

Former Duke Star To Play In Israel

Written by Mike Kelly
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Jon Scheyer, a 6-foot-5 guard that was a member of Duke's national championship team in 2010, will play for Israeli powerhouse Maccabi Tel Aviv this season.

And Scheyer, who is Jewish, is eligible to become an Israeli and not count against the a league cap on foreign players. Scheyer was bypassed in the NBA draft last season and then sustained a freak injury when he was poked in the eye with the Miami Heat's summer league team. He suffered an injury to the optic nerve along with a tear.

But Scheyer welcomes the challenge of playing for Maccabi Tel Aviv.

"At Duke, we had a target on our back every day," Scheyer said. "Expectations are high too. When you lose a game, it's a big deal at Duke. I think that is very similar to how it is here. I am used to those expectations, and I just want to live up to them."

He is expected to take a leading role for the defending Israeli champion, which lost the title game of this year's European championship to Greece's Panathinaikos. Maccabi Tel Aviv only lost one game in the Israeli league last season. Scheyer was officially introduced on Sunday by team chairman, Shimon Mizrahi.