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In the heart of Brooklyn, where dreams and ambitions are as diverse as the city itself, there's a young 22-year-old man named Jedidiah Ashton, who is on a remarkable journey to becoming an NBA player. His passion for basketball and determination have taken him from local courtyard to college teams, and now he dreams of playing overseas and ultimately making it to the NBA.

## The genesis of a young man's story



Jedidiah Ashton

Ashton's passion for basketball flourished at a young age when he started playing video games and watched his first NBA game on television. "Basketball video games inspired me a lot and pushed me to improve my level", he said. The sight of the players making incredible dunks and executing mesmerizing plays left a lasting impression on him. His high school days were marked by hours of relentless practice and numerous nights spent studying the game with his friends in the backyard of his house. Ashton quickly earned a reputation as a standout

player. His high school teammates always believed in him and pushed him to victory in the championships.

## When destiny takes an unexpected turn

But Ashton's journey was not always smooth. In the beginning of 2018, his dreams seemed to shatter as his grades began to suffer, and it seemed like his dreams of playing basketball at a higher level were slipping away.

"When I missed the season, it was very hard for me to deal it mentally. It was hard not to play at all from August to April, it created a void in me", Ashton declares.

He was suffering mentally because he was not allowed to play and missed the season as he had not enough points. The NBA was starting to feel like an unattainable mirage.

## A spirit of commitment and ambition

However, Ashton is not one to be easily defeated. One day, he stood up and looked at himself in the mirror and promised that he will take his grades together. He started a journey of self-improvement that would ultimately lead him back to the field. He knew he had to turn his life around. He began hitting the books harder, focusing on his academics, and seeking advice from professors.

His tireless work in the court paid off as his grades started to improve. and to push himself to the limit. He began to train two hours a day at the gym and spent hours in the library in order to have better grades, balancing academics with his passion for the sport. His perseverance paid off when he was selected as the team captain and led his college to multiple championships.

His talent did not go unnoticed, and soon, he was representing his college in the college basketball league. Back in 2019, he achieved the unimaginable feat of leading his team to <u>Back-to-Back victories</u> in the championships, showcasing his exceptional skills and tenacity. His dedication earned him the prestigious 1st <u>Team All-America</u> award in 2020, the highest honor a college basketball player could receive.

## The pursuit of victory: soon close to the goal

They won the championship, and in that moment, Ashton's dream was realized. It was a culmination of hard work, determined belief, and an unbreakable spirit. As Ashton's star continued to rise, he never lost sight of his ultimate goal – to win an <u>NBA championship</u>.



Jedidiah Ashton, 2021-2022 first round conference game

Ashton Jedidiah's dream is not just to become an NBA player, but also an inspiration to countless others who dared to dream. His journey, marked by passion, determination, and community support, showed that dreams, no matter how big, can be achieved with the right attitude and a willingness to work tirelessly for them.

"I am inspired by people that care about me, see me do well, and motivate me in what I am doing. My family and friends were always supportive. It helped me a lot", Ashton confesses.

There will be more games to win, more records to break, and more lives to inspire. In a world where dreams sometimes seem out of reach, Ashton said that with hard work and supportive relatives, anything is possible – even becoming an MBA player.

His journey had only just begun...