Scouting HOU · from Denver's side

Houston Rockets

2026-27: 15 games (Oct 21 vs DAL · Oct 24 @ ATL · Oct 26 vs ATL · Oct 28 @ MIL · Oct 30 @ DAL · Oct 31 vs OKC · Nov 2 vs BOS · Nov 4 vs MIN · Nov 7 @ PHX · Nov 9 vs DEN · Nov 11 vs GSW · Nov 13 vs UTA · Nov 15 @ WAS · Nov 16 @ MIA · Nov 18 @ IND) · 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 01:51 UTC; statuses as listed, no reasons

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

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

HOU: one day of rest, previous game Nov 18 @ IND.

IN TEN SECONDS

1. **Last season: 8th-most paint attempts (51%), best offensive rebounding (38.8%), fewest fouls (18.2/g), 9th-least transition (10%). Through 15 games the profile has moved: shooting-foul share 55% → 46% (296 trials; each clears the flag rule).**
2. **Scoring last season: K. Durant 25.8/g (21.4 so far), A. Sengun 20.4/g (21.1 so far), A. Thompson 18.4/g (15.4 so far).**

TEAM KEYS

- Also moved through 15 games (296 trials): shooting-foul share 55% → 46%. Small sample, but each clears the flag rule.
- Paint team last season: 51% paint attempts (8th most); 35% 3PA share (28th of 30). Chase Sheppard 39%, Smith Jr. 36%, Durant 41%; wall up on Thompson, Sengun, Tshiebwe, Tate.
- Rim protection: opponents shoot 65% at the rim (9th best). Drive to kick; don't finish into the bigs.
- Second-chance shots are 16% of their FGA (most in the league). Finish possessions with a body.
- Glass: 38.8% OREB% (best in the league). Hit bodies first; five to the ball.
- Disciplined: 18.2 fouls per game (fewest in the league). Don't count on free throws; earn them in the paint.

STARTERS · LAST GAME

10 Jabari Smith Jr. F · 6-11 · age 23 · 4 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 HOU · 76 GP · 35.1 MPG · 15.8 pts · 6.9 reb · 1.9 ast · 36.3% 3P on 6.3 3PA · 77% FT
26-27 15 GP · 33.3 MPG · 15.9 pts · 6.5 reb · 2.2 ast · 38% 3P on 6.4 3PA

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

- Doesn't turn it over: 8.9 TO per 100 usage (85th pct). Don't gamble for steals; play him straight up.
- Capable 3: 36.3% on 6.3/g (56th pct). Closeout under control, contest every one.

7 Kevin Durant F · 6-11 · age 38 · 19 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 HOU · 77 GP · 36.4 MPG · 25.8 pts · 5.5 reb · 4.8 ast · 40.9% 3P on 5.8 3PA · 87% FT
26-27 15 GP · 33.1 MPG · 21.4 pts · 5.1 reb · 3.7 ast · 39% 3P on 4.1 3PA

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

- New this season: assisted share of made FGs up, 54% -> 65% (101 trials 2026-27 regular season to date; 2025-26 regular season baseline).
- Knockdown 3: 40.9% on 5.8/g (91st pct). No help off him; run him off the line.
- Pressure him: 13.7 TO per 100 usage (below average, 29th pct), 47% of them bad passes; 42 TO in 15 games so far. Hands in the lanes.

1 Amen Thompson G-F · 6-7 · age 23 · 3 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 HOU · 78 GP · 37.5 MPG · 18.4 pts · 7.8 reb · 5.4 ast · 21.7% 3P on 1.5 3PA · 78% FT
26-27 14 GP · 33.0 MPG · 15.4 pts · 6.9 reb · 3.3 ast · 4/13 3P

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

- New this season: share of FGA from Restricted Area up, 51% -> 61% (153 trials 2026-27 regular season to date; 2025-26 regular season baseline).
- Lives at the line: 0.37 FTA per FGA (excellent, 86th pct), 3.7 fouls drawn/g, 78% FT. Verticality, hands back, no reach.
- Non-shooter (1.5 3PA/g, 22% from 3): go under screens, help off him.

28 Alperen Sengun C · 6-11 · age 24 · 5 yrs · Questionable · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 HOU · 71 GP · 33.2 MPG · 20.4 pts · 8.9 reb · 6.2 ast · 31.0% 3P on 1.8 3PA · 69% FT
26-27 13 GP · 32.5 MPG · 21.1 pts · 9.3 reb · 6.8 ast · 50% 3P on 1.9 3PA

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

- New this season: share of FGA from Restricted Area up, 41% -> 53% (189 trials 2026-27 regular season to date; 2025-26 regular season baseline).
- Pressure him: 15.1 TO per 100 usage (bad, 17th pct), 33% of them bad passes; 35 TO in 13 games so far. Hands in the lanes; 6.2 AST/g, so stay home on shooters when he drives.
- Low-volume, 31.0% from 3 (1.8/g): help off him in the gaps.

5 Fred VanVleet G · 6-0 · age 32 · 10 yrs · STARTED LAST GAME

25-26 – · 0 GP · – MPG · – pts · – reb · – ast · – 3P on – 3PA · – FT
26-27 12 GP · 29.6 MPG · 13.6 pts · 3.1 reb · 5.5 ast · 40% 3P on 7.1 3PA

BENCH

17 Tari Eason F · 6-8 · age 25 · 4 yrs STARTED 2 OF 15

25-26 HOU · 59 GP · 25.8 MPG · 10.6 pts · 6.3 reb · 1.5 ast · 35.9% 3P on 4.4 3PA · 78% FT
26-27 15 GP · 24.9 MPG · 10.5 pts · 6.1 reb · 1.6 ast · 28% 3P on 3.9 3PA
3P% **average** Rim FG% **below average** Ball security **above average** Gets to line **bad**

- Doesn't get to the line: 0.12 FTA per FGA (10th pct). Be physical; the whistle is quiet.
- New this season: share of FGA from Above the Break 3 down, 23% -> 13% (144 trials 2026-27 regular season to date; 2025-26 regular season baseline).
- Capable 3: 35.9% on 4.4/g (49th pct). Closeout under control, contest every one.
- Corner specialist: 41% from the corners (128 att), 30% above the break (131). No help off the corners; help off him on top.

15 Reed Sheppard G · 6-2 · age 22 · 2 yrs STARTED 1 OF 13

25-26 HOU · 81 GP · 26.3 MPG · 13.6 pts · 2.9 reb · 3.4 ast · 39.2% 3P on 7.1 3PA · 80% FT
26-27 13 GP · 20.7 MPG · 9.8 pts · 1.7 reb · 2.8 ast · 35% 3P on 6.8 3PA
3P% **excellent** Rim FG% **bad** FT% **above average** Ball security **good** Gets to line **bad**

- Doesn't get to the line: 0.09 FTA per FGA (4th pct). Be physical; the whistle is quiet.
- New this season: 3PA share of FGA up, 61% -> 75% (118 trials 2026-27 regular season to date; 2025-26 regular season baseline).
- Knockdown 3: 39.2% on 7.1/g (81st pct). No help off him; run him off the line.
- Corner specialist: 49% from the corners (86 att), 37% above the break (486). No help off the corners; help off him on top.

31 Bogdan Bogdanović G · 6-5 · age 34 · 9 yrs NEW · LAC LAST SEASON

25-26 LAC · 23 GP · 19.7 MPG · 7.4 pts · 2.6 reb · 2.2 ast · 34.7% 3P on 4.1 3PA · 80% FT
26-27 15 GP · 13.1 MPG · 5.7 pts · 1.3 reb · 1.3 ast · 43% 3P on 2.8 3PA

- New this season: catch-and-shoot-3 proxy share of FGA up, 29% -> 62% (58 trials 2026-27 regular season to date; 2025-26 regular season baseline).
- Capable 3: 34.7% on 4.1/g. Closeout under control, contest every one.

36 Marcus Smart G · 6-3 · age 32 · 12 yrs STARTED 1 OF 9 NEW · LAL LAST SEASON

25-26 LAL · 63 GP · 28.5 MPG · 9.2 pts · 2.7 reb · 3.0 ast · 33.1% 3P on 4.7 3PA · 82% FT
26-27 9 GP · 21.0 MPG · 8.2 pts · 2.4 reb · 2.3 ast · 45% 3P on 4.2 3PA
3P% **below average** FT% **good** Ball security **bad** Gets to line **above average**

- Capable 3: 33.1% on 4.7/g (26th pct). Closeout under control, contest every one.
- Pressure him: 14.7 TO per 100 usage (bad, 19th pct), 50% of them bad passes; 13 TO in 9 games so far. Hands in the lanes.
- Corner specialist: 41% from the corners (91 att), 30% above the break (202). No help off the corners; help off him on top.

30 Clint Capela C · 6-10 · age 32 · 12 yrs Out STARTED 1 OF 6 DID NOT PLAY LAST GAME

25-26 HOU · 74 GP · 12.5 MPG · 3.8 pts · 4.6 reb · 0.7 ast · 50.0% 3P on 0.0 3PA · 58% FT
26-27 6 GP · 14.2 MPG · 3.2 pts · 5.2 reb · 1.7 ast · 0/0 3P
Rim FG% **bad** FT% **bad** Ball security **below average**

- Poor finisher: 58% at the rim (bad, 12th pct) on 171 attempts. Meet him at the rim; verticality, no fouls.
- Non-shooter (0.0 3PA/g): sag off him and help from him; no closeouts needed.
- Pressure him: 13.6 TO per 100 usage (below average, 30th pct), 42% of them bad passes; 5 TO in 6 games so far. Hands in the lanes.

9 Oscar Tshiebwe F-C · 6-8 · age 26 · 3 yrs NEW · UTA LAST SEASON

25-26 UTA · 27 GP · 16.6 MPG · 7.8 pts · 6.6 reb · 1.2 ast · – 3P on 0.0 3PA · 55% FT
26-27 11 GP · 7.1 MPG · 2.8 pts · 3.3 reb · 0.8 ast · 0/0 3P

- Non-shooter (0.0 3PA/g): sag off him and help from him; no closeouts needed.
- Lives at the rim: 68% of his shots in the restricted area, 69% there. Build the wall, no straight-line drives.
- Crashes the glass (6.2 OREB per 36): hit him first, then go get it.

27 Isaiah Crawford F · 6-6 · age 25 · 2 yrs

25-26 HOU · 14 GP · 6.6 MPG · 2.0 pts · 1.1 reb · 0.4 ast · 23.1% 3P on 0.9 3PA · 83% FT
26-27 11 GP · 5.9 MPG · 2.6 pts · 1.2 reb · 0.3 ast · 5/11 3P

2 Bruce Thornton G · 6-0 · age 23 · rookie Out

25-26 – · 0 GP · – MPG · – pts · – reb · – ast · – 3P on – 3PA · – FT
26-27 11 GP · 3.7 MPG · 1.9 pts · 0.1 reb · 0.0 ast · 2/6 3P

8 Jae'Sean Tate F · 6-4 · age 31 · 6 yrs

25-26 HOU · 46 GP · 8.8 MPG · 2.8 pts · 1.6 reb · 0.5 ast · 31.2% 3P on 0.7 3PA · 64% FT
26-27 10 GP · 3.8 MPG · 0.7 pts · 1.0 reb · 0.4 ast · 0/1 3P

- Non-shooter (0.7 3PA/g, 31% from 3): go under screens, help off him.

12 Steven Adams C · 6-11 · age 33 · 13 yrs Questionable STARTED 1 OF 2

25-26 HOU · 31 GP · 22.8 MPG · 5.7 pts · 8.6 reb · 1.6 ast · – 3P on 0.0 3PA · 57% FT
26-27 2 GP · 14.3 MPG · 5.0 pts · 6.0 reb · 1.5 ast · 0/0 3P
Rim FG% **bad** FT% **bad**

- Poor finisher: 54% at the rim (bad, 4th pct) on 106 attempts. Meet him at the rim; verticality, no fouls.
- Non-shooter (0.0 3PA/g): sag off him and help from him; no closeouts needed.
- Crashes the glass (7.1 OREB per 36): hit him first, then go get it.

Not seen yet in the 15 games counted (1 left out: box score not held): J. Phillips (#3 F, CHI/MIN 8.9 MPG last season), Q. Copeland (#25 G).

GAME PLAN BOXES

FOUL HIM LATE (FT)

- **S. Adams** — 57% FT (77 FTA, 3rd pct)
- **A. Sengun** — 69% FT (366 FTA, 14th pct), 19/33 in clutch
- Don't foul: K. Durant 87% FT; M. Smart 82% FT; R. Sheppard 80% 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%	66%	30%	67%
Paint (non-RA)		22%	48%	17%	38%
Mid-range		14%	41%	13%	47%
Corner 3		11%	37%	11%	35%
Above the break 3		24%	36%	28%	40%

SHOT DIET · SHARE OF FGA, FG%

		25-26	FG%	26-27	FG%
Pull-ups		19%	42%	18%	44%
Drives		24%	58%	22%	60%
Finishes		11%	64%	10%	62%
Catch-and-shoot 3s		26%	37%	29%	37%
Other shots		19%	47%	20%	46%

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.

12 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
10	J. Smith Jr.	499.3	35.1	12.6	50%	36.3%	19%	69%	77%	20%	14%	84%	79%	8.9	0.22	2.5	2.1	0
7	K. Durant	497.2	36.4	17.6	33%	40.9%	10%	77%	87%	38%	15%	59%	54%	13.7	0.33	1.8	4.7	1
1	A. Thompson	462.2	37.5	13.3	11%	21.7%	51%	70%	78%	12%	42%	86%	55%	13.5	0.37	2.1	3.7	2
28	A. Sengun	422.7	33.2	15.6	12%	31.0%	41%	68%	69%	6%	35%	78%	45%	15.1	0.33	3.6	5.1	2
17	T. Eason	372.9	25.8	9.8	45%	35.9%	32%	63%	78%	9%	28%	86%	66%	11.7	0.12	3.2	1.1	1
5	F. VanVleet	354.7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0
15	R. Sheppard	269.3	26.3	11.5	61%	39.2%	11%	57%	80%	34%	21%	62%	57%	11.0	0.09	2.8	0.8	2
31	B. Bogdanović	196.3	19.7	6.6	62%	34.7%	15%	48%	80%	41%	17%	46%	48%	14.2	0.16	3.7	1.2	4
36	M. Smart	189.4	28.5	7.6	62%	33.1%	16%	58%	82%	13%	24%	83%	72%	14.7	0.27	3.3	2.2	0
30	C. Capela	85.4	12.5	3.0	1%	50.0%	76%	58%	58%	0%	14%	100%	63%	13.6	0.34	2.9	0.8	0
9	O. Tshiebwe	78.4	16.6	5.4	0%	–	68%	69%	55%	0%	26%	–	68%	11.2	0.34	3.1	1.3	0
27	I. Crawford	64.9	6.6	1.7	54%	23.1%	29%	71%	83%	12%	29%	77%	80%	13.1	0.25	1.6	0.6	0
2	B. Thornton	40.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0
8	J. Tate	38.1	8.8	2.4	29%	31.2%	42%	74%	64%	3%	38%	88%	57%	12.3	0.10	4.3	0.4	0
12	S. Adams	28.6	22.8	4.3	0%	–	78%	54%	57%	0%	8%	–	53%	16.8	0.57	2.7	2.2	0

HOW TO READ IT

Baseline = 2025-26 regular season (81 games; 1 left out: score not verified; a player's baseline covers every game he played, with any team). Recent = 2026-27 (15 games; 1 left out: box score not held). 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 01:51 UTC.