

AROUND THE LEAGUE · LAST NIGHT

Regular-season finale, Sunday, April 12. All 30 teams played, 10 seeds were decided, and most top seeds rested their stars.

15 games10 seeds decided38 career-high scoring nights8 of 12 top-six teams sat 4+ regularsPlay-in Tue, Apr 14Round 1 Sat, Apr 18

BRACKET · FIRST ROUND AND PLAY-IN

EAST			WEST		
1	DET	vs. 8 play-in	1	OKC	vs. 8 play-in
2	BOS	vs. 7 play-in	2	SAS	vs. 7 play-in
3	NYK	vs. 6 ATL	3	DEN	vs. 6 MIN
4	CLE	vs. 5 TOR	4	LAL	vs. 5 HOU
7/8:	PHI	vs. ORL	7/8:	PHX	vs. POR
9/10:	CHA	vs. MIA	9/10:	LAC	vs. GSW
ATL down from 5			2025 rematch		
TOR up from 6			LeBron vs. KD		
at PHI			at PHX		
at CHA			at LAC		

TALKING POINTS

- **Playing it out paid off.** TOR played its starters, won, and passed ATL for the 5 seed. ATL sat seven regulars and fell to 6. ORL played its starters and lost to Boston's reserves, dropping to 8.
- **Awards cutoff.** Jokic reached 65 games with 18:15 of first-half work. Wembanyama, Kawhi and Mobley qualified Friday. Luka, Edwards, Cade, LeBron, Giannis, Curry and Booker all missed the cutoff.
- **Health entering the playoffs.** LAL is without Luka (Grade 2 hamstring, second round is the target) and Reaves (4-6 weeks). Edwards (right knee) sat. Anunoby (left ankle) is day-to-day.
- **Season marks.** SGA won the scoring title (**31.1 ppg**). Jokic averaged a triple-double (**27.7 / 12.9 / 10.7**, league-high **34** triple-doubles). Kneupel set the rookie record for threes (**273**, old high 206).
- **Coaching market opened Monday.** Doc Rivers stepped down in Milwaukee after a 32-50 season. Giannis called his late-season benching "disrespectful" and said his future is "not up to me."

BKN

20-62

101

FINAL

6:00 PM ET

136

46-36

TOR

TOR up to No. 5 on the tiebreak · faces CLE in Round 127-32 · 34-38 · 23-30 · 17-36

Toronto needed a win and an Atlanta loss to take the 5 seed. It got both and won the second half 66-40.

RECAP

SCOTTIE BARNES ran the offense as the hub, with 18-12-12 on 8-11 shooting, 3 blocks and a +35, and TOR scored at a 136.0 ORtg. Ingram added 25 on 10 FGA.

STORYLINE

Toronto was the one team that pushed for seeding on the final day. It draws a CLE team that rested its entire core Sunday.

KEY DECISION

Rajakovic called timeout at 7:55 of Q3 with the lead cut to 10. TOR answered with an 11-0 run, and the starters stayed on until 5:57 of Q4, up 28.

TEAM METRICS

TOR: 71.3 eFG% (season 54.5). BKN, missing seven regulars, shot 26.5% from three.

RARITY

40 fast-break points (season 18.6): TOR's season high, tied for 4th-most by any team this season. Barnes posted his 3rd triple-double of the year.

OFF-NORM

72 point points (season 53.0), but OREB% was only 15.6 (29.9).

ROTATION

Quickley played 16.6 min (season 32.1) and did not return after the first half. Poeltl went 5-5 in 19 min.

ATL

46-36

117

FINAL

6:00 PM ET

143

43-39

MIA

ATL down to No. 6, faces NYK · MIA stays 10th, plays at CHA24-33 · 37-37 · 23-29 · 33-44

Atlanta came in at No. 5, sat seven regulars and lost the seed on the tiebreak. Miami never trailed.

RECAP

BAM ADEBAYO controlled both ends, with 25-10 on 11-18 shooting, 3 steals, 2 blocks and no turnovers, and anchored Miami's best unit. Jaquez added 26 off the bench and went 6-8 when Buddy Hield guarded him.

STORYLINE

ATL's first playoff trip in four years now opens at MSG. MIA heads to CHA; Pelle Larsson (30.1 mpg over his last 10) was its only absent regular.

KEY DECISION

Spoelstra pulled three starters at 2:27 of Q3 (+14). Adebayo with Jaquez, Powell, K. Johnson and Jakucionis went +14 in 11 min, and the lead reached 26.

TEAM METRICS

ATL had 8 deflections (season 20.0) and a 137.5 DRtg (112.6).

RARITY

80 paint points (season 54.3): Miami's season high and the 12th-most by any team this season.

OFF-NORM

MIA added 36 fast-break points (season 18.2) with an FTr of just 16.5 (27.2).

ROTATION

ATL sat J. Johnson, Daniels, NAW, McCollum, Okongwu, Kuminga and Landale. Newell (2% start rate) played 38.9 min. Hield scored a season-high 31 at a 34.5 USG% (season 18.6).

MIL

32-50

106

FINAL

6:00 PM ET

126

45-37

PHI

PHI up to No. 7 · hosts ORL in the 7/8 play-in26-29 · 36-29 · 16-38 · 28-30

Down 4 at the half, Philadelphia won the third quarter 38-16 and passed Orlando. Both teams finished 45-37.

RECAP

VJ EDGECOMBE drove the winning stretch as the playmaker, with 11 assists, 7 rebounds and a team-best +31. Maxey scored 21 on 13 FGA in 27 min.

KEY DECISION

Nurse's starters with DRUMMOND in for BONA were +17 in 10 min; the original starting five was even. MIL's timeout at 4:51 of Q3 (down 9) was followed by an 11-0 PHI run.

TEAM METRICS

PHI: 101.9 DRtg (season 114.6). MIL shot 27.7% from three (38.9) with eight regulars out; AJ Green went 1-7 from deep with Maxey on him.

NEWS

DOC RIVERS stepped down Monday, after a season that snapped nine straight playoff trips. Giannis is extension-eligible in October (4 yr / \$275M), so the coaching hire and his future are linked.

RARITY

36 deflections (season 20.3), the 3rd-most by any team this season.

OFF-NORM

The pressure became 32 points off turnovers (season 18.8).

ROTATION

Embiid sat (34.3 mpg over his last 5). Paul George played 21 min in his 36th game. Justin Edwards shot 5-8 from three at a 25.0 USG% (season 13.7).

ORL

45-37

108

FINAL

6:00 PM ET · ESPN

113

56-26

BOS

ORL down to No. 8 · plays at PHI · BOS locked at 229-20 · 32-32 · 20-42 · 27-19

Boston rested its entire starting five, won the third quarter 42-20 and held off a late Orlando rally.

RECAP

BAYLOR SCHEIERMAN carried the offense with a career-high 30 (6-14 3P, 8-8 FT) and 7 assists at a 28.1 USG% (season 10.4). He also shadowed Wagner, who went 1-6 against him, and blocked him at the rim with BOS up 3 inside the final 1:15.

KEY DECISION

SUGGS tied it at 108 with 0:36 left. Mazzulla called timeout, and Garza hit a 28-foot turnaround three out of it. Orlando did not score again.

TEAM METRICS

ORL scored 40 fast-break points (season 15.4) but had a 46.2 eFG%. BOS, the league's slowest team (95.5), played at a 105.0 pace.

NEWS

WAGNER, in his sixth game back from a high-ankle sprain, scored 20 on 18 FGA. A win at PHI gets ORL the 7 seed; a loss means one more game against the 9/10 winner.

RARITY

FOUR CELTICS set career highs: Scheierman 30, Harper Jr. 27, Garza 27, Tonje 13. Only UTA (five, March 19) had more in one game this season.

OFF-NORM

ORL took 47.3% of its shots from three (season 38.6) and made 27.9%. Bancharo's 23-10-11 came on 7-22 shooting with 6 turnovers.

ROTATION

ORL's starting five was +8 in only 6 min together; Bane played 17.6 min (season 33.8).

 NOP 26-56	126 8:30 PM ET	132	49-33 MIN 
MIN locked at 6 · plays at DEN in Round 1 24-34 · 35-39 · 31-24 · 36-35			
Minnesota sat nine regulars, including Edwards, and held off two New Orleans rookies with big lines.			
RECAP	Joan Beringer was the difference at the rim, with a career-high 24-13 and 7 blocks on 9-12 shooting. Shannon added 26 (14-18 FT): Micah Peavy held him to 1-6 but fouled him three times on shots.		
KEY DECISION	Finch used Joe Ingles as his closer (15-6-10, on the floor until 0:16). NOP's best five, led by Fears and Queen, was +7 in 11 min and cut into a 14-point Q4 deficit.		
TEAM METRICS	MIN: FTr 48.3 (season 28.7) and four career-high scorers. Fears had 36-10 for NOP.		
NEWS	Edwards (right knee) sat. He is awards-ineligible despite a career-best 28.8 ppg, and his knee is the swing factor against DEN.		
RARITY	Beringer's 7 blocks: only Wembanyama (9) had more in a game this season, and MIN's 13 were a team season high. Queen's 30-22 was the only rookie 30/20 game this season.		
OFF-NORM ROTATION	NOP took just 19.6% of its shots from three (season 35.9) and went 5-21, but scored 72 paint and 31 second-chance points. MIN sat Edwards, Randle, Gobert, McDaniels, Reid, Dosunmu, Conley, Hyland and Anderson.		

