



What to Watch in the NBA Playoffs

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The NBA postseason is upon us. In this article, I'll highlight what storylines to watch in the NBA Playoffs, along with a recap of the Play-In Tournament. Enjoy!

Play-in Recap

For those who don't know, a seed is your placement on the bracket. The Play-In consists of the 7-10 seeds for each conference. 7 seed plays 8 seed, and 9 seed plays 10 seed. The winner of the 7-8 game plays the 2nd seed in the bracket. The loser of that game plays the winner of the 9-10 game. The winner of that game plays the 1st seed in the bracket. A little confusing, I know. But to put it simply, the Play-In tournament is 3 games that determine who gets the final two seeds in the playoff bracket.

The first games of this year's Play-In were between the 7-seeded Magic and 8-seeded Hawks, the 7-seeded Warriors and the 8-seeded Grizzlies. Both 7 seeds won the games for their respective conference, and will go on to play the 2 seeds. In the 9 and 10 seed games, we had the Heat vs the Bulls and the Mavericks vs the Kings. The 10-seeded Heat and 10-seeded Mavericks both won, and the final games of the Play-in were set: No. 8 Hawks vs No. 10 Heat and No. 8 Grizzlies vs No. 10 Mavericks. Miami beat Atlanta, and Memphis beat Dallas. That means the bracket is set.



Can the Celtics be Stopped?

The Boston Celtics ended up with the 2 seed in the bracket, but many see them as the title favorite. Many of their bench players would be starters on other teams, which shows their depth. They also broke the record for most three-pointers in a regular season, showing off how well they shoot from deep. But will another team be able to pull off the upset on the reigning champs? Only time will tell.

Who Can Make a Cinderella Run?

The Warriors (more on them later) could technically “upset” every team they play based on seeding, but everyone knows they’re better than their 7 seed says. Sorry Heat and Grizzlies fans, you’re not going far. Both 6 seeds, on the other hand, I think, could make a run. Both teams are playing beatable 3 seeds, especially the Timberwolves. They are playing a Lakers team with not a lot of depth, and move on to play either the Rockets or the Warriors. Both of them have their flaws. The first round will probably be over when this gets published, so I could get exposed, but they have the right players and an easier path than other teams.



T-Wolves guard Anthony Edwards soars for a layup against the Lakers in Game 1 of the playoffs. Photo Credit: CNN.

Can Warriors, Lakers Revive Old Magic?

Let’s be honest for a second, Lakers and Warriors fans, you used to be good. But now, you’re just getting old. Not completely washed yet, but getting there. But, your team is in the playoffs now, so hopefully they can make one more run for old times’ sake. After that, we will most likely see some players throwing in the towel. For Golden State, Curry is 37, Butler is 35, and Draymond is 35. The Lakers are younger, but LeBron has to retire at some point. So it’s only a matter of time before both teams have to start the rebuilding process.

SGA or Jokic for MVP?

On a non-related playoff note, the MVP race is as lively as ever. If you look solely at stats, you would pick Nikola Jokic. He’s only the third player to ever average a triple-double during the season. Although Shai’s impact on his

team, leading one of the youngest rosters in the NBA to the most wins, is considered by many to be a bigger feat. That and his highlight reel plays he's putting up consistently give him the edge over Jokic in the voting race.

So there you have it, an in-depth look at what to watch in the NBA playoffs. Will a top-seeded team win the prestigious honor of NBA Champion, or will a surprise contender sweep in and pull off an upset for the ages?



Jokic guards SGA in a regular season matchup. Photo Credit: ESPN.