Identifying Division I men’s basketball transfers

Transfers identified using ESPN’s “College basketball transfer list” (last updated 9/1/16 on ESPN.com). Graduate transfers and spring transfers sub-sections used.

List accuracy determined primarily through:

- 2016-17 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

- Data corrected (if necessary) and coded by:
  - Division of new institution.
  - Graduate transfer status.
  - Transfer direction (determined by division, conference, program prestige).

- Transfer status of those who were identified as “walk-ons” at their 2016 Division I institution were removed from the analyses (N=10).
Of the 633 student-athletes on ESPN’s 2016 transfer list (walk-ons excluded), 546 were identified as having transferred to another institution and joining the basketball team.

Destination of the other 87 as of 11/9/2016:
- No information on destination=58 (67%)
- Ended basketball career=10
- Remain on roster at 2015-16 institution=8
- Playing/pursuing professional basketball outside the US=7
- Left sport for medical reasons=4
Exit institution characteristics

- 269 Division I men’s basketball teams had at least one player transfer to a new program for the 2016-17 season.

- 100 of those basketball programs had only one student-athlete transfer.

- 81 teams (23% of DI MBB programs) had 3 or more student-athletes transfer to another team, accounting for 49% of all transfers.
2016-17 transfer destinations by division

- Division I: 46%
- Division II: 27%
- NAIA/NJCAA: 25%
- Division III: 1%

Note: Destination of the 546 confirmed transfers, as of 11/9/16.
Directional movement of transfers

Note: Directional movement of the 546 confirmed transfers, as of 11/9/16. Direction determined mainly by division, conference and program prestige.
Directional movement among those who transferred within Division I

- Lateral-transfer: 58%
- Up-transfer: 17%
- Down-transfer: 25%

Note: Directional movement of the 252 DI to DI transfers, as of 11/9/16.
Divisional movement of transfers over time (Transfers found on ESPN lists 2014-2016)
Pathways of those in the graduate transfer subsection

- For the first time, the 2016 ESPN transfer list included a graduate transfer sub-section. Not all of them actually transferred:
  - 9 either left the sport or did not have a known transfer destination
  - 4 are undergraduate transfers who should have been on the “spring transfer” list
  - 99 student-athletes on the list are college graduates who transferred to a new team for the 2016-17 season (true “graduate transfers”)
- Not all 99 graduate transfers stayed within Division I: 11 are playing at Division II schools and 1 transferred to a non-NCAA institution, leaving 87 DI-to-DI graduate transfers.
Directional movement among graduate transfers in 2016-17

- Up-transfer: 25%
- Lateral-transfer: 48%
- Down-transfer*: 26%

Note: N=99. * Includes those who transferred out of Division I
There was a slight increase in the number of graduates within the Division I to Division I transfer pool from 2015 to 2016. They continue to make up just over one-third of those transferring within Division I.