

# PLAYOFFSSSS!!

By: Shaka G.

With only a week away from the 2012- 13 NBA Playoffs, I can smell the energy and sweat from miles away. Let's not forget there is an upcoming Hall of Fame ceremony which Gary Payton is headlining as well as a Draft Lottery with tons of new and exciting talent. On top of everything else, there is actually a chance the Defending Champs could well, actually defend their titles.

Speaking of champions how about that 27 game winning streak from the Miami Heat. Last time any team held a streak like that was in 1972 when the Los Angeles Lakers went 33 straight. I'm just hoping they don't get caught up in the moment. The main and only goal is to win. Win in their division; win in the playoffs and most of all win another championship. In order to win a championship you must make sure the key players are healthy. PF Chris Bosh is suffering from

soreness in the left and right knees and SG Dwayne Wade is suffering from a consistent knee battle as well as a bum ankle. SF King James is healthy but how much longer is her going to be the only “Major Playmaker”. Everyone else is 3 point shooter’s which cannot win a championship. Hopefully Coach Erik Spoelstra rests his starters as much as he can before they face the Milwaukee Bucks in the first round.

Now before we all just jump off the bridge and assume Miami are going to win anything we have to pay homage to other teams that have championship rosters and teams that are up and coming. The San Antonio Spurs have been dominating on the West since the mid 90’s and they haven’t missed a beat yet. They will go head to head with the Utah Jazz in the first round of the playoffs. I can remember some of the best rivalry games between them, with David Robinson and Tim Duncan aka the Twin Towers up against John Stockton and ‘The Mailman’ Karl Malone. Oklahoma City Thunder is a young and talented team that has a star player in Kevin Durant that can be the leader and go head to head with any team. Especially the Houston Rockets, whom they will go up

against in the first round of the playoffs. They have the skill and a great coaching staff to doing anything set in front of them. But we can't sleep on the Houston Rockets. They have a phenomenal PG in Jeremy Lin and a playmaking SG James Harding, let's hope they play some real defense.

A team that prides themselves on defense much more than offense is my New York Knicks. We have the power to score when we want, how we want as well as pass and defend the ball. The Knicks are currently on a 13 game win streak with only 4 games left of the season. 2 games left to play at MSG and 2 away games. To be honest the Knicks should sit all five starters just to make sure the team is fresh and energized. In my opinion 2013 is the year that the New York Knicks make it to the conference finals to face The Miami Heat. It's been a long while since New York has been in any championship game. Let's go Knicks!!!

Rolling towards the end of this NBA season, they'll host there version of the Hall of Fame. This year's inductee's are Gary Payton, Bernard King, Richie Guerin, Elgin Baylor, Russ Granik, Jerry

Tarkanian, Rick Pitina, and WNBA's Dawn Staley and Sylvia Hatchell. These are all men and women that were either star players or big name coaches. I'm not sure how long a player must wait to be enriched into the Hall of Fame but I deeply believe Shaquille O'Neal, the real Superman (Not Dwight Howard) should be invited to this year's ceremony. I'm sure man fans around the world agree with me on that. Last I checked he was the last dominate center, period. Maybe next year is his year. Congratulations to this year's inductee's.

This NBA season has been very interesting, teams that are usually underdogs are atop their division. Teams that people usually expect to win aren't making the playoffs. As much as I see Miami or New York winning the championship, I got a strong feeling some team that is hiding in the dirt will blossom when all is said and done.

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