

Mustang Press is a monthly newsletter covering the experiences, progress, and events of the Putnam Science Academy Basketball program

Wooten primed for breakout



It feels like we have seen this kind of story before, most recently with Mouhamed Dioubate. And if he can continue on that similar path, expect a breakout, stamp-him-as-a-star season out of Imahri Wooten, much the way Dioubate had two seasons ago.

After arriving at PSA in late December from Arizona Compass, Wooten had a solid but unspectacular season, averaging 6.2 points, 2.2 rebounds, and 1.4 assists while playing about 18 minutes and starting 25 of 29 games.

But he has had a standout summer already (like Dioubate did) for City Rocks on the Nike EYBL circuit, where he averaged 10 points and three rebounds while being named to the All-Underclass team for Session 4. Wooten - who has heard from more than two dozen schools (Big East, Big Ten, SEC, ACC among them) since the initial contact period in mid-June - and soon-to-be PSA teammate Parrish Edmond have helped City Rocks to the Peach Jam in mid-July.

“Things are going well,” Wooten said recently after getting back from Los Angeles, where he attended the NBPA Top 100 Camp. “Just keep getting better and get back to PSA ready to lead the team with (returners) Ben (Ahmed) and Tony (Williams).

“I thought last year was good. I think I was still coming back after being at Compass, which just wasn’t the right fit. We came up short in the championship game, but I thought we played as a team. Now we need to finish the job.”

Erhunmwunse reclasses to 24, joins Friars

In a decision that surprised virtually no one, PSA star big man Oswin Erhunmwunse announced in mid-June that he was reclassing from 2025 to 2024 and moving on to Providence College now.

“Why wait?” he wrote on social media.

The 6-foot-9 rim protector extraordinaire committed to the Friars back in January just as he returned to the PSA lineup following offseason surgery. Erhunmwunse averaged 9.1 points, 7.1 rebounds, and 3.3 blocks in 21 games, and was a major reason (if not *the* major reason) the Mustangs bounced back from an eight-loss first half to end up in the national championship game. He also made 74.8 percent of his shots (89-of-119), the second-best single-season percentage in school history for anyone with at least 100 shots. Erhunmwunse finished his career third among PSA’s all-time shotblockers, ending with 132.

“He’s just a tremendous basketball player,” coach Tom Espinosa said. “He was such a difference-maker for us, having him to protect the rim, rebound, seemingly score at will. He’s got a tremendous future ahead of him.

“He’s a great kid. He was good to everyone, the other kids loved him, not just his teammates. PSA is going to miss him, not just PSA Basketball.”



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Expectations high for Nosakhare



The expectations are through the roof for incoming PSA basketball player Sam Nosakhare.

Expectations that he will have Oswin Erhunmwunse-type production.

Expectations that he will be the biggest riser in the entire class of 2025.

Expectations to meet the standards of previous Mustangs like Mouhamed Dioubate and Baye Ndongo who played the same position.

“The pressure is being put on,” Associate Head Coach Josh Scraba said.

Nosakhare says he is ready for it.

“I’m an all-around player,” said the 6-foot-9, 215-pounder. “And I’m ready to expand my game too.”

Whatever happens with those expectations, it seems certain that Nosakhare, a native of Benin City, Nigeria, where he was friends with the former PSA star Erhunmwunse, will put in the work to exceed them.

“My coach back home taught me that you play hard and if you don’t have rebounds to get, you have shots to block,” he said. “If you don’t have shots to block, you can hustle for the ball. You’re definitely going to have something to do. It’s all about playing hard. So I took what my coach told me and I started playing hard.

“No matter where I go or how I’m playing, I just play hard because I have a passion for the game. I know that will take me where I want to go.”

PSA set for Keel’s play to do the talking

Warren Keel is a young man of few words. And that is just fine with Putnam Science Academy’s coaching staff. Keel, one of the newest commits to the Prep basketball team for this coming year, will be counted on for his actions, not his words.

“Warren Keel is the head of the snake,” PSA Associate Head Coach Josh Scraba said. “We will go as he goes. He was one of the most feared point guards we faced all year last year and we expect him to take it to the next level. We will challenge him every day. He needs to be the best practice player we have.”

The 5-foot-11 guard from Springfield, Mass., has goals of his own too. A member of the Class of 2026, Keel wants to earn his way into a Top 50 national ranking.

“The coaches have told me it’s not going to be easy at PSA, that nothing will be handed to me and I’m going to have to work for everything,” he said. “I like that. I like to fight through adversity and grow as a player and as a person.”

Keel played last season at Bradford Christian Academy, which he helped win the NEPSAC AA championship, likes to play fast and find his open teammates, and said he is working on refining his shot this summer while playing with Mass Rivals. But it’s really not work. He says it is more passion than work.

“I’ve loved basketball since...forever, since I came out of the womb it feels like,” he said. “There’s nothing like it for me. It’s just like...it’s just...it’s just basketball. I can’t explain it, really. I played football and tennis, and I still play a little pickleball, but neither of those did it for me. I got hit once playing football when I was 7 or 8 years old and that was enough. It’s been basketball ever since.”

