12 points , 5 rebounds , and 1 block N 'Diaye recorded . He finished the season averaging 10 @.@ 5 points , 5 @.@ 1 rebounds , and 1 @.@ 7 blocks .

In mid @-@ April 2015 , N 'Diaye made it official that he would forgo the 2015 NBA draft and return to UC Irvine for his junior year . The school later released a statement , in which his coach said , " This is great news for Mamadou and for our program . He is staying here because he is happy , he 's committed to his education and he is thriving . I feel really good about those things . " Following his second season with the Anteaters , websites such as CBSSports.com considered him a player that would need to play in the NBA Development League before joining a National Basketball Association roster .

During his junior season , N 'Diaye led the Anteaters to a program best 28 wins falling in the CIT Championship to Colombia . He played in 37 of 38 games on the season starting 36 averaging 12 @.@ 1 ppg , 7 @.@ 2 rpg , 2 @.@ 4 bpg and shooting 63 @.@ 1 % FG and 67 @.@ 3 % FT and 23 @.@ 2 mpg . He also broke the UCI school record for blocks with 218 which was previously broken by former teammate Will Davis II the previous season with 208 .

By his junior year , N 'Diaye was no longer the tallest NCAA player . He faced fellow Senegalese 7 ft 6 in (2 @.@ 29 m) player Tacko Fall in the tallest tip @-@ off and match @-@ up in US college basketball history in a game against the UCF Knights . At the end of his junior season , N 'Diaye managed to improve a good portion of his statistics from his first two years beforehand .

On April 7 , 2016 , N 'Diaye declared for the 2016 NBA draft but did not rule out returning to UC Irvine . Per new NCAA rules , players can declare for the draft and attend pre @-@ draft workouts and opt out of the draft by May 25 as long as they do not hire an agent . On May 23 , two days before the deadline , it was announced that N 'Diaye would officially stick his name into the draft after all . During the school 's official interview regarding his departure , N 'Diaye indicated that we would continue his 2nd dream to pursue the completion of his degree at UC Irvine even as he moves on for his 1st dream to play professionally .

On May 2 , 2016 , N 'Diaye was named to the Senegal national basketball team preliminary squad for Basketball at the 2016 Summer Olympics ? Men 's qualification .

== College statistics ==

Source :

== Professional career ==

N 'Diaye went undrafted in 2016 NBA Draft . Several days after the draft day , N 'Diaye was listed in Golden State Warriors ' roster for 2016 NBA Summer League .

== Player profile ==

Standing seven feet , six inches tall and weighing 300 pounds , N 'Diaye 's wingspan (fingertip @-@ to @-@ fingertip reach) was measured as 8 ft 1 in (2 @.@ 46 m) at the 2012 edition of the Amar 'e Stoudemire Skills Academy . When he entered college , his wingspan had increased to over 8 ft 3 in (2 @.@ 51 m) . He is solely used as a center due to his height , length , and size . N 'Diaye 's skill set was often considered " raw " in high school , and received comments from Brethren Christian head coach , Jon Bahnsen , who said , " Right now his game is basically catch , turn , drop @-@ step , dunk . " He is also capable of touching the standard basketball rim without jumping .

During the 2016 tournament season , a writer for SB Nation wrote that " When Columbia guards find themselves one @-@ on @-@ one with just his frame between them and the rim , they reverse direction and scurry away , like terrified Tokyoites who just heard Godzilla stomping around . One

fan screams ' You 're not that tall ! ' at him , which is a lie . Another yells ' You 're only the 36th tallest in the world ! , ' which upon further research , turns out to be true . "

In the past , N 'Diaye has been compared with players such as Yao Ming and Rudy Gobert , who respectively stand 7 ' 6 " and 7 ' 1 " (2 @. @ 29 m and 2 @. @ 16 m) and feature a similar wingspan .

He now plays for the Golden State Warriors Development League Team as 3rd string center .