# DJ Burns Sheds 45 Pounds Ahead of NBA Draft Among LeBron James’ Reflections on WNBA Star Caitlin Clark



DJ Burns, former center for North Carolina State, has successfully lost approximately 17% of his body weight without using the controversial drug Ozempic, as he prepares for the upcoming NBA Draft. Originally weighing 275 pounds, Burns has dropped around 45 pounds through regular early-morning workouts at the team facility. Burns, standing 6-foot-9, was instrumental in NC State's journey to the Final Four, where they were eliminated by Purdue.

Transitioning from Winthrop to NC State in 2022, Burns quickly became a key player in the ACC, averaging 12.7 points per game over two seasons. His efficiency, with a 54% success rate on two-point attempts, has caught the attention of NBA scouts, although he is not currently projected as a first-round pick.

There had been speculation about Burns potentially switching to football, but he dismissed the idea, reaffirming his commitment to basketball. NC State coach Kevin Keatts supported this, noting Burns' skill set and character align better with basketball.

LeBron James, meanwhile, has voiced his understanding of Caitlin Clark's position as a rising WNBA star. During an episode of his podcast, James related Clark's experience to his own early career and his son Bronny James’ recent journey. James reflected on the challenges Clark faces with high expectations and public scrutiny, similar to his own early NBA career. Clark, a standout at Iowa and the first overall pick in the WNBA Draft, has been significant for the WNBA, prompting the introduction of charter flights for the teams.

Despite a challenging start to her professional career, including a winless first four games with the Indiana Fever, Clark’s impact is evident. Her marketability and game performances have drawn significant attention to the WNBA. Her next games are against the Seattle Storm and the Los Angeles Sparks at the Crypto.com Arena.