

# NBA Season Preview and Fantasy Player Rankings 2010-2011 by Fanbay.net Sports

Latest update: as of October 14, 2010

1. **Eastern Conference** Predictions, including projected wins, and team-by-team commentary
2. **Western Conference** Predictions, including projected wins, playoff teams, and commentary
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## NBA 2010-2011 OVERVIEW

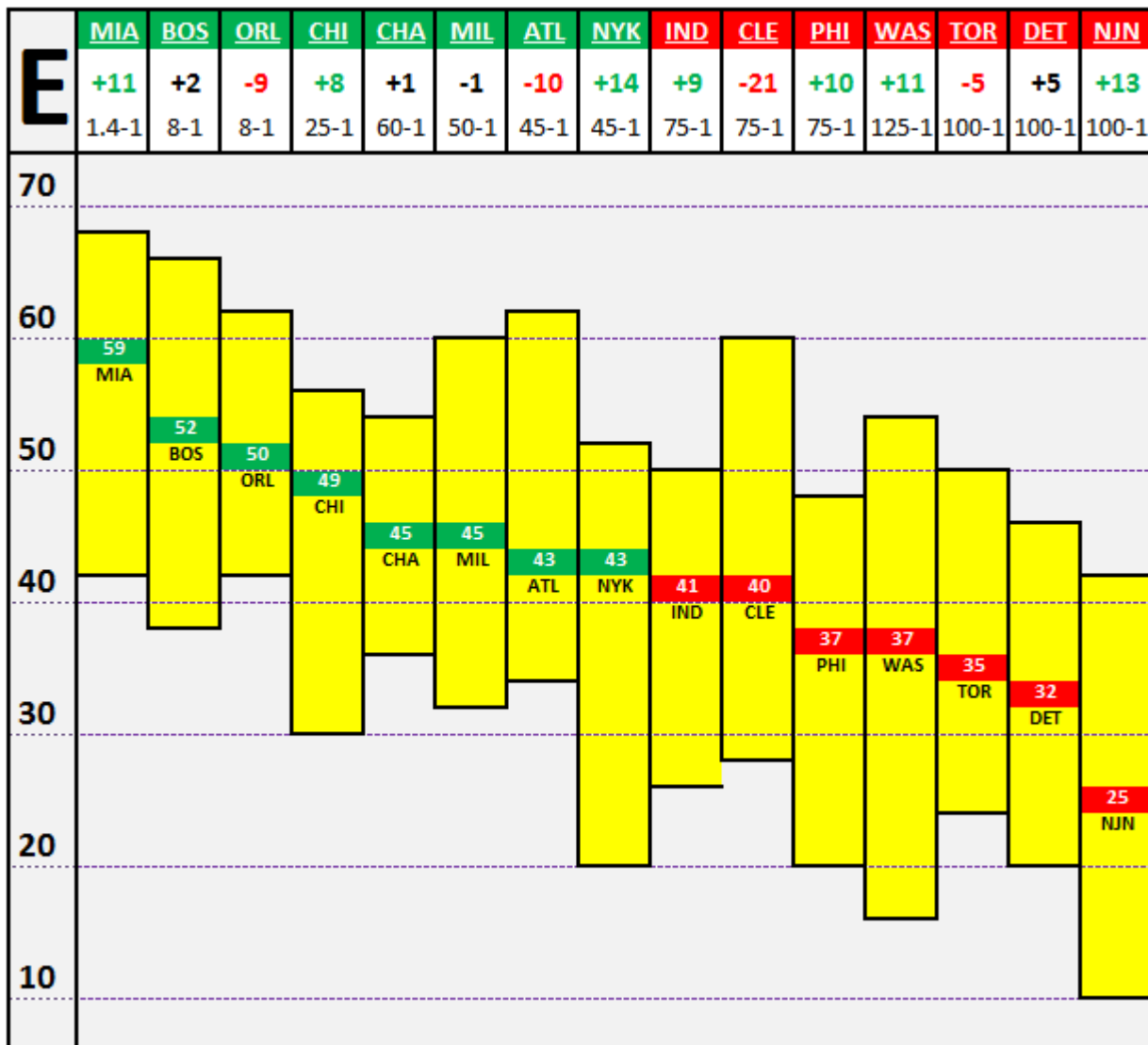
- **Stadium news:** The **New Jersey Nets** are moving to the Prudential Center in downtown Newark. The **Orlando Magic** will begin playing in the new Amway Center this season (the stadium will host the 2012 All-Star game; note: the 2011 All-Star game this year is in L.A.)
- **New coaches:** **Doug Collins** for Philadelphia 76ers, **Monty Williams** for New Orleans Hornets, **Avery Johnson** for New Jersey Nets, **Larry Drew** for Atlanta Hawks, **Tom Thibodeau** for Chicago Bulls, **Byron Scott** for Cleveland Cavaliers, **Vinny Del Negro** for Los Angeles Clippers and **Keith Smart** for Golden State Warriors.
- **Uniforms:** among the changes, Cleveland Cavaliers are accentuating the original team colors within the same logo and adding the slogan "All for one. One for all" on the jerseys.

Note: the projected win tables for Eastern and Western Conference are based on computer trend analysis and the table shows:


- Yellow: range of projected wins for the upcoming 2010-2011 season
- Green: Teams making the playoffs, including projected number of wins in 2010-2011 (example: Miami is projected to win 59 games)
- Red: Teams that are projected not to make playoffs including their likely number of wins in red
- Below the team names is a + or - number showing the projected change from the year before. So last year Miami won 48 games so this year's prediction of 59 wins is +11 from last year.
- Below that number is Las Vegas odds to win the NBA championship. So Miami is 1.4 to 1 (7-5) and Boston is 8 to 1. Odds as of 9/30/10.

# 1. Eastern Conference


Storyline: The Miami Heat (with LeBron and Bosh added to Wade) are literally odds-on favorites to win the NBA title. They are also projected to run away with the Eastern Conference with the only question being 'How many games will they win?' LeBron has shown over the years to not necessarily be a real fighter for wins. Teams will be gunning to beat them. Based on this we don't expect regular season records, just about 59 wins; with upside to 67 wins. Beyond Miami there will not be much surprise for BOS and ORL finishing 2 and 3. After that it gets interesting. Charlotte looks like the next best team to make the playoffs. The Bulls look good too but they have downside risks. The Bucks and Hawks look solid with a lot of upside. The final playoff spot is a wildcard. Don't be surprised to see the Knicks take it but Cleveland (yes, even without the King), Washington, and Toronto may have the upside to contend. Note Vegas hates the Washington Wizards this season and Vegas also doesn't like Charlotte.




### 1. Miami Heat

	59 wins (vs 48 last year) could range from 42 to 67 wins	What changed: The earth stopped rotating for a few days as the Heat shocked the world grabbing LeBron from Cleveland and landing Chris Bosh from Toronto. Then added sharp shooter <b>Mike Miller</b> and return <b>Udonis Haslem</b> .
		Mission: As soon as <b>LeBron James</b> said "I'm taking my talents to South Beach" the expectation was set. This assembly of Bosh, D-Wade, and the King is, simply, supposed to win the title.
		Predicted Outcome: James doesn't have that killer mentality all the time. Plus this team of <b>superstars Wade and James</b> needs to learn to play together and still pile up the statistics they and we all expect. We don't expect regular season records to be broken. Everyone will want to beat them and the King may just lay down here and there. Come playoff time the expectations are going to be so high and they aren't going to be getting many cheers. Hard to say they won't win it all, but can say it won't be easy.

### 2. Boston Celtics


	52 wins (vs 50 last year) could range from 39 to 65 wins	What changed: The offseason goal was just to keep the team together (including head coach <b>Doc Rivers</b> ). That mission was totally accomplished. Add in <b>Shaquille O'Neal</b> , it was a very good offseason for the Celtics.
		Mission: They made it to the Finals last year. Ask us and we say straight up they were overmatched against L.A. Getting back will be tough. Winning it all even tougher. But with this team, the only mission is the ring.
		Predicted Outcome: We believe BOS needs to use the offensive tools they have. <b>Garnett</b> needs to be more aggressive. They really ought to open it up instead of playing Pistons-style playoff ball. They can outscore opponents. But that's not how they play now. Anyways, Celtics will coast to 50+ wins this season and in the playoffs they represent big, real competition for the Heat.

### 3. Orlando Magic


	50 wins (vs 59 last year) could range from 42 to 61 wins	What changed: After the loss of <b>Hedo Turkoglu</b> the Magic went on defense and decided to bring back the other pieces of their crew. <b>J.J. Redick</b> will be back. As is <b>Gortat</b> .
		Mission: Orlando's goals seem to have narrowed a little. They feel dwarfed in their own state. More than winning a title, they just want people in Florida to know they are still around.

		<p>Predicted Outcome: Expect them to push hard in the regular season. The Magic want some respect. The key to getting any further is for <b>Rashard Lewis</b> to play All-Star ball like he is capable of. Lewis is traditionally way too passive. And it hurts double now that Turkoglu is gone. Anyway, ORL can compete with Miami in the playoffs. <b>Vince Carter and Dwight Howard</b>-- real superstars both-- have good role players around.</p>
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#### 4. Chicago Bulls

	<p>49 wins (vs 41 last year) could range from 31 to 56 wins</p>	<p>What changed: They didn't get LeBron James. But in comes Carlos Boozer to provide a real power player in the paint to complement Noah. Is 13 the Bulls lucky number?</p>
		<p>Mission: There is no talk of a title for this team. Getting to the Eastern Conference finals would be an accomplishment.</p>
		<p>Predicted Outcome: Unfortunately they will start the year with Boozer injured. They don't look half as good on paper without him around. And so the regular season could turn out tougher than expected (starting Bogans? Really?). That said, Rose and Noah are much better than credited and have the potential to get even better. Wouldn't want to face them in the playoffs. They can upset a bigger name. And they will need help from role players (Gibson, Korver, Brewer).</p>

#### 5. Charlotte Bobcats


	<p>45 wins (vs 44 last year) could range from 36 to 52 wins</p>	<p>What changed: PG Raymond Felton is gone and <b>Michael Jordan</b> turned down a chance to bring in Calderon as a replacement. D.J. Augustin is capable but Bobcats could of and should of done better this offseason.</p>
		<p>Mission: Prove some staying power. The Bobcats will want to top last year's win total and make the playoffs again.</p>
		<p>Predicted Outcome: Its an odd assembly of players. The Bobcats aren't really building to become something. They are just bringing in pieces that can win, stringing together 2nd-tier guys like Gerald Wallace and Stephen Jackson and scrappers like Diaw and Ty Thomas. They will hit their targets. CHA is legit, just an odd way to build a team.</p>

#### 6. Milwaukee Bucks


	<p>45 wins (vs 46 last year) could range from 33 to 58 wins</p>	<p>What changed: The Bucks actually went after some pieces in the offseason. And with the Redd era ending, bringing Gooden and Maggette to town are just the kind of moves that can help round out the Jennings-Bogut duo.</p>
		<p>Mission: The Bucks have direction and they want to take another step in the Jennings-Bogut era. They really will want to</p>

		<p>push for a 4 or 5 seed so they can be a 2nd-round playoff team.</p> <p>Predicted Outcome: Bogut's health could be an issue through this season. Also, team chemistry is not going to be simple. It could be slightly disappointing for MIL, but fans may be happy if even a nudge of progress comes out of this year.</p>
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7. Atlanta Hawks

	<p>43 wins (vs 53 last year) could range from 34 to 60 wins</p>	<p>What changed: Nothing. Well, except Bibby is another year older.</p>
		<p>Mission: The Hawks have the team they want. Its not a bad crew. But there was no progress made for a team that just snuck by last year.</p>
		<p>Predicted Outcome: The Hawks pieces are good. Joe Johnson is solid. Josh Smith solid. Marvin Williams too. Plus two Crawford's off the bench. Horford in the middle. It's all good. There just isn't much depth. The problem is that, regrettably, it doesn't look these guys really want to push through. They need to bring it every night. Last year's playoff series with Milwaukee was light years from the Boston near upset a couple years back.</p>

8. New York Knicks


	<p>43 wins (vs 29 last year) could range from 20 to 50 wins</p>	<p>What changed: A new era has begun. The stacks of bad contracts and terrible teams are behind them. There is now light at the end of the tunnel. But after losing LeBron and getting Amare, it is a process that is just starting.</p>
		<p>Mission: The Knicks want to make the playoffs. That would be the statement that D'Antoni and Amare are turning this franchise around.</p>
		<p>Predicted Outcome: Amare is a real team player and leader. And he has his chance out from under Steve Nash. We don't see Felton like the Knicks see Felton, but at least they appear to have a couple positions locked down. We say they make the playoffs and NYK becomes a fun team to root for with Randolph, Gallinari, Mozgov and crew.</p>

9. Indiana Pacers


	<p>41 wins (vs 32 last year) could range from 26 to 48 wins</p>	<p>What changed: The Pacers lost Troy Murphy but at least Collison comes in as a real PG. So the Pacers have a PG (two, sadly ironically, if you count A.J. Price who is developing well even as Collison comes in stealing his chance. Sad to watch franchises lose time not fixing obvious problems (like Dallas never really getting a C for so many years and Denver never getting a spot up shooter).</p>
		<p>Mission: Last year was not good. And Larry Bird wants much better. The Pacers have some direction with Hibbert in the middle and Hansbrough/McRoberts around to complete the star Granger. Making the playoffs is about as ambitious as it can get.</p>

		Predicted Outcome: The Pacers look like a better <u>team</u> this year and we expect more wins. They better win more games. Really, they should be a playoff team too. But something just might not click, we say they miss.
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10. Cleveland Cavaliers

	40 wins (vs 61 last year) could range from 29 to 59 wins	What changed: Anyone know?
		Mission: There is a fighting mentality remaining in which players want to prove it wasn't all only LeBron that won them 61 games last year.
		Predicted Outcome: Between Ramon Sessions and Mo Williams there are two talented sparks to run the offense. And CLE has Hickson, Varejao, and Moon (not to mention Jamison). We believe this won't be a lost year. The Cavs will earn their keep and not dissolve to disaster. Expect some great storylines too as guys like J.J. Hickson get a real shot at producing.

11. Philadelphia Sixers


	37 wins (vs 27 last year) could range from 20 to 47 wins	What changed: Jru Holiday is going to run the offense this year and Dalembert is out from the middle of the paint. In comes the Hawes/Speights duo.
		Mission: PHI is team disappointment. Elton Brand, what happened to you? Earn some respect. Earn it. The only goal for the Sixers is to figure out how to play team ball.
		Predicted Outcome: This is a team between hope and totally starting over. Iguodala isn't a championship building block. Brand has turned into Mr. Pathetic. Too many internal questions before the Sixers start thinking about competing.

12. Washington Wizards


	37 wins (vs 26 last year) could range from 17 to 52 wins	What changed: WAS had the #1 pick and the John Wall era begins.
		Mission: Right the ship. After just 26 wins last year, WAS needs a rebound of any amount.
		Predicted Outcome: With or without Gilbert Arenas this team is a total wildcard. There is talent for upside without Gilbert. Josh Howard will come back by December and McGee got great Team USA experience over the summer. Yi Jianlian and Blatche are playing well. The question is how will Arenas affect the team? Will he be a head case and distraction? Or maybe he pulls it together and hits clutch game winners (like the good ole days) for a young energetic team.




### 13. Toronto Raptors

	41 wins (vs 40 last year) could range from 24 to 52 wins	What changed: The turnover in Toronto is taking a toll. The Vince Carter era came and went. The Chris Bosh era is now over. So now what?
		Mission: Get an identity.
		Predicted Outcome: This could be the worst team in the Eastern Conference. That said the Raptors are deceptive-- never going anywhere when they should and so: Can Murphy's Law work in reverse. Can Calderon and Bargnani make something of a scrappy roster. Will DeRozan be the superstar he's rumored to be?

### 14. Detroit Pistons

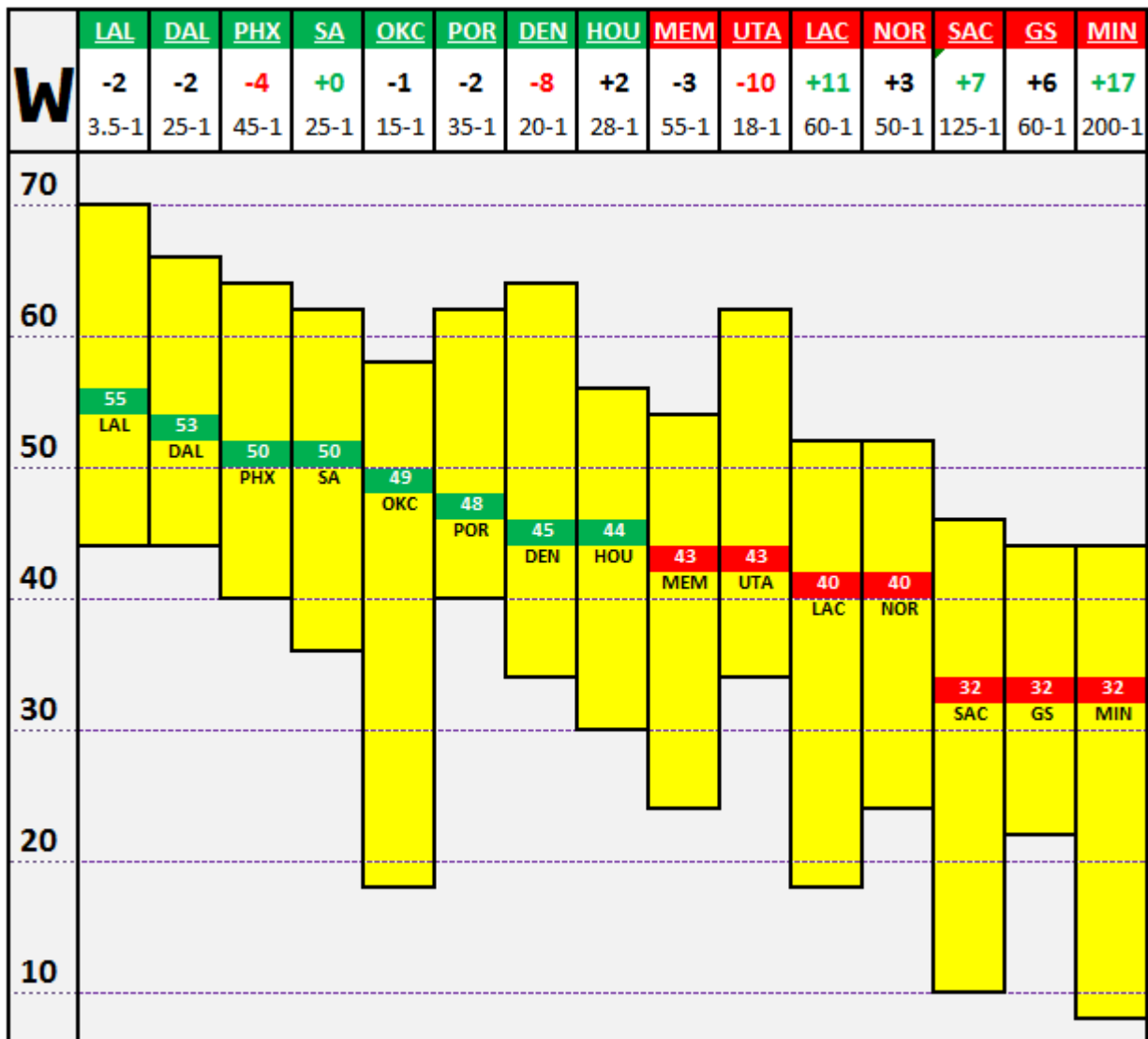
	32 wins (vs 27 last year) could range from 21 to 45 wins	What changed: Tracy McGrady in. Hmm.
		Mission: The Pistons ownership mindset is stuck in the shadow of their recent greatness. They pickup McGrady as if they are one piece away from competing with a team that won 27 games last year!? Any improvement would be an accomplishment.
		Predicted Outcome: Does reality sink in this year? Stuckey, Villanueva, and Maxiell are exciting players but this is not really the type of talent that bolsters a team with mediocre stars. The loss of Prince or RIP would signal that the rebuilding process hasn't really even started. That would be a tough dose of reality.

### 15. New Jersey Nets

	25 wins (vs 12 last year) could range from 10 to 40 wins	What changed: Missed out on LeBron. Settled for bringing in Troy Murphy and Travis Outlaw!
		Mission: The Nets Russian billionaire owner is ready to spend the big bucks to turn this team around but after losing out on LeBron this year it looks like the Nets are waiting for another year and a chance at the next batch of top free agent names.
		Predicted Outcome: The Nets won just 12 games last year. This team is better. Lopez is a year older. Murphy is a real addition and they have new spark plugs in Outlaw and Morrow. It will get better this year. Just not all at once. Odds are another long year.


## 2. Western Conference

Storyline: The Lakers have the best team and depth and should cruise to the #1 seed. Dallas also looks solid for yet another season, as do the Spurs. Phoenix (even though they lost Amare) looks good to hold onto another 50-win season. Oklahoma City is a total wild card. We think they finish strong but don't be surprised if it's a rougher year than anyone is expecting. Note Vegas loves OKC giving them 15-1 odds to win the entire title! Portland and Denver have more upside than downside and should both make the playoffs. The last spot could go to Houston but look out for the Utah Jazz- they appear to have the type of upside to make the playoffs. Note that Vegas also likes Utah, a lot (18-1 for the title). Clippers turn things around but probably not enough for the playoffs. Looks like a very long season for the Timberwolves and probably for Sacramento also.







### 1. Los Angeles Lakers

	55 wins (vs 57 last year) could range from 45 to 69 wins	What changed: PG Derek Fisher is a year older and so the Lakers brought in Steve Blake as a back-up. C Andrew Bynum is out injured again and could be for a couple months to start the year. Missed out on Raja Bell but got Matt Barnes.
		Mission: Get to the NBA Finals for a 4th straight time and win a 3 <sup>rd</sup> -straight title. It would be the fourth 3-peat for coach Phil Jackson, who currently has 11 titles, the most in NBA history).
		Predicted Outcome: Hard to imagine the Lakers not cruising through the regular season. But from there, will the magic run out in the playoffs? Will Kobe be healthy enough come playoff time? Not to mention PG and Fisher. Can he come up as big again?


### 2. Dallas Mavericks

	53 wins (vs 55 last year) could range from 45 to 65 wins	What changed: Tyson Chandler will be the latest experiment at the center position. The Mavericks seem to have upgraded in recent years to having two mediocre centers instead of one. Also, the Dampier era has ended.
		Mission: Flamboyant team owner Mark Cuban settles for nothing less than NBA Finals and a championship. He's done as good a job as possible to put the right pieces in place. This team should contend.
		Predicted Outcome: Last year's first round playoff exit was beyond disappointing and much better is expected this year. That means pressure. They add better depth in Tyson Chandler at C and have plenty of 2nd team options between circulating Marion, Terry, and Butler in-and-out of 1st team. But come playoff time would Dirk actually be better off with fewer options?


### 3. Phoenix Suns

	50 wins (vs 54 last year) could range from 41 to 64 wins	What changed: Amare Stoudemire is gone. That's a big loss. Add to it that Steve Nash is another year older-- will turn 37 in February.
		Mission: So many tough playoff exits but so it has been for a lot of other teams over the years (Sacramento, Portland, Cleveland). Still, Suns have a high-energy team that will seek to make a statement in the regular season and then roll the dice with Nash's leadership in the playoffs.
		Predicted Outcome: Steve Nash has plenty of options with Turkoglu in town and Warrick and J-Rich around. Lopez and Frye will have to step up their games but they have shown the potential. Come playoffs, they will go as far as Nash can take them. That may be saying something.


#### 4. San Antonio Spurs

	<p>50 wins (same as last year) could range from 37 to 61 wins</p>	<p>What changed: The Spurs managed to keep their roster around. With Jefferson, Parker, Ginobili, and Duncan it is such a great core.</p>
		<p>Mission: They have quiet leadership so you never hear any complaining. And they don't yammer on about team goals. But credit to Tim Duncan and company cause you know their mission without asking. The Spurs want an NBA Title. Period.</p>
		<p>Predicted Outcome: San Antonio year-after-year develops great talent and puts together competitive rosters. You think eventually they will roll over and they keep coming at it. With George Hill, DeJuan Blair, and Tiago Splitter the Spurs have the talent surrounding the super core of Ginobili, Duncan, Jefferson, McDyess, and Parker. Hard to place limits on what they can do, only to say they likely won't press for wins in the regular season.</p>


#### 5. Oklahoma City Thunder

	<p>49 wins (1 less than last year) could range from 18 to 56 wins</p>	<p>What changed: Why wouldn't the Thunder feel just fine with another year of Durant and Westbrook? But shouldn't they really have gone out and got another piece? Seriously, they may regret it.</p>
		<p>Mission: Oklahoma City is a very confident team heading into the season. Everyone wants to proclaim them title contenders and certainly they think of themselves that way too.</p>
		<p>Predicted Outcome: The Thunder need to win a round in the playoffs and then start talking. We know that Durant was awesome for Team USA over the summer. We know they almost be the Lakers in the first round last year. But keep in mind, OKC excels at the one thing the Lakers don't have-- a speedy jet-fast, really good PG. So don't overplay how well they did vs the Lakers. They don't matchup as well against everyone else. Look out OKC, unfortunately, they could struggle with growing pains this year. Jordan didn't start winning championships without bumps.</p>


#### 6. Portland Trail Blazers

	<p>48 wins (vs 50 last year) could range from 40 to 60 wins</p>	<p>What changed: Blazers are hoping for addition by health this season. It won't start right with Oden hobbling but the plan is to have a healthy team come April. Throw in the addition of swingman Wesley Matthews and this is a team looking better than last year already.</p>
		<p>Mission: The West is stacked. However, there is every reason why this caliber team can shoot for a Western Conference win.</p>
		<p>Predicted Outcome: Portland is going to be solid this year. They have a deep enough team that now has the experience to get the job done. They have a coach Nate McMillan with a mission (to earn a contract extension). Its probable they will be healthier than last year come April. The upside or downside will come down to the x-factor: the offense consistency of Aldridge.</p>


### 7. Denver Nuggets

	<p>45 wins (vs 53 last year) could range from 34 to 62 wins</p>	<p>What changed: Carmelo Anthony. Every day. Where's he going? What will this team look like this season? And poor crybaby Kenyon Martin. He made \$90 million over the past several seasons and has \$16.5 million of that coming to him this year. But the poor crybaby doesn't believe that was enough love for the—honestly crybaby crappy, injury-ridden production over that time span. Whiners like Kenyon are why the NBA has a bad reputation.</p>
		<p>Mission: Trade Carmelo Anthony so that all the rumors can finally be put to rest? Cause its hard to know what the mission is until then. If Melo was staying we would say this team needs to suck it up and make a run in the West. The talent is there.</p>
		<p>Predicted Outcome: The addition of Al Harrington could be significant. The Nuggets needed something in the paint. They have plenty of depth out top with Billups, Lawson, Afflalo, and J.R. Smith. Need a healthy year out of Nene with the numbers he's capable of. With Melo or with the pieces they get from trading him Denver should be good enough to make the playoffs.</p>


### 8. Houston Rockets

	<p>44 wins (vs 42 last year) could range from 31 to 55 wins</p>	<p>What changed: With Yao Ming forever an injury risk the Rockets brought in the experience of Brad Miller to back-up at C. The Rockets lost Ariza.</p>
		<p>Mission: Make the playoffs. And do something to get Yao Ming jersey sales back up in China.</p>
		<p>Predicted Outcome: It is gritty and determined play that gets the Rockets their wins. Guys like Battier and Budinger need to play big. If Van Gundy once again has these guys playing solid team offense and defense with solid years from Martin, Scola, and Brooks/Lowry this can be a playoff team.</p>


### 9. Memphis Grizzlies

	<p>43 wins (vs 40 last year) could range from 24 to 52 wins</p>	<p>What changed: Nothing really has changed though the Grizzlies did add Tony Allen from Boston which gives them a little grit and playoff experience. Memphis only hopes it can rub off.</p>
		<p>Mission: MEM bounced back last year and the team now has some direction. The goal is to build on the bump up in wins last year and try to sneak into the playoffs.</p>
		<p>Predicted Outcome: The team of the future is set with Conley and Mayo out front and Gasol in the middle. Zach Randolph has been a great addition. But now what? Is this really a championship type team or what exactly is the long-term plan? A lot kind of rides on how the team uses Rudy Gay. Can he develop into the superstar that takes this team to the next level?</p>


10. Utah Jazz

	<p>43 wins (vs 53 last year) could range from 34 to 61 wins</p>	<p>What changed: Carlos Boozer is gone but the Jazz substituted evenly with Al Jefferson. UTA lost Brewer and Matthews but grabbed Raja Bell back.</p>
		<p>Mission: Prove skeptics wrong, again. And win for (because of) Coach Sloan. The goal is not just to make the playoffs but to slay their big enemy-- the Lakers.</p>
		<p>Predicted Outcome: The coaching of Jerry Sloan makes this team a real contender. With talent like Deron Williams the Jazz can actually make the playoffs and surprise people there too. However, Kirilenko has had trouble getting things going in the last couple years and they need him, especially with Okur in and out with injuries. Also, UTA doesn't really have an outside shooter threat. Anyway, the Jazz are a serious contender for a playoff spot.</p>


11. Los Angeles Clippers

	<p>40 wins (vs 29 last year) could range from 19 to 51 wins</p>	<p>What changed: Blake Griffin is healthy this year and Eric Gordon is now somewhat of a household name thanks to his strong Team USA play over the summer.</p>
		<p>Mission: The Clips won just 29 games last year so the goal now is just to turn that around. Find some direction and get this hopeless franchise heading the right way.</p>
		<p>Predicted Outcome: The health of Baron Davis is the key to whether this team can contend for a playoff spot or if a disastrous sink to the bottom is coming first. Knowing B.D. we would say it's a little of both. And that means no playoffs; yet sprinkled with signs of greatness, punctuated with sneak previews during the season of how bad this team needs more help.</p>


12. New Orleans Hornets

	<p>40 wins (vs 37 last year) could range from 25 to 51 wins</p>	<p>What changed: All the talk lately is about Carmelo Anthony but how soon will it turn back to Chris Paul.</p>
		<p>Mission: Chris Paul and the Hornets were on their way to the promised land not too long ago. They won 56 games 3 seasons back and 49 two years ago. No doubt Paul still thinks of himself in that category.</p>
		<p>Predicted Outcome: The Hornets need to find some mental toughness to battle through the regular season and earn a playoff spot. Adding Trevor Ariza is a helpful step. A healthy Chris Paul helps too. The potential is there but we think they fall just short.</p>


### 13. Sacramento Kings

	32 wins (vs 25 last year) could range from 10 to 45 wins	What changed: The Kings have gone big. Dalembert and draft pick DeMarcus Cousins come in to work the paint with Jason Thompson, Carl Landry, and even Hassan Whiteside.
		Mission: After winning just 25 games last year a big bounce back to the upper 30's would be a welcome development for a team that is putting together the pieces to get competitive again.
		Predicted Outcome: It looks like the Kings will continue the backcourt look they ended last season with; Tyreke Evans at SG and Beno Udrih at PG. But there is no depth there. We want to hope there will be a turnaround but it would basically have to all come from Tyreke Evans because there really isn't a storyline, just battles for SF and the post positions.

### 14. Golden State Warriors

	32 wins (vs 26 last year) could range from 22 to 43 wins	What changed: The Warriors have brought in David Lee from the Knicks to work inside along with Biedrins.
		Mission: There are team chemistry issues to sort out as Monta Ellis was totally upstaged last year by Curry. The Warriors also have to learn whether they will build around Biedrins or go a different direction.
		Predicted Outcome: Golden State will be fun to watch at times with their explosive guard play but it may also be a bit rough watching this post-Don Nelson team find an identity. Not sure there will be too much improvement from last year.

### 15. Minnesota Timberwolves

	32 wins (vs 15 last year) could range from 9 to 42 wins	What changed: Gone is Al Jefferson but that makes room for Kevin Love to move in as a team anchor for the future. MIN also added Michael Beasley as the Miami Heat couldn't hold onto him.
		Mission: There are the makings of a foundation for the future it will be a matter of sorting it out. Unfortunately, even the team management/ownership itself is setting a very low bar this year, expecting nothing from this team.
		Predicted Outcome: The goals are simple this year. First, turn Darko Milicic into a reliable day-in-and-day-out acceptable C. Then, sort out among players like Brewer, Beasley, Johnson, and Flynn which ones are pieces to build around. Most believe that winning more than last years 15 games would be a good year.

### 3. 2011 NBA Playoffs

#### East:

8 NYK	vs	1 MIA	Miami		
5 CHA	vs	4 CHI	Chicago	Miami	<b>MIAMI</b>
6 MIL	vs	3 ORL	Orlando	Orlando	
7 ATL	vs	2 BOS	Boston		

*Just missed: The Wizards, Pacers, and Cavaliers have the potential to sneak into the playoffs.*

*Storyline: The Knicks get a first round shot at the Heat. The Bulls, Bobcats, or Bucks need to work hard in the regular season to get a 3, 4, or 5 seed that can get them a second round appearance. Otherwise, this year is to form: Orlando and Boston on one side of the bracket compete to go up against the Heat.*

#### West:

8 HOU	vs	1 LAL	Los Angeles		
5 OKC	vs	4 SA	San Antonio	Spurs	<b>PHOENIX</b>
6 POR	vs	3 PHX	Phoenix	Phoenix	
7 DEN	vs	2 DAL	Dallas		

*Just missed: The Jazz have what it takes to make the playoffs and actually make a surprise but it could be tough work just to get there and we think they could miss it. Memphis and the Hornets probably have the next best chances at getting in.*

*Storyline: We think that Kobe and the Lakers wear out this time in the postseason. Sounds ridiculous, but at least it isn't boring. Someone, whoever it is, brings them down: Utah, the Thunder, or Phoenix. Or the big competitors like San Antonio and Dallas will be around for a chance to dump Kobe for a shot at getting back to the Finals. But Phoenix (which has made it to the Western Conference Finals 3 of the past 6 seasons and hasn't ever won a title) led by Steve Nash with a team that builds experience day-by-day this season and has the young energy on the roster, gets to the Finals for the first time since 1993.*

#### Finals:

##### Phoenix Suns vs Miami Heat

*Storyline: The fact is that the NBA right now has a wide number of teams that have players with the desire to really win a title. Winning an NBA title is really something hard to get. When you have Kobe and the Lakers, Duncan/Spurs, Shaq/Garnett/Pierce and the Celtics, the Magic, Mark Cuban, the Heat of course, plus talented players like Chris Paul, Durant, Carmelo Anthony as well as coaching like Jerry Sloan you earn a title if you get it. We predict a David vs Goliath story. Steve Nash carries the Suns into a match to take down the big giants (Wade, Bosh, and the King himself).*

Vegas Odds: Miami 7/5, L.A. Lakers 7/2, Boston and Orlando 8/1, Oklahoma City 15/1, Utah 18/1, Denver 20/1. <http://www.vegasinsider.com/nba/odds/futures/>



## 4. NBA Depth Charts

Team	Nickname	PG	SG	SF	PF	C	6th Man	Other	Other	Other
ATL	Hawks	M. Bibby	J. Johnson	Marv Williams	Jo. Smith	A. Horford	Ja. Crawford	J. Teague	Jo. Crawford	Z. Pachulia
BOS	Celtics	R. Rondo	R. Allen	P. Pierce	K. Garnett	K. Perkins	G. Davis	S. O'Neal	N. Robinson	J. O'Neal
CHA	Bobcats	D. J. Augustin	S. Jackson	G. Wallace	Ty. Thomas	N. Mohammed	B. Diaw	Kw. Brown	E. Najera	D. Diop
CHI	Bulls	D. Rose	R. Brewer	L. Deng	C. Boozer	J. Noah	T. Gibson	K. Korver	K. Bogans	Ku. Thomas
CLE	Cavaliers	M. Williams	A. Parker	J. Moon	J. J. Hickson	A. Varejao	A. Jamison	D. Gibson	R. Sessions	R. Hollins
DAL	Mavericks	J. Kidd	J. Terry	C. Butler	D. Nowitzki	B. Haywood	S. Marion	R. Beaubois	T. Chandler	J. Barea
DEN	Nuggets	C. Billups	A. Afflalo	C. Anthony	Ken. Martin	Nene	T. Lawson	J. R. Smith	A. Harrington	R. Balkman
DET	Pistons	R. Stuckey	R. Hamilton	T. Prince	C. Villanueva	J. Maxiell	B. Gordon	W. Bynum	T. McGrady	G. Monroe
GSW	Warriors	S. Curry	M. Ellis	D. Wright	D. Lee	A. Biedrins	C. Bell	R. Williams	B. Wright	D. Gadzuric
HOU	Rockets	A. Brooks	Key. Martin	S. Battier	L. Scola	Y. Ming	B. Miller	K. Lowry	C. Budinger	C. Lee
IND	Pacers	D. Collison	M. Dunleavy	D. Granger	J. McRoberts	R. Hibbert	B. Rush	T. Hansbrough	J. Posey	J. Foster
LAC	Clippers	B. Davis	E. Gordon	R. Butler	B. Griffin	C. Kaman	R. Gomes	R. Foye	A. Aminu	C. Smith
LAL	Lakers	D. Fisher	K. Bryant	R. Artest	P. Gasol	A. Bynum	L. Odom	S. Blake	M. Barnes	S. Brown
MEM	Grizzlies	M. Conley	O. J. Mayo	R. Gay	Z. Randolph	M. Gasol	H. Thabeet	D. Arthur	T. Allen	A. Law
MIA	Heat	M. Chalmers	D. Wade	L. James	C. Bosh	J. Anthony	U. Haslem	M. Miller	Z. Ilgauskas	C. Arroyo
MIL	Bucks	B. Jennings	J. Salmons	C. Maggette	D. Gooden	A. Bogut	E. Ilyasova	L. MbahaMoute	C. Delfino	C. Doug.-Rob.
MIN	Timberwolves	J. Flynn	C. Brewer	M. Beasley	K. Love	D. Milicic	L. Ridnour	W. Johnson	S. Telfair	M. Webster
NJN	Nets	D. Harris	A. Morrow	T. Williams	T. Murphy	B. Lopez	T. Outlaw	D. Favors	K. Humphries	J. Farmar
NOR	Hornets	C. Paul	M. Belinelli	T. Ariza	D. West	E. Okafur	M. Thornton	P. Stojakovic	J. Alexander	A. Gray
NYK	Knicks	R. Felton	K. Azubuike	D. Gallinari	A. Stoudemire	T. Mozgov	A. Randolph	W. Chandler	R. Turiaf	R. Mason
ORL	Magic	J. Nelson	V. Carter	R. Lewis	B. Bass	D. Howard	M. Gortat	J. J. Redick	M. Pietrus	Q. Richardson
PHI	76ers	J. Holiday	E. Turner	A. Iguodala	T. Young	E. Brand	S. Hawes	L. Williams	M. Speights	C. Brackins
PHX	Suns	S. Nash	J. Richardson	H. Turkoglu	C. Frye	R. Lopez	Gr. Hill	J. Childress	J. Dudley	H. Warrick
POR	TrailBlazers	A. Miller	B. Roy	N. Batum	L. Aldridge	G. Oden	M. Camby	W. Matthews	J. Bayless	R. Fernandez
SAC	Kings	B. Udrih	T. Evans	O. Casspi	C. Landry	D. Cousins	J. Thompson	F. Garcia	S. Dalembert	D. Greene
SAS	Spurs	T. Parker	M. Ginobili	R. Jefferson	T. Duncan	D. Blair	Ge. Hill	T. Splitter	A. McDyess	M. Bonner
OKC	Thunder	R. Westbrook	J. Harden	K. Durant	J. Green	N. Krstic	T. Sefolosha	C. Aldrich	E. Maynor	S. Ibaka
TOR	Raptors	J. Calderon	D. DeRozan	L. Kleiza	A. Johnson	A. Bargnani	J. Jack	R. Evans	J. Wright	L. Barbosa
UTH	Jazz	D. Williams	R. Bell	P. Milsap	A. Jefferson	M. Okur	A. Kirilenko	C. J. Miles	G. Hayward	K. Fesenko
WAS	Wizards	J. Wall	G. Arenas	Jo. Howard	A. Blatche	J. McGee	Y. Jianlian	A. Thornton	K. Hinrich	N. Young
	KEY:	Starter	Starter (new to team)	Position battle	Injury				Non-starter players	

<http://www.fanbay.net/nba/fantasy/depthchart.htm>

## 5. Best NBA Fantasy Basketball Players (The Draft Big Board)

Rank	Player	Pos	Team	Pts/g	Reb/g	Ast/g	Stl/g	FPTS/g	G	"Draft Big" Fanbay quick snap
1	LeBron James	SF	MIA	29.7	7.3	8.6	1.6	58.9	76	Little upside from last yr, but could avg trip double?!
2	Dwight Howard	C	ORL	18.3	13.2	1.8	0.9	46.2	82	
3	Kevin Durant	SF	OKC	30.2	7.6	2.8	1.4	47.8	82	Best scorer in the NBA. Could be best fantasy this yr?
4	Chris Paul	PG	NO	18.7	4.2	10.7	2.1	48.3	45	Need to get a full season out of him
5	Kobe Bryant	SG	LAL	27.0	5.4	5.0	1.6	44.4	73	In 15th year will Kobe stay content just chasing rings
6	Dwyane Wade	SG	MIA	26.6	4.8	6.5	1.8	48.9	77	Look out, Wade getting hurt and its only preseason!
7	Amare Stoudemire	FC	NYK	23.1	8.9	1.0	0.6	38.1	82	Probably C eligible. Anyway production up in NYC
8	Dirk Nowitzki	PF	DAL	25.0	7.7	2.7	0.9	44.1	81	
9	Pau Gasol	FC	LAL	18.3	11.3	3.4	0.6	44.6	65	Bynum out so Pau likely C eligible, boosting value
10	Deron Williams	PG	UTA	18.7	4.0	10.5	1.3	43.6	76	
11	Josh Smith	SF	ATL	15.7	8.7	4.2	1.6	43.5	81	
12	Carmelo Anthony	SF	DEN	28.2	6.6	3.2	1.3	43.6	69	Trade rumors still swirling.
13	Rajon Rondo	PG	BOS	13.7	4.4	9.8	2.3	41.1	81	Wants to be known as best PG in the NBA
14	Danny Granger	SF	IND	24.2	5.5	2.8	1.5	40.0	62	
15	Tim Duncan	PF	SA	17.9	10.1	3.2	0.6	42.2	78	
16	Steve Nash	PG	PHX	16.5	3.3	11.0	0.5	38.4	81	Should still have it in him. Suns need him.
17	Brook Lopez	C	NJ	18.8	8.7	2.3	0.7	38.7	82	Even with Troy Murphy, Lopez can get his fantasy stats
18	Stephen Curry	PG	GS	17.5	4.5	5.9	1.9	36.2	80	What to do for an encore after last season?
19	Brandon Roy	SG	POR	21.5	4.4	4.7	0.9	37.1	65	
20	Derrick Rose	PG	CHI	20.8	3.8	6.0	0.7	36.2	78	Great future
21	Russell Westbrook	PG	OKC	16.1	4.9	8.0	1.3	38.0	82	
22	Joakim Noah	FC	CHI	10.7	11.0	2.1	0.5	34.1	64	Could start off big with Boozer out.
23	Al Jefferson	FC	UTA	17.1	9.3	1.8	0.8	37.4	76	Will be relied on in Utah.
24	Joe Johnson	SG	ATL	21.3	4.6	4.9	1.1	37.8	76	
25	Chris Bosh	PF	MIA	24.0	10.8	2.4	0.6	45.0	70	Should actually hold most of his value
26	Tyreke Evans	PG	SAC	20.1	5.3	5.8	1.5	39.4	72	
27	David Lee	PF	GS	20.3	11.7	3.6	1.1	45.3	81	Risk: change of scenery, anything could happen
28	Jason Kidd	PG	DAL	10.3	5.6	9.1	1.8	38.7	80	So much talent around him, Kidd's fantasy value solid
29	Andre Iguodala	SG	PHI	17.1	6.5	5.8	1.7	40.3	82	
30	Zach Randolph	PF	MEM	20.8	11.7	1.8	1.0	41.8	81	Surprised everyone last year
31	Marcus Camby	FC	POR	7.5	11.8	2.5	1.3	37.7	74	Oden and Pryzbilla hurt, Camby gets off to good start
32	Andrea Bargnani	FC	TOR	17.2	6.2	1.2	0.3	31.0	80	C eligible + a focus of TOR offense this year
33	Marc Gasol	C	MEM	14.6	9.3	2.4	1.0	37.2	69	
34	Al Horford	FC	ATL	14.2	9.9	2.3	0.7	36.1	81	C eligible
35	LaMarcus Aldridge	PF	POR	17.9	8.0	2.1	0.9	36.0	78	Yet to truly deliver on hype
36	Kevin Love	FC	MIN	14.0	11.0	2.3	0.7	34.4	60	The Twolves list Love as FC but Milicic is the true C
37	Nene Hilario	FC	DEN	13.8	7.7	2.5	1.4	34.6	82	
38	Brandon Jennings	PG	MIL	15.5	3.4	5.7	1.3	31.7	82	Flashes of brilliance last year
39	Gerald Wallace	SF	CHA	18.2	10.0	2.1	1.5	40.6	76	Played over 40 min/g last season
40	Monta Ellis	G	GS	25.5	4.0	5.3	2.2	42.3	64	

List of Top 180 players available at: <http://www.fanbay.net/nba/fantasy/basketballdraftbigboard.pdf>

## 6. Fantasy Player Rankings – Top 30 Centers (each team)

Centers are ranked by player/team and include the team back-ups, time sharing, or other players on the team eligible for the position. So for Centers the ranking are Top 30: at least one player for each team.

<u>Rk</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Quick Snap</u>
1	Dwight Howard	ORL	Superman is the best center in the game and easily capable of putting up bigger numbers than he has in the past.
2	Pau Gasol / Andrew Bynum	LAL	Gasol will be the C starting this season since Bynum is out. Move him up for this C value. Scoop up Bynum for the right price keeping in mind he is out until late Nov (at least) plus his minutes may stay low for awhile.
3	Brook Lopez	NJN	Brook Lopez has been a superstar since entering the league. Troy Murphy will take away statistical upside though.
4	Joakim Noah	CHI	Boozer is in town which will keep his statistics in check. But with Boozer now hurt, Noah will at least get off to a big start.
5	Andrew Bogut	MIL	Will be playing injured. Have to cover your eyes and just draft him. Odds seem to favor him having a good year.
6	Al Jefferson / Mehmet Okur	UTA	When Okur is healthy Jefferson will likely play a more natural 4 position. However, he should qualify as C in your leagues.
7	Marc Gasol	MEM	The other Gasol isn't likely to be a breakout star, however he should be a solid pick-up to put up good fantasy numbers.
8	Nene (Hilario)	DEN	Very inconsistent. But so much potential. Plus the space seems cleared for him in Denver (especially with crybaby Martin out) so you may have to pay up for him.
9	Al Horford	ATL	Horford is the man in the middle for the Hawks and should be good for his numbers this year.
10	Andrea Bargnani	TOR	This could be a big year for Bargnani. He will have plenty of opportunity to pick up fantasy numbers.
11	Greg Oden / Marcus Camby	POR	Oden will start the season hurt giving Camby good value. That drops off and switches to Oden when healthy. This leaves fantasy value a big ??
12	Chris Kaman	LAC	You never know with Kaman but the upside is impossible to ignore. Blake Griffin slightly holds him back.
13	Kevin Love / Darko Milicic	MIN	The Twolves list Love as FC and with Al Jefferson gone his numbers will definitely be moving up. But watch injury risk! Milicic is the true C here.
14	Robin Lopez	PHX	Flashes of brilliance in the playoffs Lakers series. Just needs to stay healthy. With Amare gone big upside for Robin this year.
15	Roy Hibbert	IND	Proven ability to put up mega fantasy numbers. But he is also inconsistent. When on, its near elite status but IND has other options which may keep Hibbert's fantasy value in check



16	Anderson Varejao	CLE	Varejao should have plenty of opportunity this season to get his fantasy points. Probably not big upside though. Ryan Hollins has sleeper value.
17	Yao Ming / Brad Miller	HOU	The center position is likely to be important to Houston's success so it is reasonable to look here for fantasy value. It is healthy Miller and his fantasy cache vs the injury questions of Yao.
18	Emeka Okafur	NO	Has turned into a disappointment. There is still value here though and he shouldn't be ignored. At the right price Emeka is a solid option.
19	Brendan Haywood / Tyson Chandler	DAL	Value here if one or the other gets the bulk of minutes.
20	JaVale McGee	WAS	McGee got experience with the USA National Team so there is some upside here. Plenty of space for an opportunity at success in WAS.
21	Andris Biedrins	GS	Value fell off a cliff last season and now David Lee arrives from NY to play PF limiting Biedrins upside. Still, when healthy, has knack for racking up fantasy points.
22	DeJuan Blair / Tiago Splitter	SAS	Antonio McDyess is aging out of the picture. Duncan could get listed as C but otherwise it is a split between Blair and Splitter. Blair has the experience from last year and starts the season healthy. There is real value here but it could become unpredictable through the season.
23	Shaquille O'Neal / Jermaine O'Neal	BOS	Kendrick Perkins is out at least until February. The two O'Neals will walk out on the court here and there going through the motions.
24	Nazr Mohammed / DeSagna Diop	CHA	Bobcats also have Kwame Brown at C. There could be some value here but you have to do homework to see who minutes will go to.
25	DeMarcus Cousins / Samuel Dalembert	SAC	Very crowded down low in Sacramento. There's only so many minutes / fantasy pts to go around for Dalembert (injured to start the year), Cousins, Thompson, Landry, etc
26	Spencer Hawes	PHI	Hawes value will be limited by all the fighting for points and minutes throughout the Sixers roster. <b>Note, Hawes is injured early in the year so Brand may get C eligible.</b>
27	Timofey Mozgov	NYK	The 7-1 Russian is going to be the starting C to start the year for the Knicks. Not too much should be expected and keep an eye on Anthony Randolph, Ronny Turiaf, and, yes, Eddy Curry.
28	Nenad Krstic	OKC	While Oklahoma City needs their centers to be strong/healthy to be competitive that doesn't necessarily mean any fantasy value. Ibaka, Aldrich, Collison lurk in the mix.
29	Jason Maxiell / Ben Wallace	DET	Not likely to be consistent value out of either one here. The upside is with Maxiell but not confident that DET will give him the opportunities.
30	Joel Anthony	MIA	Anthony is the easy move to slot into the LeBron-Wade-Bosh mega starting line-up. Ilgauskas will spell some 2nd team offense.

## 7. Fantasy Player Rankings – Top 25 Forwards (overall)

<u>Rk</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Tm</u>	<u>Quick Snap</u>
1	LeBron James	MIA	The value drops a bit going to Miami with Flash and Bosh. But look at the Heat roster and there is still a burden to be carried here and plenty of fantasy points are still available.
2	Kevin Durant	OKC	You have to pick Durant here because of the upside and what he did over the summer. But we worry a little bit about too much hype too fast.
3	Dirk Nowitzki	DAL	Dirk doesn't take it upon himself as much as he should. Part of the odd problem is there is perhaps too much talent around him in Dallas. Still, look for reliable top-tier fantasy numbers.
4	Amare Stoudemire	NYK	New York is "Stat City", the Knicks are Amare's team. Not expecting too much upside cause no Nash but solid year.
5	Josh Smith	ATL	There is a slight risk in picking Josh but the fact that he can deliver fantasy value in so many different ways helps. Not to mention the Hawks just simply have no depth. He will be out there with opportunities.
6	Carmelo Anthony	DEN	Wherever he lands, Melo is likely to be a high-quality fantasy option. He's right on the verge of elite status, just needs to add rebounding a bit more.
7	Danny Granger	IND	Granger is between Collison and Hibbert as the swing anchor of the Pacers. He should get better looks with Collison running the offense.
8	Tim Duncan	SA	Duncan has been a steady runner the last 5 years and thus may have saved enough gas to do it again another year.
9	Chris Bosh	MIA	Will drop down a bit in Miami. Expect some big games here and there (especially if he focuses on rebounding and blocks) but overall average will slip. Don't be too afraid though.
10	David Lee	GS	Time to prove he is for real as he moves to a new location. Golden State tends to be a good place for fantasy value. Let's see what happens.
11	LaMarcus Aldridge	POR	Hasn't been able to push through to the next level. He's reliable and solid, just not in the top couple tiers fantasy-wise.
12	Zach Randolph	MEM	Zach has become quite a consistent, solid fantasy NBA basketball player. He flies well off the national radar, but hard to bet against another good year.
13	Gerald Wallace	CHA	They call him Crash for a reason. He will have to battle more and more for the intangibles with Ty Thomas and Diaw in Charlotte.
14	David West	NO	You just about know what you are going to get from West fantasy-wise.

15	Blake Griffin	LAC	This is Blake's chance after missing almost his entire first NBA season. Is a leading contender for rookie of the year and will have more than enough chances to pile up fantasy numbers.
16	Lamar Odom	LAL	Should get off to a real good fantasy start this year with Bynum out til December. Look to trade or get him at a discount though.
17	Hedo Turkoglu	PHX	This could actually be a pretty big year for Turkoglu. He should get great looks and have the best chance he's ever had at picking up fantasy points in all categories. That said, last year was bad so there is a lot of room for improvement.
18	Luis Scola	HOU	The upside won't be unlimited with Ming healthy and Brad Miller around but Scola should definitely be a real good fantasy F option this season.
19	Andray Blatche	WAS	There is a lot of upside for Blatche as the main inside threat for the Wizards. On top of that fact, Blatche is the type of player that picks up his fantasy points one way or the other.
20	Danilo Gallinari	NYK	Amare Stoudemire calls him the next Dirk Nowitzki. Maybe not quite but Gallinari is definitely going to improve from last year and that puts him on this list.
21	Antawn Jamison	CLE	Go with veterans until proven otherwise. Even if he doesn't start, the Cavaliers may come to rely on his offensive ability. Lots of other fantasy stats can fall his way too with LeBron gone.
22	Paul Pierce	BOS	This might be a stretch as Pierce is on the downside of his career. That said, he is a key to Boston success and that's not changing this year unless Garnett suddenly gets a renewed burst of energy.
23	J.J. Hickson	CLE	Will have plenty of opportunities this year as the forward positions are wide open in Cleveland with LeBron gone and Jamison likely playing with the 2nd team.
24	Rudy Gay	MEM	Gay is a bit of a wildcard. But while he has downside and no upside, its likely to be steady fantasy production that is worth a slot on your team.
25	Al Harrington	DEN	Harrington could have a lot of chances in Denver, especially early in the season. And with Kenyon Crybaby Martin out, Al will get a chance to show his skills which may end him up as a mainstay in Denver's lineup.

More: Carlos Boozer (injured), Troy Murphy (injured), Ty Thomas, Gooden, McRoberts, Garnett, Diaw, R.Lewis, Deng, Brand, Kleiza, Kirilenko, Yi Jianlian, T.Young, Stojakovic, Milsap, Frye, A.Randolph, R.Jefferson, Green, Marion, Villanueva, Keny.Martin, C.Butler, Maggette, Ariza, Beasley, Marv.Williams, Casspi, T.Prince, J.Moon, A.Johnson, Outlaw, Gibson, Ilyasova, W.Johnson, Dudley, D.Blair, R.Evans, Artest



## 8. Fantasy Player Rankings – Top 25 Guards (overall)

<u>Rk</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Quick Snap</u>
1	Chris Paul	NO	Played just 45 games last year. As long as healthy, best fantasy guard.
2	Kobe Bryant	LAL	Starting the season just a tad bit injured. And Kobe has a lot of miles out there on the court. Recent years he's been prioritizing titles over MVPs. But you can get titles as a bench veteran. Will he be thinking stats this year more than people expect?
3	Dwyane Wade	MIA	When it gets down to stats that when it hits: it ain't going to be easy for LeBron and Wade to share the ball. The answer: split. And then they hold their value. <b>But watch Wade injury risk.</b>
4	Deron Williams	UTA	Never thought of as an elite fantasy player but he is right on the edge. This has the potential to be the year he throws up even bigger numbers.
5	Rajon Rondo	BOS	Rondo has publicly stated he wants to be known as the NBA's best PG. The potential is certainly there. And with an attitude like that you can draft with some confidence.
6	Steve Nash	PHX	Nash is getting near the end of the line but as of yet hasn't shown signs of dropping off. This year, more than the last few years, it is really his team so the upside potential is there. Plus, we usually say pick the veterans longer than most people think.
7	Stephen Curry	GS	Put up crazy big fantasy numbers in April last season and if he picks up anywhere near that level, look out. Hard to draft too high, then again, high risk high reward.
8	Brandon Roy	POR	Not likely to put up top-tier numbers but a solid 2nd-tier guard option.
9	Derrick Rose	CHI	Assists could pick up with Korver and Boozer around.
10	Russell Westbrook	OKC	Has played 82 games in each of his first 2 NBA seasons.
11	Joe Johnson	ATL	The Hawks offense runs through Johnson and he siphons off his full share of fantasy statistics before moving the ball along.
12	Tyreke Evans	SAC	At 6-6, Evans has size for the NBA that complements his great skills. Has the potential to be up near Deron Williams in these rankings.
13	Jason Kidd	DAL	Kidd put up solid 2nd tier numbers last year and he should slot in there again this year with so many great offensive players around him in DAL.
14	Andre Iguodala	PHI	The other A.I. is a bit of a risk this season. This is not going to be the Iguodala Sixers of the future. He will have to fit in with a team transitioning to a little bit different of a future.

15	Brandon Jennings	MIL	Tired as the season wore on in his rookie year. Conditioning should be better this year. Thus far though be careful he can put up the big ESPN highlight games but overall has been inconsistent game-to-game.
16	Steven Jackson	CHA	In a good position to put up solid fantasy numbers this season.
17	Devin Harris	NJ	Hard to believe he is entering his 7th NBA season already. Keep in mind Harris has been injured at points of all of the last 3 seasons.
18	Baron Davis	LAC	Too much of an injury risk, but if he stays healthy he has nearly top-tier potential. Hard to value. You take a risk and maybe it pays off.
19	Chauncey Billups	DEN	To some extent Denver seems to be starting to save him a little during the regular season since Lawson has become a very capable PG himself
20	Raymond Felton	NYK	The Knicks are holding Felton up as franchise PG. We think it's a risky move as he isn't proven as a winner or a consistent playmaker. But for fantasy owners he should turn out to be a good, low-risk guard option.
21	Gilbert Arenas	WAS	You pick a guy like Arenas because of the proven upside. Washington isn't his team anymore but if they really want to win games it will be because Gilbert is getting fantasy stats.
22	Darren Collison	IND	Will have to prove he is for real in a place that hasn't been kind to PGs over the years.
23	Mo Williams	CLE	Upside potential in Cleveland for either Mo Williams or Ramon Sessions.
24	Jrue Holiday	PHI	There is some upside here since 1) Doug Collins likes Holiday, 2) Jrue showed some real fantasy skill last year, and 3) PHI cleared way for him in the offseason.
25	Eric Gordon	LAC	Makes this list based on what he showed over the summer for Team USA.

More: V.Carter, Ellis, Brooks, Calderon/Jack, Brooks, T.Parker, Wall, Kev.Martin, Mayo, Conley, DeRozan, Sessions, Miller, Stuckey, J.R. Smith, Augustin, Hamilton, B.Davis, Ginobili, Flynn, Morrow, T.Williams, Crawford, Lawson, Afflalo, Gordon, McGrady, Ridnour, Redick, Azubuike, A.Parker

## **9. Key Dates in 2010-2011**

**Preseason opener:** Monday October 4<sup>th</sup> (Lakers vs Twolves in London) than 8 games on October 5<sup>th</sup>

- Mavericks at Suns outdoors in Indian Wells, CA on October 9
- Rockets vs Nets in Beijing, China on October 13 and Guangzhou, China on October 16

**Regular season opener:** Tuesday October 26<sup>th</sup> (MIA at BOS, PHX at POR, HOU at LAL)

- LeBron and the Heat in Cleveland on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 on TNT
- Nets vs Raptors in London on March 4<sup>th</sup> and March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**All-Star Weekend:** February 18-20, Staples Center, Los Angeles, CA

**All-Star Game:** February 20, Staples Center, Los Angeles, CA

**NBA 2011 Playoffs:** Regular season ends Wednesday April 13<sup>th</sup>

**Collective Bargaining Agreement:** December 15, 2010 is league option to extend existing contract through 2011-2012. Otherwise the agreement signed in July 2005 will expire in 2011 at the end of this season.

*Note: the 16-team NBA Development League regular season runs from November 19<sup>th</sup> to April 2<sup>nd</sup>*

## 10. Injuries

<u>Teams</u>		<u>Injured Players</u>
ATL	Hawks	
BOS	Celtics	Kendrick Perkins (knee, February)
CHA	Bobcats	Rodrique Beaubois (foot, November)
CHI	Bulls	Carlos Boozer (hand, December)
CLE	Cavaliers	
DAL	Mavericks	
DEN	Nuggets	Kenyon Martin (knee, December or whenever the overpaid whiner feels like it); Al Harrington (foot, late October)
DET	Pistons	
GSW	Warriors	Ekpe Udoh (wrist, January)
HOU	Rockets	
IND	Pacers	Brandon Rush (suspended until November 9)
LAC	Clippers	
LAL	Lakers	Andrew Bynum (knee, December)
MEM	Grizzlies	
MIA	Heat	
MIL	Bucks	Andrew Bogut (elbow, hand, expects to be at 90% for most of the season); Michael Redd (knee, February)
MIN	Timberwolves	Jonny Flynn (hip, November)
NJN	Nets	Troy Murphy (back, late October)
NOR	Hornets	
NYK	Knicks	Kelenna Azubuike (knee, day-to-day in regular season)
OKC	Thunder	
ORL	Magic	
PHI	76ers	
PHX	Suns	
POR	TrailBlazers	Greg Oden (knee, no real timetable, perhaps late December at earliest); Joel Przybilla (knee, late November)
SAC	Kings	Tyreke Evans (suspended until October 29), Samuel Dalembert (groin, late November)
SAS	Spurs	
TOR	Raptors	
UTH	Jazz	Mehmet Okur (achilles, late December)
WAS	Wizards	Josh Howard (knee, late November)

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Latest update as of October 14, 2010