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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Texas' early flashes of brilliance could signal shift in Big 12 dominance





by [Chris Johnson](#)

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NEW YORK — Anyone who picked a team other than [Kansas](#) to win the Big 12 did so out of a desire for variety, a disregard of recent history or both. The Jayhawks have won at least a share of the conference's regular season championship over the last 10 years and entered 2014-15 with a team poised to extend the streak.



[Texas's Jonathan Holmes \(10\) drives past California's Tyrone Wallace \(3\) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game at Madison Square Garden Friday, Nov. 21, 2014, in New York. \(AP Photo/Frank Franklin\)](#)

With a highly touted recruiting class joining a solid group of returners, there was little reason to suspect the league would unfold any differently at the top than it has every year since 2004-05. If the Jayhawks are to fall short of winning another crown, though, it will require a combination of bad luck and another great team. Whether the first part comes to pass remains to be seen, but early indications suggest the latter may be blooming in Austin.

After handling Cal 71-55 in the 2K Classic championship game on Friday, [Texas](#) is 4-0 with all of its wins coming by at least 14 points.

Forward [Jonathan Holmes](#) scored a game-high 21 points on 6-of-11 shooting and grabbed 13 rebounds, while guard [Demarcus Holland](#) added 11 points of his own. The Longhorns jumped out to a 14-4 lead and maintained a comfortable advantage through most of the game. Texas' frontcourt was a mismatch for Cal and the Golden Bears managed only 31.3 percent shooting and 25.0 percent (3-12) from three-point range.

“When we needed stops we were able to get ‘em,” head coach Rick Barnes said afterward.