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BEST NBA ANALYSIS!

By Luke and Zach - Grade 8



Who Will Win It All?!





Play-In Bracket:

76ers vs Magic

The 76ers easily take this game if Paolo has been playing like he has turned the ball over a ton and not shooting well. The 76ers star Tyrese Maxey has recently come back from an injury after sitting out for a few games and he has been playing great. Also Paul George has been playing like he's back in Indiana and if Joel Embiid is healthy and playing like he was when he was active this should be an easy game for the 76ers.

Hornets vs Heat

The Heat have not done anything too special this season other than Bam Adebayo dropping 83 points in a game and the young Hornets have been great this year with a possible Kon Knueppel has been lights out and if carries that into this game along with Lamelo's great playmaking and flashy play this should also be a decently easy game. Brandon Miller has been really good this season showing what he can do. The Miami Heat is the fastest playing team and loves to get to the rim compared to every other team in the NBA so if the Hornets can lock down the paint and stop Bam and other bigs from scoring this could be a good way to gain momentum for the Hornets.

Magic vs Hornets

Franz Wagner has been out a majority of the season and he is the Magic's second scorer and when he has played this season he has been underwhelming. If he is paired with Paolo and neither of them are playing at their best level then this could be a pretty easy way to the playoffs for the Hornets. The Magic are not too great defenders so guarding one of the many Charlotte Hornets offensive weapons could be very difficult for the Magic.

Suns vs Trail Blazer

We think the young big Donovan Clingan could be a problem in this game because Mark Williams isn't the best center. I think the Suns take this game pretty easily unless Deni Avidja is a great playoff performer but he's never been. However if he's not insane the Trail Blazers stand no chance. Devin Booker already has a finals run so he is already adapted to the playoffs.

Clipper vs Warriors

Clippers vs Warriors could be a great game but the Clippers might have the upper hand. Kawhi Leonard is having his highest scoring season of his career. However when you have a guy named Steph Curry you should always have hope because he's the greatest 3pt shooter ever. Also the Zubac trade helped the Clippers get Benedict Mathurin and if he's healthy that is another great piece.

Trail Blazers vs Clippers

Since the Clippers were the 9 seed they are gonna have to play another game to get in in which they will also win. Kawhi is known as a great defensive player and can shut Deni Avidja, but the Clippers have no insane bigs and against one of the best rebounding bigs, Donovan Clingan. The Trail Blazers also have no experience against a team that has a finals MVP on their team and a recent Finals player.



Eastern Conference First Round:**Pistons vs Hornets**

If Cade Cunningham comes back like nothing happened from his collapsed lung then I feel this series is over in 5 games. The Pistons are the number 2 defense and I don't think the Hornets can beat the Pistons defense more than once. The Pistons sheer strength with Jalen Duren and maybe Isiah Stewart would absolutely destroy the paint against the Hornets. The Pistons take this series pretty easily.

Celtics vs 76ers

The Celtics take this series in at most 6 games. With Tatum being back with his elite scoring, rebounding, and playmaking and just making the team better all around the Celtics are very hard to guard. On top of that the 76ers are still struggling with injuries and Joel Embiid is out but since Paul George has come back from his suspension he has been playing really good. This 76ers team has the potential to be very good but we do not think they could beat the Celtics in a 7 game series.

Knicks vs Hawks

The Hawks have been a very surprising team this season and after trading Trae Young they got better. The Hawks are a very good offensive team and are also good defenders. The Knicks are going to have a problem trying to guard Jalen Johnson but I think the offense of the Knicks is just going to overpower the Hawks. However the Hawks still have a great chance at winning this series because every game has been very tight. The Knicks should win in 7 games.

Cavaliers vs Raptors

The Cavaliers have been great this season adding the scoring and playmaking of Harden midway into the season. The rim protection of the Cavaliers is good and they have the ability to make a run in the playoffs. The Raptors do have a good team as well but I do not think they can beat the Cavaliers given that this is their first time in the playoffs in a while this series should be in the Cavaliers favor and they should get out of there in 6 games.

Western Conference First Round:**Thunder vs Clippers**

The Thunder are easily one of if not the best team in the league. No doubt they get into the second round. The Thunder just have a bunch of scoring and a great defense and I do not think Kawhi could beat them with the team around him. The Thunder should get out of this series in 4 or 5 games. The Clippers have been good this season just not good enough to beat this Thunder team.

Spurs vs Suns

Wembenyama, the potential MVP, should be unguardable against this Suns team. Even if the Suns throw 3 people at Wemby whenever he touches the ball the three point shooting and the all around scoring around Wemby would be able to score whenever they wanted. The Spurs are very young with not much experience but they should still be able to beat the Suns. The scoring of Devin Booker would have to be stopped by one of the best perimeter defenders in the league Stephon Castle. The Spurs get out of this series in 5 games.

Nuggets vs Timberwolves

We have seen this matchup a ton in the playoffs already and it has been a good matchup every time. I think Jokic is just too skilled for Rudy Gobert to guard and his offense would just cook the Timberwolves. The Timberwolves and Anthony Edwards are very good and they are low because of injuries but I still think the Nuggets get out in 7 games.

Lakers vs Rockets

The injured Lakers just cannot beat the Rockets right now. With 2 of their best players out and a 41 year old LeBron James having to carry the load of an MVP candidate this series should be pretty easy for the Rockets. The Rockets do get out of this series in 5 games but if Luka Doncic comes back do not count the Lakers out they could come back. I think they could have a pretty good chance to come back from this series. The Rockets should win this in 5 games.



Eastern Conference Second Round:**Pistons vs Cavaliers**

The Pistons have the widely regarded coach of the year who has brought his team to a 1 seed and is not looking to stop in the second round. The Pistons are going to be ready for the Cavaliers. The Cavaliers are a good team and do have great players but they have not done too much in the playoffs. Don't get me wrong the Pistons haven't done much either but I think they have a better built team and should be able to beat the Cavs. The Pistons got out in 6 games.

Celtics vs Knicks

The Celtics have been great since Tatum's return and they are ready for banner 19. They have an MVP candidate in Jaylen Brown who has put the team on his back and has brought the team to 50 wins in a gap year. The Celtics are expecting nothing less than a championship. The Knicks offense is good but the Celtics are also great. The Celtics have a team with similar power to their championship team back in 2024. The Knicks just do not have the pieces to guard the Celtics. The Celtics win in 6 games.

Western Conference Second Round:**Thunder vs Rockets**

The Thunder should dominate in this series and should get out of here in 5 games max. The Rockets do not have enough defensively to stop the Thunder and their elite offense. The Rockets are a good team but I do not think they have the ability to outscore the Thunder in a 7 game series. The Rockets just can't defend the fire power the Thunder have.

Spurs vs Nuggets

This series is going to 7 no matter what. They both have elite bigs and a great team built around them. Jokic is considered unstoppable and he proved it last time he played against the defensive player of the year Wemby. I think the defensive play of the Spurs will give them the slight advantage to win this series. This could very likely go to the Nuggets but with how convincingly the Spurs have played this season I think they will make it to the conference finals against the Thunder.

Eastern Conference Finals:**Celtics vs Pistons**

This will be a good series. The Celtics are hungry for another championship and the Pistons are looking for their first in a while. The Celtics do have a ton of more playoff experience than the very young Pistons so that could give them the edge in this series. No doubt this series is going to be a good one. I think that the Jays are going to come out ready and they are going to go off. I think the Celtics do take this series but it will go to 7. The Pistons will put up a great fight like they have all season but I just think they are too young to beat this experienced Celtics Team.

Western Conference Finals:**Thunder vs Spurs**

We all can see this series coming. Wembenyama's Spurs against Shai's Thunder. The Thunder have very high expectations coming off of a championship but the young Spurs are looking very scary. During the regular season the Spurs are leading in the season series. The Spurs are a very dedicated team and I think they have the ability to beat this Thunder team. I think the Spurs are going to take this series in 7 games.

NBA Finals:**Celtics vs Spurs**

The Celtics with Tatum are expecting nothing less than a championship. The Spurs are ready for their first since Tim Duncan. The Celtics have more experience in this series too. The Spurs are also looking very scary and are a threat to every team in the league. The Celtics scoring is unmatched and I think they have the ability to take this series. They take the series in 6. **We have the Celtics winning the NBA championship with Jaylen Brown winning the finals MVP.**