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Eastern Conference Insider: Granger paying off for Pacers

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Take a look at the NBA's scoring leaders through the first two weeks of the 2008-09 season. Does a name stick out?

The Pacers' Danny Granger is at No. 4, averaging 25.3 points, more than 11 points above his career average. With Mike Dunleavy having yet to play this season, Granger has helped the Pacers surprise people with a 4-3 start.

"He just worked his butt off this summer," Indiana coach Jim O'Brien said before the Pacers' 98-87 win in New Jersey on Wednesday. "He's in great condition, he has a lot of confidence in himself and he's a guy that we're going to. So, I just think it's a combination of his work ethic and his maturity as an NBA player."

Granger has played in 246 of a possible 253 games for the Pacers, and hasn't missed a single game because of his knee. The Pacers held him out of summer league after the draft and his knee was fine by training camp.

Granger signed a contract extension at the start of this season reportedly worth \$60 million over five years.

"[The draft] put me in a good situation where I'm at and I'm happy," Granger says.

He's probably not second-guessing his decision to attend Bradley (before transferring to New Mexico) out of high school, instead of the school his dad wanted him to go to either.

The school his dad preferred? Yale. Granger was accepted to the Ivy League institution, but turned it down because "they didn't have a good basketball program."

NBA Scoring Leaders				
Through games of Nov. 12				
Rank	Player	Gms	MPG	PPG
1	LeBron James, CLE	8	36.9	29.8
2	Dwyane Wade, MIA	8	36.1	28.2
3	Tony Parker, SAS	5	33.0	27.4
4	Danny Granger, IND	6	36.3	25.3
5	Tim Duncan, SAS	7	37.9	25.3
6	Chris Bosh, TOR	8	41.7	24.9
7	Joe Johnson, ATL	7	38.7	24.4
8	Kobe Bryant, LAL	7	34.2	24.1
9	Dwight Howard, ORL	8	37.2	23.9
10	Dirk Nowitzki, DAL	7	36.3	23.6