

The season, simulated 20,000 times.

Here is the distribution.

The free NBA Season Playbook: every team's projected record and range, the title and playoff race next to the market, and the opening-week games, straight from the simulation that powers the Olympus NBA page.

20,000 simulated seasons

1,200 scheduled games

30 teams

Opening night Tue Oct 20



Oklahoma City Thunder
20%
title · market 25%



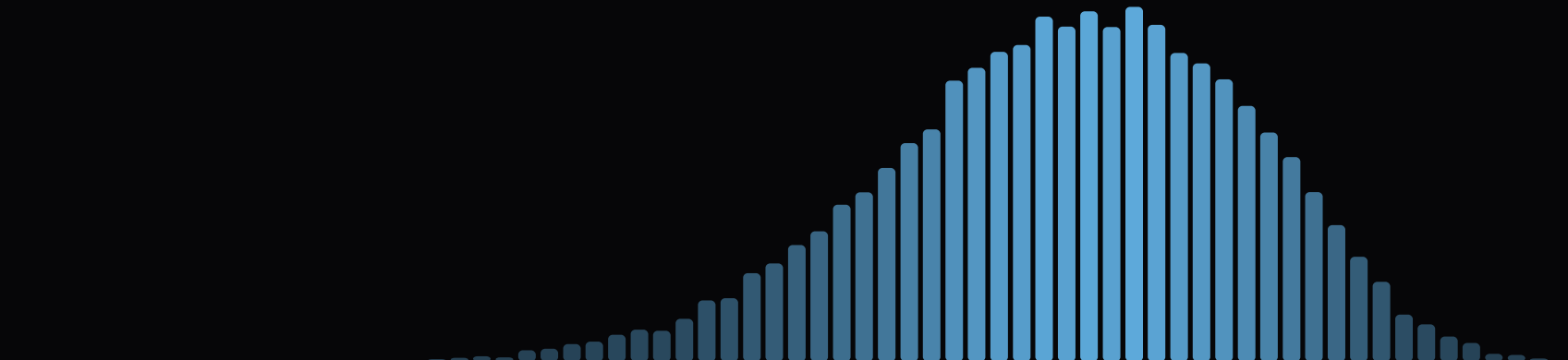
New York Knicks
14%
title · market 8%



San Antonio Spurs
14%
title · market 25%



Detroit Pistons
7%
title · market 3%



Oklahoma City Thunder, the title favourite in the simulation: how many games they win across 20,000 simulated seasons.

Built from data updated Oct 15, 2026 · 9:18 AM ET. A research guide, not betting advice.

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One season, played out again and again

A projection is not one number. The simulation runs the 2026-27 season 20,000 times and reports the spread of what happens, so you can see how sure it is.

1 · Rate every team

A preseason rating from last season's real results: a Glicko-2 replay of every 2025-26 game blended with point margin, then pulled toward average. In-season, every final updates it.

2 · Run the season

All 1,200 scheduled games on the real ESPN calendar, each one a coin weighted by the two ratings and home court. Each simulated season also draws a strength shock per team, so a season can run hot or cold. 60 NBA Cup knockout games are not on the calendar yet and are played against a league-average opponent.

3 · Run the postseason

Seeds 1 to 6 go straight through, seeds 7 to 10 go to the play-in, then four best-of-7 rounds. Repeat 20,000 times and count what happened.

Game nights use a second engine. Each matchup runs through a possession-level simulation (10,000 runs per game, engine 5.0.2-calibrated-possession) built on current rosters, the injury report and each team's four factors. That is where the opening-week projected scores in this guide come from.

What the season simulation cannot see. It rates teams from results only. Offseason trades, signings, rookies and injuries reach it when they show up in games, not before. The market prices them on day one. Most of the big disagreements later in this guide come from exactly that.

The honest scorecard

Judge the simulation on seasons it never saw.

BACKTEST VERDICT

Did not pass

Recorded as: FAIL – shadow only (edges hidden)

Before the season, the simulation was rebuilt as it would have stood on opening day of two seasons it never saw, 2024–25 and 2025–26, and scored against what happened. To pass it had to beat simple baselines in **both** seasons: guessing 41 wins for everyone, a regressed copy of last season's record, and equal odds for every team on playoffs, conference and title.

2024–25: a typical miss of **10.6** wins; it beat the 41-win guess, the regressed copy of last season, equal playoff odds and equal title odds, but not equal conference odds.

2025–26: a typical miss of **12.3** wins; it beat the 41-win guess and equal playoff odds, but not the regressed copy of last season, equal conference odds and equal title odds.

The eventual champion got **8%** (OKC, 2024–25) and **5%** (NYK, 2025–26) of the simulation's title odds on opening day.

2024–25 · did not pass

Win miss (RMSE) 10.6

guess 41: 13.1

vs regressed baseline 10.6

regressed: 10.8

Inside the 80% range 77%

target: 80%

Playoff Brier 0.196

equal odds: 0.249

Conference Brier 0.0623

equal odds: 0.0622

Title Brier 0.0316

equal odds: 0.0322

2025–26 · did not pass

Win miss (RMSE) 12.3

guess 41: 13.6

vs regressed baseline 12.3

regressed: 11.8

Inside the 80% range 70%

target: 80%

Playoff Brier 0.238

equal odds: 0.249

Conference Brier 0.0692

equal odds: 0.0622

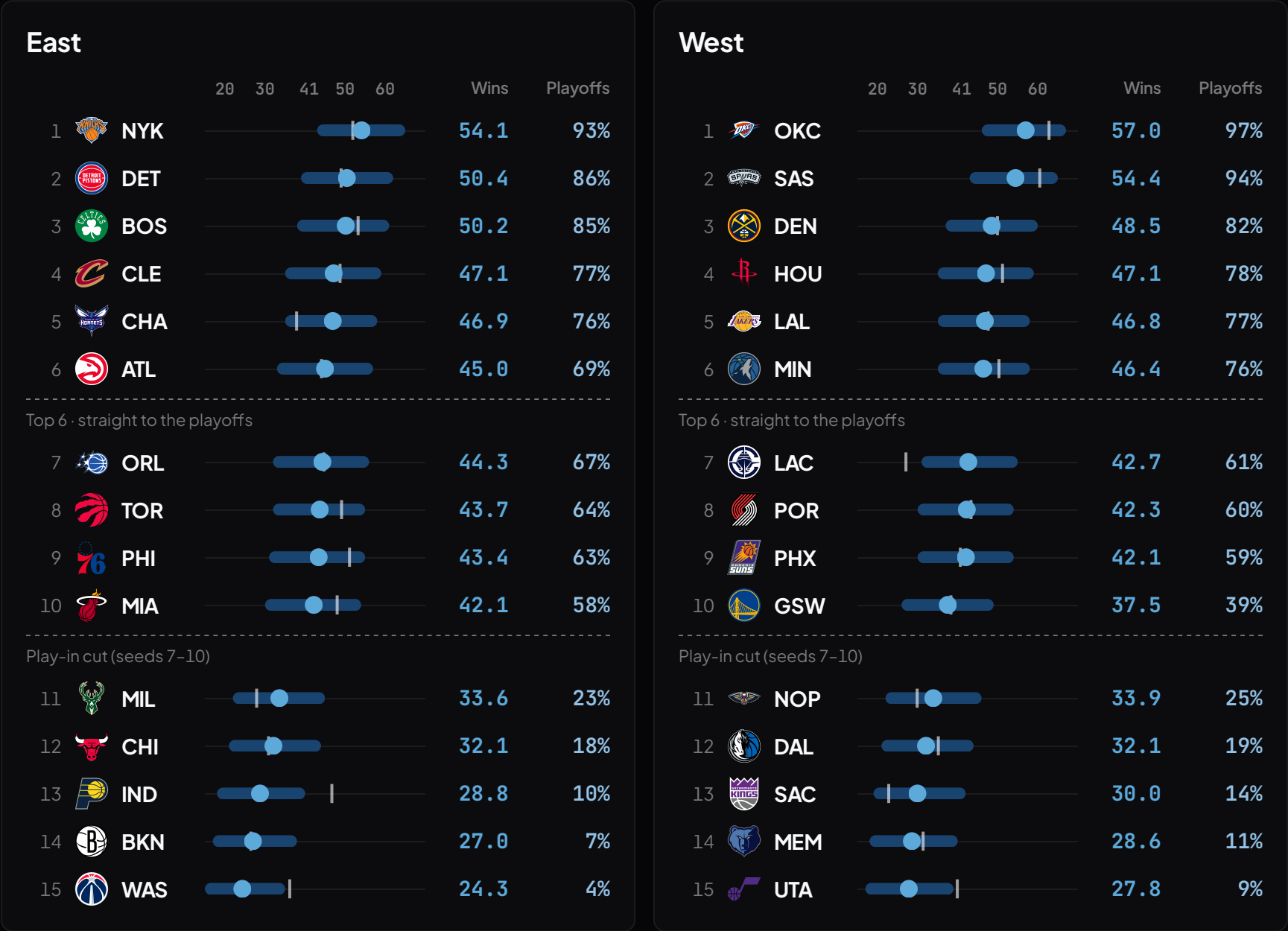
Title Brier 0.0334

equal odds: 0.0322

What that means for this guide. Olympus shows no model-vs-market edges on NBA futures, to anyone, until the simulation earns them. The numbers here are the model's view, published because a model that only repeats the market has no reason to exist. Every disagreement is tracked forward against real results. None of it is a bet.

All 30 teams, every simulated season

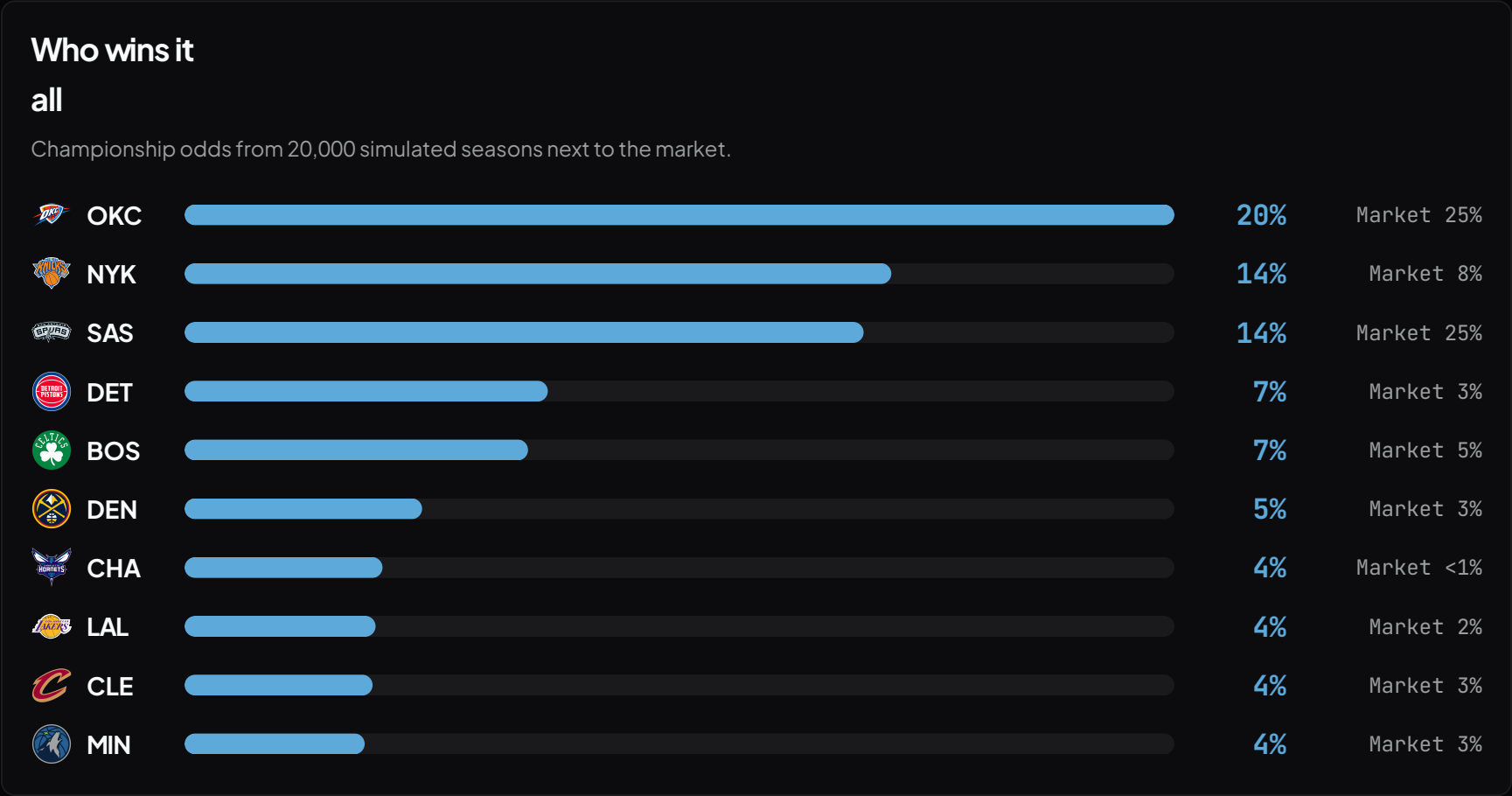
Each bar is a team's middle 80% of simulated win totals. The royal dot is the simulation's average; the white tick is the market's median. Ordered by projected seed.



Market: Kalshi exchange prices, de-vigged; exchange fees are excluded. These are the market's numbers, not the model's. Playoffs column: chance of a top-6 seed or winning the play-in.

Who wins it all, and who gets there

The simulation's championship and conference odds, with the market's de-vigged numbers beside them. Royal is the model; white is the market.



East: who reaches the Finals

Team	Model	Market	Model: conf. finals
 NYK	26%	20%	42%
 DET	15%	6%	29%
 BOS	15%	13%	28%
 CHA	9%	1%	18%
 CLE	9%	7%	19%
 ATL	6%	2%	14%

West: who reaches the Finals

Team	Model	Market	Model: conf. finals
 OKC	32%	33%	51%
 SAS	23%	33%	41%
 DEN	10%	4%	21%
 LAL	8%	6%	18%
 HOU	8%	3%	17%
 MIN	7%	10%	17%

Market title odds: 4 sportsbooks, de-vigged. Conference market: Kalshi, de-vigged.

Where the two views split

Both directions, the four widest gaps each way. The simulation sees results; the market also sees rosters and injuries. These gaps are tracked forward against real results. They are not bets.

Simulation above the market



LA Clippers

42.7 model vs 27.1 market median

15.6 wins apart

42 wins last season (+1.1 average margin) · out: Brandon Ingram · schedule #17 hardest



Charlotte Hornets

46.9 model vs 37.9 market median

9.0 wins apart

44 wins last season (+4.8 average margin) · schedule #21 hardest



Sacramento Kings

30.0 model vs 22.8 market median

7.2 wins apart

22 wins last season (-10.0 average margin) · out: Maxime Raynaud · schedule #5 hardest



Milwaukee Bucks

33.6 model vs 27.9 market median

5.7 wins apart

32 wins last season (-6.2 average margin) · out: Jaime Jaquez Jr., Kyle Kuzma, Tyler Herro · schedule #12 hardest

Market above the simulation



Indiana Pacers

28.8 model vs 46.7 market median

17.9 wins apart

19 wins last season (-8.0 average margin) · 1 listed out · schedule #7 hardest



Utah Jazz

27.8 model vs 39.9 market median

12.1 wins apart

22 wins last season (-8.4 average margin) · 1 listed out · schedule #1 hardest



Washington Wizards

24.3 model vs 36.2 market median

11.9 wins apart

17 wins last season (-12.0 average margin) · 2 listed out · schedule #4 hardest



Philadelphia 76ers

43.4 model vs 51.1 market median

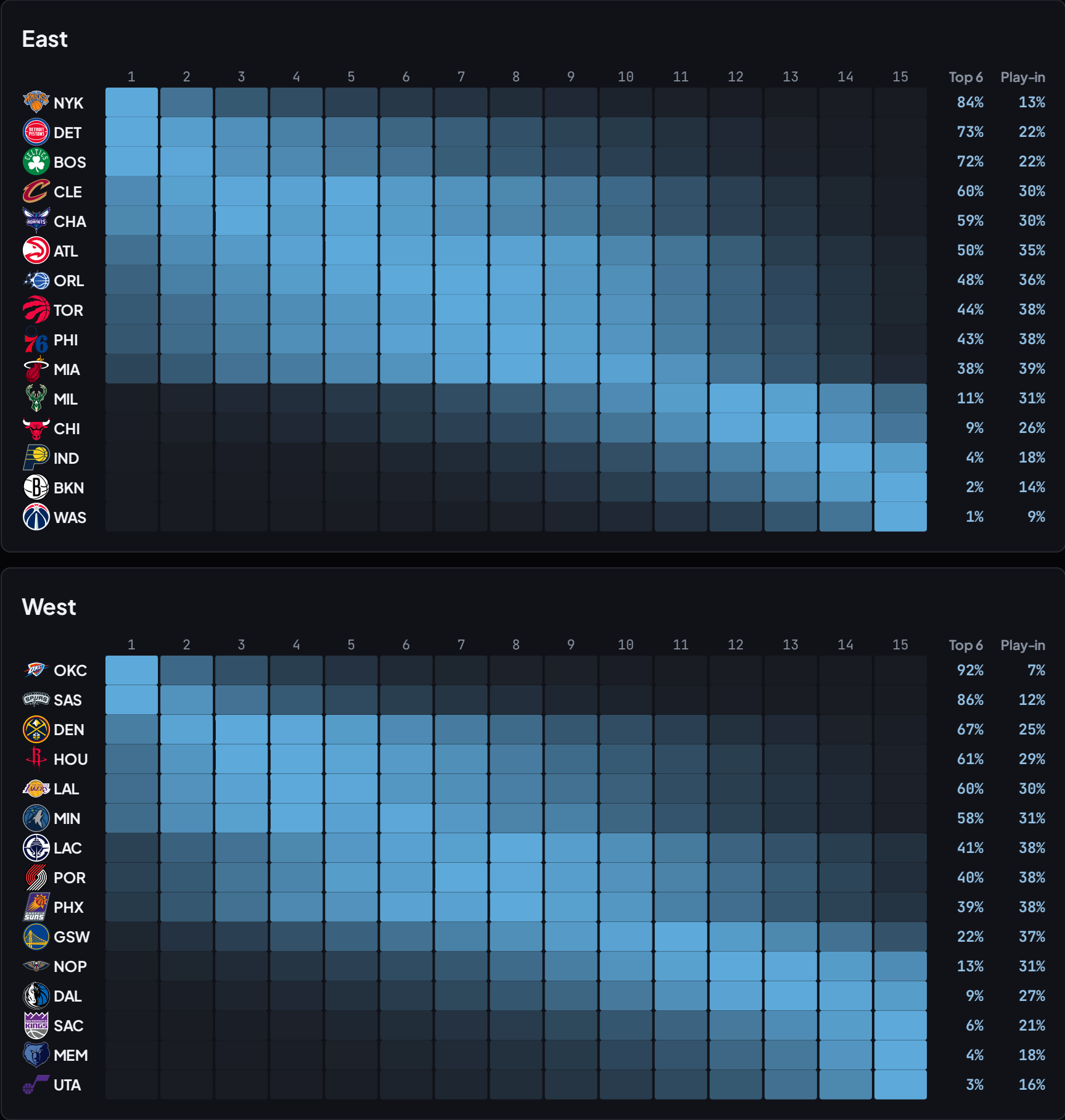
7.7 wins apart

45 wins last season (-0.2 average margin) · 1 listed out · schedule #18 hardest

Reading a gap. When the market is far above the simulation, the market is usually pricing a roster change the results haven't caught yet. When the simulation is far above, check the out list first. The model's number moves as games are played; watch which view the first month of results agrees with.

Where every team finishes

Each row is a team's spread of final seeds across every simulated season, brighter where it lands more often. Top 6 go straight to the playoffs; seeds 7 to 10 go to the play-in.



Wins, then head-to-head win% among tied teams, then conference win%, then coin flip. Division-leader criterion not reproduced.

The simulation's rating, tiered

Ranked by the season simulation's team rating, the same order as the Power Rankings tab. A rating of 1500 is a league-average team.

Contenders

8%+ to win the title

		Rating	20	30	41	50	60	Wins	Playoffs	Title	W-L
1		OKC	1657					57.0	97%	20%	0-0
2		NYK	1632					54.1	93%	14%	0-0
3		SAS	1631					54.4	94%	14%	0-0

Playoff teams

75%+ to make the playoffs

		Rating	20	30	41	50	60	Wins	Playoffs	Title	W-L
4		DET	1592					50.4	86%	7%	0-0
5		BOS	1588					50.2	85%	7%	0-0
6		DEN	1575					48.5	82%	5%	0-0
7		MIN	1558					46.4	76%	4%	0-0
8		CLE	1558					47.1	77%	4%	0-0
9		HOU	1558					47.1	78%	3%	0-0
10		LAL	1558					46.8	77%	4%	0-0
11		CHA	1557					46.9	76%	4%	0-0

In the hunt

40-75% to make the playoffs

		Rating	20	30	41	50	60	Wins	Playoffs	Title	W-L
12		ATL	1538					45.0	69%	3%	0-0
13		ORL	1530					44.3	67%	2%	0-0
14		TOR	1528					43.7	64%	2%	0-0
15		PHI	1523					43.4	63%	2%	0-0
16		POR	1516					42.3	60%	1%	0-0
17		LAC	1516					42.7	61%	2%	0-0
18		MIA	1510					42.1	58%	1%	0-0
19		PHX	1510					42.1	59%	1%	0-0

Long shots

under 40% to make the playoffs

		Rating	20	30	41	50	60	Wins	Playoffs	Title	W-L
20		GSW	1466					37.5	39%	<1%	0-0
21		NOP	1433					33.9	25%	<1%	0-0
22		MIL	1428					33.6	23%	<1%	0-0
23		DAL	1413					32.1	19%	<1%	0-0
24		CHI	1412					32.1	18%	<1%	0-0
25		SAC	1396					30.0	14%	<1%	0-0
26		MEM	1380					28.6	11%	<1%	0-0
27		IND	1380					28.8	10%	<1%	0-0
28		UTA	1375					27.8	9%	<1%	0-0
29		BKN	1364					27.0	7%	<1%	0-0
30		WAS	1335					24.3	4%	0%	0-0

What the market thinks, for now

The award model is experimental. MVP and Sixth Man passed their pre-registered backtests and switch on once teams have played enough games; the other awards failed theirs and stay market-only. Below: the exchange's de-vigged top five for each.

MVP

Model view from ~Nov 10, after about 15 games.

Market top 5	Market
Victor Wembanyama	28%
Shai Gilgeous–Alexander	12%
Nikola Jokić	11%
Luka Doncic	11%
Anthony Edwards	5%

Rookie of the Year

Market only: no model view.

Market top 5	Market
Cameron Boozer	23%
Caleb Wilson	17%
AJ Dybantsa	16%
Darryn Peterson	14%
Yaxel Lendeborg	11%

Defensive Player

Market only: no model view.

Market top 5	Market
Victor Wembanyama	53%
Anthony Davis	12%
Ausar Thompson	4%
Chet Holmgren	3%
Rudy Gobert	3%

Sixth Man

Model view from ~Nov 10, after about 15 games. Thin market, wide quotes.

Market top 5	Market
Payton Pritchard	15%
Ajay Mitchell	12%
Dylan Harper	9%
Ayo Dosunmu	6%
Collin Gillespie	2%

Most Improved

Market only: no model view. Thin market, wide quotes.

Market top 5	Market
Pelle Larsson	5%
Derik Queen	5%
Khaman Maluach	5%
Ajay Mitchell	5%
Matas Buzelis	5%

Coach of the Year

Market only: no model view.

Market top 5	Market
JJ Redick	10%
Sean Sweeney	9%
Will Hardy	8%
Rick Carlisle	6%
Erik Spoelstra	6%

Clutch Player

Market only: no model view. Thin market, wide quotes.

Market top 5	Market
Shai Gilgeous–Alexander	26%
Jalen Brunson	26%
Stephen Curry	24%
Jayson Tatum	23%

Kalshi exchange prices, power de-vigged across the field; exchange fees are excluded.

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The first 16 games, simulated

Projected scores and win probabilities from the possession simulation, next to the market line. These re-run every morning until tip, so the live page will move as injury news breaks.

Tuesday, October 20



Boston Celtics
Projected 50-32

3:00 PMET
at



Detroit Pistons
Projected 50-32

Projected score

109.8

BOS 49%

DET 51%

111.0

DET by 1.2 · total 220.9

DET SPREAD -1.5

TOTAL 222.5

BOS +100
ML

DET -118
ML



Boston Celtics

NET RATING
+7.7

Offense

#19 of 30 · 114.9 pts per 100

Defense

#1 of 30 · 107.2 allowed per 100

Pace

#29 of 30 · 99.3 possessions



Detroit Pistons

NET RATING
+8.2

Offense

#8 of 30 · 117.8 pts per 100

Defense

#3 of 30 · 109.6 allowed per 100

Pace

#21 of 30 · 100.5 possessions

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Philadelphia 76ers
Projected 43-39

7:00 PMET

at



New York Knicks
Projected 54-28

Projected score

110.3

PHI 37%

NYK 63%

115.5

NYK by 5.2 · total 225.8

NYK SPREAD -5.5

TOTAL 232.5

PHI +166
ML

NYK -196
ML

Out Ariel Hukporti (PHI)



Philadelphia 76ers

NET RATING

-0.2

Offense #14 of 30 · 115.9 pts per 100

Defense #19 of 30 · 116.1 allowed per 100

Pace #14 of 30 · 101.5 possessions



New York Knicks

NET RATING

+6.4

Offense #10 of 30 · 116.5 pts per 100

Defense #5 of 30 · 110.2 allowed per 100

Pace #24 of 30 · 100.4 possessions



Oklahoma City Thunder
Projected 57-25

9:30 PMET

at



San Antonio Spurs
Projected 54-28

Projected score

114.4

OKC 56%

SAS 44%

113.0

OKC by 1.4 · total 227.5

SAS SPREAD -2.5

TOTAL 231.5

OKC +112
ML

SAS -132
ML

Out Nikola Topic (OKC) · Otega Oweh (OKC) · Jayden Quaintance (SAS)



Oklahoma City Thunder

NET RATING

+11.1

Offense #5 of 30 · 119.0 pts per 100

Defense #2 of 30 · 107.9 allowed per 100

Pace #23 of 30 · 100.4 possessions



San Antonio Spurs

NET RATING

+8.1

Offense #3 of 30 · 119.7 pts per 100

Defense #8 of 30 · 111.7 allowed per 100

Pace #15 of 30 · 101.4 possessions



Milwaukee Bucks
Projected 34-48

7:00 PMET
at



Washington Wizards
Projected 24-58

Projected score

117.6

MIL 55%

WAS 45%

115.8

MIL by 1.8 · total 233.5

WAS SPREAD -6.5

TOTAL 238.5

MIL +164
ML

WAS -196
ML

Out Gary Trent Jr. (MIL) · Jaime Jaquez Jr. (MIL) · Kyle Kuzma (MIL) · Tyler Herro (MIL) · Jamir Watkins (WAS) · Tristan Vukcevic (WAS)



Milwaukee Bucks

NET RATING
-6.2

Offense

#29 of 30 · 110.6 pts per 100

Defense

#20 of 30 · 116.8 allowed per 100

Pace

#20 of 30 · 100.6 possessions



Washington Wizards

NET RATING
-12.0

Offense

#25 of 30 · 112.9 pts per 100

Defense

#29 of 30 · 124.9 allowed per 100

Pace

#5 of 30 · 102.8 possessions



Atlanta Hawks
Projected 45-37

7:10 PMET
at



Orlando Magic
Projected 44-38

Projected score

113.7

ATL 38%

ORL 62%

117.3

ORL by 3.6 · total 231.1

ORL SPREAD -2.5

TOTAL 233.5

ATL +110
ML

ORL -130
ML

Out Henri Veesaar (ATL)



Atlanta Hawks

NET RATING
+2.4

Offense

#6 of 30 · 118.5 pts per 100

Defense

#18 of 30 · 116.0 allowed per 100

Pace

#9 of 30 · 102.1 possessions



Orlando Magic

NET RATING
+0.6

Offense

#15 of 30 · 115.7 pts per 100

Defense

#13 of 30 · 115.1 allowed per 100

Pace

#18 of 30 · 101.3 possessions



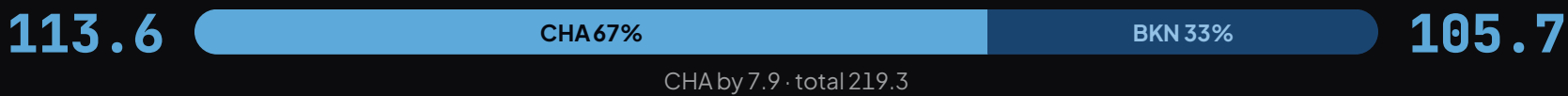
Charlotte Hornets
Projected 47-35

7:30 PMET
at



Brooklyn Nets
Projected 27-55

Projected score



BKN SPREAD +2.5

TOTAL 223.5

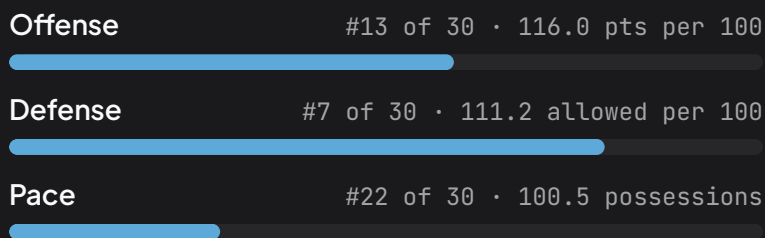
CHA -130
ML

BKN +110
ML



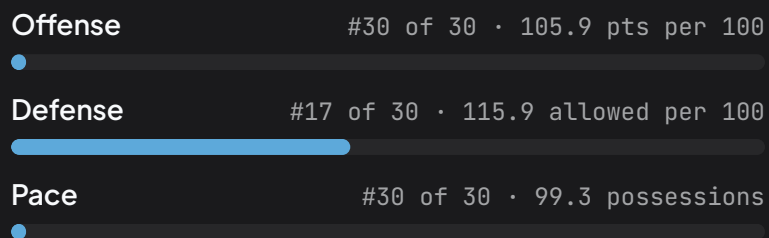
Charlotte Hornets

NET RATING
+4.8



Brooklyn Nets

NET RATING
-10.0



Chicago Bulls
Projected 32-50

7:40 PMET
at



Toronto Raptors
Projected 44-38

Projected score



TOR SPREAD -8.5

TOTAL 235.5

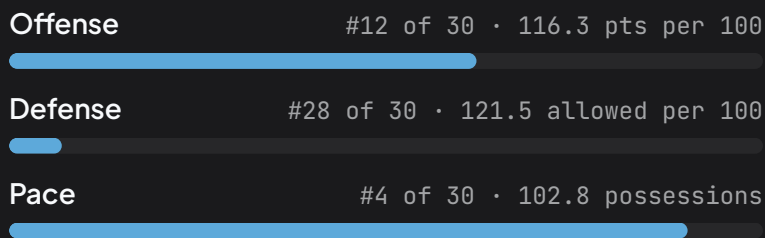
CHI +275
ML

TOR -345
ML



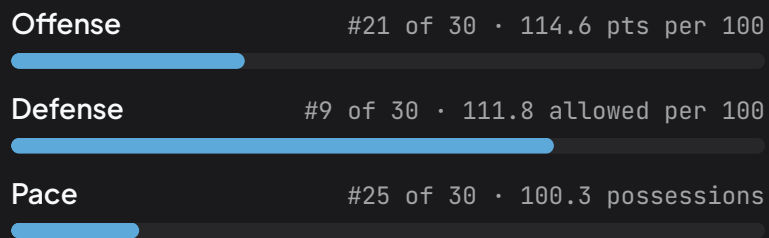
Chicago Bulls

NET RATING
-5.2



Toronto Raptors

NET RATING
+2.8





Minnesota Timberwolves
Projected 46-36

7:40 PMET

at



Miami Heat
Projected 42-40

Projected score

117.4

MIN 52%

MIA 48%

117.1

MIN by 0.2 · total 234.5

MIA SPREAD -1.5

TOTAL 242.5

MIN
ML +105

MIA
ML -125

Out Donte Divincenzo (MIN)



Minnesota Timberwolves

NET RATING

+3.4

Offense #7 of 30 · 118.0 pts per 100

Defense #12 of 30 · 114.6 allowed per 100

Pace #12 of 30 · 101.7 possessions



Miami Heat

NET RATING

+2.3

Offense #2 of 30 · 120.9 pts per 100

Defense #22 of 30 · 118.5 allowed per 100

Pace #2 of 30 · 103.2 possessions



Indiana Pacers
Projected 29-53

8:10 PMET

at



New Orleans Pelicans
Projected 34-48

Projected score

117.0

IND 43%

NOP 57%

119.3

NOP by 2.3 · total 236.3

NOP SPREAD +3.5

TOTAL 242.5

IND
ML -154

NOP
ML +130

Out Johnny Furphy (IND) · Dejounte Murray (NOP)



Indiana Pacers

NET RATING

-8.0

Offense #27 of 30 · 112.4 pts per 100

Defense #25 of 30 · 120.4 allowed per 100

Pace #11 of 30 · 101.7 possessions



New Orleans Pelicans

NET RATING

-4.5

Offense #16 of 30 · 115.5 pts per 100

Defense #24 of 30 · 120.0 allowed per 100

Pace #6 of 30 · 102.3 possessions



Utah Jazz

Projected 28-54

8:10 PMET

at



Memphis Grizzlies

Projected 29-53

Projected score

120.0

UTA 40%

MEM 60%

123.2

MEM by 3.2 · total 243.2

MEM SPREAD +2.5

TOTAL 242.5

UTA
ML -135

MEM
ML +114

Out Jusuf Nurkic (UTA) · Isaiah Stewart (MEM)



Utah Jazz

NET RATING

-8.4

Offense #9 of 30 · 117.6 pts per 100

Defense #30 of 30 · 126.0 allowed per 100

Pace #1 of 30 · 104.1 possessions



Memphis Grizzlies

NET RATING

-6.0

Offense #20 of 30 · 114.7 pts per 100

Defense #26 of 30 · 120.7 allowed per 100

Pace #7 of 30 · 102.3 possessions



Dallas Mavericks

Projected 32-50

8:40 PMET

at



Houston Rockets

Projected 47-35

Projected score

108.7

DAL 26%

HOU 74%

118.8

HOU by 10.2 · total 227.5

HOU SPREAD -8.5

TOTAL 226.5

DAL
ML +250

HOU
ML -312

Out Cooper Flagg (DAL) · Daniel Gafford (DAL) · Morez Johnson Jr. (DAL)



Dallas Mavericks

NET RATING

-5.5

Offense #23 of 30 · 114.1 pts per 100

Defense #23 of 30 · 119.6 allowed per 100

Pace #10 of 30 · 101.9 possessions



Houston Rockets

NET RATING

+5.2

Offense #18 of 30 · 115.2 pts per 100

Defense #4 of 30 · 110.0 allowed per 100

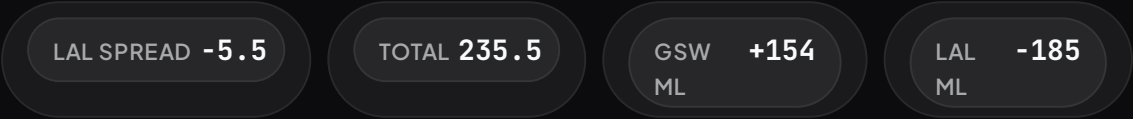
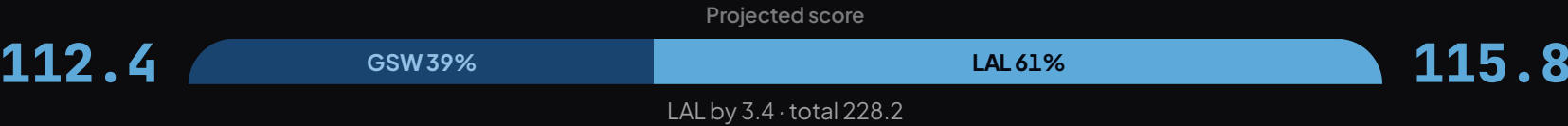
Pace #27 of 30 · 100.1 possessions



Golden State Warriors
Projected 38-44

10:00 PMET
at

Los Angeles Lakers
Projected 47-35



Out Jimmy Butler III (GSW) · Moses Moody (GSW)

Golden State Warriors NET RATING
-0.6

Offense

#22 of 30 · 114.6 pts per 100

Defense

#14 of 30 · 115.2 allowed per 100

Pace

#19 of 30 · 101.1 possessions

Los Angeles Lakers NET RATING
+1.8

Offense

#11 of 30 · 116.3 pts per 100

Defense

#11 of 30 · 114.6 allowed per 100

Pace

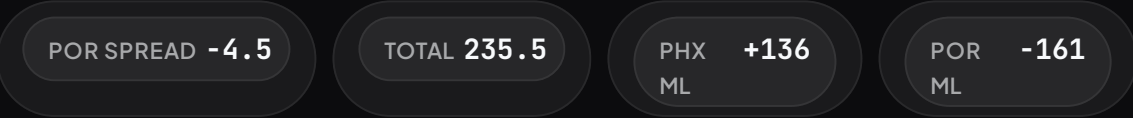
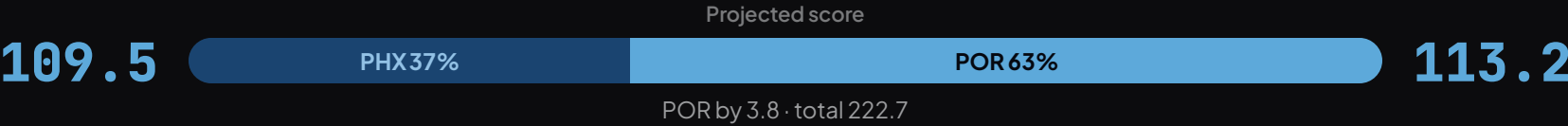
#17 of 30 · 101.3 possessions



Phoenix Suns
Projected 42-40

10:10 PMET
at

Portland Trail Blazers
Projected 42-40



Out Collin Gillespie (PHX) · Jalen Green (PHX) · Mark Williams (PHX) · Miles Bridges (PHX) · Shaedon Sharpe (POR)

Phoenix Suns NET RATING
+1.5

Offense

#26 of 30 · 112.6 pts per 100

Defense

#6 of 30 · 111.1 allowed per 100

Pace

#28 of 30 · 99.7 possessions

Portland Trail Blazers NET RATING
-0.3

Offense

#17 of 30 · 115.5 pts per 100

Defense

#16 of 30 · 115.8 allowed per 100

Pace

#16 of 30 · 101.4 possessions



Sacramento Kings
Projected 30-52

10:40 PMET

at



LA Clippers
Projected 43-39

Projected score

109.3

SAC 30%

LAC 70%

117.8

LAC by 8.5 · total 227.1

LAC SPREAD -4.5

TOTAL 230.5

SAC +128
ML

LAC -152
ML

Out Dylan Cardwell (SAC) · Maxime Raynaud (SAC) · Bradley Beal (LAC) · Brandon Ingram (LAC) · Jordan Miller (LAC) · Max Strus (LAC) · Yanic Konan Niederhauser (LAC)



Sacramento Kings

NET RATING

-10.0

Offense #28 of 30 · 111.0 pts per 100

Defense #27 of 30 · 121.0 allowed per 100

Pace #13 of 30 · 101.6 possessions



LA Clippers

NET RATING

+1.1

Offense #24 of 30 · 113.8 pts per 100

Defense #10 of 30 · 112.6 allowed per 100

Pace #26 of 30 · 100.3 possessions

Thursday, October 22



Cleveland Cavaliers
Projected 47-35

7:10 PMET

at



Philadelphia 76ers
Projected 43-39

Projected score

117.4

CLE 57%

PHI 43%

115.3

CLE by 2.2 · total 232.7

PHI SPREAD -4.5

TOTAL 233.5

CLE +130
ML

PHI -154
ML

Out Ariel Hukporti (PHI)



Cleveland Cavaliers

NET RATING

+4.1

Offense #4 of 30 · 119.5 pts per 100

Defense #15 of 30 · 115.4 allowed per 100

Pace #8 of 30 · 102.2 possessions



Philadelphia 76ers

NET RATING

-0.2

Offense #14 of 30 · 115.9 pts per 100

Defense #19 of 30 · 116.1 allowed per 100

Pace #14 of 30 · 101.5 possessions



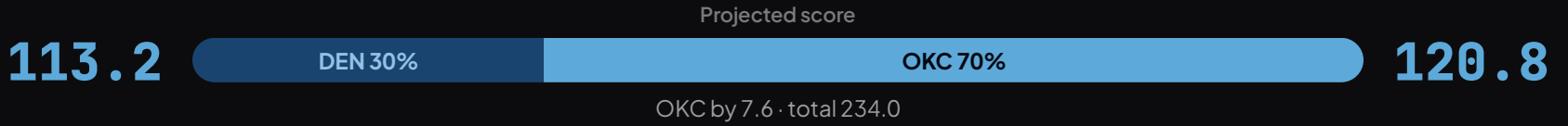
Denver Nuggets
Projected 48-34

9:40 PM ET

at



Oklahoma City Thunder
Projected 57-25



OKC SPREAD -7.5

TOTAL 232.5

DEN
ML +225

OKC
ML -278

Out Nikola Topic (OKC) · Otega Oweh (OKC)



Denver Nuggets

NET RATING

+5.1

Offense #1 of 30 · 122.1 pts per 100

Defense #21 of 30 · 116.9 allowed per 100

Pace #3 of 30 · 103.1 possessions



Oklahoma City Thunder

NET RATING

+11.1

Offense #5 of 30 · 119.0 pts per 100

Defense #2 of 30 · 107.9 allowed per 100

Pace #23 of 30 · 100.4 possessions

Simulated Oct 15, 2026 · 7:17 AM ET. Lines: the market's, as stored with each simulation. Team ranks use last season until this season's games are played.

TEAM BY TEAM

All 30, in projected order

Each page: projected record and range, the market's view, last season's ratings, top scorers, the schedule, who is out, and the simulation's read, written from that team's own numbers.



EAST · ATLANTIC · PROJECTED #1 SEED

New York Knicks

Projected record

54-28

Average 54.1 wins

80% range

43-65

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

93%

Market 86%

Title

14%

Market 8%

Simulated range (royal) · Market median 51.9 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

A real contender in the simulation: 14% to win the title and 26% to come out of the East.
Model and market nearly agree here, 54.1 simulated wins to a 51.9 market median.



New York Knicks
2025-26 ratings

NET RATING
+6.4

Offense

#10 of 30 · 116.5 pts per 100

Defense

#5 of 30 · 110.2 allowed per 100

Pace

#24 of 30 · 100.4 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Miles McBride	12.0	2.4	2.6	41
Landry Shamet	9.3	1.8	1.4	51
Jordan Clarkson	8.6	1.8	1.3	72

Schedule

Difficulty

#25 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

19 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Tue Oct 20 · vs PHI · 7:00 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Nobody listed out.



Detroit Pistons

Projected record

50-32

Average 50.4 wins

80% range

39-62

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

86%

Market 80%

Title

7%

Market 3%

Simulated range (royal) · Market median 49.0 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

Last season's 60 wins get trimmed to 50.4: the simulation pulls every team toward the middle, and the further out a team finished, the harder the pull.

There is little daylight between the two views: 50.4 from the simulation, 49.0 from the market.



Detroit Pistons

2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

+8.2

Offense

#8 of 30 · 117.8 pts per 100

Defense

#3 of 30 · 109.6 allowed per 100

Pace

#21 of 30 · 100.5 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Cade Cunningham	23.9	5.5	9.9	64
Jalen Duren	19.5	10.5	2.0	70
John Collins	13.6	5.3	1.0	69

Schedule

Difficulty

#24 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

23 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Tue Oct 20 · vs BOS · 3:00 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Nobody listed out.



Boston Celtics

Projected record

50-32

Average 50.2 wins

80% range

38-61

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

85%

Market 84%

Title

7%

Market 5%

Simulated range (royal) · Market median 53.2 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

Last season's 56 wins get trimmed to 50.2: the simulation pulls every team toward the middle, and the further out a team finished, the harder the pull.

Last season's profile is lopsided: #19 offense, #1 defense. The defense carried the rating.

The schedule helps: #28 of 30 by opponent rating, among the softest slates on the calendar.



Boston Celtics
2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

+7.7

Offense

#19 of 30 · 114.9 pts per 100

Defense

#1 of 30 · 107.2 allowed per 100

Pace

#29 of 30 · 99.3 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Paul George	17.3	5.3	3.6	37
Payton Pritchard	17.0	3.9	5.2	79
Derrick White	16.5	4.4	5.4	77

Schedule

Difficulty

#28 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

19 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Tue Oct 20 · at DET · 3:00 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Nobody listed out.



EAST · CENTRAL · PROJECTED #4 SEED

Cleveland Cavaliers

Projected record

47 - 35

Average 47.1 wins

80% range

35 - 59

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

77%

Market 78%

Title

4%

Market 3%

Simulated range (royal) · Market median 48.7 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

From 52 wins a year ago to 47.1 in the simulation, a 4.9-win haircut that is regression to the mean rather than a verdict on the roster.

Model and market nearly agree here, 47.1 simulated wins to a 48.7 market median.



Cleveland Cavaliers
2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

+4.1

Offense

#4 of 30 · 119.5 pts per 100

Defense

#15 of 30 · 115.4 allowed per 100

Pace

#8 of 30 · 102.2 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Donovan Mitchell	27.9	4.5	5.7	70
James Harden	23.6	4.8	8.0	70
Evan Mobley	18.2	9.0	3.6	65

Schedule

Difficulty

| #27 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

20 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Thu Oct 22 · at PHI · 7:00 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Nobody listed out.



Charlotte Hornets

Projected record

47 - 35

Average 46.9 wins

80% range

35 - 58

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

76%

Market 31%

Title

4%

Market <1%

Simulated range (royal) · Market median 37.9 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

The simulation lands 9.0 wins above the market on the Hornets (46.9 vs a 37.9 market median). The simulation rates the Hornets from last season's 44 wins and nothing else; the market is pricing something those results don't show yet.

The simulation adds 2.9 wins to last season's 44, landing at 46.9: the point margin was better than the record.



Charlotte Hornets
2025-26 ratings

NET RATING
+4.8

Offense	#13 of 30 · 116.0 pts per 100
Defense	#7 of 30 · 111.2 allowed per 100
Pace	#22 of 30 · 100.5 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Brandon Miller	20.2	4.9	3.3	65
Naz Reid	13.6	6.2	2.2	77
Dennis Schroder	10.8	2.7	4.9	70

Schedule

Difficulty	#21 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)
Back-to-backs	17 sets of games on consecutive nights
Opener	Wed Oct 21 · at BKN · 7:30 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Nobody listed out.



EAST · SOUTHEAST · PROJECTED #6 SEED

Atlanta Hawks

Projected record

45 - 37

Average 45.0 wins

80% range

33 - 57

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

69%

Market 59%

Title

3%

Market 1%

Simulated range (royal) · Market median 44.1 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

The simulation and the market are close on the Hawks: 45.0 wins against a 44.1 median.



Atlanta Hawks
2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

+2.4

Offense

#6 of 30 · 118.5 pts per 100

Defense

#18 of 30 · 116.0 allowed per 100

Pace

#9 of 30 · 102.1 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Nickeil Alexander-Walker	20.8	3.4	3.7	78
Jock Landale	10.6	5.7	1.7	68
Corey Kispert	9.2	2.3	1.6	58

Schedule

Difficulty

| #22 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

20 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Wed Oct 21 · at ORL · 7:00 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Henri Veesaar · Knee



Orlando Magic

Projected record

44 - 38

Average 44.3 wins

80% range

32 - 56

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

67%

Market 53%

Title

2%

Market 1%

Simulated range (royal) · Market median 44.7 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

Model and market nearly agree here, 44.3 simulated wins to a 44.7 market median.



Orlando Magic
2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

+0.6

Offense

#15 of 30 · 115.7 pts per 100

Defense

#13 of 30 · 115.1 allowed per 100

Pace

#18 of 30 · 101.3 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Paolo Banchero	22.2	8.4	5.2	72
Franz Wagner	20.6	5.2	3.3	34
Desmond Bane	20.1	4.1	4.1	82

Schedule

Difficulty

#23 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

18 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Wed Oct 21 · vs ATL · 7:00 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Nobody listed out.



Toronto Raptors

Projected record

44-38

Average 43.7 wins

80% range

32-55

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

64%

Market 72%

Title

2%

Market 3%

Simulated range (royal) · Market median 49.1 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

The simulation sits 5.4 wins under the market (43.7 vs 49.1). The simulation is anchored to last season's 46 wins; the market expects this roster to finish above that.

The play-in (38%) is the most common path; the playoffs come up in 64% of simulated seasons.



Toronto Raptors

2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

+2.8

Offense

#21 of 30 · 114.6 pts per 100

Defense

#9 of 30 · 111.8 allowed per 100

Pace

#25 of 30 · 100.3 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Kawhi Leonard	27.9	6.4	3.6	65
RJ Barrett	19.3	5.3	3.3	57
Scottie Barnes	18.1	7.5	5.9	80

Schedule

Difficulty

#13 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

22 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Wed Oct 21 · vs CHI · 7:30 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Nobody listed out.



Philadelphia 76ers

Projected record

43-39

Average 43.4 wins

80% range

31-55

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

63%

Market 81%

Title

2%

Market 8%

Simulated range (royal) · Market median 51.1 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

The market is the optimist on the 76ers: its median is 51.1 wins, the simulation's is 43.4. The simulation is anchored to last season's 45 wins; the market expects this roster to finish above that.

The play-in (38%) is the most common path; the playoffs come up in 63% of simulated seasons.



Philadelphia 76ers
2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

-0.2

Offense

#14 of 30 · 115.9 pts per 100

Defense

#19 of 30 · 116.1 allowed per 100

Pace

#14 of 30 · 101.5 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Tyrese Maxey	28.3	4.1	6.6	70
VJ Edgecombe	16.0	5.6	4.2	75
Caleb Love	10.4	2.3	2.5	49

Schedule

Difficulty

#18 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

19 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Tue Oct 20 · at NYK · 7:00 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Ariel Hukporti · Achilles



Miami Heat

Projected record

42-40

Average 42.1 wins

80% range

30-54

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

58%

Market 70%

Title

1%

Market 2%

Simulated range (royal) · Market median 48.0 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

The market is the optimist on the Heat: its median is 48.0 wins, the simulation's is 42.1. The simulation is anchored to last season's 43 wins; the market expects this roster to finish above that.

The offense did the heavy lifting last season (#2 offense, #22 defense by rating).

Close to a coin flip: the Heat make the playoffs in 58% of simulated seasons, with a 39% chance of the play-in.



Miami Heat
2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

+2.3

Offense #2 of 30 · 120.9 pts per 100

Defense #22 of 30 · 118.5 allowed per 100

Pace #2 of 30 · 103.2 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Giannis Antetokounmpo	27.6	9.8	5.4	36
Andrew Wiggins	15.4	4.8	2.7	68
Bobby Portis	13.7	6.4	1.6	67

Schedule

Difficulty | #20 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs 23 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener Wed Oct 21 · vs MIN · 7:30 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Nobody listed out.



EAST · CENTRAL · PROJECTED #11 SEED

Milwaukee Bucks

Projected record

34-48

Average 33.6 wins

80% range

22-45

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

23%

Market 12%

Title

<1%

Market <1%

Simulated range (royal) · Market median 27.9 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

Jaime Jaquez Jr., Kyle Kuzma and Tyler Herro are listed out on the current injury report. The season simulation rates teams from results, so that absence is not in its number yet; the market can price it today.

The simulation lands 5.7 wins above the market on the Bucks (33.6 vs a 27.9 market median). The simulation rates the Bucks from last season's 32 wins and nothing else; the market is pricing something those results don't show yet.



Milwaukee Bucks
2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

-6.2

Offense

#29 of 30 · 110.6 pts per 100

Defense

#20 of 30 · 116.8 allowed per 100

Pace

#20 of 30 · 100.6 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Kel'el Ware	11.1	9.0	0.7	77
Ousmane Dieng	7.6	3.2	2.4	57
Caris LeVert	7.4	2.0	2.7	60

Schedule

Difficulty

#12 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

17 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Wed Oct 21 · at WAS · 7:00 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Gary Trent Jr. · Rest

Jaime Jaquez Jr. · Rest

Kyle Kuzma · Rest

Tyler Herro · Rest



EAST · CENTRAL · PROJECTED #12 SEED

Chicago Bulls

Projected record

32 - 50

Average 32.1 wins

80% range

21 - 44

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

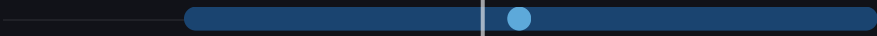
18%

Market 11%

Title

<1%

Market <1%



Simulated range (royal) · Market median 30.9 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

Last season's profile is lopsided: #12 offense, #28 defense. The offense carried the rating.

The simulation and the market are close on the Bulls: 32.1 wins against a 30.9 median.



Chicago Bulls
2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

-5.2

Offense

#12 of 30 · 116.3 pts per 100

Defense

#28 of 30 · 121.5 allowed per 100

Pace

#4 of 30 · 102.8 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Norman Powell	21.7	3.5	2.5	58
Josh Giddey	17.0	8.3	9.1	54
Matas Buzelis	16.3	5.8	2.1	77

Schedule

Difficulty

| #11 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

20 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Wed Oct 21 · at TOR · 7:30 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Nobody listed out.



EAST • CENTRAL • PROJECTED #13 SEED

Indiana Pacers

Projected record

29-53

Average 28.8 wins

80% range

18-40

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

10%

Market 62%

Title

<1%

Market 2%

Simulated range (royal) • Market median 46.7 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

This is the league's widest split between the two views, and the market is the higher one: 46.7 wins against the simulation's 28.8. The simulation is anchored to last season's 19 wins; the market expects this roster to finish above that.

The simulation hands back 9.8 wins to a team that won 19 last year, landing at 28.8, mostly regression toward the middle.



Indiana Pacers
2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

-8.0

Offense

#27 of 30 • 112.4 pts per 100

Defense

#25 of 30 • 120.4 allowed per 100

Pace

#11 of 30 • 101.7 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Pascal Siakam	24.0	6.6	3.8	62
Kelly Oubre Jr.	14.1	5.0	1.6	50
Obi Toppin	11.6	4.4	2.3	24

Schedule

Difficulty

#7 of 30 • by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

24 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Thu Oct 22 • at NOP • 8:00 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Johnny Furphy • Knee



Brooklyn Nets

Projected record

27-55

Average 27.0 wins

80% range

17-38

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

7%

Market 11%

Title

<1%

Market <1%



Simulated range (royal) · Market median 26.5 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

After 20 wins last season, the simulation climbs to 27.0: records that far below average tend to drift back up.

Outcomes cluster: 80% of simulated seasons land between 17 and 38 wins.

The schedule does them no favours: by the simulation's own team ratings, it is the #2 hardest in the league.



Brooklyn Nets

2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

-10.0

Offense

#30 of 30 · 105.9 pts per 100

Defense

#17 of 30 · 115.9 allowed per 100

Pace

#30 of 30 · 99.3 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Julius Randle	21.1	6.7	5.0	79
Noah Clowney	12.3	4.1	1.6	66
Nolan Traore	8.9	1.8	3.8	56

Schedule

Difficulty

#2 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

19 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Wed Oct 21 · vs CHA · 7:30 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Nobody listed out.



EAST • SOUTHEAST • PROJECTED #15 SEED

Washington Wizards

Projected record

24-58

Average 24.3 wins

80% range

14-35

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

4%

Market 29%

Title

0%

Market <1%



THE SIMULATION'S READ

An 11.9-win gap runs the other way here: 24.3 simulated wins, 36.2 at the market median. The simulation is anchored to last season's 17 wins; the market expects this roster to finish above that.

17 wins last season, 24.3 in the simulation. Bad records regress up the same way good ones regress down.

The simulated range is tight by NBA standards, 14 to 35 wins in 80% of seasons.



Washington Wizards
2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

-12.0

Offense

#25 of 30 · 112.9 pts per 100

Defense

#29 of 30 · 124.9 allowed per 100

Pace

#5 of 30 · 102.8 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Alex Sarr	16.3	7.4	2.7	48
Deandre Ayton	12.5	8.0	0.8	72
Tre Johnson	12.2	2.8	2.0	60

Schedule

Difficulty

#4 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

23 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Wed Oct 21 · vs MIL · 7:00 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Jamir Watkins · Knee

Tristan Vukcevic · Hip



Oklahoma City Thunder

Projected record

57-25

Average **57.0** wins

80% range

46-67

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

97%

Market **93%**

Title

20%

Market **25%**

Simulated range (royal) · Market median **62.8** wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

The Thunder win the championship in 20% of simulated seasons and the West in 32%.

From 64 wins a year ago to 57.0 in the simulation, a 7.0-win haircut that is regression to the mean rather than a verdict on the roster.

The simulation sits 5.8 wins under the market (57.0 vs 62.8). Both views expect a step back from last season's 64 wins; the market simply keeps more of that record than the simulation's regression does.



Oklahoma City Thunder

2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

+11.1

Offense #5 of 30 · 119.0 pts per 100

Defense #2 of 30 · 107.9 allowed per 100

Pace #23 of 30 · 100.4 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Shai Gilgeous-Alexander	31.1	4.3	6.6	68
Jalen Williams	17.1	4.6	5.5	33
Isaiah Hartenstein	9.2	9.4	3.5	47

Schedule

Difficulty | **#30 of 30** · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs 18 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener Wed Oct 21 · at SAS · 9:30 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Nikola Topic · Back

Otega Oweh · Achilles



San Antonio Spurs

Projected record

54-28

Average 54.4 wins

80% range

43-65

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

94%

Market 92%

Title

14%

Market 25%

Simulated range (royal) · Market median 60.5 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

Last season's 62 wins get trimmed to 54.4: the simulation pulls every team toward the middle, and the further out a team finished, the harder the pull.

The market is the optimist on the Spurs: its median is 60.5 wins, the simulation's is 54.4. Both views expect a step back from last season's 62 wins; the market simply keeps more of that record than the simulation's regression does.

A real contender in the simulation: 14% to win the title and 23% to come out of the West.



San Antonio Spurs

2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

+8.1

Offense

#3 of 30 · 119.7 pts per 100

Defense

#8 of 30 · 111.7 allowed per 100

Pace

#15 of 30 · 101.4 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Victor Wembanyama	25.0	11.5	3.1	64
De'Aaron Fox	18.6	3.8	6.2	72
Stephon Castle	16.7	5.3	7.4	68

Schedule

Difficulty

#29 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

20 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Wed Oct 21 · vs OKC · 9:30 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Jayden Quaintance · Knee



Denver Nuggets

Projected record

48-34

Average 48.5 wins

80% range

37-60

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

82%

Market 82%

Title

5%

Market 3%

Simulated range (royal) • Market median 49.9 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

The Nuggets won 54 games last season. The simulation's 48.5 gives back 5.5 of them, the usual cost of finishing that far above average.

The offense did the heavy lifting last season (#1 offense, #21 defense by rating).



Denver Nuggets
2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

+5.1

Offense #1 of 30 • 122.1 pts per 100

Defense #21 of 30 • 116.9 allowed per 100

Pace #3 of 30 • 103.1 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Nikola Jokic	27.7	12.9	10.7	65
Jamal Murray	25.4	4.4	7.1	75
Aaron Gordon	16.2	5.8	2.7	36

Schedule

Difficulty | #16 of 30 • by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs 18 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener Fri Oct 23 • at OKC • 9:30 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Nobody listed out.



Houston Rockets

Projected record

47 - 35

Average 47.1 wins

80% range

35 - 59

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

78%

Market 80%

Title

3%

Market 2%

Simulated range (royal) · Market median 51.2 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

From 52 wins a year ago to 47.1 in the simulation, a 4.9-win haircut that is regression to the mean rather than a verdict on the roster.

A 4.1-win gap runs the other way here: 47.1 simulated wins, 51.2 at the market median. Both views expect a step back from last season's 52 wins; the market simply keeps more of that record than the simulation's regression does.

Split personality in the ratings: #18 on offense and #4 on defense.



Houston Rockets

2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

+5.2

Offense

#18 of 30 · 115.2 pts per 100

Defense

#4 of 30 · 110.0 allowed per 100

Pace

#27 of 30 · 100.1 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Amen Thompson	18.3	7.8	5.3	79
Jabari Smith Jr.	15.8	6.9	1.9	77
Reed Sheppard	13.5	2.9	3.4	82

Schedule

Difficulty

#26 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

18 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Thu Oct 22 · vs DAL · 8:30 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Nobody listed out.



Los Angeles Lakers

Projected record

47 - 35

Average 46.8 wins

80% range

35 - 58

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

77%

Market 73%

Title

4%

Market 2%

Simulated range (royal) • Market median 47.6 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

The Lakers won 53 games last season. The simulation's 46.8 gives back 6.2 of them, the usual cost of finishing that far above average.

The simulation and the market are close on the Lakers: 46.8 wins against a 47.6 median.



Los Angeles Lakers

2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

+1.8

Offense

#11 of 30 • 116.3 pts per 100

Defense

#11 of 30 • 114.6 allowed per 100

Pace

#17 of 30 • 101.3 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Austin Reaves	23.3	4.7	5.5	51
Quentin Grimes	13.4	3.6	3.3	75
Sandro Mamukelashvili	11.2	4.9	1.9	80

Schedule

Difficulty

| #15 of 30 • by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

20 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Thu Oct 22 • vs GSW • 10:00 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Nobody listed out.



Minnesota Timberwolves

Projected record

46-36

Average 46.4 wins

80% range

35-58

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

76%

Market 84%

Title

4%

Market 3%

Simulated range (royal) · Market median 50.3 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

A 3.9-win gap runs the other way here: 46.4 simulated wins, 50.3 at the market median. The simulation is anchored to last season's 49 wins; the market expects this roster to finish above that.

Last season's 49 wins get trimmed to 46.4: the simulation pulls every team toward the middle, and the further out a team finished, the harder the pull.



Minnesota Timberwolves
2025-26 ratings

NET RATING
+3.4

Offense #7 of 30 · 118.0 pts per 100

Defense #12 of 30 · 114.6 allowed per 100

Pace #12 of 30 · 101.7 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Anthony Edwards	28.8	5.0	3.7	61
LaMelo Ball	20.1	4.8	7.1	72
Jaden McDaniels	14.8	4.2	2.7	73

Schedule

Difficulty I #8 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs 18 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener Wed Oct 21 · at MIA · 7:30 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Donte Divincenzo · Achilles



LA Clippers

Projected record

43-39

Average 42.7 wins

80% range

31-55

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

61%

Market 14%

Title

2%

Market <1%



Simulated range (royal) · Market median 27.1 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

Here the market median is 27.1 wins and the simulation says 42.7, a 15.6-win gap in the model's direction. The simulation rates the Clippers from last season's 42 wins and nothing else; the market is pricing something those results don't show yet.

Brandon Ingram is listed out on the current injury report. The season simulation rates teams from results, so that absence is not in its number yet; the market can price it today.

Last season's profile is lopsided: #24 offense, #10 defense. The defense carried the rating.



LA Clippers

2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

+1.1

Offense

#24 of 30 · 113.8 pts per 100

Defense

#10 of 30 · 112.6 allowed per 100

Pace

#26 of 30 · 100.3 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Darius Garland	18.8	2.4	6.7	45
Rui Hachimura	11.5	3.3	0.8	68
Derrick Jones Jr.	10.1	3.5	1.4	50

Schedule

Difficulty

#17 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

19 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Thu Oct 22 · vs SAC · 10:30 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Bradley Beal · Knee

Brandon Ingram · Achilles

Jordan Miller · Shoulder

Max Strus · Foot

Yanic Konan Niederhauser · Foot



WEST • NORTHWEST • PROJECTED #8 SEED

Portland Trail Blazers

Projected record

42-40

Average 42.3 wins

80% range

30-54

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

60%

Market 56%

Title

1%

Market <1%

Simulated range (royal) • Market median 43.3 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

The injury report lists Shaedon Sharpe as out. Results-based ratings can't see that yet — watch how the first weeks of games move this number.

Close to a coin flip: the Trail Blazers make the playoffs in 60% of simulated seasons, with a 38% chance of the play-in.



Portland Trail Blazers

2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

-0.3

Offense

#17 of 30 • 115.5 pts per 100

Defense

#16 of 30 • 115.8 allowed per 100

Pace

#16 of 30 • 101.4 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Deni Avdija	24.2	6.9	6.7	66
Jrue Holiday	16.3	4.6	6.1	53
Scoot Henderson	14.2	2.7	3.7	30

Schedule

Difficulty

#10 of 30 • by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

24 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Thu Oct 22 • vs PHX • 10:00 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Shaedon Sharpe • Knee



WEST · PACIFIC · PROJECTED #9 SEED

PhoenixSuns

Projected record

42-40

Average 42.1 wins

80% range

30-54

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

59%

Market 46%

Title

1%

Market <1%

Simulated range (royal) · Market median 40.7 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

Collin Gillespie, Jalen Green and Miles Bridges are listed out on the current injury report. The season simulation rates teams from results, so that absence is not in its number yet; the market can price it today.

Split personality in the ratings: #26 on offense and #6 on defense.

This is a bubble team: 59% to reach the playoffs and 38% to land in the play-in.



Phoenix Suns

2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

+1.5

Offense

#26 of 30 · 112.6 pts per 100

Defense

#6 of 30 · 111.1 allowed per 100

Pace

#28 of 30 · 99.7 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Jordan Goodwin	8.7	4.9	2.2	70
Luke Kennard	8.4	2.3	2.2	78
Pat Spencer	7.2	2.4	3.5	66

Schedule

Difficulty

#19 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

18 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Thu Oct 22 · at POR · 10:00 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Collin Gillespie · Rest

Jalen Green · Rest

Mark Williams · Shoulder

Miles Bridges · Ankle



WEST • PACIFIC • PROJECTED #10 SEED

Golden State Warriors

Projected record

38-44

Average 37.5 wins

80% range

26-49

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

39%

Market 42%

Title

<1%

Market 1%

Simulated range (royal) • Market median 38.3 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

Jimmy Butler III and Moses Moody are listed out on the current injury report. The season simulation rates teams from results, so that absence is not in its number yet; the market can price it today.

This is a bubble team: 39% to reach the playoffs and 37% to land in the play-in.



Golden State Warriors

2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

-0.6

Offense

#22 of 30 • 114.6 pts per 100

Defense

#14 of 30 • 115.2 allowed per 100

Pace

#19 of 30 • 101.1 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Stephen Curry	26.6	3.6	4.7	43
Brandin Podziemski	13.8	5.1	3.7	82
Brandon Williams	13.0	2.9	3.9	66

Schedule

Difficulty

#14 of 30 • by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

19 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Thu Oct 22 • at LAL • 10:00 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Jimmy Butler III • Knee

Moses Moody • Knee



New Orleans Pelicans

Projected record

34-48

Average 33.9 wins

80% range

22-46

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

25%

Market 17%

Title

<1%

Market <1%

Simulated range (royal) · Market median 29.9 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

The simulation hands back 7.9 wins to a team that won 26 last year, landing at 33.9, mostly regression toward the middle.

Here the market median is 29.9 wins and the simulation says 33.9, a 4.0-win gap in the model's direction. The simulation rates the Pelicans from last season's 26 wins and nothing else; the market is pricing something those results don't show yet.



New Orleans Pelicans

2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

-4.5

Offense

#16 of 30 · 115.5 pts per 100

Defense

#24 of 30 · 120.0 allowed per 100

Pace

#6 of 30 · 102.3 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Trey Murphy III	21.5	5.7	3.8	66
Zion Williamson	21.0	5.7	3.2	62
Saddiq Bey	17.7	5.6	2.5	72

Schedule

Difficulty

I #9 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

21 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Thu Oct 22 · vs IND · 8:00 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Dejounte Murray · Toe



Dallas Mavericks

Projected record

32 - 50

Average 32.1 wins

80% range

21 - 44

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

19%

Market 31%

Title

<1%

Market <1%

Simulated range (royal) · Market median 35.2 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

Cooper Flagg is listed out on the current injury report. The season simulation rates teams from results, so that absence is not in its number yet; the market can price it today.

After 26 wins last season, the simulation climbs to 32.1: records that far below average tend to drift back up.

The market is the optimist on the Mavericks: its median is 35.2 wins, the simulation's is 32.1. The simulation is anchored to last season's 26 wins; the market expects this roster to finish above that.



Dallas Mavericks

2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

-5.5

Offense

#23 of 30 · 114.1 pts per 100

Defense

#23 of 30 · 119.6 allowed per 100

Pace

#10 of 30 · 101.9 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Naji Marshall	15.2	4.7	3.3	74
P.J. Washington	14.2	7.0	1.8	56
Max Christie	12.3	3.2	2.0	77

Schedule

Difficulty

#6 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

22 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Thu Oct 22 · at HOU · 8:30 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Cooper Flagg · Rest

Daniel Gafford · Rest

Morez Johnson Jr. · Rest



WEST · PACIFIC · PROJECTED #13 SEED

Sacramento Kings

Projected record

30-52

Average 30.0 wins

80% range

19-42

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

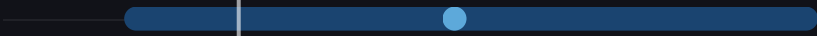
14%

Market 9%

Title

<1%

Market <1%



Simulated range (royal) · Market median 22.8 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

The simulation lands 7.2 wins above the market on the Kings (30.0 vs a 22.8 market median). The simulation rates the Kings from last season's 22 wins and nothing else; the market is pricing something those results don't show yet.

After 22 wins last season, the simulation climbs to 30.0: records that far below average tend to drift back up.

The injury report lists Maxime Raynaud as out. Results-based ratings can't see that yet — watch how the first weeks of games move this number.



Sacramento Kings

2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

-10.0

Offense

#28 of 30 · 111.0 pts per 100

Defense

#27 of 30 · 121.0 allowed per 100

Pace

#13 of 30 · 101.6 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Keegan Murray	14.0	5.7	1.7	23
Daeqwon Plowden	10.8	3.0	1.3	32
Nique Clifford	8.6	3.8	2.4	75

Schedule

Difficulty

#5 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

18 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Thu Oct 22 · at LAC · 10:30 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Dylan Cardwell · Calf

Maxime Raynaud · Knee



WEST · SOUTHWEST · PROJECTED #14 SEED

Memphis Grizzlies

Projected record

29-53

Average 28.6 wins

80% range

18-40

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

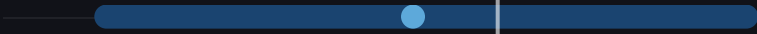
11%

Market 16%

Title

<1%

Market <1%



Simulated range (royal) · Market median 31.4 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

The schedule does them no favours: by the simulation's own team ratings, it is the #3 hardest in the league.

25 wins last season, 28.6 in the simulation. Bad records regress up the same way good ones regress down.



Memphis Grizzlies

2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

-6.0

Offense

#20 of 30 · 114.7 pts per 100

Defense

#26 of 30 · 120.7 allowed per 100

Pace

#7 of 30 · 102.3 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Jerami Grant	18.6	3.5	2.1	57
Cedric Coward	13.6	5.9	2.8	62
GG Jackson	12.5	4.3	1.5	55

Schedule

Difficulty

#3 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

16 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Thu Oct 22 · vs UTA · 8:00 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Isaiah Stewart · Ankle



Utah Jazz

Projected record

28-54

Average 27.8 wins

80% range

17-39

wins in four of five seasons

Playoffs

9%

Market 44%

Title

<1%

Market <1%



Simulated range (royal) · Market median 39.9 wins

THE SIMULATION'S READ

The market is the optimist on the Jazz: its median is 39.9 wins, the simulation's is 27.8. The simulation is anchored to last season's 22 wins; the market expects this roster to finish above that.

The simulation hands back 5.8 wins to a team that won 22 last year, landing at 27.8, mostly regression toward the middle.

Last season's profile is lopsided: #9 offense, #30 defense. The offense carried the rating.



Utah Jazz

2025-26 ratings

NET RATING

-8.4

Offense

#9 of 30 · 117.6 pts per 100

Defense

#30 of 30 · 126.0 allowed per 100

Pace

#1 of 30 · 104.1 possessions

Top scorers last season

2025-26 per game, on this season's roster and not ruled out.

Player	PTS	REB	AST	GP
Lauri Markkanen	26.7	6.9	2.1	42
Keyonte George	23.6	3.7	6.1	54
Brice Sensabaugh	14.9	3.1	1.9	75

Schedule

Difficulty

#1 of 30 · by opponent rating (1 = hardest)

Back-to-backs

22 sets of games on consecutive nights

Opener

Thu Oct 22 · at MEM · 8:00 PM ET

On the injury report: out

Jusuf Nurkic · Foot

USE IT EVERY DAY

Olympus NBA, tab by tab

This playbook is a snapshot. The NBA page re-runs every morning on the latest rosters, injury report and market lines.

Today's Games

Every game night, each matchup is run through the possession-level simulation (10,000 runs per game): projected score, win probability and the market line, free on every non-premium game. Members also see the model-vs-market numbers.

Season Futures

This playbook, live: title, conference and playoff odds from 20,000 simulated seasons, the win-range ladders and the market's own de-vigged numbers, refreshed every morning.

Player Props

Player-level projections for the day's games. A members view.

Custom Simulation

Choose any two teams and run the same possession engine yourself, 2,500 simulated games per run.

Power Rankings

Teams tiered by the season simulation's rating, with each team's win range, plus last season's offense, defense and pace.

Edges & Record

Where the model and the market disagree on today's games, and the dated, public record of everything Olympus has published for the NBA.

Team Habits

Each team's record against the spread, total and moneyline, split by home/away, favourite/underdog, rest and line size, with sample sizes. A members view.

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The words in this guide

Projection

Any number the model produces for a game or a season. A projection has no result yet.

Market median

The win total the market splits 50/50 on, read from de-vigged exchange prices.

De-vigged

Market prices with the bookmaker's or exchange's margin removed, so they sum to 100%.

Glicko rating

A team strength number updated after every game, with a built-in measure of how uncertain it is.

Pace

Possessions per game. Faster teams create more scoring chances for both sides.

Held-out season

A season the model never saw while it was being fit, used to test it honestly.

Brier score

The average squared gap between a probability and what happened. Lower is better.

Model view

What the simulation says, shown next to what the market says. A view is not advice.

80% range

The 10th to 90th percentile of simulated wins: four in five simulated seasons land inside it.

Regression to the mean

Extreme records drift back toward average the next season; the simulation builds that pull in.

Net rating

Points scored minus points allowed per 100 possessions.

Play-in

Seeds 7 to 10 in each conference compete for the last two playoff spots.

RMSE

Root mean squared error: the typical miss, in wins, with big misses counted more.

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Data: season simulation and futures board generated Oct 15, 2026 · 9:18 AM ET; market prices de-vigged (exchange fees excluded). Every number in this guide is listed with its source file in the build's sources.json.

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