



Forecaster

**PREMIUM
PLAYER ANALYSES**

PLAYER PROFILES
FANTASY PROJECTIONS
PRINTER-FRIENDLY TIP SHEETS



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FANTASY BASKETBALL 2014-15 TIP SHEETS

OCT. 3

WHO TO WATCH
MUST-HAVE PLAYERS
BREAKOUT STARS
IMPACT ROOKIES
SURE-FIRE SLEEPERS



L. JAMES



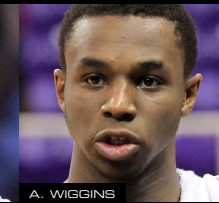
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GET THE EDGE THE ULTIMATE GUIDE FOR FANTASY DOMINANCE

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THE ULTIMATE GUIDE FOR DRAFT-DAY DOMINANCE

THE EDGE



Kevin Love and Blake Griffin

FANTASY TRENDS FOR 2014

Derrick Rose is back. Paul George is out. LeBron and Love are Cavs, and the Mavs look like true contenders again. Indeed, much has changed this off-season; and knowing which players are rising, falling, overlooked, and overrated is key to winning your fantasy league. So, Get the Edge!

RISING: Fantasy rookies

Drafting rookie players in single-season fantasy leagues is usually a risky proposition. One never knows how ready a first-year is for NBA stardom, and it takes most rookies awhile to figure the pro game out. That general rule may not apply as much this season, however; the 2014-15 NBA rookie class is one of the deepest and most talented in years, with several newcomers looking ready for fantasy relevance. Leading the way: Jabari Parker, SF, Bucks; Andrew Wiggins, SG/SF, Timberwolves; Doug McDermott, SF/SG, Bulls; Nerlens Noel, PF/C, 76ers; and Marcus Smart, PG, Celtics.

DECLINING: Pure scorers carrying roto-style teams

There was a time when having a pure scorer like Kobe Bryant was a key to winning a roto-style fantasy league. And while Kobe is far from one-dimensional, he and other shoot-first types still make at least some fantasy

sense; they help carry the Points, Field Goal Percentage, Free Throw Percentage, and 3-Pointer categories in most roto leagues. Yet with superstars becoming more productive in all areas of the game (and more stat categories now often included in roto leagues), the 'all-rounder' type of player is increasingly valuable. To wit: Kevin Durant not only dominates in all those point-scoring categories, he's also excellent for Rebounds, Assists, and Steals. Call it the LeBron Effect.

RISING: The stretch four

Most NBA teams now covet big men who can shoot and pass (over defense-first bruisers who mostly rebound and block shots). The 'stretch four' (i.e., the power forward who can stretch a defense with his outside shooting) is all the rage, a la Kevin Love, Dirk Nowitzki, Ryan Anderson, and Carmelo Anthony. While those players are already well-known to fantasy enthusiasts, the point here is to not overlook power forwards and centers who can help you in the 3-point category. So don't underrate the likes of Paul Millsap, Markieff Morris, Spencer Hawes, Mirza Teletovic, Channing Frye, Josh McRoberts, and many others.

DECLINING: The true center

Drafting a 'true' center in most fantasy leagues is becoming an increasingly risky

and challenging proposition. That's because nowadays NBA teams are going less with classic defense-first, shot-blocking-and-rebounding behemoths, than with quicker and more-skilled big men. The move to smaller, faster, more European-type lineups is a definite trend in the NBA. In fantasy, it can be tough to know where to draft a Dwight Howard or DeAndre Jordan type of low-post dominator—especially since they'll often hurt you significantly in the Free Throw Percentage, 3-Pointers, and Assists categories.

RISING: The Cavs & Mavs

No NBA teams did as much to improve this off-season as the Cleveland Cavaliers (in the East) and the Dallas Mavericks (in the West). What does this mean fantasy-wise? Simply: don't overrate the superstars on these two super-deep squads. Just like the addition of LeBron James to the Miami Heat sapped some fantasy value from Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade, the arrival of King James and Kevin Love in Cleveland now likely hurts the overall fantasy production of Love and Kyrie Irving. The same probably goes for Dirk Nowitzki and Monta Ellis in Dallas, now that Chandler Parsons, Jameer Nelson, and Tyson Chandler are onboard. Why? Because there are only so many shots, rebounds, and everything else to go around.

Knowing the top players in the game is key in fantasy basketball, but even more important is knowing the players on the verge of getting there.

2014-15



Who to watch? Among others: Walker, Bledsoe, Rose, Warren.

Must-have players

1. **Kevin Durant, SF/PF, Thunder.** The reigning MVP does it all, including win scoring titles.
2. **LeBron James, SF/PF, Cavaliers.** He's not quite as dominant now but is still simply amazing.
3. **John Wall, PG, Wizards.** Last season's Dunk champ is quietly becoming an all-round superstar.
4. **James Harden, SG, Rockets.** The Beard is probably now the planet's top overall 2-guard.
5. **Anthony Davis, PF/C, Pelicans.** By the end of this season the dominating Davis may top this list.

Shifting up

1. **Michael Carter-Williams, PG, 76ers.** So long as he stays healthy, do-it-all Carter-Williams is rising.
2. **Thaddeus Young, SF, Timberwolves.** Don't underrate Young; he's a steals machine and a quiet star.
3. **Gordon Hayward, SF/SG, Jazz.** It took a little while but Hayward is becoming a star for Utah.
4. **Kemba Walker, PG, Hornets.** Charlotte is no longer a team opponents look past. Walker's a star.
5. **Victor Oladipo, SG/PG, Magic.** He has a chance to lead Orlando in several statistical categories.

Primed to break out

1. **Eric Bledsoe, SG/PG, Suns.** Now that his contract issues are resolved, expect Bledsoe to explode.
2. **Markieff Morris, PF, Suns.** Looks like Morris has a full-time starter gig. Expect all-round excellence.
3. **Jared Sullinger, C/PF, Celtics.** The Boston lineup is a mess but Sullinger is a definite cornerstone.
4. **Enes Kanter, C/PF, Jazz.** The bruising big man has a real chance to be a strong scorer & rebounder.
5. **Alec Burks, SG, Jazz.** It appears highly-hyped Dante Exum will take some time finding his game.

Bouncing back

1. **Kobe Bryant, SG, Lakers.** He won't likely put up his stats of old but Kobe should still produce.
2. **Derrick Rose, PG, Bulls.** He looked pretty much fully healthy this summer. Great news for Chicago.
3. **Ryan Anderson, PF/C, Pelicans.** Few big men are as skilled as Anderson, who may be overlooked.
4. **Deron Williams, PG, Nets.** It's tough to expect his former excellence but he at least seems healthy.
5. **Danilo Gallinari, SF, Nuggets.** With his knee now healed, Gallo can resume his rise toward stardom.

Rookies to watch

1. **Jabari Parker, SF, Bucks.** Look for star-level scoring and a pretty well-rounded game right away.
2. **Andrew Wiggins, SG/SF, T-Wolves.** Expect a learning curve but also for Wiggins to be a superstar.
3. **T.J. Warren, SF, Suns.** As talented a true scorer as anyone in the rookie class, he's one to watch.
4. **Nerlens Noel, PF/C, 76ers.** While not drafted this year, Noel finally debuts. Expect great defense.
5. **Nik Stauskas, SG/PG, Kings.** He needs to find minutes in a crowded backcourt but he can score.

Buyer beware

1. **Andrew Bogut, C, Warriors.** Injuries are constantly an issue and he rarely scores anymore.
2. **Tyreke Evans, SF/SG, Pelicans.** He's already out weeks to a hamstring injury, and may not start.
3. **Wilson Chandler, SF, Nuggets.** He didn't bust out as expected last season & may now be a backup.
4. **Larry Sanders, C/PF, Bucks.** A dismal '13-14 campaign & the rise of John Henson are worries.
5. **Patrick Beverley, PG, Rockets.** He plays great man-to-man defense but isn't a fantasy producer.

Don't overrate

1. **Brandon Jennings, PG, Pistons.** With a career .390 FG% he's hard to recommend in fantasy.
2. **J.R. Smith, SG/SF, Knicks.** Smith can definitely score but has posted just one really great season.
3. **Jeff Green, SF, Celtics.** He didn't bust out last season as hoped & has more on-team competition.
4. **George Hill, PG, Pacers.** Even with more shots (Paul George is out), Hill still doesn't shoot much.
5. **Miles Plumlee, C, Suns.** He started strongly last season but big Plumlee faded considerably.



Adams

Sleepers

1. **Kendall Marshall, PG, Bucks.** Look for Marshall to steal a lot of starts and amass huge assist totals.
2. **Rudy Gobert, C, Jazz.** He really opened eyes this summer with his rare mix of length and quickness.
3. **C.J. Miles, SF/SG, Pacers.** So long as he stays healthy, Miles should start and score for Indy.
4. **Draymond Green, SF/SG, Warriors.** The versatile and sneaky-productive Green has starter tools.
5. **Steven Adams, C, Thunder.** His mix of feistiness and talent should help Adams to bigger minutes.

COVER: (DEROZAN) M. HALIMAS; (JAMES) SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS; (DAVIS) M. GOLDMAN; (HARDEN) G. BRIDGES-ZUMIPRESS; (WIGGINS) M. VISINSKY; (GASOL) / ICON SPORTSWIRE; INSIDE: (LOVE, GRIFFIN, ROSE) ZUMIPRESS; (WALKER) A. PEÑA; (WARREN) J. MCKNIGHT; (BLEDSOE) / ICON SPORTSWIRE

2013-14 NBA Stats

2014-15 Forecasts

Table with columns: Rk, Name, team, Pos, G, GS, MPG, FG%, 3PMPG, FT%, RPG, APG, SPG, BPG, TPG, PPG (repeated for both years), and a final column for notes like 'On the rise', 'Sleeper', 'Rookie to watch', 'Breaking out'. Rows list 150 players and teams.



2013-14 NBA Stats

2014-15 Forecasts

Table with columns: Rk, Name, team, Pos, G, GS, MPG, FG%, 3PMPG, FT%, RPG, APG, SPG, BPG, TPG, PPG, G, GS, MPG, FG%, 3PMPG, FT%, RPG, APG, SPG, BPG, TPG, PPG, and a final column for player status (e.g., Sleeper, Rookie to watch, Breaking out).



2013-14 NBA Stats

2014-15 Forecasts

Table with columns for Rank, Name, team, Position, and various statistical metrics (G, GS, MPG, FG%, 3PMPG, FT%, RPG, APG, SPG, BPG, TPG, PPG) for 2013-14 NBA Stats and 2014-15 Forecasts. Includes a 'Tip Sheet' column on the right.



2013-14 NBA Stats

2014-15 Forecasts

Table with columns: Rk, Name, team, Pos, and 2013-14 NBA Stats (G, GS, MPG, FG%, 3PMPG, FT%, RPG, APG, SPG, BPG, TPG, PPG) and 2014-15 Forecasts (G, GS, MPG, FG%, 3PMPG, FT%, RPG, APG, SPG, BPG, TPG, PPG). Includes player names like Perkins, Kendrick, Okl and forecasts like 55, 40, 19.5.

