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## **DUKE'S COOPER FLAGG RECIPIENT OF 2025 LUTE OLSON AWARD**

*The top player in division I college basketball*

SAN ANTONIO, TX -- Duke's Cooper Flagg is the recipient of the 2025 Lute Olson award, which is presented annually to the top player in division I college basketball.

The 6-foot-9 native of Newport, Maine leads No. 1 Duke in points (682), rebounds (271), assists (151) and steals (50), and is second in blocks (47). He ranks among the Top 10 in the ACC in four of the five major statistical categories - scoring (3rd), rebounding (9th), assists (8th) and blocked shots (8th).

He garnered both ACC player and rookie of the week honors in the same week five times this season, becoming the first player in ACC history to sweep the conference weekly awards more than twice. His 12 ACC Rookie of the Week citations are a new conference record.

"The best freshman in America is the best player in America," said Angela Lento, Vice President of CollegeInsider.com. "Nobody impacts winning more than Cooper Flagg. He is hands down the most complete player in college basketball."

Flagg became the youngest player in NCAA history to post a 40-point game when he broke the Duke and ACC freshman single-game scoring records with 42 points versus Notre Dame on Jan. 11, and registered the first NCAA Tournament performance with at least 30 points, seven assists, six rebounds and three blocks in Duke's Sweet 16 victory over Arizona on March 27 and was named East Region Most Outstanding Player.

The Newport, Maine native becomes the first player to win the Kyle Macy National Freshman of the Year and the Lute Olson National Player of the Year in the same season.

The award is named in honor of Hall of Fame coach Lute Olson, who won 776 games in 34

seasons, 24 of which were spent at the University of Arizona. During that stretch he led the Wildcats to 11 Pac-10 Conference titles, 23 consecutive NCAA Tournaments, four Final Four appearances and a National Championship in 1997.

Olson is one of just 25 head coaches in NCAA history to win 700 or more games (all divisions) and ranks ninth on the Division I career victories list. He finished with a winning percentage of .731 and is the all-time winningest coach in Arizona history with a 587-190 record (.755). He was named Pac-10 Coach of the Year seven times.

Olson also guided Arizona to 20 consecutive 20-win seasons and is one of only three coaches in NCAA history to record 29 or more 20-win seasons.

In 2002, Olson was enshrined into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Coach Olson passed away on August 27, 2020.

#### LUTE OLSON AWARD FINALISTS

Johni Broome	6-10	Sr.	Auburn
Walter Clayton Jr.	6-3	Sr.	Florida
LJ Cryer	6-1	Sr.	Houston
Donovan Dent	6-2	Jr.	New Mexico
Hunter Dickinson	7-2	Sr.	Kansas
Eric Dixon	6-8	Sr.	Villanova
<b>COOPER FLAGG</b>	<b>6-9</b>	<b>Fr.</b>	<b>DUKE</b>
PJ Haggerty	6-3	So.	Memphis
Chucky Hepburn	6-2	Sr.	Louisville
Kasparas Jakucionis	6-6	Fr.	Illinois
Kam Jones	6-5	Sr.	Marquette
Curtis Jones	6-2	Sr.	Iowa State
Ryan Kalkbrenner	7-1	Sr.	Creighton
Alex Karaban	6-8	Jr.	Connecticut
Trey Kaufman-Renn	6-9	Jr.	Purdue
Chaz Lanier	6-5	Sr.	Tennessee
RJ Luis Jr.	6-7	Jr.	St. John's
Augustas Marciulionis	6-4	Sr.	Saint Mary's
Ryan Nembhard	6-0	Sr.	Gonzaga
Derik Queen	6-10	Fr.	Maryland
Maxime Raynaud	7-1	Sr.	Stanford
Kadary Richmond	6-6	Sr.	St. John's
Richie Saunders	6-5	Jr.	BYU

Mark Sears	6-1	Sr.	Alabama
Javon Small	6-3	Sr.	West Virginia
Braden Smith	6-0	Jr.	Purdue
John Tonje	6-5	Sr.	Wisconsin
JT Toppin	6-9	So.	Texas Tech
Danny Wolf	7-0	Jr.	Michigan
Zakai Zeigler	5-9	Sr.	Tennessee

## PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

Zach Edey, Purdue (2024); Jaime Jaquez Jr., UCLA (2023); Johnny Davis, Wisconsin (2022); Luka Garza, Iowa (2021); Payton Pritchard, Oregon (2020); Ja Morant, Murray State (2019); Jalen Brunson, Villanova (2018); Caleb Swanigan, Purdue (2017); Denzel Valentine, Michigan State (2016); Cameron Payne, Murray State (2015); Doug McDermott, Creighton (2014); Shane Larkin, Miami (2013); Doug McDermott, Creighton (2012); Kemba Walker, Connecticut (2011); Sherron Collins, Kansas (2010).

## ABOUT COLLEGEINSIDER.COM

Established in 1996, CollegeInsider.com has been at the forefront of promoting college basketball online. In the July 27, 1998, issue of ESPN the Magazine, College Insider was ranked No. 24 on the magazine's list of *99 Things to do Before you Die*. College Insider created the Mid-Major Top 25<sup>®</sup>, the measuring stick for men's and women's programs outside of the proverbial power leagues, and has 18 national awards presented annually, including the Lute Olson Award, Lou Henson Award, and the John McLendon Award. The CollegeInsider.com All-Access series has been nominated for 5 Emmy Awards and won 2013 Emmy, for its' feature on New York City Basketball (Iona, LIU-Brooklyn and Manhattan). CI also created *This Game No Secret*, which debuted during the 2016 CIT and now has become an annual event, which has included programs like Duke, Houston, Miami, Ohio State, Ole Miss, Texas and Virginia.

*NOTE: Portions of the press release came from Duke University releases.*

