

▶ TAKE A LOOK

- **Ibuprofen is Destroying You From The Inside**
- **Diabetes Will Kill You (Do This To Stop It)**
- **1 Trick Kills Erectile Dysfunction - Wives Are Speechless**
- **Bride Loses lbs of Fat Month Using This Simple Diet**
- **Denzel Washington Confirms the Rumors**
- **Steve Harvey Lost His Show Over This**
- **4 Signs You're About To Die Of A Heart Attack**
- **Terry Bradshaw Leaves The Audience Shocked**
- **You'll Never Think About Solar Panels After Seeing This**
- **Gut Doctor "I Beg Americans To Throw Out This Vegetable Now"**

Powered by **FEEDNETWORK**



It's not a dream home
without natural gas.

ATMOSenergy.

⚠ Weather Alert

Special Weather Statement until 3PM CST THU



[Home](#) / [Sports](#) / [WKU Sports](#)

https://www.bgdailynews.com/sports/wku/basseyy-standing-out-among-highly-rated-freshman-centers/article_bae0b3ad-b6a8-5177-8ed9-5864b786b1fd.html

TOP STORY

WKU MEN'S BASKETBALL

Basseyy standing out among highly-rated freshman centers

Former 5-star recruit averaging 14.6 points, 9 rebounds with 38 blocks

BRAD STEPHENS bstephens@bgdailynews.com 34 min ago

Western Kentucky Hilltoppers center Charles Bassey (23) grabs a loose ball near West Virginia Mountaineers guard James Bolden (3) during WKU's 63-57 win over West Virginia in the Myrtle Beach Invitational on Friday, November 16, 2018, at the HTC Center in Conway, S.C. (Austin Anthony/photo@bgdailynews.com)

[Buy Now](#)

Austin Anthony

Charles Bassey arrived at Western Kentucky in June with five stars alongside his name.

As coach Rick Stansbury points out, that recruiting ranking doesn't guarantee instant success.

"That's some expectations and that's some upside," Stansbury said Monday on his weekly radio show. "There are a lot of five-star guys that don't do very good their freshman year in college. They get in and after a few years in college, they get into the NBA and become players.

"What I'm saying about Charles is that he's progressed very well. He's got great stats to back up a pretty good freshman campaign for him so far."

Bassey was originally a Class of 2019 prospect who reclassified into the 2018 class and joined the Hilltoppers after his junior year of prep basketball.

Upon Bassey's reclassification, 247Sports Composite listed the 6-foot-11 prospect as the sixth-ranked recruit overall in the Class of 2018. He was the second-ranked center in that group.

The Lagos, Nigeria, native Bassey was one of four 2018 centers that 247Sports Composite gave five-star ratings. The other three were Bol Bol (Oregon), Jalen Smith (Maryland) and Moses Brown (UCLA).

Thirteen other centers in the 2018 class were given four stars. Kansas freshman David McCormack was the highest-rated of that group.

Bassey's stats stack up well among those 17 four- and five-star recruits.

The Hilltoppers freshman ranks first among that group in minutes per game (29.9), 3-point shooting percentage (63.6), blocked shots (38) and steals (17).

Bassey ranks second in points per game (14.6) and rebounds per game (nine), third in field-goal percentage (65) and assists (13) and fourth in free-throw percentage (74.3).

The big man's 65-percent field-goal mark ranks 18th across Division I. His 38 blocks lead all freshmen in the nation, rank 10th overall in DI and are already second-most for any WKU freshman.

Bassey has consistently produced for the Toppers (8-7 overall, 1-1 Conference USA), who return to action Saturday night at Marshall (9-6, 2-0).

"Charles has been very good for us in every way," Stansbury said. "You know, I think we all keep wanting more and more from him, but like I say so many times, I keep it in perspective. He's 18 years old. He's not going to be Superman every night. ...

"But again, there's no one that can fault the effort and the way Charles has played."

Here's a look at the season stats for the 17 centers rated four- and five-star recruits by 247Sports Composite:

Five- and four-star Class of 2018 centers based on 247 Sports Composite rankings

(Statistics through Wednesday afternoon)

1. Bol Bol (Oregon)

Out for rest of season due to stress fracture

9 games, 29.7 minutes per game, 21 points per game, 9.6 rebounds per game, 56.1 FG%, 52 3-pt%, 75.7 FT%, 24 blocks, 9 assists, 7 steals, 18 turnovers

2. Charles Bassey (Western Kentucky)

15 games, 29.9 minutes per game, 14.6 points per game, 9 rebounds per game, 65 FG%, 63.6 3-pt%, 74.3 FT%, 38 blocks, 17 steals, 13 assists, 41 turnovers

3. Jalen Smith (Maryland)

15 games, 25.7 minutes per game, 13 points per game, 6.9 rebounds per game, 54.4 FG%, 25 3-pt%, 64.5 FT%, 22 assists, 15 blocks, 11 steals, 14 turnovers

4. Moses Brown (UCLA)

15 games, 23.3 minutes per game, 12.2 points per game, 8.9 rebounds per game, 67.8 FG%, 0 3-pt%, 36.5 FT%, 36 blocks, 6 assists, 5 steals, 26 turnovers

5. David McCormack (Kansas)

13 games, 7.2 minutes per game, 2.5 points per game, 2.4 rebounds per game, 51.9 FG%, 0 3-pt%, 55.6 FT%, 6 blocks, 2 assists, 2 steals, 3 turnovers

6. Daniel Oturu (Minnesota)

15 games, 23.4 minutes per game, 10.3 points per game, 8.1 rebounds per game, 54.5 FG%, 0 3-pt%, 59.3 FT%, 29 blocks, 7 steals, 5 assists, 26 turnovers

7. Francis Okoro (Oregon)

13 games, 10.7 minutes per game, 2.3 points per game, 2.5 rebounds per game, 40.7 FG%, 0 3-pt%, 47.1 FT%, 5 blocks, 2 steals, 1 assist, 9 turnovers

8. Carte'Are Gordon (Saint Louis)

Transferring from Saint Louis

13 games, 24.5 minutes per game, 8.9 points per game, 4.1 rebounds per game, 54.2 FG%, 40 3-pt%, 50 FT%, 23 blocks, 16 assists, 14 steals, 27 turnovers

9. Filip Petrushev (Gonzaga)

16 games, 14.8 minutes per game, 8.4 points per game, 3.6 rebounds per game, 56.4 FG%, 27.3 3-pt%, 80.4 FT%, 13 blocks, 5 assists, 3 steals, 14 turnovers

10. Jermaine Harris (Rhode Island)

13 games, 19.8 minutes per game, 5.4 points per game, 3.5 rebounds per game, 48.9 FG%, 0 3-pt%, 80 FT%, 8 steals, 2 assists, 2 blocks, 17 turnovers

11. Derek Culver (West Virginia)

Was suspended for West Virginia's first 10 games

4 games, 19.8 minutes per game, 11 points per game, 7.3 rebounds per game, 65.4 FG%, 0 3-pt%, 55.6 FT%, 4 assists, 2 blocks, 0 steals, 5 turnovers

12. Matthias Tass (Saint Mary's)

17 games, 10.4 minutes per game, 2.5 points per game, 2.5 rebounds per game, 45 FG%, 25 3-pt%, 66.7 FT%, 13 assists, 10 steals, 8 blocks, 13 turnovers

13. Immanuel Bates (North Carolina State)

Hasn't played in 2018-19

14. D.J. Burns (Tennessee)

Hasn't played in 2018-19

15. Uros Plavsic (Arizona State)

Hasn't played in 2018-19

16. Francisco Caffaro (Virginia)

Hasn't played in 2018-19

17. Colin Castleton (Michigan)

7 games, 2.4 minutes per game, 0.9 points per game, 1.9 rebounds per game, 28.6 FG%, 0 3-pt%, 28.6 FT%, 1 assist, 0 blocks, 0 steals, 2 turnovers

– Follow Daily News sports reporter Brad Stephens on Twitter @BradBGDN or visit bgdailynews.com.

MORE INFORMATION



Hilltopper freshmen get lesson in toughness at ODU

Hilltoppers blow 21-0 lead, lose at Old Dominion

Hilltoppers, Monarchs set for early C-USA showdown

Stansbury turns to bench as Hilltoppers handle Charlotte

Battle-tested Hilltoppers begin Conference USA play

Brad Stephens

Bowling Green Daily News sports reporter primarily covering Western Kentucky football and men's basketball.