

Start of the NBA season

The NBA season gets underway today with the players more that ready after their preseason games which included NBA Europe Live 2007 presented by EA SPORTS™ in five European cities at the start of the month.

Reigning champions –San Antonio Spurs- with Tim Duncan and Frenchman Tony Parker will get the regular season underway by taking on the Portland Trail Blazers. The Spurs, who number no less than five international players – of the 74 playing in the NBA*- remain favourites for the title according to a straw poll of the NBA General Managers.

According to this same poll:

- The Eastern Conference winner will be the Boston Celtics or the Detroit Pistons,
- The Western Conference winner will be the San Antonio Spurs,
- The regular season’s MVP will be LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers,
- The Chicago Bulls’ player of British origin, Luol Deng, could create a surprise during the season,
- The Boston Celtics have made the best transfers, in particular with the acquisition of Kevin Garnett,
- The international player who is most likely to have a great season is the Raptor’s Italian star Andrea Bargnani.

*As of October 30, 2007



The Larry O'Brien NBA Championship trophy with the Spurs NBA Championship rings during a ring ceremony honoring the San Antonio Spurs

The only way to find out if all these forecasts are accurate is to follow the season’s action, for which the key dates are presented below.

Key dates of the 2007-08 NBA Season

Oct. - Nov. – Dec.		Jan. - Feb. - March	
Oct. 30	Start of 2007-08 NBA Regular Season	Feb. 17	2008 NBA All-Star (New Orleans, LA)
Oct. 30	"NBA Opening Week...It's Game Time!"	Feb. 21	Trading Deadline
Nov. 5		*for the remainder of the season	
April - May - June			
April 16	2007-08 NBA Regular Season ends		
April 19	2008 NBA Playoffs begin		
June 5	2008 NBA Finals start date (possible move-up to June 3)		
June 19	NBA Finals latest possible end date		
June 26	NBA Draft (WaMu Theater at Madison Square Garden, New York, NY)		