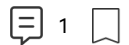


# Roddy Gayle will give one team a multi-positional threat in 2022



By The Athletic College Basketball Staff (/author/the-athletic-college-basketball-staff/) 2h ago



One college basketball program is about to get better.

Roddy Gayle, a 6-foot-4, 195-pound guard from Youngstown, N.Y., will announce his commitment on Friday from among six finalists: UConn, Georgetown, Marquette, Ohio State, Pitt and Syracuse. Gayle is the No. 54 prospect in the Class of 2022, according to the 247Sports Composite.

In advance of his decision, three *The Athletic* college basketball writers shared what he would mean to the programs they cover.

## Ohio State

Ohio State appears to be in decent shape to land its second commitment in the Class of 2022. If Gayle picks the Buckeyes, he'd join fellow guard Bowen Hardman in the class. However, Hardman and Gayle aren't exactly similar players. Hardman needs to mature a little bit physically, but is a dead-eye shooter from the wing. What attracted Ohio State to Gayle is not only his scoring ability, but also his size as a player who could play either guard position or on the wing.

Gayle was offered by Ohio State in April, and assistant coach Jake Diebler continued to foster a relationship with the four-star prospect from New York. Nobody would confuse OSU with having one of the more consistently raucous atmospheres in college basketball, but Gayle picked a good day to visit back on March 1, when the Buckeyes beat rival Michigan, 77-63.

Chris Holtmann wants a versatile and deep backcourt, which is why Gayle's size was so enticing. Looking at what OSU is already slated to have on the roster when Gayle would arrive in 2022, it's easy to see how he could fit alongside ball-handlers Meechie Johnson Jr. and Malaki Branham; or work in on the wing, where freshman Eugene Brown is the only player on the roster slated to be on the team at the start of the 2022-23 season. — *Bill Landis*

## Syracuse

To attract Gayle, the Orange have sent him materials stating he could be the next Jonny Flynn or Paul Harris, Buffalo area natives who thrived at SU. Gayle says he has good chemistry with assistant coach Gerry McNamara, but is it enough to lure him to 'Cuse? He has been in close contact with the Ohio State staff for two years. On the other hand, SU was among the first high-majors to offer Gayle, last fall, and playing in the ACC near family would be enticing. He has said staying close to home is a must. But both OSU and SU fit that criteria. From what I've heard, it's between those two.

Should he choose Syracuse, he'd be the Orange's first 2022 addition after five-star Dior Johnson announced Tuesday night he has decommitted from SU. Think of Gayle as a smooth guard with some pop, and he has a quality jumper from the perimeter. He reminds me of Tyus Battle in the way he plays the wing and attacks the rim. Here's what Gayle told *The Athletic* this summer: "G-Mac and I have a pretty good relationship. He says he wants hungry and talented players to win a championship there. He wants kids who play hard. I'm big on relationships. Which school I have a good relationship with will be the one I call home." He also said he wasn't going to make a decision until the pandemic eased and he could make on-

campus visits. He has since moved up his decision timetable. Based on a few conversations Tuesday evening, in the wake of Johnson's decision, though, all signs point toward Gayle selecting Ohio State. — *Matthew Gutierrez*

## UConn

Gayle would be the first member of the 2022 class after UConn closed out an impressive (and, at least for now, top-10) Class of 2021 this summer. Should Gayle chose UConn in what would be a surprise, he would join 2021 recruits Rahsool Diggins and Jordan Hawkins in the backcourt. Plus, James Bouknight, Jalen Gaffney and Andre Jackson will all have eligibility remaining and could still be on campus (though there's already talk of Bouknight departing for the NBA Draft after this season). Regardless, Dan Hurley and his staff are building a roster of athletic and talented guards. Because of depth concerns last season, the Huskies have used four-guard lineups, and that could be on the table again this year.

Hurley will be entering Year 5 at UConn in 2022, and the program would be chock full of the types of players he looks for. UConn is heading back to the national stage after a strong 2019-20 finish, and the return to the Big East this winter will only bolster a prospective players' profile and opponent competition. Over the summer, the coaching staff pitched 2021 recruits on the idea of being part of the next great group of UConn guards and being part of a return to a top-tier program. Gayle probably heard something similar. — *Charlotte Carroll*

*(Photo: Courtesy of Under Armour)*

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**Paul C.** 1h ago

If Gayle's words about the importance of staying close to home are true, the Cuse wins. Storrs is 445 miles from Youngstown, Columbus, 360 miles, Syracuse, 174.



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