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Texas Longhorns' Asjia O'Neal Leads 35 Selections In Pro Volleyball Federation Draft

ATLANTA – Pro Volleyball Federation, the premier women's professional volleyball league in North America, conducted its inaugural player draft today, with 35 collegiate standouts earning the right to compete for a spot to continue their careers as pros in the United States.

The Columbus Fury owned the first selection and used it to select Asjia O'Neal from the University of Texas. She holds the Longhorns' career record with 594 total blocks and boasts over 900 career kills. Her athletic prowess runs in the family as O'Neal is the daughter of former NBA All-Star Jermaine O'Neal.

Four players who will compete in this week's NCAA Women's Volleyball Championship in Tampa were chosen – Chiamaka Nwokolo and Emma Monks (Pitt), O'Neal (Texas) and Temi Thomas-Ailara (Wisconsin).

The University of Oregon led all schools with six selections, followed by Arkansas, BYU, Tennessee and Washington State with two each. From a conference standpoint, the Pac-12 had 11 players chosen, followed by the Big 12 (7), SEC (6) and Big Ten (4).

Two trades were made on draft day. In the fourth round, the Orlando Valkyries traded the rights to Paige Briggs along with the No. 24 selection to the Omaha Supernovas for the rights to Abby Hansen and Jill Gillen. Later, the San Diego Mojo traded the rights to Magda Jehlarova (picked No. 2 overall) to the Atlanta Vibe for current roster players Ali Bastianelli and Kendra Dahlke.

A player drafted needed to be at least 18 years or older on the day of the draft and defined as a college player. Athletes who met these criteria are eligible to be drafted. Players are not required to declare for the draft and anyone drafted may elect to return to college (if she has remaining eligibility) should she chose not to sign with her Pro Volleyball Federation team.

PRO VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION DRAFT - 2023 SELECTIONS

First Round Selections

Pick (Overall)	Player, Team	College
1 (1)	Asjia O'Neal, Columbus Fury, MB	Texas
2 (2)	Magda Jehlarova, San Diego Mojo, MB <i>*(Jehlarova traded to Atlanta after selection)</i>	Washington State
3 (3)	Hannah Pukis, Vegas Thrill, S	Oregon
4 (4)	Morgahn Fingall, Grand Rapids Rise, OPP	Tennessee
5 (5)	Paige Briggs, Orlando Valkyries, OH <i>*(Briggs later traded to Omaha)</i>	Western Kentucky
6 (6)	Chiamaka Nwokolo, Atlanta Vibe, MB	Pittsburgh
7 (7)	Amber Igiede, Omaha Supernovas, MB	Hawai'i

Second Round Selections

Pick (Overall)	Player, Team	College
1 (8)	Jill Gillen, Omaha Supernovas, OH <i>*(Gillen later traded to Orlando)</i>	Arkansas
2 (9)	Whitney Bower, Atlanta Vibe, S	BYU
3 (10)	Georgia Murphy, Orlando Valkyries, L	Oregon
4 (11)	Sydney Bolding, Grand Rapids Rise, MB	Kansas State
5 (12)	Gabby Gonzales, Vegas Thrill, OH	Oregon
6 (13)	Temi Thomas-Ailara, San Diego Mojo, OH	Wisconsin
7 (14)	Reagan Cooper, Columbus Fury, OPP/OH	Kansas

Third Round Selections

Pick (Overall)	Player, Team	College
1 (15)	Kendall Kipp, Columbus Fury, OPP	Stanford
2 (16)	Morgan Lewis, San Diego Mojo, OPP	Oregon
3 (17)	Kylie Murr, Vegas Thrill, L	Minnesota
4 (18)	Kenna Sauer, Grand Rapids Rise, OH	Houston
5 (19)	Azhani Tealer, Orlando Valkyries, MB	Kentucky
6 (20)	Kamaile Hiapo, Atlanta Vibe, L	BYU
7 (21)	Abby Hansen, Omaha Supernovas, MB <i>*(Hansen traded to Orlando after selection)</i>	UCF

Fourth Round Selections

Pick (Overall)	Player, Team	College
1 (22)	Maggie Cartwright, Omaha Supernovas, OPP	Arkansas
2 (23)	Kara McGhee, Atlanta Vibe, MB	Oregon
3 (24)	Sophie Davis, Omaha Supernovas, MB <i>*(Pick acquired from Orlando prior to selection)</i>	James Madison
4 (25)	Emma Clothier, Grand Rapids Rise, MB	SMU
5 (26)	Hannah Maddux, Vegas Thrill, OH	South Alabama
6 (27)	Karson Bacon, San Diego Mojo, MB	Oregon
7 (28)	Jenaisya Moore, Columbus Fury, OH	Tennessee

Fifth Round Selections

Pick (Overall)	Player, Team	College
1 (29)	Emma Monks, Columbus Fury, MB	Pittsburgh
2 (30)	Zoe Weatherington, San Diego Mojo, OPP	Penn State
3 (31)	Maddie Schermerhorn, Vegas Thrill, L	Purdue
4 (32)	Karly Basham, Grand Rapids Rise, L	Washington State
5 (33)	Kalyah Williams, Orlando Valkyries, OPP	USC
6 (34)	May Pertofsky, Atlanta Vibe, OPP	Washington
7 (35)	Kyla Swanson, Omaha Supernovas, MB	Auburn