

# Former Duck star Pritchard among standouts at NBA Summer League

By STEVE REED  
AP Sports Writer

Payton Pritchard arrived at the NBA Summer League in Las Vegas looking to take advantage of the opportunity to show he deserves major minutes this upcoming season with the Boston Celtics.

Mission accomplished. The second-year point guard was one of the biggest stars in Las Vegas before leaving the team due to a prior family engagement. He averaged 20.3 points, 8.7 assists and 5.7 rebounds in three games while helping the unbeaten Celtics reach Tuesday night's championship game against the Sacramento Kings (4-0).

That's good news for Boston, which parted ways with Kemba Walker this offseason. Pritchard may be in line for a more prominent role in Boston's backcourt that includes Marcus Smart at point guard.

Pritchard shot 57.7% from 3-point range and his 1.38 points per possession ranks first among all Summer League players. He also protected the basketball well, averaging 1.3 turnovers per game.

And while he won't play in the title game, Pritchard gave the Celtics something to think about before leaving.

"That is what separates good point guards from great ones — the ability to make people around you better and get people shots and just being able to control the game," said Pritchard, who averaged 7.7 points and 1.8 assists last year in 66 games for the Celtics. "That is what I'm trying to become and I'm going to keep working on that."

The Kings reached the championship game behind a balanced scoring attack and a consistently strong defense ignited by first-round draft pick Davion Mitchell. His numbers



Kirthmon F. Dozier/Detroit Free-Press

Detroit Pistons center Isaiah Stewart fights for a rebound against Boston Celtics forward Grant Williams (12) and guard Payton Pritchard (11) during the first quarter at Little Caesars Arena, Friday, Jan. 1, 2021.

are eye-popping, but there's no denying what he brings on defense.

Mitchell earned the nickname "Off Night" while helping Baylor to an NCAA national championship last season — as in, whoever he's guarding is going to have an off night.

"That's his bread and butter, the way he attacks the game, the way he defends it," said Kings Summer League head coach Bobby Jackson. "He's a really really great on-ball defender. He has to get better off the ball and we've talked about it. But he sets the tone at the top of the key offensively and defensively for us."

Here are some of the other Summer League standouts:

- Cam Thomas, Nets: Thomas is leading the NBA Summer League in scoring, averaging 27 points per game

while probably making some NBA general managers wish they hadn't passed on drafting him. The 27th overall pick in 2021 had a 31-point night that included a game-winning 3-pointer in sudden death double overtime Thursday followed by a 36-point performance Sunday. The LSU product is shooting 36% from 3-point range.

- Cade Cunningham, Pistons: The No. 1 overall pick in the NBA draft hasn't disappointed, averaging 18.7 points and 5.7 rebounds per game. There are surely some Detroit fans who'd like to see him with the ball in hands more often than what they've seen this summer given his passing ability. But he'll need to cut down on his turnovers (4 per game) moving forward.

- Paul Reed, 76ers: The

76ers already have an All-Star center in Joel Embiid, but G League MVP Paul Reed could bring some quality depth to Philly. Check out Reed's numbers in an overtime loss Sunday night to the Timberwolves: 27 points, 20 rebounds, four assists, four steals and four blocks. Reed is averaging 17.5 points, 12.5 rebounds and 2.5 blocks per game in Las Vegas.

- Immanuel Quickley, Knicks: Like Pritchard, Quickley is another second-year point guard who appears to have taken a major step forward in his game, averaging 21.8 points and eight assists per game. He's only shooting 25% from 3-point range, but the 2020 first-round draft pick has shown promise that he could really begin to emerge in his second season.

## MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

# Sounders score 4 straight goals to beat Timbers, 6-2

By EDWARD ELSTON  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Raul Ruidiaz scored the go-ahead goal directly off a free kick and the Seattle Sounders went on to beat the rival Portland Timbers 6-2 in a Cascadia Cup match Sunday night, Aug. 15.

Ruidiaz and Fredy Montero each scored twice.

"Six goals is unbelievable. You're not going to lose many games when you score six goals," said Seattle goalkeeper Stefan Cleveland, who made seven saves.

With the win, the Sounders (10-3-6) moved into second in the Western Conference behind Sporting Kansas City. Seattle has conceded just 16 goals this season, fewest in the league.

It was the first time that the Timbers (7-9-2) had allowed six goals at home during the regular season.

"Portland put us under pressure in moments, but the class of our team, the quality of our team showed through tonight to get us a victory and three points," Sounders coach Brian Schmetzer said.

The game's starting time was pushed back two hours Wednesday because of expected excessive heat, with the temperature Sunday reaching the mid-90s.

The match marked the return of the Cascadia Cup, the three-way competition between the Sounders, Timbers and Vancouver Whitecaps. The supporter-created award, decided on points from head-to-head matchups, was suspended last season because the coronavirus prevented capacity crowds from attending matches.

Seattle was coming off a 3-0 victory over Tigres UANL in a Leagues Cup quarterfinal match on Wednesday night. But the Sounders were winless in their previous three MLS matches.

The Sounders struck early in the 13th minute with a second-chance finish from Colombian forward Montero, his fifth goal of the season.

Montero scored his second goal in the 29th minute, giving the Sounders a 2-0 lead. It was Montero's ninth career goal against the Timbers, matching Clint Dempsey's record against the rival club.

Sebastian Blanco scored in the 32nd minute for the Timbers after making his first start for the club since suffering an ACL injury last year.

The Timbers tied it early in the second half when George Fochive scored his first career MLS goal in the 52nd minute.

The Sounders were quick to respond with a 55th-minute goal off a free kick from Ruidiaz. He scored again in the 72nd, giving him a league-leading 13 goals.

"It's not just how many goals he scores, it's when he scores them," Schmetzer said. "He's a showman and he pulls out the highlight-reel goals on a week-to-week basis."

## NFL PRESEASON

# Lance debuts at QB for 49ers

By JOSH DUBOW  
AP Pro Football Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Trey Lance's up-and-down debut performance in the preseason has done little to alter the timeline the San Francisco 49ers have for when their rookie quarterback will get more time with the first team in practice and possibly take over as starter.

Lance had a few dazzling plays on Saturday night, Aug. 14 against the Kansas City Chiefs highlighted by an 80-yard touchdown pass to Trent Sherfield but also showed some signs of inexperience with some off-target throws and inability to avoid sacks.

So as the Niners head into the week of their second preseason game following two joint practices against the Los Angeles Chargers, the pecking order at quarterback remains Jimmy Garoppolo as starter with Lance mixing in just occasionally with the first team.

"I haven't really defined that for myself either," coach Kyle Shanahan said Sunday about what Lance needs to show to get more time in practice with the starters.

"When I think it feels right, when he seems

ready, when I think the team seems ready. We'll continue to mix them in there. But I don't plan on just doing that completely. ... I wish I could help him out there longer. I know he enjoys playing. He's only been able to play one game in over a year. But I think it was good for him to get out. I think he started out good, got a little excited sometimes which he does. And you get a little excited, some of your technique and stuff you lose which will be fun to watch with him."

Lance threw the 80-yard TD pass on the first play of his second drive, making a half roll to his left, stopping and throwing back across the field to Sherfield. The Niners got a field goal on their next drive and then came up empty on the final five possessions with Lance in the game, getting just two first downs on those drives.

Lance finished 5 for 14 for 128 yards. He was hurt by three dropped passes by his receivers but also nearly threw two interceptions and recovered his own fumble on one of his four sacks.

The Niners invested heavily in Lance, trading three first-round picks to get up to No. 3 in the draft.

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