



Miami Heat

Head Coach: Erik Spoelstra
American Airlines Arena
2010-2011 record: 68-24



KEY ADDITION
Shane Battier now joins a deep rotation of wing players that includes Dwayne Wade, LeBron James, and Mike Miller. Battier was signed as a FA from Grizzlies.

Starting Rotation: PG. Mario Chalmers SG Dwayne Wade SF. LeBron James PF. Chris Bosh C. Joel Anthony



**"Nothing from our season has been easy at all. That is not even in our vocabulary."
- LeBron James**

On July 8, 2010, it became official that NBA superstars and gold medal winning Beijing Olympic teammates LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, and Chris Bosh would be joining Miami. The Heat completed sign-and-trade deals, sending a total of four future first-round and two second-round picks to the Cavaliers and Raptors for James and Bosh (both signing 6 years and \$110.1 million contracts).

Dwyane Wade re-signed with the Heat for \$107.5 million for six years. Many considered the Miami Heat as the team to break the single season record of 72 regular season victories set by the Chicago Bulls. The Heat lost the 2011 NBA Finals against the Dallas Mavericks in six games where Dwyane Wade averaged 26.5 points and 7.0 rebounds and was the highest scorer on the team. However, even he could not rescue the team against Dirk Nowitzki's Mavericks.

Why They Are Favorites

At first, a major adjustment period took place while James and Wade were learning how to play off the ball—something that must continue to improve—after dominating the rock their first seven seasons. They also had to get accustomed to being two of the league's biggest villains and no longer amongst its most likeable players. As the season progressed, comfort levels rose remarkably, helping them become the deadliest fast break duo in the league.

Some may disagree, but Erik Spoelstra's a very good coach. Miami may have failed to fulfill its title expectations in year one of the Bosh-James-Wade trio, but only a small portion of the blame should be directed towards the head coach. With the luxury of having a season under his belt with the Big Three, he now has a good understanding of how the team functions best. Pat Riley's former video coordinator will watch a lot of film this off-season and find ways to maximize Miami half-court team efficiency. The goal this season is a NBA title.

1st

SOUTHEAST DIVISION PRESENTATION

10-11 Team Rankings

Points Scored	102.1	8th
Rebounds	42.1	9th
Assists	20.0	26th
Points Against	96.5	3rd

HEADLINES

Draft: The Heat made a surprise move, trading into the first round for the 28th overall pick, Norris Cole. South Florida's best high school player of the past decade ended up going somewhere he would never imagined happening.

Biggest Loss: Miami Heat decided not to re-sign veteran Mike Bibby, after they drafted PG Norris Cole and also re-signed Mario Chalmers to a new 3-year contract worth \$12 million.

Beasts of the East: Love them or hate them, the Miami Heat will be back. And they will be favored to win again. We won't know what kind of supporting cast James, Wade, and Bosh get this year until the very brief period of free agency arrives after there's a new Collective Bargaining Agreement. But it won't be worse than last year's.

Miami Favorites Again

Miami favorites to win NBA championship in 2011-12 season. The Las Vegas oddsmakers are banking on LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and the Miami Heat to get back to the NBA Finals in 2011-12, and once again the folks in Sin City view the Heat as the favorites to win it all.

Miami's Big Three, runners-up a year ago, are listed at 2-to-1 to take home the title in the truncated NBA season. "There was very heavy betting on the Heat at the start of last season because you have LeBron and Chris Bosh and they are saying that they win seven championships," The Dallas Mavericks – who actually won the title last year and will host the Heat on Christmas Day.

Miami Heat Impact Players



PPG: 26.7
RPG: 7.5
APG: 7.0
FG% .510
FT% .759

#6
James



PPG: 24.5
RPG: 6.4
APG: 4.6
FG% .500
FT% .758

#3
Wade



PPG: 24.5
RPG: 8.3
APG: 1.9
FG% .496
FT% .815

#1
Bosh



Dallas Mavericks

Head Coach: Rick Carlisle
American Airlines center
2010-2011 record: 57-25



Key Addition
The Dallas Mavericks made a big trade by trading for Lamar Odom, after not re-signing key veterans that included Tyson Chandler, J.J. Barea, and Caron Butler.

Starting Rotation: PG. Jason Kidd SG Jason Terry SF. Lamar Odom PF. Dirk Nowitzki C. Brendan Haywood



“Everybody has to step out of their ways a little bit and do a little more.”

-Dirk Nowitzki

On June 12, 2011, the Dallas Mavericks have defeated the Miami Heat. Dirk Nowitzki and the Mavericks overcame years of playoff failures to capture their first ever NBA championship by upsetting the Heat in six games. The Heat had a constellation of stars surrounded by unprecedented hype but the Mavericks team of 30-somethings led by Germany's Nowitzki got their revenge in the NBA finals.

He made us raise our game to another level. That's when you have a superstar,” said Mavericks Jason Terry of the 32-year-old Nowitzki. In 2006, the same teams met in the NBA finals with the Heat coming out on top. Nowitzki came under heavy criticism after the Mavericks blew a 2-0 series lead and lost in six games. This time Nowitzki had to convince his teammates things would be different. He played with a chip on his shoulder and his teammates followed.

Why Dallas Might Repeat

The trade for Lamar Odom was one of the biggest acquisitions of the offseason. The Mavericks now have two frontcourt starters (Odom and Nowitzki) who can play three positions, guard almost four positions, shoot from almost anywhere and are almost unstoppable on the low block. Along with having one of the more individually talented defensive teams in the league, the Mavericks are still one of the best team defenses in the league.

One of the more exciting things about this Mavericks team is almost 75 percent of the team can knock down three-point shooting consistently. Jason Terry, Jason Kidd, Vince Carter, Shawn Marion, Lamar Odom, Dirk Nowitzki, etc, are all players who can knock down open three-point shots. And one last thing coaching. Rick Carlisle continues to be the most underrated coach in the NBA. He has also been to the playoffs in eight of his nine seasons and won five playoff games, and he won an NBA title last season.

1st

SOUTHWEST DIVISION PREDICTION

10-11 Team Rankings

Points Scored	100.2	11th
Rebound	41.4	14th
Assists	23.8	2nd
Points Against	99.8	10th

HEADLINES

DRAFT: The Dallas Mavericks are already gearing up to defend their title, trading both their draft picks Thursday night to get Portland Trail Blazers guard Rudy Fernandez. However, they already traded Fernandez to the Nuggets.

BIG LOSS: After helping Mavericks win the NBA title in 2011, Dallas Mavericks lost some key veteran players including Tyson Chandler, J.J Barea, and Caron Butler.

BEAST OF THE WEST. The Dallas Mavericks are the defending champions and they should be the favorites to be labeled as the best team out of the west. Key to their season is going to be Dirk Nowitzki and Lamar Odom. The Mavericks now have a talented frontcourt that can shoot, defend, and also create space wherever they are on the court.

Dallas Mavericks Prediction

There's only one team that finishes out the NBA season happy. Last year, that team was the Dallas Mavericks. Dirk Nowitzki and the Mavericks had long been labeled as underperformers and even chokers by many in the media, but those labels were shed during their great playoff run last season. Dallas fell behind Miami 2-1 in the NBA Finals, but they ran off three straight victories to take home the title.

Tyson Chandler was a major catalyst for the Mavericks defensively last year, but he moved on to New York. It's hard to predict a team to win consecutive titles, but I think the Mavs have a chance to make some noise and the NBA futures odds set up real nicely

Dallas Mavericks Impact Players



PPG: 23.0
RPG: 7.0
APG: 2.6
FG% .517
FT% .892

#1
Nowitzki



PPG: 7.9
RPG: 4.4
APG: 8.2
FG% .361
FT% .870

#2
Kidd



PPG: 15.8
RPG: 1.9
APG: 4.1
FG% .451
FT% .850

#31
Terry