Scouting NOP · from Denver's side

New Orleans Pelicans

2026-27: 3 games (Oct 21 vs IND · Oct 23 @ UTA · Oct 24 @ DEN) · baseline 2025-26 regular season

DEN @ NOP
Wed Oct 28, 2026 · 8:00 PM ET
Game 0022600140

INJURY REPORT & SCHEDULE · official report of 2026-10-28, read 2026-10-28 22:46 UTC; statuses as listed, no reasons

NOP Jaron Pierre Jr.: Out · Malik Dia: Out · Yves Missi: Out · Julian Reese: Probable

DEN Alpha Diallo: Out · Julian Strawther: Out · Spencer Jones: Out · Cameron Johnson: Doubtful

NOP: 3 days of rest, previous game Oct 24 @ DEN.

IN TEN SECONDS

1. **Last season: most rim attempts (41%), 8th-best offensive rebounding (31.1%), 4th-most transition (13%), 4th-lowest 3PA share (36%).**
2. **Scoring last season: T. Murphy III 21.5/g (15.3 so far), Z. Williamson 21.0/g (20.7 so far), S. Bey 17.6/g (15.7 so far).**

TEAM KEYS

- Paint team last season: 57% paint attempts (most in the league); 41% at the rim (most in the league); 36% 3PA share (27th of 30). Chase Murphy III 38%, Bey 37%; wall up on Williamson, Queen, Matković.
- Soft rim protection: get 32% of their shots there (8th most). Get downhill; finish at the rim.
- Poor finishers: 62.6% at the rim (2nd worst). Meet them at the rim; verticality.
- Inefficient offense: eFG% 52.7% (3rd worst). Make them take contested twos.
- Soft on the defensive glass: DREB% 67.3% (3rd worst). Send two to the offensive boards.
- They run: 13% of FGA in transition (4th most). Sprint back, build the wall early, no leak-outs.

STARTERS · LAST GAME

25 Trey Murphy III

F · 6-9 · age 26 · 5 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 NOP · 66 GP · 35.5 MPG · 21.5 pts · 5.7 reb · 3.8 ast · 37.9% 3P on 8.6 3PA · 89% FT

26-27 3 GP · 33.3 MPG · 15.3 pts · 5.3 reb · 2.7 ast · 7/17 3P

3P% **good** · Rim FG% **excellent** · FT% **elite** · Ball security **excellent** · Gets to line **average**

- Elite finisher: 72% at the rim (85th pct) on 284 attempts, 27% of his shots. No free runs; build the wall early.
- Knockdown 3: 37.9% on 8.6/g (69th pct). No help off him; run him off the line.
- Doesn't turn it over: 9.4 TO per 100 usage (80th pct). Don't gamble for steals; play him straight up.
- Corner specialist: 49% from the corners (59 att), 37% above the break (506). No help off the corners; help off him on top.

5 Dejounte Murray

G · 6-4 · age 30 · 10 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 NOP · 14 GP · 27.8 MPG · 16.7 pts · 5.4 reb · 6.4 ast · 30.6% 3P on 4.4 3PA · 87% FT

26-27 3 GP · 33.0 MPG · 20.3 pts · 5.0 reb · 6.3 ast · 3/13 3P

- New this season: share of FGA from In The Paint (Non-RA) down, 26% -> 6% (51 trials 2026-27 regular season to date; 2025-26 regular season baseline).
- Volume 3s at 30.6%, 4.4/g: make him shoot contested, no fly-bys.
- Primary creator (6.4 AST/g): stay home on shooters when he drives; take away the kick-out.

1 Zion Williamson

F · 6-6 · age 26 · 7 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 NOP · 62 GP · 29.7 MPG · 21.0 pts · 5.7 reb · 3.2 ast · 25.0% 3P on 0.1 3PA · 72% FT

26-27 3 GP · 32.5 MPG · 20.7 pts · 3.0 reb · 2.3 ast · 2/6 3P

Rim FG% **good** · FT% **bad** · Ball security **good** · Gets to line **elite**

- Lives at the line: 0.58 FTA per FGA (elite, 99th pct), 5.2 fouls drawn/g, 72% FT. Verticality, hands back, no reach.
- Non-shooter (0.1 3PA/g): sag off him and help from him; no closeouts needed.
- Make him take the floater: 40% on 216 non-RA paint shots (27% of his FGA).

0 Jeremiah Fears

G · 6-3 · age 20 · 1 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 NOP · 82 GP · 25.8 MPG · 14.3 pts · 3.7 reb · 3.4 ast · 33.0% 3P on 3.7 3PA · 79% FT

26-27 3 GP · 22.7 MPG · 8.3 pts · 3.0 reb · 1.3 ast · 2/11 3P

3P% **below average** · Rim FG% **bad** · FT% **average** · Ball security **below average** · Gets to line **above average**

- Poor finisher: 56% at the rim (bad, 5th pct) on 422 attempts. Meet him at the rim; verticality, no fouls.
- Capable 3: 33.0% on 3.7/g (26th pct). Closeout under control, contest every one.
- Pressure him: 13.8 TO per 100 usage (below average, 28th pct), 46% of them bad passes; 6 TO in 3 games so far. Hands in the lanes.

6 DeAndre Jordan

C · 6-11 · age 38 · 18 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 NOP · 12 GP · 16.6 MPG · 4.4 pts · 6.3 reb · 0.9 ast · – 3P on 0.0 3PA · 65% FT

26-27 1 GP · 20.3 MPG · 9.0 pts · 9.0 reb · 2.0 ast · 0/0 3P

- Crashes the glass (4.7 OREB per 36): hit him first, then go get it.

BENCH

22 Derik Queen C · 6-11 · age 21 · 1 yrs

25-26 NOP · 81 GP · 25.0 MPG · 11.7 pts · 7.1 reb · 3.7 ast · 26.1% 3P on 1.1 3PA · 80% FT
26-27 3 GP · 23.9 MPG · 13.0 pts · 8.3 reb · 1.7 ast · 1/3 3P

Rim FG% **bad** FT% **above average** Ball security **bad** Gets to line **excellent**

- Pressure him: 18.0 TO per 100 usage (bad, 6th pct), 38% of them bad passes; 3 TO in 3 games so far. Hands in the lanes.
- Lives at the line: 0.36 FTA per FGA (excellent, 85th pct), 2.7 fouls drawn/g, 80% FT. Verticality, hands back, no reach.
- Poor finisher: 60% at the rim (bad, 16th pct) on 396 attempts. Meet him at the rim; verticality, no fouls.

41 Saddiq Bey F · 6-8 · age 27 · 6 yrs

25-26 NOP · 72 GP · 31.2 MPG · 17.6 pts · 5.6 reb · 2.5 ast · 36.7% 3P on 5.7 3PA · 84% FT
26-27 3 GP · 23.7 MPG · 15.7 pts · 4.0 reb · 1.3 ast · 7/16 3P

3P% **above average** Rim FG% **bad** FT% **excellent** Ball security **elite** Gets to line **good**

- Doesn't turn it over: 5.8 TO per 100 usage (99th pct). Don't gamble for steals; play him straight up.
- New this season: share of FGA from Restricted Area down, 34% -> 7% (30 trials 2026-27 regular season to date; 2025-26 regular season baseline).
- Capable 3: 36.7% on 5.7/g (57th pct). Closeout under control, contest every one.
- Poor finisher: 61% at the rim (bad, 20th pct) on 326 attempts. Meet him at the rim; verticality, no fouls.

3 Jordan Poole G · 6-4 · age 27 · 7 yrs

25-26 NOP · 39 GP · 23.9 MPG · 13.4 pts · 2.0 reb · 3.0 ast · 33.3% 3P on 7.4 3PA · 86% FT
26-27 3 GP · 18.8 MPG · 7.3 pts · 2.3 reb · 4.0 ast · 3/13 3P

3P% **below average** FT% **excellent** Ball security **average** Gets to line **above average**

- Capable 3: 33.3% on 7.4/g (30th pct). Closeout under control, contest every one.
- Pull-up shooter: 32% of his shots are pull-ups (81st pct, 34%). Stay attached over screens; contest without fouling.

24 Bennedict Mathurin G-F · 6-5 · age 24 · 4 yrs NEW · IND/LAC LAST SEASON

25-26 IND/LAC · 54 GP · 30.0 MPG · 17.6 pts · 5.4 reb · 2.4 ast · 31.5% 3P on 4.4 3PA · 87% FT
26-27 3 GP · 17.8 MPG · 8.0 pts · 3.0 reb · 2.0 ast · 1/9 3P

3P% **bad** Rim FG% **bad** FT% **excellent** Ball security **average** Gets to line **elite**

- Lives at the line: 0.50 FTA per FGA (elite, 97th pct), 4.4 fouls drawn/g, 87% FT. Verticality, hands back, no reach.
- Volume 3s at 31.5%, 4.4/g (14th pct): make him shoot contested, no fly-bys.
- Poor finisher: 62% at the rim (bad, 25th pct) on 201 attempts. Meet him at the rim; verticality, no fouls.

2 Herbert Jones F · 6-7 · age 28 · 5 yrs

25-26 NOP · 56 GP · 28.4 MPG · 8.9 pts · 3.4 reb · 2.8 ast · 30.9% 3P on 4.6 3PA · 81% FT
26-27 3 GP · 17.1 MPG · 3.3 pts · 2.0 reb · 0.3 ast · 2/5 3P

3P% **bad** Rim FG% **bad** Ball security **average** Gets to line **bad**

- Poor finisher: 54% at the rim (bad, 3rd pct) on 138 attempts. Meet him at the rim; verticality, no fouls.
- Doesn't get to the line: 0.13 FTA per FGA (14th pct). Be physical; the whistle is quiet.
- Volume 3s at 30.9%, 4.6/g (12th pct): make him shoot contested, no fly-bys.

21 Yves Missi C · 6-11 · age 22 · 2 yrs Out STARTED 2 OF 2 DID NOT PLAY LAST GAME

25-26 NOP · 66 GP · 19.7 MPG · 5.7 pts · 5.8 reb · 1.3 ast · 0.0% 3P on 0.0 3PA · 56% FT
26-27 2 GP · 19.6 MPG · 9.5 pts · 7.5 reb · 2.5 ast · 0/0 3P

Rim FG% **bad** FT% **bad** Ball security **below average**

- Non-shooter (0.0 3PA/g): sag off him and help from him; no closeouts needed.
- Poor finisher: 62% at the rim (bad, 24th pct) on 237 attempts. Meet him at the rim; verticality, no fouls.
- Pressure him: 13.7 TO per 100 usage (below average, 28th pct), 26% of them bad passes; 1 TO in 2 games so far. Hands in the lanes.

17 Karlo Matković F-C · 6-11 · age 25 · 2 yrs

25-26 NOP · 62 GP · 14.7 MPG · 5.7 pts · 3.7 reb · 0.8 ast · 42.2% 3P on 1.4 3PA · 73% FT
26-27 2 GP · 8.4 MPG · 5.0 pts · 2.0 reb · 0.5 ast · 1/1 3P

Rim FG% **elite**

- Elite finisher: 80% at the rim (98th pct) on 122 attempts, 52% of his shots. No free runs; build the wall early.
- Non-shooter (1.4 3PA/g): sag off him and help from him; no closeouts needed.

Not seen yet: J. Reese (#13 F, WAS 30.9 MPG last season), B. McGowens (#11 G, NOP 20.9 MPG last season), T. Watford (#9 G-F, PHI 16.3 MPG last season), A. Johnson (#14 G, DAL/WAS 9.5 MPG last season), M. Dia (#8 F), J. Pierre Jr. (#10 G).

GAME PLAN BOXES

FOUL HIM LATE (FT)

- **Z. Williamson** — 72% FT (465 FTA, 20th pct), 25/32 in clutch
- Don't foul: T. Murphy III 89% FT; B. Mathurin 87% FT; J. Poole 86% FT; S. Bey 84% FT

FOUL TROUBLE

- Nobody over 4.5 fouls per 36 last season.

SHOT PROFILE · ZONES AND DIET

SHOT ZONES · SHARE OF FGA, FG%

	25-26	FG%	26-27	FG%
Restricted area	41%	63%	37%	68%
Paint (non-RA)	17%	38%	18%	44%
Mid-range	7%	34%	11%	40%
Corner 3	9%	39%	7%	26%
Above the break 3	27%	33%	26%	33%

SHOT DIET · SHARE OF FGA, FG%

	25-26	FG%	26-27	FG%
Pull-ups	16%	34%	18%	24%
Drives	36%	54%	33%	56%
Finishes	12%	69%	12%	73%
Catch-and-shoot 3s	22%	36%	21%	38%
Other shots	13%	40%	16%	56%

Zones from the play-by-play (corner 3s merged), FG% on those attempts. Diet from the shot descriptors: pull-ups (pull-ups and step-backs), drives (2s driving or on the run), finishes (cuts, putbacks, alley-oops, tips), catch-and-shoot 3s (3s with no descriptor: a proxy, the feed records no touch time), other shots (turnarounds, fadeaways, floaters and every other move, and 2s with no descriptor). Bars: last season's share of FGA.

6 player rates flagged as changed from last season (bullets starting 'New this season'); 0 team-level (under Team keys).

ROTATION · LAST SEASON RATES

#	PLAYER	MIN 26-27	MPG 25-26	FGA/G	3PA SHARE	3P%	RA SHARE	RA FG%	FT%	PULL-UP SHARE	DRIVE SHARE	C&S 3 SHARE	AST'D SHARE	TO/100 USAGE	FTA/FGA	PF/36	FOULS DRAWN/G	FLAGS
25	T. Murphy III	99.9	35.5	15.9	54%	37.9%	27%	72%	89%	25%	25%	56%	77%	9.4	0.23	2.1	2.9	0
5	D. Murray	99.1	27.8	13.0	34%	30.6%	28%	58%	87%	32%	37%	56%	32%	18.9	0.25	3.1	2.2	4
1	Z. Williamson	97.6	29.7	13.0	0%	25.0%	71%	68%	72%	4%	69%	25%	52%	11.1	0.58	2.8	5.2	0
22	D. Queen	71.6	25.0	9.2	12%	26.1%	53%	60%	80%	10%	42%	84%	44%	18.0	0.36	3.8	2.7	0
41	S. Bey	71.2	31.2	13.4	43%	36.7%	34%	61%	84%	13%	32%	62%	61%	5.8	0.30	1.5	2.5	2
0	J. Fears	68.1	25.8	12.3	30%	33.0%	42%	56%	79%	21%	51%	56%	44%	13.8	0.24	2.6	2.5	0
3	J. Poole	56.4	23.9	11.4	65%	33.3%	21%	53%	86%	32%	27%	48%	58%	12.2	0.26	3.4	2.9	0
24	B. Mathurin	53.5	30.0	12.5	35%	31.5%	30%	62%	87%	33%	35%	42%	59%	12.5	0.50	3.0	4.4	0
2	H. Jones	51.2	28.4	8.5	54%	30.9%	29%	54%	81%	14%	28%	78%	72%	12.6	0.13	4.0	1.2	0
21	Y. Missi	39.2	19.7	4.5	0%	0.0%	81%	62%	56%	0%	32%	100%	62%	13.7	0.35	3.1	1.2	0
6	D. Jordan	20.3	16.6	2.7	0%	–	94%	70%	65%	0%	16%	–	62%	18.6	0.53	2.9	1.2	0
17	K. Matković	16.9	14.7	3.8	38%	42.2%	52%	80%	73%	0%	13%	91%	80%	11.8	0.17	4.1	0.6	0

HOW TO READ IT

Baseline = 2025-26 regular season (82 games; a player's baseline covers every game he played, with any team). Recent = 2026-27 (3 games). For each rate, shrink the recent proportion toward the baseline with a Beta prior of strength m (empirical-Bayes flavour): p1_shrunk = (k1 + m*p0)/(n1 + m), with m = 60 for shot-diet / zone / assisted shares, m = 250 for FG%-type rates (rim FG%, 3P%; 3P% needs ~750 attempts to stabilize, so a 10-game 3P% is almost never flaggable by design), m = 60 for turnover rate. FLAG when |p1_shrunk - p0| >= 0.06 AND |z| >= 2.0 where z = (k1/n1 - p0)/sqrt(p0*(1-p0)/n1) (raw recent proportion against the baseline proportion, SE from p0) AND n1 >= 15 recent trials. Here the windows are disjoint.

Grades are words on one scale: elite ≥ 90th percentile, excellent 75–89, good 60–74, above average 50–59, average 40–49, below average 25–39, bad < 25. Shooting and ball-security percentiles are computed from the play-by-play among qualified players (3P% 100+ 3PA, rim FG% 100+ restricted-area attempts, FT% 75+ FTA, rates per FGA 300+ FGA, ball security 300+ usage events). Starters are the players who started the team's last game. Statuses are the official injury report's, as listed, with the report's date and the time it was read, never a reason; a carded player listed at either of the two most serious statuses keeps his card but leaves the free-throw and foul boxes. Every sentence above is produced from these numbers by fixed templates.

Computed by NightlyHoops from play-by-play and box scores of regular-season games, and the league's official injury report (statuses only). Data collected 2026-10-28; report built 2026-10-28 22:46 UTC.