

# Ladji Dembele Commits to UNLV

---

**For Immediate Release**

**April 22, 2025**

**Princeton, N.J.** – The Gazelle Group is proud to announce their client Ladji Dembele has committed to the UNLV Basketball program and to play for Head Coach Josh Pastner for the 2025-26 season. He brings a dynamic mix of strength, skill, and high-level experience to their roster.

A 6-foot-8-inch, 255-pound native of Newark, New Jersey, Dembele arrives in Las Vegas after two seasons at the University of Iowa, where he played in 65 games and earned a starting role in 21 contests as a sophomore. Known for his versatile offensive game, Dembele shot an impressive 46.7% from the field, 38.2% from beyond the arc, and 71.4% at the free-throw line last season. His efforts as a freshman earned him co-recipient honors for Iowa's Best Defensive Player Award in 2023-24.



“We are excited about the addition of Ladji to our team,” said Coach Pastner. “He is a skilled player who exemplifies hard work and toughness. His ability to shoot the ball at a high percentage, combined with his strong defensive presence, will be invaluable to us. We look forward to welcoming him to the Runnin' Rebel family.”

Dembele is no stranger to the Scarlet and Gray—he is the younger brother of former Rebel Cheickna Dembele, who played at UNLV from 2016 to 2020. A product of St. Benedict's Prep in New Jersey, Ladji was ranked as a four-star prospect by Rivals in the Class of 2023. Prior to his time at Iowa, he was heavily recruited by programs including Wake Forest, DePaul, Pittsburgh, Rutgers, Seton Hall, and Xavier.

Originally from Mali, Africa, Dembele brings international toughness and an American polish to his game, continuing the UNLV tradition of global talent and family legacy.