

Negotiation Segment 2

General

Information

Preliminary Round
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THE PRODIGAL POINT GUARD'S GAMBIT

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The Prodigal Point Guard's Gambit

1. The National Basketball League (NBL) is abuzz with speculation surrounding Bhrov “The Ripper” Daggr, a generational point guard. Five years ago, Daggr, renowned for his elite three-point shooting, uncanny off-ball movement, and visionary passing, led the Pegasus Nagarbhavians – the NBL’s oldest, most decorated franchise with 17 championships and dubbed the “Greatest in the East” – to two consecutive NBL titles. He formed a formidable, albeit tense, partnership with the team's aging legendary core, becoming a league icon in his early 20s with jersey sales rivalling superstars.
2. However, Pegasus’ pursuit of a third successive title in 2021 imploded dramatically in the Semi-Finals against burgeoning rivals, the Dwarka Dragons. The Dragons, a newer club bankrolled by influential capital city figures, known for their opulent ₹2,500 crore (approx. \$300 million) arena called “The Supreme Court” and their sparse trophy cabinet, found themselves up 3-1 against Pegasus. Daggr's frustrations with Pegasus’ veteran core, whom he perceived as too slow, boiled over. He publicly quipped, “some of our guys are moving slower than the drunk driving case pending against me in Tis Hazari Courts. The court may not reach a verdict, but let me tell you mine – all of them, they are too slow.” This comment about his pending legal issue immediately raised concerns among team sponsors.
3. Following this, Daggr controversially skipped two crucial practice sessions. He then arrived at the third, challenging Head Coach Debashish Rana to pit him and third-stringers against the entire first team. Daggr’s squad reportedly dominated, amassing a 20-point lead in the first half, further humiliating veterans with taunts and escalating tensions in an already fractured locker room.
4. Before the pivotal Game 5 at the Dragons’ “Supreme Court,” Daggr granted an explosive, unsanctioned interview, unequivocally stating his intent to leave Pegasus next season, regardless of the outcome. Pegasus subsequently lost Game 5, marred by Daggr’s fourth-quarter ejection for instigating a fight and landing a punch on Dragons’ captain, Jishnu “Clutch Time” Kolay – a widely respected veteran. The media dubbed this the “Contempt of Court” incident, triggering an avalanche of criticism from Pegasus’ fiercely loyal, peace-loving fanbase and the wider media.



In the tumultuous aftermath, facing intense public pressure and shareholder discontent (Pegasus Nagarbhavians are a unique publicly traded NBL entity, valued at approx. ₹8000 crores, or \$960 million), the Pegasus Board, led by Chairperson Justice (Retd.) Aman “The Gavel” Sharma, agreed to trade the disgruntled star. The news of Bhrov’s departure to the Dwarka Dragons, their conference rivals and, the very team that had defeated them was all but confirmed. Once the exit was formalised, Daggr maintained he would “always cherish the Pegasus fans,” but the sentiment was unreciprocated, many blaming him for the team's implosion.

5. Over the next three seasons with the Dragons, Daggr solidified his individual legacy, capturing two NBL MVP awards (2022, 2024) with breathtaking performances (averaging 29.5 points, 7.8 rebounds, 11.5 assists). He won over the Dragons’ fanbase, and his signature shoe line with “Superman Kicks” became a multi-crore bestseller, even endorsed by Jishnu “Clutch Time” Kolay. However, team success remained elusive. The Dragons, with a talented but inconsistent young core, lost two NBL Finals (2022, 2023), analysts citing their lack of composure and Daggr’s occasional questionable late-game decisions. His three-year Dragons contract was worth ₹174 crores in total.
6. Meanwhile, Pegasus Nagarbhavians endured a painful rebuilding, missing the playoffs for three seasons in a row, causing a dip in revenue. Hope flickered with Akesh “DND” Dewan, the dynamic rookie shooting guard drafted via the Daggr trade. By his third season, Dewan was a star, reigniting the fanbase. Last season, led by Dewan and remnants of their golden generation, Pegasus finished third in the East, orchestrating an impressive playoff run to an NBL Semi-finals rematch against Daggr and the Dragons.
7. The seven-game epic captivated the nation. For Daggr, pressure was immense as another failure against his former team would cement the narrative that his departure was a misstep. The Dragons lost Game 7 of the Semi-Finals in overtime. The final image: Daggr missing a potential game-winning free throw, then watching helplessly as DND nailed a buzzer-beating three-pointer, sending Pegasus to the NBL Finals. However, Pegasus emotionally and physically depleted, lost the NBL Finals in six games.



Daggr's Dragons contract expired, making him an unrestricted free agent. Rumours of an unthinkable return to Pegasus Nagarbhavians ignited. Pegasus management faces a monumental decision. Their aging core, including stalwart captain Virat "The Dawg" Sharma, has perhaps one final championship window. Daggr's talent is undeniable and could be decisive, especially after their Finals loss exposed the need for another elite playmaker to complement Dewan. Fans, starved for a title after a five-year drought, are demanding victory.

8. Bringing Daggr back is high-risk, high-reward: crucial for a title push and potentially mentoring young talent alongside Dewan. Obstacles are significant: Daggr's anticipated ₹50-55 crore annual salary demands (pushing Pegasus deep into the NBL's punitive 150% luxury tax on a ₹200 crore salary cap), his past attitude, lingering fan resentment, and reintegration into a locker room now led by Dewan.
9. Both parties, recognizing the delicate situation, have agreed to enter formal negotiations. Bhrov Daggr has flown out to Nagarbhavi with his agent. Pegasus Nagarbhavians are represented by Chairperson Aman Sharma and their in-house counsel. Discussions between the parties is expected to be over gross contract value and length, performance incentives, behavioural expectations (likely addressing public conduct and team chemistry), public image rehabilitation strategies, Daggr's on-court role with Dewan, and potential unique stipulations reflecting Daggr's stature and past demands for influence. The league watches, wondering if pride can be swallowed for a shot at redefined legacies and a resurrected championship dream.

