Scouting DEN · from Houston's side

Denver Nuggets

2026-27: 13 games (Oct 22 @ OKC · Oct 24 vs NOP · Oct 26 vs GSW · Oct 28 @ NOP · Oct 30 @ PHX · Nov 2 vs POR · Nov 4 vs TOR · Nov 7 @ IND · Nov 9 @ HOU · Nov 11 @ MEM · Nov 14 @ NOP · Nov 16 vs PHX · Nov 18 vs BOS) · baseline 2025-26 regular season

HOU @ DEN
Fri Nov 20, 2026 · 10:00 PM ET
Game 0022600050

INJURY REPORT & SCHEDULE · official report of 2026-11-20, read 2026-11-21 01:52 UTC; statuses as listed, no reasons

DEN Bryce Hopkins: Out · Cam Whitmore: Out · DaRon Holmes II: Out · Julian Strawther: Out

HOU Bruce Thornton: Out · Clint Capela: Out · Julian Phillips: Out · Quadir Copeland: Out · Alperen Sengun: Questionable · Steven Adams: Questionable

DEN: one day of rest, previous game Nov 18 vs BOS.

IN TEN SECONDS

1. **Last season: 9th-worst offensive rebounding (28.6%), fewest turnovers forced (11.9/100), 2nd-fewest turnovers (13.1/100), 4th-worst rim protection (69%). Through 13 games the profile has moved: shooting-foul share 54% → 45% (245 trials; each clears the flag rule).**
2. **Scoring last season: N. Jokić 27.7/g (24.1 so far), J. Murray 25.4/g (25.7 so far), D. DeRozan 18.4/g (9.9 so far).**

TEAM KEYS

- Also moved through 13 games (245 trials): shooting-foul share 54% → 45%. Small sample, but each clears the flag rule.
- Soft rim protection: opponents shoot 69% at the rim (4th worst) and get 28% of their shots there (7th fewest). Get downhill; finish at the rim.
- Efficient: eFG% 57.7% (best in the league).
- They don't force turnovers: 11.9 per 100 (fewest in the league). Move the ball freely.
- They take care of the ball: 13.1 TO per 100 (2nd fewest). Don't gamble for steals.
- They close possessions: DREB% 71.7% (3rd best).

STARTERS · LAST GAME

15 Nikola Jokić

C · 6-11 · age 31 · 11 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 DEN · 65 GP · 34.9 MPG · 27.7 pts · 12.9 reb · 10.7 ast · 38.0% 3P on 4.5 3PA · 83% FT
26-27 13 GP · 36.7 MPG · 24.1 pts · 10.7 reb · 8.9 ast · 28% 3P on 4.4 3PA

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

- Lives at the line: 0.42 FTA per FGA (elite, 91st pct), 6.7 fouls drawn/g, 83% FT. Verticality, hands back, no reach.
- New this season: share of FGA from Restricted Area down, 31% -> 22% (236 trials 2026-27 regular season to date; 2025-26 regular season baseline).
- Pressure him: 15.3 TO per 100 usage (bad, 15th pct), 45% of them bad passes; 43 TO in 13 games so far. Hands in the lanes; 10.7 AST/g, so stay home on shooters when he drives.
- Elite finisher: 72% at the rim (84th pct) on 347 attempts, 31% of his shots. No free runs; build the wall early.

27 Jamal Murray

G · 6-4 · age 29 · 10 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 DEN · 75 GP · 35.4 MPG · 25.4 pts · 4.4 reb · 7.1 ast · 43.5% 3P on 7.5 3PA · 89% FT
26-27 13 GP · 36.5 MPG · 25.7 pts · 5.2 reb · 5.7 ast · 46% 3P on 7.2 3PA

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

- Knockdown 3: 43.5% on 7.5/g (98th pct). No help off him; run him off the line.
- Corner specialist: 53% from the corners (64 att), 42% above the break (499). No help off the corners; help off him on top.
- Pull-up shooter: 40% of his shots are pull-ups (95th pct, 45%). Stay attached over screens; contest without fouling.

0 Christian Braun

G · 6-6 · age 25 · 4 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 DEN · 44 GP · 31.8 MPG · 11.9 pts · 4.8 reb · 2.7 ast · 30.1% 3P on 3.2 3PA · 78% FT
26-27 13 GP · 33.8 MPG · 12.8 pts · 4.3 reb · 2.4 ast · 32% 3P on 4.8 3PA

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

- New this season: catch-and-shoot-3 proxy share of FGA up, 30% -> 40% (136 trials 2026-27 regular season to date; 2025-26 regular season baseline).
- Doesn't turn it over: 9.0 TO per 100 usage (84th pct). Don't gamble for steals; play him straight up.
- Volume 3s at 30.1%, 3.2/g (9th pct): make him shoot contested, no fly-bys.

32 Aaron Gordon

F · 6-8 · age 31 · 12 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 DEN · 37 GP · 27.9 MPG · 15.7 pts · 5.7 reb · 2.6 ast · 38.9% 3P on 4.2 3PA · 77% FT
26-27 13 GP · 29.1 MPG · 11.2 pts · 4.9 reb · 1.9 ast · 29% 3P on 3.8 3PA

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

- Doesn't turn it over: 7.5 TO per 100 usage (96th pct). Don't gamble for steals; play him straight up.
- Lives at the line: 0.41 FTA per FGA (elite, 90th pct), 3.3 fouls drawn/g, 77% FT. Verticality, hands back, no reach.
- Knockdown 3: 38.9% on 4.2/g (79th pct). No help off him; run him off the line.

23 Cameron Johnson

F · 6-8 · age 30 · 7 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 DEN · 54 GP · 30.5 MPG · 12.2 pts · 3.8 reb · 2.4 ast · 43.0% 3P on 4.7 3PA · 84% FT
26-27 10 GP · 28.1 MPG · 11.4 pts · 3.7 reb · 1.7 ast · 32% 3P on 5.3 3PA

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

- Doesn't turn it over: 8.2 TO per 100 usage (91st pct). Don't gamble for steals; play him straight up.
- Knockdown 3: 43.0% on 4.7/g (97th pct). No help off him; run him off the line.

BENCH

10 **DeMar DeRozan** G-F · 6-6 · age 37 · 17 yrs · NEW · SAC LAST SEASON

25-26 SAC · 77 GP · 31.2 MPG · 18.4 pts · 2.9 reb · 4.1 ast · 32.0% 3P on 1.9 3PA · 87% FT
26-27 12 GP · 22.9 MPG · 9.9 pts · 2.0 reb · 2.7 ast · 3/17 3P

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

- Doesn't turn it over: 7.4 TO per 100 usage (96th pct). Don't gamble for steals; play him straight up.
- Lives at the line: 0.43 FTA per FGA (elite, 92nd pct), 4.0 fouls drawn/g, 87% FT. Verticality, hands back, no reach.
- Low-volume, 32.0% from 3 (1.9/g): help off him in the gaps.

7 **Trevon Brazile** F · 6-10 · age 23 · rookie · STARTED 1 OF 13

25-26 – · 0 GP · – MPG · – pts · – reb · – ast · – 3P on – 3PA · – FT
26-27 13 GP · 18.9 MPG · 6.5 pts · 5.3 reb · 0.4 ast · 33% 3P on 2.1 3PA

3 **Marvin Bagley III** F · 6-10 · age 27 · 8 yrs · NEW · DAL/WAS LAST SEASON

25-26 DAL/WAS · 59 GP · 20.2 MPG · 10.6 pts · 6.1 reb · 1.4 ast · 46.2% 3P on 0.9 3PA · 66% FT
26-27 13 GP · 12.0 MPG · 5.6 pts · 3.5 reb · 0.4 ast · 0/4 3P

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

- Elite finisher: 72% at the rim (83rd pct) on 262 attempts, 64% of his shots. No free runs; build the wall early.
- Lives at the line: 0.35 FTA per FGA (excellent, 82nd pct), 2.0 fouls drawn/g, 66% FT. Verticality, hands back, no reach.
- Non-shooter (0.9 3PA/g): sag off him and help from him; no closeouts needed.

5 **Tyus Jones** G · 6-1 · age 30 · 11 yrs

25-26 DAL/DEN/ORL · 67 GP · 14.6 MPG · 3.0 pts · 1.1 reb · 2.4 ast · 29.2% 3P on 2.0 3PA · 78% FT
26-27 13 GP · 10.3 MPG · 2.1 pts · 0.5 reb · 1.9 ast · 3/14 3P

3P% bad

- Low-volume, 29.2% from 3 (2.0/g): help off him in the gaps.

21 **Spencer Jones** F · 6-7 · age 25 · 2 yrs

25-26 DEN · 64 GP · 22.1 MPG · 5.5 pts · 3.3 reb · 0.8 ast · 39.6% 3P on 2.2 3PA · 61% FT
26-27 6 GP · 17.7 MPG · 4.3 pts · 2.3 reb · 0.8 ast · 5/10 3P

3P% excellent · Ball security excellent

- Takes 2.2 3s/g at 39.6% (84th pct): respect it, closeout.

13 **Bryce Hopkins** F · 6-7 · age 24 · rookie · Out · STARTED 2 OF 8 · DID NOT PLAY LAST GAME

25-26 – · 0 GP · – MPG · – pts · – reb · – ast · – 3P on – 3PA · – FT
26-27 8 GP · 12.9 MPG · 4.8 pts · 1.8 reb · 0.4 ast · 2/5 3P

11 **Alpha Diallo** G · 6-7 · age 29 · rookie · DID NOT PLAY LAST GAME

25-26 – · 0 GP · – MPG · – pts · – reb · – ast · – 3P on – 3PA · – FT
26-27 4 GP · 8.0 MPG · 1.0 pts · 0.8 reb · 0.8 ast · 0/3 3P

00 **Cam Whitmore** F · 6-6 · age 22 · 3 yrs · Out · DID NOT PLAY LAST GAME · NEW · WAS LAST SEASON

25-26 WAS · 20 GP · 17.5 MPG · 9.7 pts · 2.9 reb · 0.8 ast · 28.6% 3P on 2.8 3PA · 74% FT
26-27 2 GP · 7.4 MPG · 4.0 pts · 1.0 reb · 0.5 ast · 0/2 3P

- Low-volume, 28.6% from 3 (2.8/g): help off him in the gaps.

Also seen: R. Nembhard (#9 G, 9.6 min), D. Holmes II (#14 F, 9.6 min), Z. Nnaji (#22 F-C, 7.3 min). Not seen yet: J. Strawther (#1 G, DEN 15.1 MPG last season).

GAME PLAN BOXES

FOUL HIM LATE (FT)

- **M. Bagley III** — 66% FT (142 FTA, 9th pct)
- Don't foul: J. Murray 89% FT; D. DeRozan 87% FT; C. Johnson 84% FT; N. Jokić 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	29%	67%	28%	68%
Paint (non-RA)	19%	48%	18%	50%
Mid-range	12%	45%	17%	45%
Corner 3	11%	44%	11%	32%
Above the break 3	30%	38%	25%	34%

SHOT DIET · SHARE OF FGA, FG%

	25-26	FG%	26-27	FG%
Pull-ups	17%	41%	19%	40%
Drives	26%	56%	23%	58%
Finishes	11%	68%	11%	73%
Catch-and-shoot 3s	27%	40%	26%	34%
Other shots	19%	52%	22%	50%

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.

3 player rates flagged as changed from last season (bullets starting 'New this season'); 1 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
15	N. Jokić	477.0	34.9	17.4	26%	38.0%	31%	72%	83%	7%	24%	79%	61%	15.3	0.42	2.7	6.7	1
27	J. Murray	474.7	35.4	18.1	41%	43.5%	19%	62%	89%	40%	30%	33%	42%	10.0	0.29	1.8	4.0	0
0	C. Braun	439.9	31.8	8.8	37%	30.1%	49%	70%	78%	8%	31%	82%	85%	9.0	0.26	2.7	1.7	2
32	A. Gordon	378.4	27.9	10.8	39%	38.9%	34%	71%	77%	16%	16%	64%	71%	7.5	0.41	2.2	3.3	0
23	C. Johnson	281.3	30.5	8.8	54%	43.0%	25%	69%	84%	16%	26%	75%	82%	8.2	0.24	2.7	1.6	0
10	D. DeRozan	274.8	31.2	13.1	15%	32.0%	13%	72%	87%	36%	19%	77%	46%	7.4	0.43	2.2	4.0	0
7	T. Brazile	245.2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0
3	M. Bagley III	155.7	20.2	6.9	13%	46.2%	64%	72%	66%	1%	22%	96%	65%	11.5	0.35	3.7	2.0	0
5	T. Jones	134.5	14.6	3.3	63%	29.2%	9%	45%	78%	21%	28%	69%	70%	9.7	0.04	1.1	0.2	0
21	S. Jones	106.3	22.1	4.1	55%	39.6%	32%	67%	61%	2%	15%	90%	85%	9.8	0.20	4.4	0.8	0
13	B. Hopkins	103.4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0
11	A. Diallo	32.2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0
00	C. Whitmore	14.8	17.5	8.4	33%	28.6%	44%	69%	74%	27%	35%	27%	60%	8.6	0.18	2.5	1.1	0
9	R. Nembhard	9.6	19.5	6.5	35%	35.6%	13%	60%	81%	42%	26%	56%	42%	17.4	0.08	2.6	0.7	0
14	D. Holmes II	9.6	8.4	2.4	74%	44.4%	20%	67%	79%	3%	10%	96%	100%	15.2	0.23	3.3	0.7	0
22	Z. Nnaji	7.3	12.0	2.9	36%	25.9%	52%	68%	77%	4%	20%	91%	83%	13.7	0.29	4.1	0.8	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 (13 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 2026-11-21; report built 2026-11-21 01:52 UTC.