

## 2024 BAL Nile Conference Group Phase Storylines

### Nile Conference

- The Nile Conference group phase features five players with NBA G League experience: **Thierry Serge Darlan** (Bangui SC; G League Ignite); **Kevin Murphy** (Al Ahly Ly, Grand Rapid Drive); **Pierre Jackson** (Al Ahly Ly; South Bay Lakers); **Patrick Gardner** (Al Ahly; Long Island Nets) and **Dane Miller Jr.** (City Oilers; Oklahoma City Blue).
- The Nile Conference group phase features 17 former NCAA Division I players:
  - Al Ahly: **Prince Ali** (Ghana; UCLA); **Ehab Amin** (Egypt; University of Oregon); **Mark Lyons** (U.S.; University of Arizona); **Patrick Gardner** (Egypt; Marist College); and **Omar Oraby** (Egypt; University of Southern California).
  - Al Ahly Ly: **Majok Deng** (South Sudan; University of Louisiana at Monroe); **Jo-Lual Acuil** (South Sudan; Baylor University); **Kevin Murphy** (U.S.; Tennessee Tech University); and **Pierre Jackson** (U.S.; Baylor University).
  - Bangui Sporting Club: **Nikola Scekcic** (Serbia; University of South Florida); **Evans Ganapamo** (Central African Republic; New Orleans University) and **Kurt Wegscheider** (Central African Republic; University of New Mexico).
  - City Oilers: **Patrick Rembert** (U.S.; University of California, Irvine); **Dane Miller Jr.** (Uganda; Rutgers University); **Bashir Ahmed** (Ghana; St John's University); **Randy Culpepper Sr.** (U.S.; University of Texas at El Paso); and **Brandon Sebirumbi** (Uganda; Furman University).
- The Nile Conference group phase features eight players from three countries who participated in the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023: **Majok Deng** (Al Ahly Ly; South Sudan); **Khaman Maluach** (City Oilers; South Sudan); **Souleyman Diabate** (Al Ahly Ly; Cote d'Ivoire); **Ehab Amin** (Al Ahly; Egypt); **Amr Abdehalim** (Al Ahly; Egypt); **Omar Oraby** (Al Ahly; Egypt); **Karim Elgizawy** (Al Ahly; Egypt); and **Patrick Gardner** (Al Ahly; Egypt).
- The Nile Conference group phase features six former Basketball Without Borders (BWB) campers: **Seifeldin Hendawy** (Al Ahly; BWB 2022); **Karim Elgizawy** (Al Ahly; BWB 2023); **Ahmed Nedal Abouelela** (Bangui Sporting Club; BWB 2023), **Kurt Wegscheider** (Bangui Sporting Club; BWB 2017); **Thierry Serge Darlan** (Bangui Sporting Club; BWB 2022); and **Khaman Maluach** (City Oilers; BWB 2023 and BWB Global 2024).
- The Nile Conference group phase features two former Nike Hoop Summit participants: **Thierry Serge Darlan** (Bangui Sporting Club; Nike Hoop Summit 2022) and **Khaman Maluach** (City Oilers; Nike Hoop Summit 2024).

## Al Ahly (Egypt)

- Two-time BAL champion **Agustin Julbe Bosch** returns as head coach of Al Ahly after also helping Egypt's Zamalek win the inaugural BAL championship in 2021. Bosch will reunite with one of his players from the 2021 championship team (**Mostafa Kejo**) and will play against another (**Souleyman Diabate**; Al Ahly Ly).
- Five players from Al Ahly competed in the 2023 FIBA Intercontinental Cup in Singapore last year: **Ahmed El Maraghy** (Egypt), **Marwan Sarhan** (Egypt), **Mohamed Abdelkawy** (Egypt), **Omar Oraby** (Egypt), **Ehab Amin** (Egypt) and **Amr Abdelhalim** (Egypt). Al Ahly defeated AS Douanes in the 2023 BAL Finals to qualify for the tournament.
- **Patrick Gardner** (Egypt), a 6'11" center, joined Al Ahly from the NBA G League's Long Island Nets, a team he helped to reach the 2024 G League Eastern Conference Semifinals. Born in the U.S. to an Egyptian mother and an American father, Gardner made his debut for the Egyptian National Team at the 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup. Gardner previously played for the Miami Heat in the 2023 NBA Summer League and had a brief stint with the Brooklyn Nets during the 2023 NBA preseason.
- **Seifeldin Hendawy** (Egypt) became the first Egyptian to participate in BAL Elevate last season when he played for Petro de Luanda (Angola). Hendawy recently announced his commitment to Loyola University, a NCAA Division I university in Chicago.
- Egyptian guard **Ehab Amin** (Egypt) helped Al Ahly win its first BAL championship last year, averaging 12.7 points and 3.9 assists.
- Making his professional debut in the BAL, former Basketball Without Borders (BWB) Africa camper and 2023 BWB Africa All-Star **Karim El Gizawy** (Egypt) will be the second-youngest player on the Egyptian roster.
- Power forward **Tarek Elghannam** (Egypt), who helped Al Ahly win its first-ever FIBA Africa Champions Cup title in 2016 in Cairo, will serve as a team manager.

## Al Ahly Ly (Libya)

- Al Ahly Ly (Libya) features two players who were drafted into the NBA: **Kevin Murphy** (No. 42 overall by the Utah Jazz in the 2012 NBA Draft) and **Pierre Jackson** (No. 42 overall in the 2013 NBA Draft by the Philadelphia 76ers).
- The opening game of the Nile Conference group phase will feature first-time BAL participants Al Ahly Ly (Libya) and Bangui Sporting Club (Central African Republic) facing off at 2:00 p.m. GMT. The two teams faced off in November when Bangui beat Al Ahly Ly 87-75 in the BAL Road to BAL Qualifiers, securing its spot in the 2024 BAL season.

- BAL veteran and two-time BAL champion with Zamalek (2021) and US Monastir (2022) **Souleyman Diabate** (Cote d'Ivoire) will make his fourth appearance in the league and his debut with Al Ahly Ly.
- 2021 Australian National Basketball League (NBL) champion and Best Sixth Man **Jo-Lual Acuil** (South Sudan) will make his BAL debut alongside another former NBL player from Tasmania JackJumpers **Majok Deng** (South Sudan), who represented South Sudan in the 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup.
- Point guard **Pierre Jackson** (U.S.) earned second team All-Big 12 Conference honors and was named All-American honorable mention during his time at Baylor University. Jackson spent one season in the NBA with the Dallas Mavericks and has played professionally across Europe and in the NBA G League (Texas Legends).
- **Ghayth Almaghribi** (Libya) and **Sofian Hamad** (Libya) helped Al Ahly Ly finish 3-1 in the Road to the BAL Qualifiers to secure the team's spot in the BAL. Almaghribi and Hamad were also part of the Libya Men's National Team that took the 2025 FIBA AfroBasket Qualifiers by storm last February, not only eliminating Morocco in the regional pre-qualifier, but then stunning Nigeria and Uganda in the FIBA AfroBasket Qualifiers, with Almaghribi and Hamad playing significant roles.

### **Bangui Sporting Club (Central African Republic)**

- Bangui Sporting Club (Central Africa Republic) will make its debut under the guidance of the Cameroonian coach Francois Enyegue who was the head coach of Forces Armées et Police Basketball (FAP; Cameroon) during the 2022 BAL season and served as head coach of Team Africa & Middle East Girls at the Jr. NBA Global Championship in 2018. Francois was part of the Africa Coaches Program in the NBA 2K23 Summer League with the Milwaukee Bucks and in the NBA 2K24 Summer League with Orlando Magic.
- Bangui Sporting Club features two NBA Academy Africa graduates from Central African Republic who were also MVPs at Basketball Without Borders (BWB) Africa:
  - **Kurt Wegscheider** was part of the inaugural class of NBA Academy Africa student-athletes before he received a scholarship to play NCAA Division I basketball at New Mexico University. During his time at NBA Academy Africa, Wegscheider participated in BWB Africa 2017 in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he was named camp MVP.
  - **Thierry Serge Darlan** attended NBA Academy Africa before signing with NBA G League Ignite. During his time in the academy, Darlan participated in BWB Africa 2022 in Cairo, Egypt, where he was named camp MVP. Darlan returns to the BAL after playing for 2022 BAL runner-up Petro de Luanda (Angola) as part of the BAL Elevate program.

- NBA Academy Africa's **Ahmed Nedal Abouelela** (Egypt) will make his BAL debut as part of the BAL Elevate program, becoming the second Egyptian to participate in the BAL as part of the program.
- **Rolly Nganga** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) returns to the BAL for a second season after playing with BC Espoir Fukash in 2022. He was one of the top-performing African players that season, recording per game averages of 18.4 points, 2.4 assists, 5.6 rebounds, and 1.2 steals in the group phase.
- Center **Jimmy Djimrabaye** (Central African Republic) has represented Central African Republic in five FIBA AfroBasket tournaments and played professionally in France for more than a decade.
- Making his third appearance in the BAL, **Evans Ganapamo** (Central African Republic) previously represented the Cape Town Tigers (South Africa), recording per game averages of 15.8 points, 4.5 rebounds and 1.8 assists in 2023. Prior to joining the BAL, he played for Paris Basketball from 2019 - 2021.
- Former IMG Academy athlete **Nikola Scekic** (Serbia) will be the first Serbian to play in the Basketball Africa League with Bangui BC after stints playing in the Rwandan Basketball League (RBL).
- **Nyang Wek** (South Sudan) born in South Sudan moved to the U.S. at nine years old and played basketball but received a football scholarship to Lane College in Tennessee but later dropped the sport. In 2022, the forward played for Cobra Sport in the second season of the BAL.

### City Oilers (Uganda)

- During the offseason, the City Oilers (Uganda) named former Moroccan Men's National Team captain and NBA Academy Africa player development coach **Karim Nesba** as the team's new head coach. In the fall of 2023, Nesba served as a guest coach for the Sacramento Kings during the team's training camp and preseason under the guidance of 2023 NBA Coach of the Year Mike Brown.
- The City Oilers (Uganda) feature projected 2025 NBA lottery pick **Khaman Maluach** (South Sudan), a 7'1" center with a 7'5" wingspan who is poised to take Cameroon Indoor by storm next year when he suits up for the Duke Blue Devils alongside highly touted U.S. prospect Cooper Flagg. Last summer, Maluach became the third-youngest player ever to participate in the FIBA World Cup when he helped South Sudan qualify for their first-ever Olympics, which he is expected to begin preparing for after the BAL season. Maluach, who turns 18 in September, has only been playing basketball for five years, but has made rapid improvement since joining NBA Academy Africa in 2021. Despite being one of the youngest players in the league, he will play a key role in

helping the City Oilers compete for a championship. You can learn more about his basketball journey [here](#).

- Point guard **Fayed Baale** (Uganda) returns for his second BAL season with the City Oilers. Baale, who represented Uganda in the FIBA U-18 African Championship, previously participated in the Jr. NBA program in Uganda. You can learn more about his basketball journey [here](#).
- 2023 All-BAL First Team member **Dane Miller Jr.** (Uganda) joins the City Oilers after playing for S.L.A.C (Guinea) last season, where he recorded per game averages of 21 points and 3.2 steals.
- 2016 Drew League MVP **Patrick Rembert** (U.S) returns to Africa after having previous professional stints in Egypt (El Shams SC) and Libya (Al Ahly Libya). Rembert has played internationally in 11 different countries across five continents.