

## Executive Summary

Based on the available data, the most likely outcome is that Baye finishes the season at Georgia Tech but becomes a **moderate transfer-portal risk** if (1) the season continues to trend toward a losing ACC finish and/or (2) he feels his impact and development are not translating to winning. The good news is that his emotional profile (pride + accountability/guilt) suggests he is still invested and can be retained with a clear, credible plan. To keep him: coaches should (a) explicitly communicate a “win + role + development” plan built around him, (b) increase/clarify his offensive involvement (touches/usage) in games where he’s efficient but underused, and (c) give him concrete defensive role clarity and support so his self-blame doesn’t turn into helplessness or “my effort doesn’t matter here.”

### Key Points:

- Portal likelihood: **moderate**, driven more by team trajectory and role/impact-to-winning than by disengagement.
- Protective factors: Baye shows **pride in performance** and **ownership for defense**, which usually indicates commitment rather than checked-out behavior.
- Primary retention levers: a credible pathway to winning, consistent/defined role, and a specific development plan that matches his goals (on-court and future).
- Immediate coaching action: a direct 1:1 meeting that validates his frustration, then presents specific adjustments (usage, defensive scheme responsibilities, leadership role).

Confidence Level: Moderate (single-participant dataset; no direct statements about transfer intent; inference driven by performance/role patterns + emotions tied to team results).

## Key Findings

Baye’s individual production is often efficient and impactful, but he is experiencing a disconnect between personal performance and team outcomes—this is the emotional trigger most associated with portal risk in the current data.

He demonstrates strong internal accountability (guilt/self-blame), which is a double-edged sword: it can drive growth if coached well, but can also accelerate exit if he feels stuck in repeated losses.

There are notable role/availability fluctuations (including DNPs and very low shot volume in heavy-minute games), which can undermine perceived trust and development—another common driver of portal decisions.

When the team wins (or is competitive), Baye's profile looks like a cornerstone piece—efficient scoring + rebounding + defensive events—suggesting retention is highly realistic if the staff can credibly sell progress toward winning.

## Detailed Analysis

Portal-risk read: what the emotions are signaling

The strongest signal in Baye's qualitative data is not anger at coaches or disengagement; it is a blend of (1) pride in efficient production and (2) discouragement that those performances are not producing wins, plus (3) guilt/self-blame about defense. That combination typically maps to a player who still cares and is still buying in, but is starting to evaluate whether his ceiling (winning, exposure, development) is achievable in the current environment. If the season continues to produce double-digit losses where he plays well, the risk of "I need a different situation" rises. Importantly, guilt/self-blame can be stabilized if coaches frame it into controllables (specific defensive responsibilities, decision rules, and film-based improvement). If it stays global ("we keep losing and it's on me"), that's when players look for a reset elsewhere.

Supporting Data: Qualitative insight (pride): Baye feeling proud/confident in efficient scoring and rebounding vs Wake Forest., Qualitative insight (discouraged): strong box scores feel hollow without wins., Qualitative insight (guilt): self-blame tied to -18 plus/minus vs Wake Forest., Wake Forest box score (02/11/26 PDF): GT record shown as 11-14 (2-10), indicating overall/ACC strain at that point.

On-court usage and "impact-to-winning" perception

From the game logs, Baye is frequently efficient (high FG% nights like 6-9 vs Wake Forest; 8-13 vs Syracuse; 7-10 vs Drake; 7-10 vs West Georgia). However, there are multiple games where he plays starter-level minutes but takes very few shots (e.g., Clemson: 31 minutes, 3 FGA; Depaul: 32 minutes, 3 FGA). For a high-level frontcourt player, that can create a perception that he is not being featured or empowered—even if he is "doing his job." If Baye believes he can be a centerpiece (or is being recruited/valued elsewhere as one), then low-touch games paired with losses are a prime recipe for portal exploration. Conversely, if you can show him that his touches, actions, and decision-making are central to the offensive identity (and that the staff will adjust to maximize him), you reduce uncertainty and strengthen commitment.

Supporting Data: Wake Forest (02/11/26 PDF): 14 points on 6-9 FG (high efficiency)., Clemson (01/24/26 CSV): 31 minutes, 2-3 FG (very low usage)., Depaul (11/28/25 CSV): 32 minutes, 2-3 FG (very low usage)., West Georgia (11/23/25 CSV): 14 points, 14 rebounds, +16 (high-impact win).

Role stability, availability gaps, and trust

Baye has multiple DNP entries (Monmouth, Marist, Lafayette). The dataset does not specify why (injury, illness, discipline, coach decision, etc.), but players commonly interpret unexplained absences or abrupt role changes as instability. Even if the

reason is legitimate, the retention risk rises when a player feels out of the loop or worries about future role security. The coaching solution isn't simply "more minutes"; it's predictable communication: what happened, what's next, what the staff expects, and what Baye can expect. Role clarity and predictability are among the most controllable retention levers.

Supporting Data: Monmouth (12/06/25 CSV): Baye Ndongo listed as "Did Not Play"., Marist (12/16/25 CSV): Baye Ndongo listed as "Did Not Play"., Lafayette (12/20/25 CSV): Baye Ndongo listed as "Did Not Play".

Defensive narrative: converting guilt into growth

Baye's self-focus on defensive lapses and plus/minus (e.g., -18 vs Wake Forest) suggests he cares about two-way impact and feels responsible. That can be used to keep him: give him ownership of a defensive improvement package with measurable targets (screen coverage rules, rim-protection positioning, defensive rebounding, foul discipline), and make him a visible leader of it. If he sees a direct line from "my defensive leadership" → "we win more," it resolves the hollow-stats frustration. If he continues to feel he's playing well but the team defense collapses around him, he may conclude he needs a different roster/system to reach his goals.

Supporting Data: Qualitative insight: guilt and self-blame for defensive lapses and -18 plus/minus vs Wake Forest., Wake Forest (02/11/26 PDF): Baye -18 plus/minus in 16-point loss., Pittsburgh (01/14/26 CSV): Baye -23 plus/minus in 23-point loss.

## Recommendations

Hold a targeted retention meeting within 72 hours: validate the "hollow stats without wins" feeling, then present a written 3-part plan (Role, Development, Winning Path) with weekly checkpoints.

Rationale: Baye's discouragement is tied to results and meaning. A concrete plan reduces uncertainty and signals commitment from the staff. Weekly checkpoints prevent the conversation from becoming one-time reassurance.

Applicability: High-minute, high-impact starters on teams struggling to meet win expectations

Increase and standardize his offensive "touch diet," especially in games where he is efficient but underused (early-post seals, short-roll actions, elbow facilitation, ATO touches). Track touches, not just shots.

Rationale: He has multiple examples of heavy minutes with very low FGA, which can read as being peripheral. A consistent touch plan increases his perceived centrality and can improve team shot quality.

Applicability: Games where opposing coverage is loading up on guards or when frontcourt efficiency is high but shot volume is low

Convert defensive guilt into leadership: assign Baye a defined defensive identity (e.g., anchor coverages + defensive rebounding captain) with 2–3 measurable KPIs reviewed on film.

Rationale: He is already self-evaluating defense. Coaching it into specific responsibilities and metrics turns self-blame into controllable progress and strengthens his ownership of team improvement.

Applicability: Players who show high accountability and are emotionally affected by plus/minus and team defense outcomes

Clarify the story behind any DNP/availability gaps (privately, respectfully) and communicate future role expectations with predictability (minutes bands, matchup plans, substitution patterns).

Rationale: Unexplained role/availability variance is a common trigger for portal exploration. Predictable communication builds trust even when decisions are hard.

Applicability: Any rotation player with recent DNPs, inconsistent usage, or unclear health/role messaging

Present an offseason “team upgrade” and support plan that Baye can believe: roster-fit priorities, skill staff plan, and (within compliance) NIL/brand support and academic/pro pathway support.

Rationale: If his core frustration is winning/trajectory, he needs evidence that staying is the best route to his goals. Offseason credibility matters as much as in-season coaching.

Applicability: Programs needing to retain cornerstone players amid roster churn and portal recruiting pressure

## **Limitations**

Only one participant (Baye) was analyzed; there is no triangulation from teammates, coaches, or family/advisors.

Impact: Portal likelihood estimates are necessarily inferential and may miss external drivers (NIL, personal, academic, relationships).

No direct statement from Baye about transfer intent, satisfaction with staff, NIL situation, or future goals was provided.

Impact: We can identify risk signals (discouragement, role/impact concerns) but cannot confirm intent or thresholds for leaving.

Several team stat files show inconsistencies/possible data-quality issues (e.g., misaligned columns in at least one CSV), and the dataset is incomplete for some games.

Impact: Trend conclusions rely on the subset of games where Baye's line is clearly reported; some contextual factors may be missing.

Reasons for DNPs are not specified (injury/illness/coach decision).

Impact: Role-stability interpretations may be incorrect without medical/availability context.