

Jordan Ott – McConnellsburg HS - May 31, 2025 – NBA Coach

The Phoenix Suns are entering the finalist stage of their head coaching search after interviewing more than 15 candidates.

They narrowed it down to nine: Cleveland Cavaliers assistants Jordan Ott and Johnnie Bryant, Oklahoma City Thunder assistant Dave Bliss, Minnesota Timberwolves assistant Micah Nori, Dallas Mavericks assistant Sean Sweeney, Brooklyn Nets assistant Steve Hetzel, Miami Heat assistant Chris Quinn, New Orleans assistant James Borrego and Suns assistant David Fizdale.

Out of those nine, here are the likely finalists according to multiple league sources – Sweeney, Ott and Quinn, with Nori being considered as well.

Jordan Ott (Cavaliers assistant)

Ott has worked for four NBA teams, the Atlanta Hawks, Brooklyn Nets, Los Angeles Lakers and Cleveland Cavaliers. He played a major role in the Cavs posting the best record in the Eastern Conference this season (64-18) in his first year as an assistant in Cleveland.

League sources describe Ott as someone who is ready to be an NBA head coach.

He's viewed as a grinder who studies the game and has very sound offensive and defensive strategies. He's strong in player development and film sessions, is organized and a teacher of the game.

The Michigan State connection with Suns general manager Brian Gregory and Ishbia has factored into Ott's candidacy for Phoenix's head coaching position.

Gregory served as an assistant under Tom Izzo when the Spartans won the 2000 men's basketball national championship with Ishbia as a walk-on player.

Ott was MSU's video coordinator for five years, earning a master's degree in athletic administration from the university during that time.

He left the Spartans in 2013 for a

video coordinator position with the Atlanta Hawks, where he worked under Budenholzer for three seasons from 2013-16.

Ott then joined the Nets (2016-22), where he worked under Kenny Atkinson, Steve Nash and Jacque Vaughn. He spent two seasons with the Los Angeles Lakers (2022-24) under Darvin Ham before reuniting with Atkinson in Cleveland.

Atkinson won NBA Coach of the Year this season. The fourth-seeded Indiana Pacers eliminated the Cavs in the second round of the 2025 playoffs in five games.

Ott also has ties to Suns superstar Kevin Durant, who was in Brooklyn from 2019 until just before the 2023 trade deadline when the Suns acquired him in a blockbuster deal.

Durant's future with the Suns is uncertain as the team entertained trade talks for him before the 2025 trade deadline, but he and Ott have worked together.

Chris Quinn (Heat assistant)

Quinn has been in contention for