

## Will Mark Cuban Give Brittney Griner An NBA Shot? | TIME.com

order to be drafted.

"I have no problem giving her that opportunity ... I hope she gives it a shot. Nothing harms an organization or company more than a closed mind."

Griner seems to be on board. "@mcuban so when do I show up for tryouts" Griner tweeted.

Even if Cuban's chatter is something of a publicity stunt ... so what? If Cuban is offering Griner at least a chance, and Griner wants to take the opportunity, that would be great for basketball. NBA teams have drafted women players before. In 1969, the San Francisco Warriors selected a high school student, Denise Long, in the 13th round; Long had averaged a cool 69.6 points per game in her senior year. Then-NBA commissioner Walter Kennedy voided the pick, since the NBA did not allow high school players to be drafted at the time (he also deemed it a pure publicity stunt). In 1977, the New Orleans Jazz picked Lusia Harris, from Delta State, in the seventh round. But she did not try out; it turned out that Harris was pregnant at the time.

Cuban is unlikely to draft Griner. The NBA draft has only two rounds now. So although late-second round picks are unlikely to make a team, they're still assets. Cuban knows publicity, and he's aware that if a player selected after Griner goes on to have a successful NBA career, he'll get pilloried.

But what's the harm of inviting Griner to camp as a free agent? That's also happened before; Ann Myers, of UCLA, participated in a three-day tryout with the Indiana Pacers in 1979. (She didn't make it). Or why shouldn't Griner suit up for a summer league game? There, she'd have a fair shot to prove if she can compete. Everyone would be watching. And if you're an NBA owner like Cuban, what's wrong with everyone watching your team?

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