

# Temperature check at quarter-season

Which players are heating up or cooling off?



BY KYLE STACK  
Special to amNewYork

With the NBA season near the one-quarter mark, it's time to reassess which players can help or hurt your fantasy squad in the coming weeks.

Here are two players at each position who are heading in opposite directions.

### Point guards

Detroit's **Rodney Stuckey** won't maintain his average of 16.6 field-goal attempts for long. The impending

return of injured stars Richard Hamilton and Tayshaun Prince means Stuckey's 18.1-point average will decline along with his offensive opportunities.

Meanwhile, **Derrick Rose** of the rival Bulls has seen his points and assist averages drop by 1.5 and 1, respectively, from last season. Rose has battled a lingering right ankle tendon injury since training camp, but the ailment appears to finally be in the rearview mirror.

### Shooting guards

**Dahntay Jones** is pouring in 15.3 points per game for the Pacers, 10 points higher than his career norm. However, his relatively modest 47 percent

shooting on 2-pointers indicates he could be benefiting from luck.



Harris

An early-season right groin injury to **Devin Harris** claimed 10 games from the Nets' point

man. We cheated to include him at shooting guard because his 34.8 field goal percentage only has room to grow; so does his 16-point average.

### Small forwards

Milwaukee's **Ersan Ilyasova** has played more than 15 minutes just once in his past three games, a glaring indication of coach Scott Skiles' strange rotation decisions.

Ilyasova's 11.2-point and 7.3-rebound averages will be hindered by Skiles' unpredictability.

The same can be said for Warriors coach Don Nelson and his handling of **Anthony Randolph**, although that could change after Randolph's 28-point, 13-rebound performance last Saturday. Golden State's lack of healthy players is a boon to Randolph's future playing time at power forward as well.

### Power forwards

One of the NBA's most fluky stats belongs to **Gerald Wallace** and his NBA-leading 12.2-rebound average. That's more than four boards above his second-highest single-season mark. Wallace's rebound numbers should decrease

as Tyson Chandler rounds into shape for the Bobcats.

Switching coasts, Portland's **LaMarcus Aldridge** should see a healthy increase in his 14.8-point average now that star-crossed fellow big man Greg Oden is out for the season following major knee surgery.

### Centers

It's difficult to fathom **Channing Frye** continuing to shoot 45.9 percent on his 3-pointers. The Phoenix center can definitely score, but he'll have to improve his 45.8 percentage on 2-pointers to mitigate his coming dip from downtown.

One of many ailing Warriors, **Andris Biedrins** has the most to gain once he returns from his abdominal strain, perhaps this week. He's a double-double machine with a reputation for blocking shots.

Forwards **Anthony Randolph**, near right, and **LaMarcus Aldridge**, far right, are equipped to rebound from their slow starts.

(PHOTOS: GETTY)



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