Scouting CHI · from New York's side

Chicago Bulls

2026-27: 4 games (Oct 21 @ TOR · Oct 23 @ MIL · Oct 24 vs WAS · Oct 26 @ BOS) · baseline 2025-26 regular season

NYK @ CHI
Wed Oct 28, 2026 · 8:00 PM ET
Game 0022600137

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

CHI Nic Claxton: Out · Patrick Williams: Questionable · Tobe Awaka: Questionable

NYK Jose Alvarado: Out

CHI: one day of rest, previous game Oct 26 @ BOS.

IN TEN SECONDS

1. **Last season: 3rd-most rim attempts (36%), 5th-worst offensive rebounding (28.0%), 2nd-fewest turnovers forced (12.8/100), 8th-fewest fouls (19.0/g).**
2. **Scoring last season: N. Powell 21.7/g (19.5 so far), J. Giddey 17.0/g (7.0 so far), M. Buzelis 16.3/g (14.0 so far).**

TEAM KEYS

- Paint team last season: 51% paint attempts (7th most); 36% at the rim (3rd most); 44% 3PA share (8th of 30). Chase Powell 38%, Giddey 36%, Smith 37%, Collins 43%; wall up on Miller, Jones.
- Soft rim protection: get 34% of their shots there (3rd most). Get downhill; finish at the rim.
- Poor finishers: 62.2% at the rim (1st worst). Meet them at the rim; verticality.
- They don't force turnovers: 12.8 per 100 (2nd fewest). Move the ball freely.
- Pace: 101.3 possessions per game (4th fastest).
- They run: 13% of FGA in transition (5th most). Sprint back, build the wall early, no leak-outs.

STARTERS · LAST GAME

8 Caleb Wilson

F · 6-10 · age 20 · rookie · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 – · 0 GP · – MPG · – pts · – reb · – ast · – 3P on – 3PA · – FT

26-27 4 GP · 33.9 MPG · 21.0 pts · 7.2 reb · 1.8 ast · 18% 3P on 7.0 3PA

24 Norman Powell

G · 6-4 · age 33 · 11 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME · NEW · MIA LAST SEASON

25-26 MIA · 58 GP · 29.6 MPG · 21.7 pts · 3.5 reb · 2.5 ast · 38.0% 3P on 7.1 3PA · 83% FT

26-27 4 GP · 27.8 MPG · 19.5 pts · 3.0 reb · 1.8 ast · 34% 3P on 8.0 3PA

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

- New this season: drive family share of FGA down, 41% -> 19% (52 trials 2026-27 regular season to date; 2025-26 regular season baseline).
- Lives at the line: 0.35 FTA per FGA (excellent, 83rd pct), 3.9 fouls drawn/g, 83% FT. Verticality, hands back, no reach.
- Knockdown 3: 38.0% on 7.1/g (70th pct). No help off him; run him off the line.

3 Josh Giddey

G · 6-8 · age 24 · 5 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 CHI · 54 GP · 32.1 MPG · 17.0 pts · 8.3 reb · 9.2 ast · 36.4% 3P on 5.2 3PA · 76% FT

26-27 4 GP · 25.5 MPG · 7.0 pts · 5.0 reb · 7.2 ast · 2/13 3P

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

- Pressure him: 19.4 TO per 100 usage (bad, 3rd pct), 52% of them bad passes; 8 TO in 4 games so far. Hands in the lanes; 9.2 AST/g, so stay home on shooters when he drives.
- Poor finisher: 56% at the rim (bad, 7th pct) on 226 attempts. Meet him at the rim; verticality, no fouls.
- Capable 3: 36.4% on 5.2/g (56th pct). Closeout under control, contest every one.

14 Matas Buzelis

F · 6-9 · age 22 · 2 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 CHI · 77 GP · 29.2 MPG · 16.3 pts · 5.8 reb · 2.0 ast · 34.9% 3P on 6.4 3PA · 79% FT

26-27 4 GP · 24.9 MPG · 14.0 pts · 4.2 reb · 1.8 ast · 4/19 3P

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

- Capable 3: 34.9% on 6.4/g (42nd pct). Closeout under control, contest every one.

25 Jalen Smith

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

25-26 CHI · 53 GP · 20.7 MPG · 10.2 pts · 6.7 reb · 1.2 ast · 37.3% 3P on 4.2 3PA · 74% FT

26-27 4 GP · 22.0 MPG · 12.5 pts · 7.5 reb · 1.0 ast · 30% 3P on 5.0 3PA

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

- Knockdown 3: 37.3% on 4.2/g (64th pct). No help off him; run him off the line.
- Crashes the glass (3.2 OREB per 36): hit him first, then go get it.

BENCH

11 Leonard Miller F · 6-10 · age 22 · 3 yrs

25-26 CHI/MIN · 46 GP · 15.6 MPG · 7.8 pts · 3.9 reb · 0.9 ast · 32.3% 3P on 2.1 3PA · 74% FT
26-27 4 GP · 21.2 MPG · 9.8 pts · 5.5 reb · 0.8 ast · 4/16 3P

Rim FG% **excellent** Ball security **above average**

- Elite finisher: 74% at the rim (90th pct) on 142 attempts, 54% of his shots. No free runs; build the wall early.
- New this season: share of FGA from Above the Break 3 up, 19% -> 37% (35 trials 2026-27 regular season to date; 2025-26 regular season baseline).
- Low-volume, 32.3% from 3 (2.1/g): help off him in the gaps.

30 Tre Jones G · 6-1 · age 26 · 6 yrs

25-26 CHI · 65 GP · 27.0 MPG · 14.1 pts · 3.1 reb · 5.4 ast · 31.5% 3P on 2.0 3PA · 84% FT
26-27 4 GP · 17.6 MPG · 10.5 pts · 2.2 reb · 2.8 ast · 1/3 3P

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

- Lives at the line: 0.37 FTA per FGA (excellent, 86th pct), 2.9 fouls drawn/g, 84% FT. Verticality, hands back, no reach.
- Low-volume, 31.5% from 3 (2.0/g): help off him in the gaps.
- Lives at the rim: 55% of his shots in the restricted area, 68% there. Build the wall, no straight-line drives.

35 Isaac Okoro F-G · 6-6 · age 25 · 6 yrs

25-26 CHI · 63 GP · 26.9 MPG · 9.3 pts · 2.8 reb · 1.6 ast · 33.2% 3P on 3.5 3PA · 80% FT
26-27 4 GP · 17.6 MPG · 4.2 pts · 1.2 reb · 1.5 ast · 1/7 3P

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

- Doesn't turn it over: 8.3 TO per 100 usage (90th pct). Don't gamble for steals; play him straight up.
- Capable 3: 33.2% on 3.5/g (27th pct). Closeout under control, contest every one.
- Downhill driver: 35% of his shots are drives at 55% (74th pct). Show early help, wall up, make him pass.

7 Buddy Hield G · 6-5 · age 33 · 10 yrs NEW · ATL/GSW LAST SEASON

25-26 ATL/GSW · 52 GP · 16.1 MPG · 7.5 pts · 2.2 reb · 1.4 ast · 34.9% 3P on 4.1 3PA · 81% FT
26-27 4 GP · 14.4 MPG · 6.2 pts · 1.5 reb · 1.8 ast · 5/12 3P

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

- Capable 3: 34.9% on 4.1/g (42nd pct). Closeout under control, contest every one.

2 Noa Essengue F · 6-9 · age 19 · 1 yrs

25-26 CHI · 2 GP · 3.0 MPG · 0.0 pts · 0.0 reb · 0.0 ast · 0.0% 3P on 1.0 3PA · – FT
26-27 3 GP · 14.3 MPG · 1.7 pts · 2.7 reb · 0.3 ast · 0/5 3P

19 Tobe Awaka F · 6-8 · age 22 · rookie Questionable

25-26 – · 0 GP · – MPG · – pts · – reb · – ast · – 3P on – 3PA · – FT
26-27 2 GP · 13.1 MPG · 3.0 pts · 6.5 reb · 1.0 ast · 0/0 3P

22 Jaylin Sellers G · 6-4 · age 23 · rookie

25-26 – · 0 GP · – MPG · – pts · – reb · – ast · – 3P on – 3PA · – FT
26-27 2 GP · 13.1 MPG · 1.5 pts · 0.5 reb · 1.5 ast · 1/7 3P

12 Zach Collins F-C · 6-9 · age 28 · 9 yrs

25-26 CHI · 10 GP · 18.4 MPG · 9.7 pts · 5.6 reb · 1.5 ast · 42.9% 3P on 2.1 3PA · 70% FT
26-27 3 GP · 8.7 MPG · 1.3 pts · 3.3 reb · 0.3 ast · 0/4 3P

- Takes 2.1 3s/g at 42.9%: respect it, closeout.
- Crashes the glass (3.1 OREB per 36): hit him first, then go get it.

5 Dailyn Swain F · 6-6 · age 21 · rookie

25-26 – · 0 GP · – MPG · – pts · – reb · – ast · – 3P on – 3PA · – FT
26-27 1 GP · 12.0 MPG · 2.0 pts · 2.0 reb · 2.0 ast · 0/1 3P

Also seen: J. Hawkins (#15 G, 6.9 min). Not seen yet: N. Claxton (#9 C, BKN 27.8 MPG last season), P. Williams (#44 F, CHI 20.5 MPG last season).

GAME PLAN BOXES

FOUL HIM LATE (FT)

- **J. Smith** — 74% FT (93 FTA, 29th pct)
- Don't foul: T. Jones 84% FT; N. Powell 83% 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	36%	62%	34%	63%
Paint (non-RA)	15%	45%	12%	39%
Mid-range	5%	41%	8%	48%
Corner 3	12%	37%	15%	22%
Above the break 3	32%	35%	31%	25%

SHOT DIET · SHARE OF FGA, FG%

	25-26	FG%	26-27	FG%
Pull-ups	10%	36%	12%	33%
Drives	34%	55%	30%	50%
Finishes	9%	68%	11%	82%
Catch-and-shoot 3s	33%	36%	36%	25%
Other shots	13%	46%	12%	34%

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.

5 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
8	C. Wilson	135.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0
24	N. Powell	111.3	29.6	15.4	46%	38.0%	27%	63%	83%	26%	41%	46%	68%	9.7	0.35	2.7	3.9	4
3	J. Giddey	101.8	32.1	13.3	40%	36.4%	32%	56%	76%	16%	45%	65%	48%	19.4	0.32	1.9	2.9	0
14	M. Buzelis	99.4	29.2	12.5	51%	34.9%	37%	64%	79%	11%	33%	74%	70%	13.0	0.25	2.8	2.6	0
25	J. Smith	87.9	20.7	7.6	55%	37.3%	37%	68%	74%	2%	17%	91%	87%	10.7	0.23	3.6	1.8	0
11	L. Miller	84.7	15.6	5.7	38%	32.3%	54%	74%	74%	5%	35%	88%	75%	11.2	0.20	3.3	0.9	1
30	T. Jones	70.6	27.0	9.5	21%	31.5%	55%	68%	84%	8%	66%	74%	53%	11.4	0.37	1.9	2.9	0
35	I. Okoro	70.3	26.9	7.3	48%	33.2%	45%	62%	80%	5%	35%	83%	77%	8.3	0.24	3.4	1.7	0
7	B. Hield	57.8	16.1	6.3	65%	34.9%	22%	75%	81%	21%	18%	63%	77%	12.3	0.11	2.5	0.3	0
2	N. Essengue	42.9	3.0	1.5	67%	0.0%	33%	0%	–	0%	0%	50%	–	0.0	0.00	5.9	0.0	0
19	T. Awaka	26.2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0
22	J. Sellers	26.2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0
12	Z. Collins	26.1	18.4	6.4	33%	42.9%	45%	76%	70%	0%	11%	100%	86%	12.1	0.31	3.5	1.9	0
5	D. Swain	12.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0
15	J. Hawkins	6.9	13.6	5.0	52%	34.8%	13%	58%	85%	37%	12%	61%	74%	11.2	0.10	1.6	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 (4 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.