Destination of 2017 Division I Men’s Basketball Transfers

December 2017
Identifying Division I Men’s Basketball Transfers

Transfers identified using the 2017 Division I Basketball Transfers list from the Verbal Commits website, downloaded mid-September 2017.

List accuracy determined primarily through:

- 2017-18 men’s basketball roster of transfer institution, and/or student-athlete bio.

Secondary sources:

- NJCAA National Letter of Intent Signee Database.
- Official press releases from either/both institution(s).
- Transfer student-athletes’ Twitter feed or other social media footprint (Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.).
Methods of Analyses

Cases removed:

- Those who could not be found on a team at a new institution (n=62).
- Mid-season transfers (n=61). To remove them, we relied on a list of names published by ESPN in January 2017 and extracted these cases (5 on ESPN’s mid-season transfer list were not on the Verbal Commits list).
- “Walk-ons” at either their 2016-17 or 2017-18 Division I institution (n=23).
- Division II student-athletes (those who competed at a Division II institution in 2016-17, n=10).
- Those who medically retired (n=1).

Data corrected (if necessary) and coded by:

- Division of new institution.
- Graduate transfer status.
- Transfer direction (see technical appendix for details).
Transfer Departures after the 2016-17 Season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Transfers</th>
<th>Number of Division I Teams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 Transfers</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Transfer</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Transfers</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Transfers</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 or more Transfers</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Based on the 689 confirmed transfers, as of 11/10/17.
2017-18 Transfer Destinations by Division

- Division I: 48%
- Division II: 25%
- Division III: 1%
- NAIA/NJCAA: 26%

Note: Destination of the 689 confirmed transfers, as of 11/10/17.
Directional Movement of Transfers

Note: Directional movement of the 689 confirmed transfers, as of 11/10/17. Direction determined mainly by division, conference and program prestige.
Directional Movement Among Those Who Transferred Within Division I

Notes: Directional movement of the 332 Division I to Division I transfers, as of 11/10/17. About half (54%) of all “up-transfers” were so-called “grad transfers” (N=29).
Divisional Movement of Transfers Over Time

Notes: 2015 and 2016 transfers identified using ESPN’s transfer list; 2017 transfers identified using Verbal Commits transfer list.
Pathways of Graduate Transfers

- The Verbal Commits website does not specifically list graduate transfers in their database. To identify these student-athletes, we cross-referenced the list of Division I to Division I transfers with a list of “best grad players available” from SB Nation. Additionally, using the red-shirt seniors and seniors identified on the Verbal Commits list, we examined press releases, bios and box scores from the start of the 2017 regular season to identify graduate transfers among the Division I to Division I population.

- In total 132 graduate transfers were identified (walk-ons excluded).
Change in Number of Men’s Basketball Graduate Transfers Within Division I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>35% of DI-DI transfers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>35% of DI-DI transfers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>40% of DI-DI transfers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Increase in graduate transfer may be due in part to transfer behavior, but may also be attributed to the change from using the ESPN transfer list to the Verbal Commits transfer list, which has listed 15-20% more transfers annually than ESPN since we began tracking these data.
Directional Movement Among Division I to Division I Graduate Transfers in 2017-18

- Up-transfer: 22%
- Lateral-transfer: 60%
- Down-transfer: 18%

Note: N=132 graduate transfers.

- **Up Transfer**
  - Transferring from a non-autonomy conference to an autonomy conference program (ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 or SEC).
  - Transferring from a non-autonomy conference program to a perennial power outside the autonomy conferences (Gonzaga, San Diego State, Wichita State, Memphis, or VCU).
  - Transferring from any Division I team that has NOT won a national championship in the last 10 years to a program that won a national championship in the past 10 years (UNC, Villanova, Duke, UConn, Louisville, Kentucky, Kansas).

- **Lateral Transfer**
  - Transferring from an autonomy conference program that has NOT won a national championship in last 10 years to a perennial power.
  - Transferring from an autonomy conference program to another autonomy conference program that has NOT won a national championship in last 10 years.
  - Transferring from a non-autonomy program to another non-autonomy conference program that is NOT a perennial power.

- **Down Transfer**
  - Transferring from an autonomy conference program to a non-autonomy conference program that is NOT a perennial power.
  - Transferring from a perennial power outside the autonomy conferences to a non-autonomy conference program.
  - Transferring from a program that won a national championship in the past 10 years to program that has not done so.
  - Transferring out of Division I to DII, DIII, NAIA, NJCAA, etc.