THE CUP RACE. THE CONTENDERS. THE RESPONSE.

NBA WEEK PREVIEW

25-29 NOVEMBER 2026



THE LONG WEEKEND WATCHLIST

34 GAME PREVIEWS. EVERY EDGE EXAMINED.

Heat at 76ers / Timberwolves at Thunder
Lakers at Spurs / 76ers at Rockets

34	17	20
SELECTED GAMES	PAIRED PREVIEW PAGES	PAGES IN YOUR GUIDE

YOUR ROUTE THROUGH THE WEEK

THE WEEK TO WATCH

34 selected games from a 35-game window, with two full previews per page. No games on Thursday. The only fixture omitted is Nets at Hornets on Saturday, 28 November.

20	14	34
NBA CUP GAMES	WEEKEND GAMES	TOTAL PREVIEWS

PAGE	TWO MATCHUPS / CLICK TO OPEN
03	Heat at 76ers / Bulls at Hornets
04	Timberwolves at Thunder / Cavaliers at Knicks
05	Nets at Bucks / Clippers at Grizzlies
06	Suns at Rockets / Spurs at Trail Blazers
07	Kings at Warriors / Heat at Knicks
08	76ers at Pacers / Nets at Raptors
09	Bucks at Pistons / Hawks at Celtics
10	Grizzlies at Timberwolves / Mavericks at Suns
11	Warriors at Trail Blazers / Pelicans at Clippers
12	Lakers at Spurs / Nuggets at Jazz
13	Magic at Wizards / Thunder at Bucks
14	Pacers at Bulls / 76ers at Rockets
15	Heat at Cavaliers / Celtics at Spurs
16	Lakers at Grizzlies / Suns at Jazz
17	Pelicans at Trail Blazers / Hawks at Knicks
18	Nuggets at Raptors / Magic at Pistons
19	Clippers at Warriors / Timberwolves at Kings

HOW TO READ THE FORECAST

Winner lean: eventual game winner, including overtime. **Score (A-H):** away first, home second. Scores are estimates; confidence is an editorial comparison, not a probability. Cup labels do not imply confirmed qualification stakes.

Times: ET / PT / GMT / CET. **+1** means the next calendar day. Research is a 23 November snapshot; later results, lineups and injury decisions must be checked again.

PAGE 20 / DISCLAIMER, METHOD AND 19 LINKED SOURCES



NBA CUP + THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

THE GAMES. THE EDGE. THE RISK. 01-02

25-29 NOV 2026 / AWAY AT HOME

2 GAMES / 2 ANALYSES

NBA CUP / EAST GROUP B 01

MIAMI HEAT AT PHILADELPHIA 76ERS

WED 25 NOV | 17:00 ET / 14:00 PT / 22:00 GMT / 23:00 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Philadelphia 76ers	112-118	MEDIUM

Why this pick: Philadelphia brings the East's strongest early-week record, while Miami has won seven straight. This is a proper opening-night centerpiece rather than a routine home favorite. I lean toward the 76ers, but the forecast depends on which leading players are available when the game actually begins.

Match plan: Philadelphia should use patient paint touches to draw help, then find the extra pass. Miami can counter by making the first ball screen decisive and keeping its shooters spaced. The final defensive rebound could matter as much as the opening shot.

Main risk: Recheck Giannis Antetokounmpo and Jaylen Brown. Both recently missed games; neither future status is assumed.

SOURCES [01] [06] [11] [12] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT

NBA CUP / EAST GROUP C 02

CHICAGO BULLS AT CHARLOTTE HORNETS

WED 25 NOV | 19:00 ET / 16:00 PT / 00:00+1 GMT / 01:00+1 CET

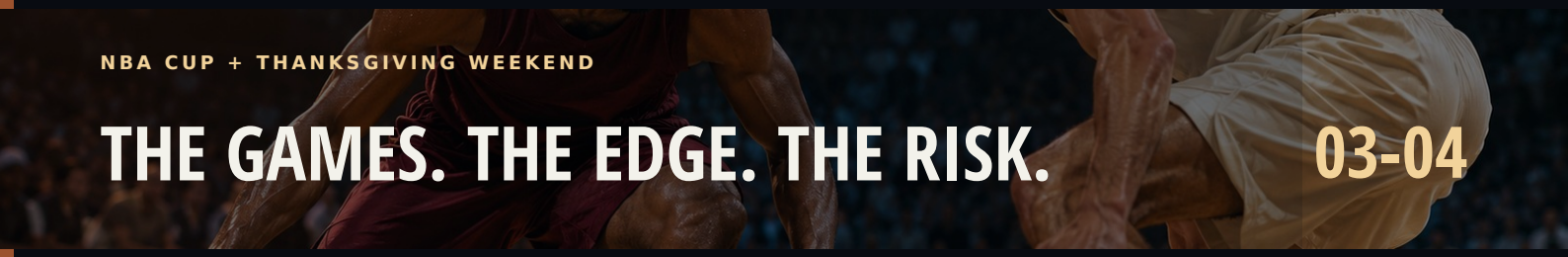
WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Chicago Bulls	111-107	LOW

Why this pick: Chicago's overtime loss to Denver showed it could generate offense, but conceding 151 points also exposed the danger of a loose game. Charlotte offers a different test. I give the Bulls a small scoring edge while treating this as one of the week's more uncertain calls.

Match plan: Chicago should attack the paint without rushing the first available jumper. Charlotte needs a compact defense and productive possessions after stops. The Bulls' route is an extra stretch of organized offense, not an assumption that another high-scoring shootout is inevitable.

Main risk: Turnovers and three-point variance can erase a small road advantage. Confirm the available centers and lead guards.

SOURCES [01] [06] [08] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT



NBA CUP + THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

THE GAMES. THE EDGE. THE RISK. 03-04

25-29 NOV 2026 / AWAY AT HOME

2 GAMES / 2 ANALYSES

NBA CUP / WEST GROUP B

03

MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES AT OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER

WED 25 NOV | 19:30 ET / 16:30 PT / 00:30+1 GMT / 01:30+1 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Minnesota Timberwolves	**115-110**	**LOW**

Why this pick: Minnesota's stronger early-week position earns a narrow visiting lean in a major Cup matchup. Oklahoma City's recent injury burden makes this particularly sensitive to the actual roster. The Thunder at home with returning creators would present a materially different challenge from the short-handed team seen on Sunday.

Match plan: Minnesota should make the initial drive draw help and keep a passing outlet behind the action. Oklahoma City needs secure ball handling and a connected first defensive rotation. I expect possession quality to matter more than pushing pace at every opportunity.

Main risk: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander missed Sunday's game. A confirmed return or further Minnesota absences could reverse the lean.

SOURCES [01] [06] [09] [11]

FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT

NBA CUP / EAST GROUP B

04

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS AT NEW YORK KNICKS

WED 25 NOV | 19:30 ET / 16:30 PT / 00:30+1 GMT / 01:30+1 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
New York Knicks	**108-113**	**MEDIUM**

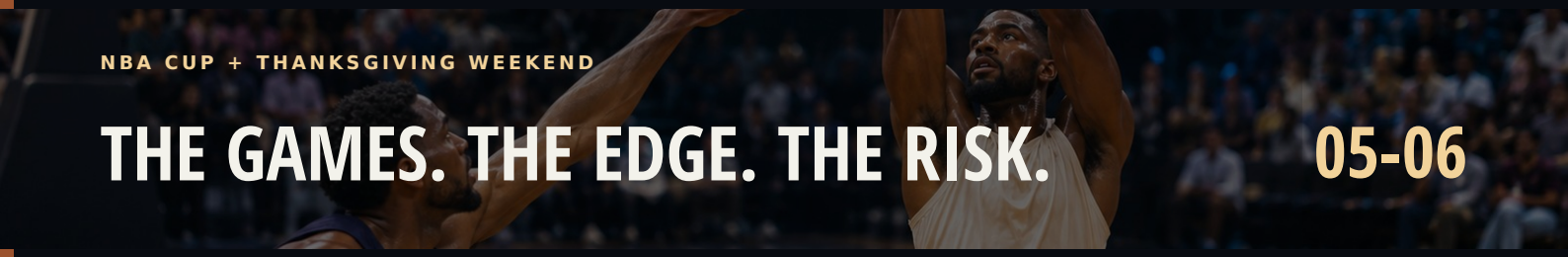
Why this pick: The Knicks have built a stronger recent run than Cleveland and receive the home lean. The Cavaliers remain capable of making this uncomfortable if they create efficient early offense. This is a watch for execution in the final six minutes, not simply a comparison of conference positions.

Match plan: New York should work inside-out, force a second defender to commit and avoid settling for an early contested three. Cleveland needs quick decisions after the first advantage appears. My forecast favors the hosts producing the cleaner closing possessions.

Main risk: Check lead-guard availability and the latest Cup table. Qualification scenarios can change before this game without changing the fixture.

SOURCES [01] [06] [08]

FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT



NBA CUP + THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

THE GAMES. THE EDGE. THE RISK. 05-06

25-29 NOV 2026 / AWAY AT HOME

2 GAMES / 2 ANALYSES

NBA CUP / EAST GROUP A 05

BROOKLYN NETS AT MILWAUKEE BUCKS

WED 25 NOV | 20:00 ET / 17:00 PT / 01:00+1 GMT / 02:00+1 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Brooklyn Nets	115-111	LOW

Why this pick: Brooklyn has struggled, but Milwaukee's 1-16 start gives the visitors a narrow lean. The Bucks' close loss in Philadelphia is a warning against treating that record as a complete description of their scoring threat. This is a volatile matchup with little justification for a firm margin.

Match plan: Brooklyn should make its first pass reliable and attack the next defensive rotation rather than dribble into traffic. Milwaukee needs better containment at the point of attack. The Nets' route is steadier possession management over a full game.

Main risk: An exceptional individual scoring night could overturn the pick. Neither team's early-week record offers much protection from variance.

SOURCES [01] [06] [12] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT

NBA CUP / WEST GROUP B 06

LA CLIPPERS AT MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES

WED 25 NOV | 20:00 ET / 17:00 PT / 01:00+1 GMT / 02:00+1 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Memphis Grizzlies	109-119	MEDIUM

Why this pick: Memphis has established the stronger season platform and gets the home lean. The Clippers need a more convincing road response than their early-week position suggests. The useful question is whether the Grizzlies can impose a reliable half-court game when their first transition chance is taken away.

Match plan: Memphis should attack the rim with a second passing option ready, then finish defensive possessions with a rebound. Los Angeles can stay close by making the game patient and reducing live-ball mistakes. I expect the hosts to generate more repeat pressure.

Main risk: Memphis has had several reported absences. Reconfirm the actual rotation; this forecast does not assume every injured player returns.

SOURCES [01] [06] [10] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT



NBA CUP + THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

THE GAMES. THE EDGE. THE RISK. 07-08

25-29 NOV 2026 / AWAY AT HOME

2 GAMES / 2 ANALYSES

NBA CUP / WEST GROUP A 07

PHOENIX SUNS AT HOUSTON ROCKETS

WED 25 NOV | 20:30 ET / 17:30 PT / 01:30+1 GMT / 02:30+1 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Houston Rockets	111-119	MEDIUM

Why this pick: Houston's stronger early-week record supports a home lean, though Phoenix has enough scoring to punish a careless opening. This is a useful matchup for seeing how well the Rockets turn paint pressure into shots created for teammates. A competitive first half would not undermine the forecast.

Match plan: Houston should keep its spacing intact around interior touches and send only selected players to the offensive glass. Phoenix needs productive pull-ups without losing its defensive balance. I expect the Rockets to earn the extra possessions that create late separation.

Main risk: Foul trouble for an interior defender or unusually sharp Suns shooting would narrow the edge. Recheck the starters.

SOURCES [01] [06] [07] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT

NBA CUP / WEST GROUP C 08

SAN ANTONIO SPURS AT PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS

WED 25 NOV | 22:00 ET / 19:00 PT / 03:00+1 GMT / 04:00+1 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
San Antonio Spurs	118-111	MEDIUM

Why this pick: San Antonio's strong start and Victor Wembanyama's recent 50-point performance make this a prime late-night watch. Portland is a credible home opponent, not a background act. I favor the Spurs because their opening-month platform offers the more persuasive case, while leaving room for a demanding finish.

Match plan: San Antonio should establish interior pressure, then move the ball before Portland's help defense settles. The Trail Blazers need to create advantages away from a set rim protector. Forcing the Spurs to defend several actions in one possession is their best route.

Main risk: Confirm the available guards and Wembanyama's status. The score forecast assumes a competitive road game, not another personal scoring explosion.

SOURCES [01] [06] [13] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT



NBA CUP + THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

THE GAMES. THE EDGE. THE RISK. 09-10

25-29 NOV 2026 / AWAY AT HOME

2 GAMES / 2 ANALYSES

NBA CUP / WEST GROUP A 09

SACRAMENTO KINGS AT GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS

WED 25 NOV | 22:00 ET / 19:00 PT / 03:00+1 GMT / 04:00+1 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Golden State Warriors	**104-114**	**MEDIUM**

Why this pick: Golden State's narrow win over Boston offers encouragement, while Sacramento remains near the bottom of the early-week West. The Warriors get the home lean, but an 88-point winning performance also argues for caution about expecting effortless offense. Watch the quality of the shots rather than the name on the jersey.

Match plan: Golden State should use screening and quick reversals to make Sacramento defend beyond the initial action. The Kings need to protect the ball and keep the game out of repeated transition sequences. My forecast favors the hosts building pressure gradually.

Main risk: A cold shooting night can keep Sacramento involved. Confirm the guard rotation and avoid treating the recent low-scoring result as a fixed template.

SOURCES [01] [06] [08] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT

NBA CUP / EAST GROUP B 10

MIAMI HEAT AT NEW YORK KNICKS

FRI 27 NOV | 19:00 ET / 16:00 PT / 00:00+1 GMT / 01:00+1 CET

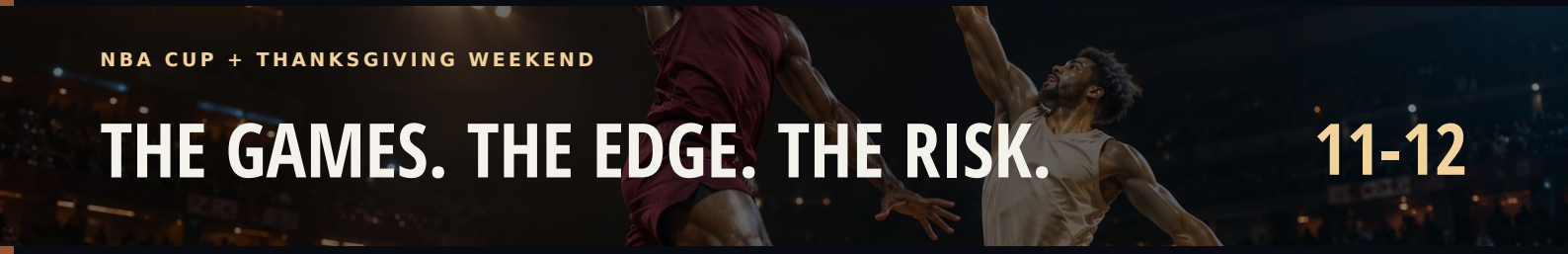
WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
New York Knicks	**111-114**	**LOW**

Why this pick: This is a leading Friday choice because Miami and New York arrive with meaningful early-week momentum. I give the Knicks only a small home edge. Wednesday's games and the updated group picture will be known by tipoff, so the strength of the pick should be reviewed after those events.

Match plan: New York should make Miami defend a second action instead of attacking a prepared first switch. The Heat needs paint pressure with enough spacing to punish help. A patient close game favors the side that protects the ball late.

Main risk: Refresh Giannis Antetokounmpo's availability and both teams' actual Wednesday workload. No clinching or elimination scenario is assumed.

SOURCES [02] [06] [09] [14] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT



NBA CUP + THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

THE GAMES. THE EDGE. THE RISK. 11-12

25-29 NOV 2026 / AWAY AT HOME

2 GAMES / 2 ANALYSES

NBA CUP / EAST GROUP B 11

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS AT INDIANA PACERS

FRI 27 NOV | 19:30 ET / 16:30 PT / 00:30+1 GMT / 01:30+1 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Philadelphia 76ers	**119-112**	**MEDIUM**

Why this pick: The 76ers have the stronger early-week platform, but this road game follows their meeting with Miami. Indiana's recent results leave it needing a response. I favor Philadelphia while recognizing that Friday's roster and the impact of Wednesday's game could materially change the expected balance.

Match plan: Philadelphia should force the Pacers to defend through the full possession, then retreat with purpose after a shot. Indiana needs pace created from stops rather than rushed offense. The visiting lean depends on turning good interior touches into efficient team possessions.

Main risk: Recheck Philadelphia's available wings and any minutes limits. Indiana can threaten if it repeatedly scores before the defense is set.

SOURCES [02] [06] [07] [09] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT

NBA CUP / EAST GROUP A 12

BROOKLYN NETS AT TORONTO RAPTORS

FRI 27 NOV | 19:30 ET / 16:30 PT / 00:30+1 GMT / 01:30+1 CET

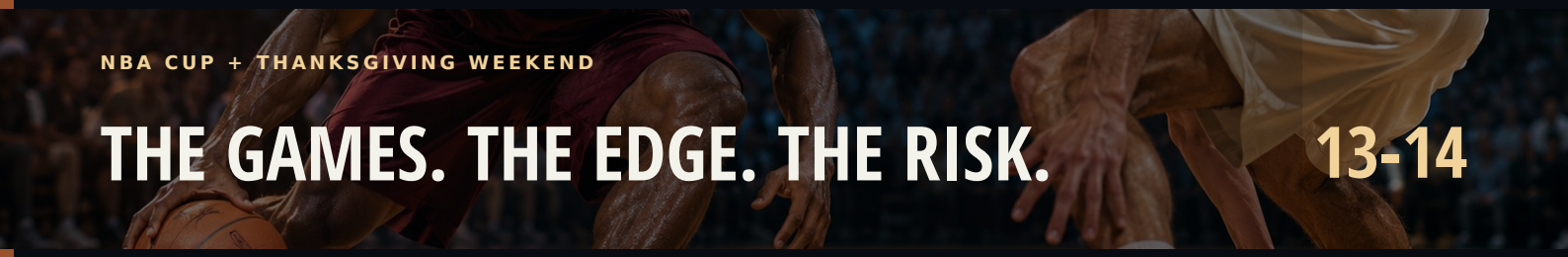
WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Toronto Raptors	**108-114**	**MEDIUM**

Why this pick: Toronto has the better early-week record and gets a home lean against Brooklyn. Neither team has earned a comfortable-margin assumption. This is worth following for the Raptors' ability to control defensive possessions, particularly after the Nets' first drive or offensive rebound extends a play.

Match plan: Toronto should stay connected between the point of attack and the help defender, then use the next pass to find space. Brooklyn needs disciplined spacing and fewer empty trips. I expect the hosts to create enough repeat scoring opportunities to separate late.

Main risk: Confirm the available ball handlers. A hot Brooklyn perimeter night would make the projected margin fragile.

SOURCES [02] [06] [07] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT



NBA CUP + THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

THE GAMES. THE EDGE. THE RISK. 13-14

25-29 NOV 2026 / AWAY AT HOME

2 GAMES / 2 ANALYSES

NBA CUP / EAST GROUP A 13

MILWAUKEE BUCKS AT DETROIT PISTONS

FRI 27 NOV | 19:30 ET / 16:30 PT / 00:30+1 GMT / 01:30+1 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Detroit Pistons	108-119	MEDIUM

Why this pick: Detroit's loss in Atlanta leaves the Pistons needing a more complete performance, but their broader early-week case remains stronger than Milwaukee's. I lean toward the home side. The Bucks have already shown they can produce a dangerous individual scoring night, so the pick still requires disciplined defensive attention.

Match plan: Detroit should keep the ball moving after the first paint touch and finish possessions on the glass. Milwaukee needs to prevent straight-line drives and make the hosts shoot over a set defense. The Pistons' route is sustained control rather than an early scoring burst.

Main risk: Foul trouble and a large three-point swing could keep the Bucks close. Refresh Friday's available starting lineups.

SOURCES [02] [06] [08] [12] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT

NBA CUP / EAST GROUP C 14

ATLANTA HAWKS AT BOSTON CELTICS

FRI 27 NOV | 20:00 ET / 17:00 PT / 01:00+1 GMT / 02:00+1 CET

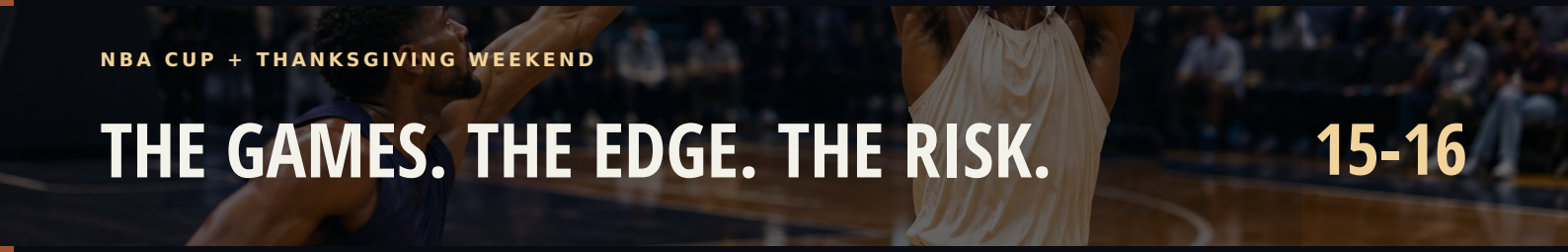
WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Atlanta Hawks	112-109	LOW

Why this pick: Atlanta's recent winning run and Boston's four straight defeats create an intriguing Friday meeting. I give the Hawks a small road lean, but the Celtics' home setting makes this deliberately cautious. This is a momentum test in which one good quarter cannot substitute for a complete defensive performance.

Match plan: Atlanta should attack a shifting defense and move the ball before help arrives. Boston needs cleaner shot selection and stronger transition coverage after misses. My forecast favors the visitors finding one additional late scoring sequence.

Main risk: Boston plays at Washington on Tuesday. Reassess that result, the available big men and any rest designations before relying on this lean.

SOURCES [02] [06] [08] [09] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT



NBA CUP + THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

THE GAMES. THE EDGE. THE RISK. 15-16

25-29 NOV 2026 / AWAY AT HOME

2 GAMES / 2 ANALYSES

NBA CUP / WEST GROUP B 15

MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES AT MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES

FRI 27 NOV | 20:30 ET / 17:30 PT / 01:30+1 GMT / 02:30+1 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Minnesota Timberwolves	110-115	LOW

Why this pick: Memphis and Minnesota both bring convincing early-week records, making this a more balanced game than a routine home favorite. I give the Timberwolves a narrow edge. Their Wednesday meeting with Oklahoma City and the Grizzlies' game against the Clippers should supply important new information before Friday.

Match plan: Minnesota should vary its entry actions and make Memphis defend across the full width of the floor. The Grizzlies need secure defensive rebounds and useful possessions after stops. I expect the hosts' extra stretch of organized half-court offense to decide it.

Main risk: Check both rotations after Wednesday, especially Memphis' reported absences. A stronger visiting lineup would reduce the home edge.

SOURCES [02] [06] [10] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT

NBA CUP / WEST GROUP C 16

DALLAS MAVERICKS AT PHOENIX SUNS

FRI 27 NOV | 21:00 ET / 18:00 PT / 02:00+1 GMT / 03:00+1 CET

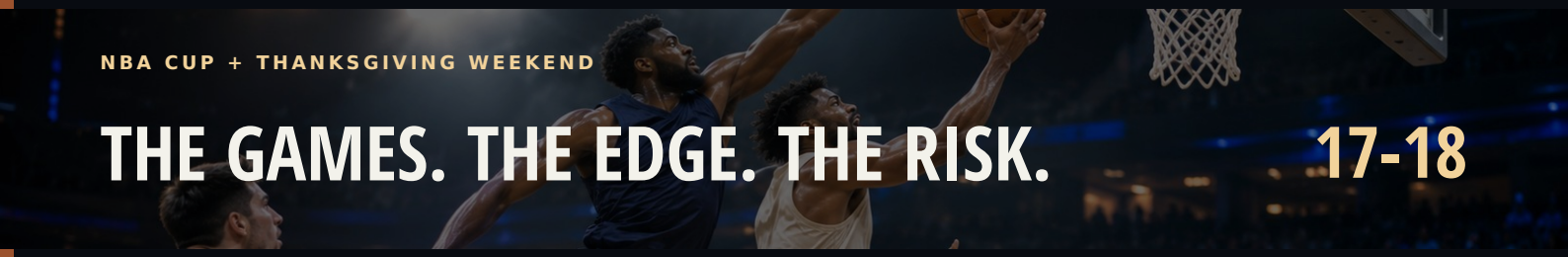
WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Dallas Mavericks	116-113	LOW

Why this pick: Dallas' recent victory at Utah supports its encouraging early-week position, while Phoenix has also shown enough to make a home upset credible. I give the Mavericks a small edge. This is a useful test of whether Dallas can create a reliable closing sequence away from home.

Match plan: Dallas should get into its first action early enough to preserve a second option. Phoenix needs to keep the game from becoming a series of free-throw trips and uncontested corner shots. The forecast favors the visitors by only one possession.

Main risk: Recheck the Dallas forwards and both teams' minutes load. A healthier Phoenix rotation or a late scratch could justify changing sides.

SOURCES [02] [06] [08] [09] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT



NBA CUP + THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

THE GAMES. THE EDGE. THE RISK. 17-18

25-29 NOV 2026 / AWAY AT HOME

2 GAMES / 2 ANALYSES

NBA CUP / WEST GROUP A 17

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS AT PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS

FRI 27 NOV | 21:30 ET / 18:30 PT / 02:30+1 GMT / 03:30+1 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Portland Trail Blazers	111-116	LOW

Why this pick: Portland's stronger early-week platform and home setting earn a narrow lean. Golden State can change the rhythm quickly if its off-ball actions create repeated open looks. This is a watch for defensive communication as much as scoring, with both clubs entering after Wednesday games.

Match plan: Portland should make Golden State defend several connected actions and limit the Warriors' easiest relocation threes. The visitors need clean screening angles and a secure defensive rebound. I expect the home side to generate the extra productive stretch.

Main risk: Refresh Portland after its Spurs matchup and Golden State after Sacramento. Neither Wednesday result is assumed in this preview.

SOURCES [02] [06] [07] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT

NBA CUP / WEST GROUP A 18

NEW ORLEANS PELICANS AT LA CLIPPERS

FRI 27 NOV | 21:30 ET / 18:30 PT / 02:30+1 GMT / 03:30+1 CET

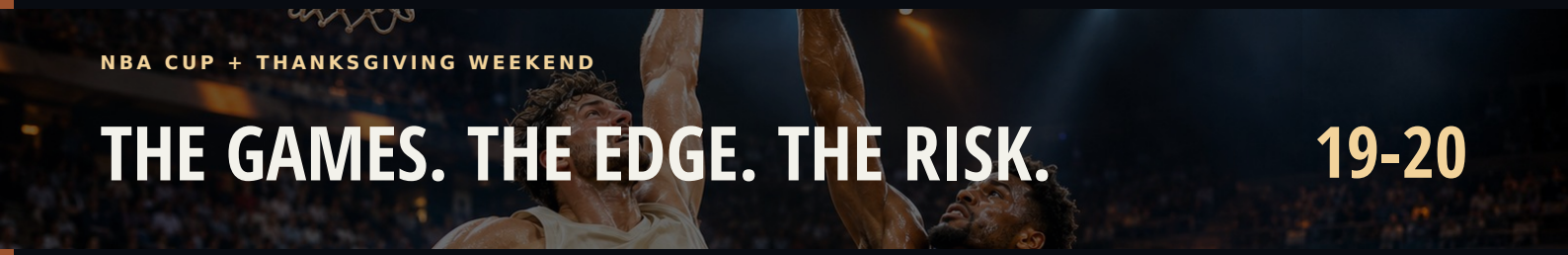
WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
LA Clippers	114-118	LOW

Why this pick: The Clippers and Pelicans both have weak early-week records, so this is a modest home pick rather than a confident forecast. Los Angeles needs to turn the home setting into a steadier defensive performance. New Orleans can make the game uncomfortable if it repeatedly reaches the paint.

Match plan: The Clippers should prioritize secure possessions and force the Pelicans to defend beyond the first drive. New Orleans needs useful spacing around rim attempts and enough transition defense after misses. The outcome may hinge on which bench avoids an extended empty stretch.

Main risk: Check the current creators and interior defenders. This forecast has limited confidence because either lineup could change the game substantially.

SOURCES [02] [06] [07] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT



NBA CUP + THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

THE GAMES. THE EDGE. THE RISK. 19-20

25-29 NOV 2026 / AWAY AT HOME

2 GAMES / 2 ANALYSES

NBA CUP / WEST GROUP C 19

LOS ANGELES LAKERS AT SAN ANTONIO SPURS

FRI 27 NOV | 21:30 ET / 18:30 PT / 02:30+1 GMT / 03:30+1 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
San Antonio Spurs	115-119	LOW

Why this pick: The Lakers and Spurs sit together at the top of the early-week West. That makes this a genuine centerpiece, with Luka Doncic's creation facing San Antonio's size and Wembanyama's two-way influence. I give the Spurs a small home edge while treating the matchup as competitive through the closing possessions.

Match plan: San Antonio should make the Lakers defend the rim and the next pass. Los Angeles needs spacing that pulls help away from its creator and forces difficult recovery decisions. I expect the hosts' defensive possessions to provide the narrow difference.

Main risk: Confirm both stars, supporting guards and Wednesday workloads. The Cup table must be updated; this preview does not invent a winner-takes-all scenario.

SOURCES [02] [06] [13] [14] [18] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT

NBA CUP / WEST GROUP A 20

DENVER NUGGETS AT UTAH JAZZ

FRI 27 NOV | 21:30 ET / 18:30 PT / 02:30+1 GMT / 03:30+1 CET

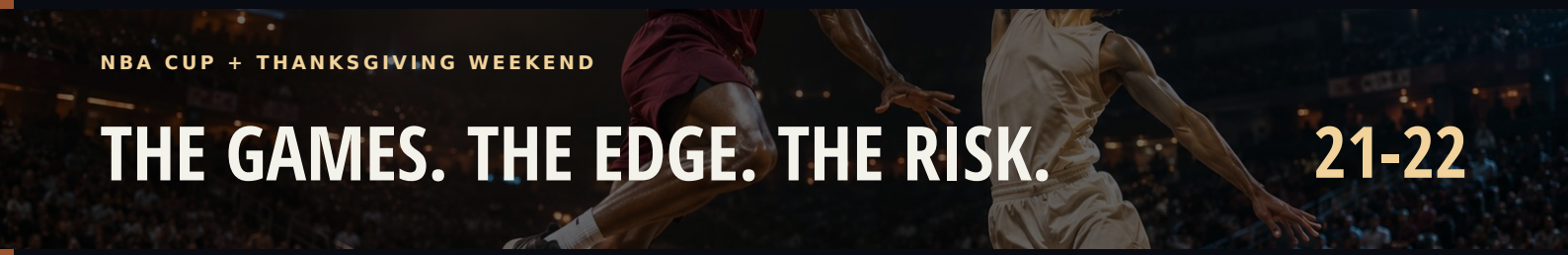
WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Denver Nuggets	120-110	MEDIUM

Why this pick: Denver's overtime win in Chicago provided an emphatic scoring performance, while Utah's early-week record remains poor. I favor the Nuggets on the road. The challenge is to create that advantage without turning the game into another extended exchange in which every miss exposes the defense.

Match plan: Denver should work through the middle, make the weak-side defender choose and keep a reliable floor balance behind each shot. Utah needs quick decisions and productive offensive rebounds. I expect the visitors to build better-quality possessions over the full game.

Main risk: Recheck Denver after Tuesday's Dallas game and any Utah lineup changes. Another excellent offensive night cannot be assumed.

SOURCES [02] [06] [08] [16] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT



NBA CUP + THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

THE GAMES. THE EDGE. THE RISK. 21-22

25-29 NOV 2026 / AWAY AT HOME

2 GAMES / 2 ANALYSES

NBA / WEEKEND WATCH 21

ORLANDO MAGIC AT WASHINGTON WIZARDS

SAT 28 NOV | 17:00 ET / 14:00 PT / 22:00 GMT / 23:00 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Washington Wizards	**106-111**	**LOW**

Why this pick: Washington's recent 116-96 win over Orlando gives the hosts an encouraging starting point, but a rematch is a new problem. I lean toward the Wizards narrowly. The Magic's response should be measured by the quality of their possessions and defensive adjustments rather than a simple desire to reverse the score.

Match plan: Washington should keep the ball moving after help arrives and avoid gifting Orlando easy transition points. The Magic needs better spacing around its initial attack and a stronger defensive rebound. I expect a closer game than the previous meeting.

Main risk: Washington plays Boston on Tuesday. Recheck that workload, availability and the lessons Orlando applies before trusting the home edge.

SOURCES [03] [06] [08] [19] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT

NBA / WEEKEND WATCH 22

OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER AT MILWAUKEE BUCKS

SAT 28 NOV | 20:00 ET / 17:00 PT / 01:00+1 GMT / 02:00+1 CET

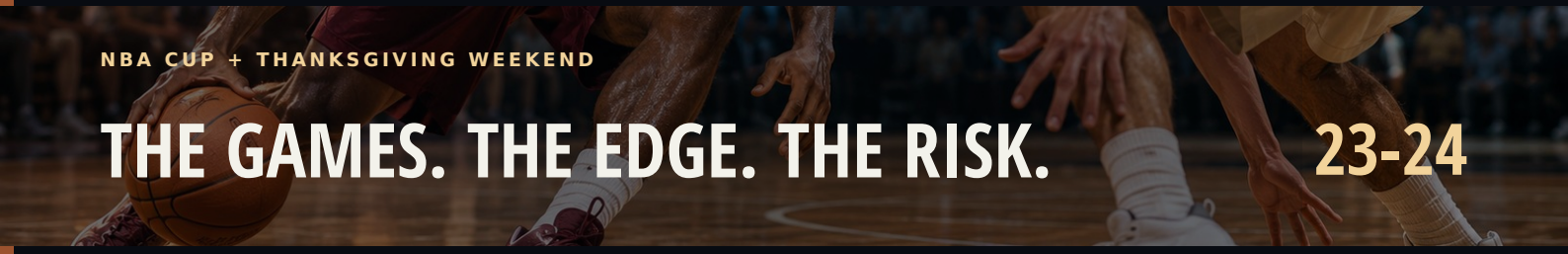
WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Oklahoma City Thunder	**116-106**	**MEDIUM**

Why this pick: Oklahoma City receives the road lean against Milwaukee through the stronger early-week season case. That assessment still depends on the Thunder having enough available creation and rim defense. Their recent injury list is a reason to review the expected rotation carefully rather than treat the opponent's record as decisive.

Match plan: Oklahoma City should pressure the ball without losing defensive rebounding position, then create simple early advantages in transition. Milwaukee needs a slower, more connected game that limits live-ball turnovers. I expect the visitors' better possessions to produce separation.

Main risk: Update Gilgeous-Alexander and the Thunder's frontcourt. The Bucks also play Friday, so fresh workload information can change the margin.

SOURCES [03] [06] [09] [11] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT



NBA CUP + THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

THE GAMES. THE EDGE. THE RISK. 23-24

25-29 NOV 2026 / AWAY AT HOME

2 GAMES / 2 ANALYSES

NBA / WEEKEND WATCH 23

INDIANA PACERS AT CHICAGO BULLS

SAT 28 NOV | 20:00 ET / 17:00 PT / 01:00+1 GMT / 02:00+1 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Chicago Bulls	113-116	LOW

Why this pick: Indiana plays Philadelphia on Friday, while Chicago has no Friday game scheduled. That gives the Bulls a useful rest angle in an otherwise uncertain matchup. I give the hosts a small scoring lean, with the warning that their recent defensive performance offers little support for a comfortable margin.

Match plan: Chicago should push after clean rebounds but use the clock when the first advantage disappears. Indiana needs to protect its ball handlers from repeated pressure and secure the next defensive possession. A patient final period could decide a game that changes rhythm several times.

Main risk: Confirm the Pacers' actual Friday minutes and both backcourts. Freshness is an advantage to assess, not a guaranteed result.

SOURCES [03] [06] [08] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT

NBA / WEEKEND WATCH 24

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS AT HOUSTON ROCKETS

SAT 28 NOV | 20:30 ET / 17:30 PT / 01:30+1 GMT / 02:30+1 CET

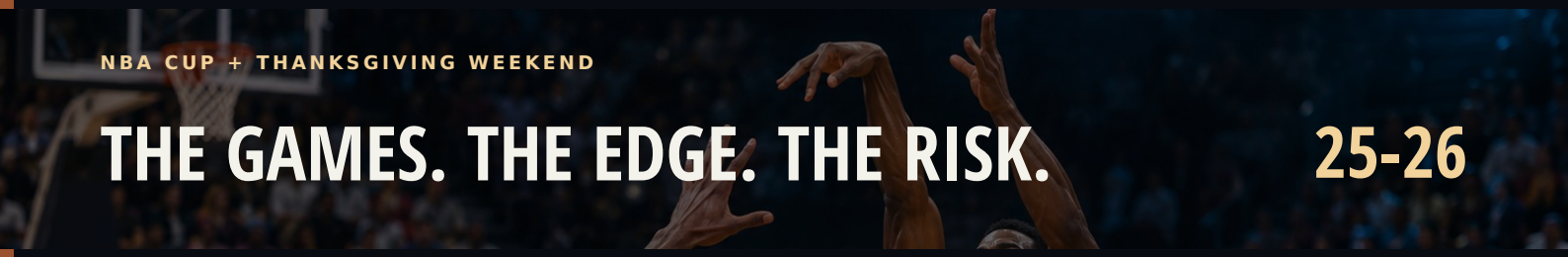
WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Houston Rockets	112-117	LOW

Why this pick: Philadelphia plays at Indiana on Friday, while Houston is off that night. The Rockets' home setting and this rest pattern give them a narrow lean in one of Saturday's best watches. Philadelphia's strong overall platform keeps this a close forecast, not a statement that a road back-to-back determines the result.

Match plan: Houston should make the 76ers defend the full possession and force repeated decisions around the paint. Philadelphia needs efficient first actions and a dependable defensive rebound. I expect the hosts to create the extra late scoring opportunity.

Main risk: Recheck Philadelphia's available stars and minutes limits after Friday. A deeper visiting rotation would weaken the rest-based argument.

SOURCES [03] [06] [07] [09] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT



NBA CUP + THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

THE GAMES. THE EDGE. THE RISK. 25-26

25-29 NOV 2026 / AWAY AT HOME

2 GAMES / 2 ANALYSES

NBA / WEEKEND WATCH 25

MIAMI HEAT AT CLEVELAND CAVALIERS

SUN 29 NOV | 15:30 ET / 12:30 PT / 20:30 GMT / 21:30 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Miami Heat	116-113	LOW

Why this pick: Miami's encouraging early-week run supports a narrow road lean, while Cleveland has enough offense to make the home counter convincing. The Heat's Wednesday and Friday Cup games will supply fresher evidence before this early Sunday tipoff. Neither of those future outcomes is built into the forecast.

Match plan: Miami should create paint touches without losing spacing around the next pass. Cleveland needs fast decisions after a defensive rotation is drawn out of position. I expect the visitors to create one extra controlled scoring sequence late.

Main risk: Confirm Miami's available creators and Cleveland's full rotation. A limited or absent Giannis changes the expected offensive shape.

SOURCES [04] [06] [09] [11] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT

NBA / WEEKEND WATCH 26

BOSTON CELTICS AT SAN ANTONIO SPURS

SUN 29 NOV | 16:00 ET / 13:00 PT / 21:00 GMT / 22:00 CET

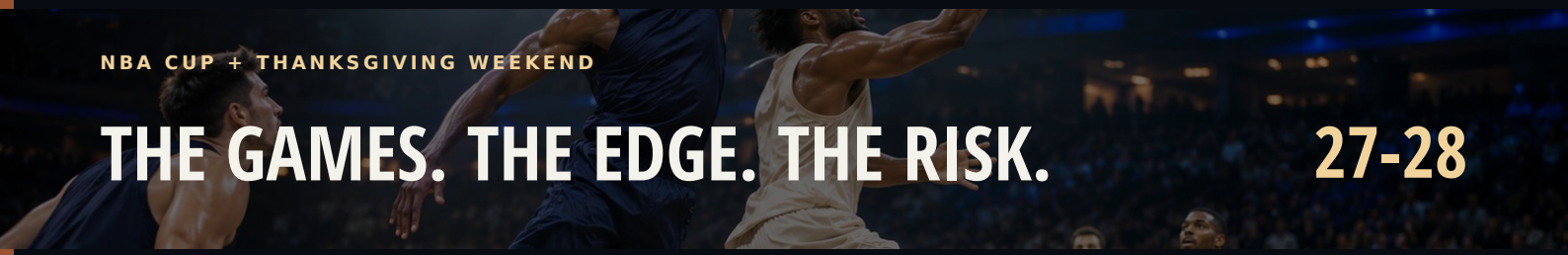
WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
San Antonio Spurs	108-116	MEDIUM

Why this pick: San Antonio has the more convincing early-week position, while Boston is searching for a stronger response. The Spurs get a home lean. The Celtics' path to an upset is credible if their spacing creates clean shots without letting the game become repeated defensive recovery against the rim.

Match plan: San Antonio should keep its offense connected between interior pressure and the weak-side outlet. Boston needs multiple paint entries and timely extra passes rather than a static series of contested threes. My forecast favors the hosts' better defensive stretches.

Main risk: Both clubs play Friday. Reassess San Antonio after the Lakers and Boston after Atlanta, including late health or rest decisions.

SOURCES [04] [06] [07] [13] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT



NBA CUP + THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

THE GAMES. THE EDGE. THE RISK. 27-28

25-29 NOV 2026 / AWAY AT HOME

2 GAMES / 2 ANALYSES

NBA / WEEKEND WATCH 27

LOS ANGELES LAKERS AT MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES

SUN 29 NOV | 16:00 ET / 13:00 PT / 21:00 GMT / 22:00 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Los Angeles Lakers	118-114	LOW

Why this pick: The Lakers' early-week record gives them a small visiting lean, but Memphis has established enough quality to make this a leading Sunday game. The matchup deserves a fresh review after both teams' Friday contests. A convincing home defensive performance would be a reasonable route to overturning this pick.

Match plan: Los Angeles should make the first ball screen create a second decision, then attack the opening before help resets. Memphis needs disciplined rebounding and selective transition pressure. I expect the visitors' late possession creation to supply the narrow edge.

Main risk: Confirm Memphis' available forwards and the Lakers' actual Friday workload. The small margin is sensitive to supporting-lineup changes.

SOURCES [04] [06] [07] [10] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT

NBA / WEEKEND WATCH 28

PHOENIX SUNS AT UTAH JAZZ

SUN 29 NOV | 17:00 ET / 14:00 PT / 22:00 GMT / 23:00 CET

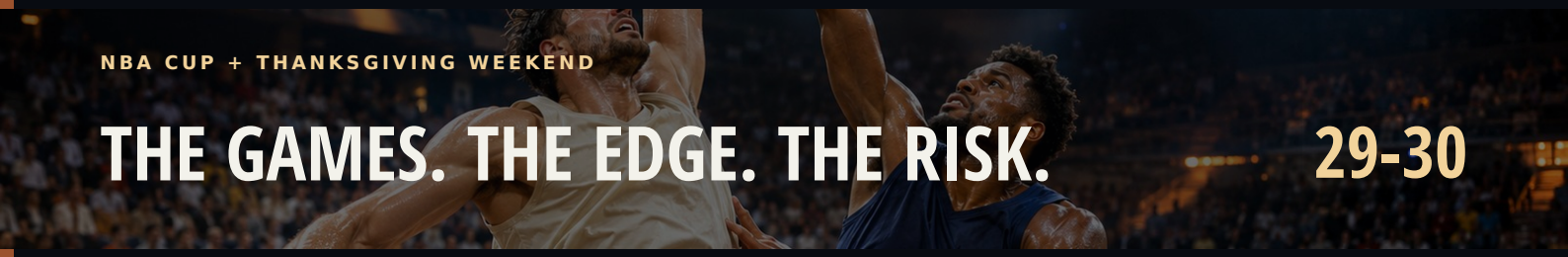
WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Phoenix Suns	117-110	MEDIUM

Why this pick: Phoenix has the stronger early-week season case and gets the road lean at Utah. The Jazz can still make the contest competitive if they avoid long empty stretches and force the Suns to defend several actions. Watch whether Phoenix builds pressure without sacrificing the balance behind its own offense.

Match plan: The Suns should create a paint touch before seeking the kick-out and keep a defender ready to slow the next break. Utah needs patient spacing and useful second chances. I expect the visiting side to produce the steadier closing offense.

Main risk: Both teams play Friday. Refresh those minutes, returning players and any late scratches before relying on the projected margin.

SOURCES [04] [06] [07] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT



NBA CUP + THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

THE GAMES. THE EDGE. THE RISK. 29-30

25-29 NOV 2026 / AWAY AT HOME

2 GAMES / 2 ANALYSES

NBA / WEEKEND WATCH 29

NEW ORLEANS PELICANS AT PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS

SUN 29 NOV | 18:00 ET / 15:00 PT / 23:00 GMT / 00:00+1 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Portland Trail Blazers	110-119	MEDIUM

Why this pick: Portland's early-week position is substantially stronger than New Orleans', giving the Trail Blazers a home lean. The Pelicans need a more reliable defensive response to threaten the forecast. This is worth watching for whether Portland maintains its offensive organization after a demanding sequence of Cup opponents.

Match plan: Portland should make the first drive draw help, then find the weak-side opening before the defense recovers. New Orleans needs paint protection without surrendering repeated corner looks. I expect the home side to build its advantage through connected half-court possessions.

Main risk: Review Portland after Wednesday's Spurs game and Friday's Warriors game. A shortened rotation or unusual workload would narrow the edge.

SOURCES [04] [06] [07] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT

NBA / WEEKEND WATCH 30

ATLANTA HAWKS AT NEW YORK KNICKS

SUN 29 NOV | 18:00 ET / 15:00 PT / 23:00 GMT / 00:00+1 CET

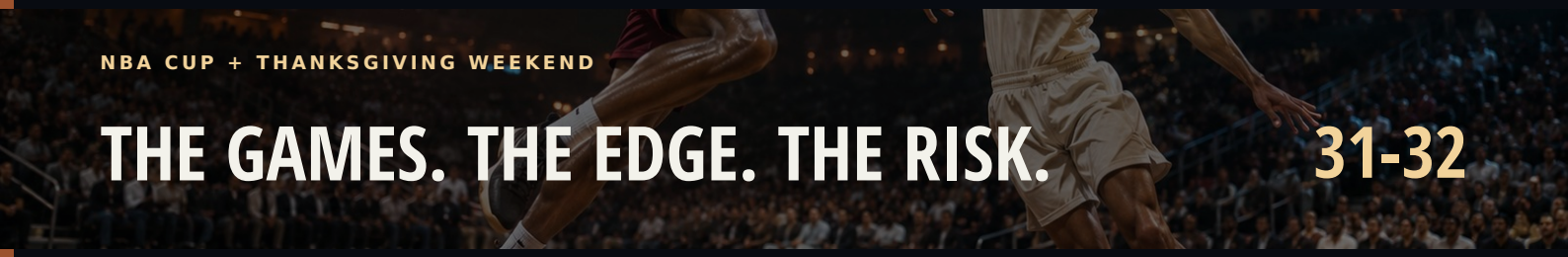
WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
New York Knicks	110-115	LOW

Why this pick: Atlanta and New York both bring strong early-week momentum, making this one of the most attractive Sunday meetings. The Knicks get a small home lean. It is a distinct problem from their Friday game against Miami, and the Hawks' visit to Boston will provide useful new context.

Match plan: New York should create interior touches and make Atlanta defend across the entire possession. The Hawks need to move the ball before the first advantage closes and keep a defender behind the shot. I expect the hosts to generate the cleaner late opportunities.

Main risk: Reassess Friday's results and rotations. A strong Hawks defensive performance or a missing Knicks creator could reverse this narrow pick.

SOURCES [04] [06] [08] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT



NBA CUP + THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

THE GAMES. THE EDGE. THE RISK. 31-32

25-29 NOV 2026 / AWAY AT HOME

2 GAMES / 2 ANALYSES

NBA / WEEKEND WATCH 31

DENVER NUGGETS AT TORONTO RAPTORS

SUN 29 NOV | 18:00 ET / 15:00 PT / 23:00 GMT / 00:00+1 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Denver Nuggets	118-112	MEDIUM

Why this pick: Denver's stronger early-week record supports the visiting lean, but moving from Utah on Friday to Toronto on Sunday makes preparation and roster health worth checking. The Raptors can threaten if they turn defensive pressure into useful early offense. This is a control test for the Nuggets rather than a guaranteed scoring showcase.

Match plan: Denver should use its interior passing to stretch the defense, then avoid forcing a difficult pass once the help recovers. Toronto needs disciplined floor balance and a clean defensive rebound. I expect the visitors to create the steadier final stretch.

Main risk: Refresh travel-related availability and Friday minutes. Denver's recent overtime scoring total should not be treated as the expected pace of every game.

SOURCES [04] [06] [07] [08] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT

NBA / WEEKEND WATCH 32

ORLANDO MAGIC AT DETROIT PISTONS

SUN 29 NOV | 18:00 ET / 15:00 PT / 23:00 GMT / 00:00+1 CET

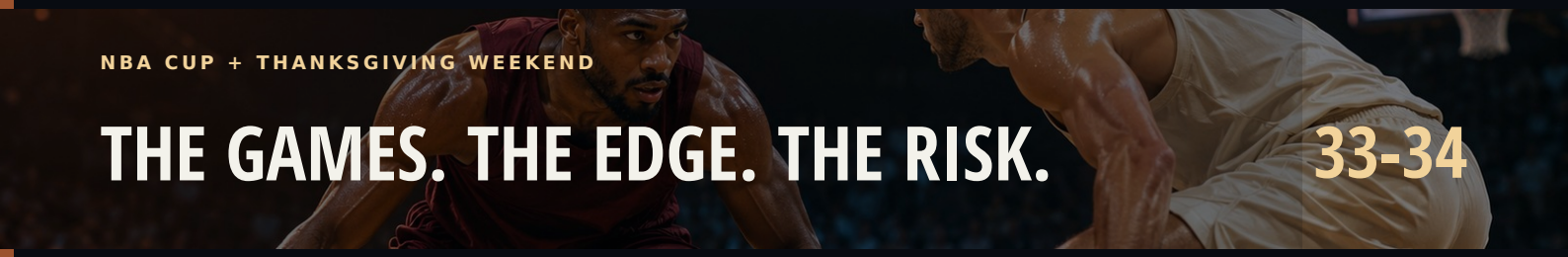
WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Detroit Pistons	105-114	MEDIUM

Why this pick: Orlando plays in Washington on Saturday before visiting Detroit, while the Pistons are off Saturday after Friday's home game. That schedule supports the home lean alongside Detroit's stronger early-week position. The Magic can still challenge if they make the game efficient instead of chasing a fast scoring response.

Match plan: Detroit should apply ball pressure with good help spacing and make Orlando defend the next action after the first drive. The Magic needs dependable exits from pressure and a secure defensive rebound. My forecast favors the hosts creating more useful possessions.

Main risk: Recheck Orlando's actual Saturday workload and the available creators. A low-minute prior game could reduce the expected rest advantage.

SOURCES [04] [06] [07] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT



NBA CUP + THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

THE GAMES. THE EDGE. THE RISK. 33-34

25-29 NOV 2026 / AWAY AT HOME

2 GAMES / 2 ANALYSES

NBA / WEEKEND WATCH 33

LA CLIPPERS AT GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS

SUN 29 NOV | 20:30 ET / 17:30 PT / 01:30+1 GMT / 02:30+1 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Golden State Warriors	108-115	MEDIUM

Why this pick: Golden State has the stronger early-week record and gets the home lean. The Clippers can make this difficult if they limit the Warriors' first transition opportunity and force a more deliberate contest. This is a watch for the quality of the hosts' spacing after their Friday trip to Portland.

Match plan: Golden State should use quick reversals and purposeful off-ball screens to make Los Angeles defend repeated movement. The Clippers need communication on switches and control of the defensive glass. I expect the hosts to create the extra run of clean shots.

Main risk: Confirm the available guards and the Clippers' creation options. A large shooting swing would make the projected margin less secure.

SOURCES [04] [06] [07] [08] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT

NBA / WEEKEND WATCH 34

MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES AT SACRAMENTO KINGS

SUN 29 NOV | 21:00 ET / 18:00 PT / 02:00+1 GMT / 03:00+1 CET

WINNER LEAN	SCORE (A-H)	CONFIDENCE
Minnesota Timberwolves	117-106	MEDIUM

Why this pick: Minnesota's much stronger early-week position supplies the road lean against Sacramento. The Kings' upset route requires sustained defensive attention and enough efficient offense to prevent the visitors from settling into control. This is a useful final watch for whether the Timberwolves carry their organization through a busy week.

Match plan: Minnesota should use spacing to open the paint, then find the next pass before Sacramento's help recovers. The Kings need to protect the ball and finish defensive possessions. I expect the visitors to create separation through repeated good decisions rather than one explosive quarter.

Main risk: Review Minnesota after its Wednesday and Friday games. A changed rotation or a hot Sacramento shooting night could narrow the forecast.

SOURCES [04] [06] [07] FINAL SCORE / INCLUDES OT

BEFORE THE NEXT TIP-OFF

KEEP YOUR OWN JUDGMENT

Independent editorial opinion. Winner leans, estimated final scores and confidence labels are judgments, not guarantees, calculated probabilities or a validated prediction model. Tactical plans describe plausible scenarios. Scores list away first and home second; the winner lean includes overtime.

Research cut-off: 23 November 2026. This is a selection of 34 games, not all 35. Lineups, medical clearances, minutes limits and later results remain subject to updates. NBA Cup group play ends on 27 November; verify the group table before making qualification claims. Scheduled times can change.

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