Scouting LAL · from Utah's side

Los Angeles Lakers

2026-27: 15 games (Oct 21 vs GSW · Oct 23 vs LAC · Oct 25 @ UTA · Oct 27 vs POR · Oct 28 @ LAC · Oct 30 @ GSW · Nov 1 vs TOR · Nov 2 vs MIA · Nov 4 @ SAC · Nov 6 vs POR · Nov 8 @ DET · Nov 9 @ ATL · Nov 11 @ MIL · Nov 15 @ PHX · Nov 17 vs CHA) · baseline 2025-26 regular season

UTA @ LAL
Wed Nov 18, 2026 · 10:00 PM ET
Game 0022600268

INJURY REPORT & SCHEDULE · official report of 2026-11-18, read 2026-11-19 01:50 UTC; statuses as listed, no reasons

LAL Austin Reaves: Out

UTA Harrison Ingram: Out · Jaren Jackson Jr.: Out · Jusuf Nurkić: Out · Kobe Bufkin: Out · Lauri Markkanen: Out · Jaxson Hayes: Questionable

LAL: second night of a back-to-back, 3 games in 4 nights, previous game Nov 17 vs CHA.

IN TEN SECONDS

1. **Last season: 8th-worst offensive rebounding (28.5%), 3rd-fewest fouls (18.5/g), 9th-slowest pace (97.0), 9th-lowest 3PA share (39%).**
2. **Scoring last season: L. Dončić 33.5/g (38.8 so far), C. Sexton 15.4/g (10.6 so far), W. Kessler 14.4/g (14.5 so far).**

TEAM KEYS

- Shot profile last season: 39% 3PA share (22nd of 30). Chase Dončić 37%, Hardy 40%, Sexton 40%, Mamukelashvili 39%, Thybulle 40%; wall up on LaRavia, Vanderbilt, Looney, James.
- Soft rim protection: opponents shoot 70% at the rim (2nd worst). Get downhill; finish at the rim.
- They finish: 73.2% at the rim (best in the league). No free runs; wall up early.
- They get to the line: 0.32 FTA per FGA (most in the league). Verticality; no reach-ins.
- Efficient: eFG% 57.3% (2nd best).
- Few second chances: 11% of their FGA (3rd fewest). One shot and out; run.

STARTERS · LAST GAME

77 Luka Dončić

F-G · 6-8 · age 27 · 8 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 LAL · 64 GP · 35.8 MPG · 33.5 pts · 7.7 reb · 8.3 ast · 36.6% 3P on 10.8 3PA · 78% FT

26-27 13 GP · 36.4 MPG · 38.8 pts · 7.2 reb · 7.7 ast · 40% 3P on 13.5 3PA

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

- Lives at the line: 0.44 FTA per FGA (elite, 94th pct), 7.2 fouls drawn/g, 78% FT. Verticality, hands back, no reach.
- New this season: drive family share of FGA down, 26% -> 19% (330 trials 2026-27 regular season to date; 2025-26 regular season baseline).
- Capable 3: 36.6% on 10.8/g (57th pct). Closeout under control, contest every one.

4 Matisse Thybulle

G-F · 6-5 · age 29 · 7 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME · NEW · POR LAST SEASON

25-26 POR · 31 GP · 16.0 MPG · 5.6 pts · 1.9 reb · 0.9 ast · 39.8% 3P on 3.0 3PA · 84% FT

26-27 15 GP · 25.0 MPG · 7.4 pts · 2.5 reb · 0.9 ast · 39% 3P on 4.5 3PA

- New this season: share of FGA from Corner 3 up, 25% -> 38% (86 trials 2026-27 regular season to date; 2025-26 regular season baseline).
- Knockdown 3: 39.8% on 3.0/g. No help off him; run him off the line.

5 Quentin Grimes

G · 6-4 · age 26 · 5 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME · NEW · PHI LAST SEASON

25-26 PHI · 75 GP · 29.4 MPG · 13.4 pts · 3.6 reb · 3.2 ast · 33.4% 3P on 5.1 3PA · 84% FT

26-27 13 GP · 28.1 MPG · 12.1 pts · 3.1 reb · 2.5 ast · 43% 3P on 4.1 3PA

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

- Capable 3: 33.4% on 5.1/g (31st pct). Closeout under control, contest every one.
- Corner specialist: 42% from the corners (91 att), 31% above the break (289). No help off the corners; help off him on top.
- Pressure him: 13.4 TO per 100 usage (below average, 32nd pct), 32% of them bad passes; 21 TO in 13 games so far. Hands in the lanes.

12 Jake LaRavia

F · 6-8 · age 25 · 4 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 LAL · 82 GP · 25.1 MPG · 8.2 pts · 4.0 reb · 1.8 ast · 32.1% 3P on 3.0 3PA · 76% FT

26-27 14 GP · 24.9 MPG · 5.9 pts · 4.0 reb · 2.2 ast · 47% 3P on 2.1 3PA

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

- Low-volume, 32.1% from 3 (3.0/g): help off him in the gaps.

55 Kevon Looney

F · 6-9 · age 30 · 11 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME · NEW · NOP LAST SEASON

25-26 NOP · 21 GP · 14.7 MPG · 2.8 pts · 5.6 reb · 1.6 ast · 15.4% 3P on 0.6 3PA · 70% FT

26-27 7 GP · 7.2 MPG · 1.7 pts · 2.6 reb · 0.1 ast · 0/0 3P

- Non-shooter (0.6 3PA/g): sag off him and help from him; no closeouts needed.
- Crashes the glass (5.6 OREB per 36): hit him first, then go get it.

BENCH

14 Walker Kessler
C · 7-1 · age 25 · 4 yrs · STARTED 14 OF 14 · DID NOT PLAY LAST GAME · NEW · UTA LAST SEASON

25-26 UTA · 5 GP · 30.8 MPG · 14.4 pts · 10.8 reb · 3.0 ast · 75.0% 3P on 1.6 3PA · 70% FT
26-27 14 GP · 30.9 MPG · 14.5 pts · 10.9 reb · 1.9 ast · 0/0 3P

- New this season: share of FGA from Restricted Area up, 57% -> 88% (125 trials 2026-27 regular season to date; 2025-26 regular season baseline).
- Crashes the glass (5.4 OREB per 36): hit him first, then go get it.

15 Austin Reaves
G · 6-5 · age 28 · 5 yrs · Out · STARTED 12 OF 12 · DID NOT PLAY LAST GAME

25-26 LAL · 51 GP · 34.5 MPG · 23.3 pts · 4.7 reb · 5.5 ast · 36.0% 3P on 6.4 3PA · 87% FT
26-27 12 GP · 35.3 MPG · 24.7 pts · 3.3 reb · 4.7 ast · 41% 3P on 5.5 3PA

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

- Lives at the line: 0.49 FTA per FGA (elite, 96th pct), 5.3 fouls drawn/g, 87% FT. Verticality, hands back, no reach.
- Elite finisher: 75% at the rim (92nd pct) on 193 attempts, 25% of his shots. No free runs; build the wall early.
- New this season: 3PA share of FGA down, 43% -> 35% (189 trials 2026-27 regular season to date; 2025-26 regular season baseline).
- Pressure him: 14.0 TO per 100 usage (bad, 25th pct), 45% of them bad passes; 41 TO in 12 games so far. Hands in the lanes; 5.5 AST/g, so stay home on shooters when he drives.

54 Sandro Mamukelashvili
F-C · 6-10 · age 27 · 5 yrs · NEW · TOR LAST SEASON

25-26 TOR · 80 GP · 21.9 MPG · 11.2 pts · 4.9 reb · 1.9 ast · 38.9% 3P on 3.7 3PA · 75% FT
26-27 15 GP · 23.4 MPG · 9.9 pts · 4.2 reb · 1.7 ast · 36% 3P on 3.9 3PA

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

- New this season: share of FGA from Restricted Area down, 38% -> 27% (119 trials 2026-27 regular season to date; 2025-26 regular season baseline).
- Doesn't turn it over: 8.7 TO per 100 usage (86th pct). Don't gamble for steals; play him straight up.
- Elite finisher: 72% at the rim (82nd pct) on 239 attempts, 38% of his shots. No free runs; build the wall early.

11 Ziaire Williams
F · 6-9 · age 25 · 5 yrs · STARTED 5 OF 12 · NEW · BKN LAST SEASON

25-26 BKN · 56 GP · 22.9 MPG · 10.2 pts · 2.4 reb · 1.1 ast · 34.3% 3P on 4.5 3PA · 85% FT
26-27 12 GP · 23.7 MPG · 9.7 pts · 2.4 reb · 2.0 ast · 44% 3P on 3.8 3PA

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

- Capable 3: 34.3% on 4.5/g (37th pct). Closeout under control, contest every one.

10 Collin Sexton
G · 6-1 · age 27 · 8 yrs · NEW · CHA/CHI LAST SEASON

25-26 CHA/CHI · 68 GP · 23.7 MPG · 15.4 pts · 2.3 reb · 3.3 ast · 40.1% 3P on 4.1 3PA · 86% FT
26-27 14 GP · 18.7 MPG · 10.6 pts · 1.9 reb · 2.6 ast · 27% 3P on 3.7 3PA

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

- Knockdown 3: 40.1% on 4.1/g (87th pct). No help off him; run him off the line.
- Pressure him: 14.2 TO per 100 usage (bad, 24th pct), 30% of them bad passes; 19 TO in 14 games so far. Hands in the lanes.
- Downhill driver: 43% of his shots are drives at 56% (90th pct). Show early help, wall up, make him pass.

2 Jarred Vanderbilt
F · 6-8 · age 27 · 8 yrs

25-26 LAL · 65 GP · 17.4 MPG · 4.4 pts · 4.5 reb · 1.3 ast · 29.3% 3P on 1.5 3PA · 59% FT
26-27 10 GP · 12.2 MPG · 2.2 pts · 4.1 reb · 1.0 ast · 0/0 3P

Rim FG% below average · Ball security bad

- Pressure him: 17.5 TO per 100 usage (bad, 7th pct), 30% of them bad passes; 6 TO in 10 games so far. Hands in the lanes.
- Low-volume, 29.3% from 3 (1.5/g): help off him in the gaps.
- Poor finisher: 62% at the rim (below average, 28th pct) on 125 attempts. Meet him at the rim; verticality, no fouls.

1 Adou Thiero
G · 6-7 · age 22 · 1 yrs

25-26 LAL · 25 GP · 6.0 MPG · 1.9 pts · 1.1 reb · 0.4 ast · 33.3% 3P on 0.1 3PA · 64% FT
26-27 5 GP · 8.6 MPG · 2.0 pts · 2.0 reb · 1.0 ast · 0/2 3P

7 Jaden Hardy
G · 6-4 · age 24 · 4 yrs · DID NOT PLAY LAST GAME · NEW · DAL/WAS LAST SEASON

25-26 DAL/WAS · 57 GP · 15.8 MPG · 9.2 pts · 1.5 reb · 1.0 ast · 39.7% 3P on 4.6 3PA · 73% FT
26-27 7 GP · 3.7 MPG · 1.6 pts · 0.6 reb · 0.4 ast · 2/11 3P

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

- Knockdown 3: 39.7% on 4.6/g (84th pct). No help off him; run him off the line.
- Corner specialist: 46% from the corners (83 att), 37% above the break (179). No help off the corners; help off him on top.

43 Cameron Carr
G · 6-5 · age 21 · rookie · DID NOT PLAY LAST GAME

25-26 – · 0 GP · – MPG · – pts · – reb · – ast · – 3P on – 3PA · – FT
26-27 5 GP · 4.8 MPG · 0.4 pts · 1.0 reb · 0.0 ast · 0/5 3P

20 Carson Cooper
F · 6-10 · age 22 · rookie

25-26 – · 0 GP · – MPG · – pts · – reb · – ast · – 3P on – 3PA · – FT
26-27 1 GP · 18.1 MPG · 3.0 pts · 4.0 reb · 2.0 ast · 0/0 3P

9 Bronny James
G · 6-2 · age 22 · 2 yrs · DID NOT PLAY LAST GAME

25-26 LAL · 42 GP · 9.0 MPG · 2.9 pts · 0.6 reb · 1.2 ast · 38.6% 3P on 1.4 3PA · 86% FT
26-27 6 GP · 2.8 MPG · 1.3 pts · 0.0 reb · 0.0 ast · 0/2 3P

- Non-shooter (1.4 3PA/g, 39% from 3): go under screens, help off him.

Also seen: C. Mañon (#30 G, 7.0 min), L. Lovering (#18 , 2.6 min). Not seen yet: A. Kaluma (#47 F), A. Okereke (#31).

GAME PLAN BOXES

FOUL HIM LATE (FT)

- **J. Hardy** — 73% FT (75 FTA, 27th pct)
- **S. Mamukelashvili** — 75% FT (158 FTA, 31st pct)
- Don't foul: C. Sexton 86% FT; Z. Williams 85% FT; Q. Grimes 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	29%	73%	29%	70%
Paint (non-RA)	20%	49%	16%	50%
Mid-range	11%	44%	10%	42%
Corner 3	10%	35%	11%	41%
Above the break 3	29%	36%	34%	37%

SHOT DIET · SHARE OF FGA, FG%

	25-26	FG%	26-27	FG%
Pull-ups	22%	40%	23%	42%
Drives	25%	61%	24%	62%
Finishes	11%	75%	12%	68%
Catch-and-shoot 3s	24%	37%	26%	40%
Other shots	18%	49%	15%	45%

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.

11 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
77	L. Dončić	473.2	35.8	22.8	48%	36.6%	13%	79%	78%	43%	26%	29%	28%	12.8	0.44	2.4	7.2	1
14	W. Kessler	432.7	30.8	7.4	22%	75.0%	57%	67%	70%	0%	0%	100%	69%	25.9	0.54	5.1	2.4	6
15	A. Reaves	423.2	34.5	14.9	43%	36.0%	25%	75%	87%	33%	37%	44%	44%	14.0	0.49	2.2	5.3	1
4	M. Thybulle	374.8	16.0	4.3	69%	39.8%	22%	62%	84%	7%	26%	77%	81%	16.2	0.19	3.2	0.8	2
5	Q. Grimes	365.8	29.4	10.1	50%	33.4%	33%	70%	84%	25%	33%	63%	70%	13.4	0.31	2.5	2.6	0
54	S. Mamukelashvili	350.9	21.9	7.9	47%	38.9%	38%	72%	75%	2%	22%	90%	84%	8.7	0.25	3.0	1.4	1
12	J. LaRavia	348.9	25.1	6.4	46%	32.1%	35%	68%	76%	8%	28%	82%	80%	12.8	0.29	3.4	1.5	0
11	Z. Williams	284.0	22.9	7.7	58%	34.3%	27%	65%	85%	10%	28%	84%	80%	10.7	0.32	3.3	2.0	0
10	C. Sexton	262.1	23.7	10.9	38%	40.1%	34%	63%	86%	23%	43%	57%	51%	14.2	0.34	3.2	3.4	0
2	J. Vanderbilt	121.6	17.4	3.7	41%	29.3%	52%	62%	59%	0%	24%	99%	76%	17.5	0.23	3.3	0.8	0
55	K. Looney	50.5	14.7	2.9	22%	15.4%	60%	61%	70%	8%	10%	85%	36%	12.3	0.17	4.0	0.4	0
1	A. Thiero	43.0	6.0	1.2	10%	33.3%	68%	62%	64%	0%	42%	100%	88%	18.1	0.71	4.6	0.6	0
7	J. Hardy	25.6	15.8	7.5	61%	39.7%	14%	56%	73%	23%	26%	66%	64%	11.8	0.17	3.6	1.0	0
43	C. Carr	24.1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0
20	C. Cooper	18.1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0
9	B. James	16.9	9.0	2.7	50%	38.6%	16%	72%	86%	47%	18%	53%	64%	17.5	0.06	2.7	0.2	0
30	C. Mañon	7.0	5.1	0.7	50%	0.0%	33%	100%	75%	17%	17%	100%	50%	11.4	0.67	4.7	0.3	0
18	L. Lovering	2.6	24.6	5.0	0%	–	90%	67%	40%	0%	20%	–	67%	14.1	0.50	5.1	2.0	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 (15 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 2026-11-19; report built 2026-11-19 01:50 UTC.