

The 2024–25 NBA season was one of the most eventful years in recent memory, filled with record breaking performances, blockbuster trades and the emergence of a young champion. From opening night it was clear that the Oklahoma City Thunder were not just an exciting up and coming team but the most dominant squad in the league. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander elevated himself into the very top tier of stars averaging 32.7 points per game to lead the entire NBA in scoring. He combined that output with strong defense and playmaking while his teammates flourished around him. Jalen Williams grew into an All-NBA level wing and Chet Holmgren protected the rim while stretching the floor. Oklahoma City finished the regular season with a 68–14 record and a point differential of plus 12.9, the best in franchise history and one of the greatest in NBA history, all while boasting an average age of just 25.6 years.

Around the league individual brilliance defined the regular season. Trae Young of the Atlanta Hawks led the NBA in assists with 11.6 per game while Domantas Sabonis of the Sacramento Kings was again the leading rebounder at 13.9 per game. Victor Wembanyama, in only his second season, topped the league in blocked shots at 3.8 per game while Dyson Daniels of the Atlanta Hawks surprised everyone by leading in steals at 3.0 per game. The year was full of memorable nights as De'Aaron Fox exploded for 60 points in November, Giannis Antetokounmpo answered with 59 soon after, and Nikola Jokic delivered the most eye popping stat line of all with 61 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in a single game on April 1.

The All-Star Game in San Francisco introduced a new format with four teams racing to 40 points in untimed games. Stephen Curry put on a show in his home region and earned All-Star MVP. First time All-Stars included Victor Wembanyama, Stephon Castle, Cade Cunningham and Alperen Sengun. The weekend was a symbol of the youth movement that was reshaping the league.

If Oklahoma City was the dominant story of the regular season the trades that shook the NBA midyear provided the other major narrative. The most shocking move saw Luka Doncic dealt from the Dallas Mavericks to the Los Angeles Lakers in exchange for Anthony Davis. This one for one superstar swap was almost unprecedented in NBA history and instantly changed the direction of both franchises. Golden State doubled down on the present by acquiring Jimmy Butler from Miami while Toronto landed Brandon Ingram from New Orleans. Minnesota made a bold decision to send Karl-Anthony Towns to the New York Knicks while Sacramento brought in DeMar DeRozan in a three team deal. Russell Westbrook was shipped from the Clippers to Utah before a buyout eventually placed him with the Denver Nuggets. Each of these moves shaped the playoff picture and gave the season its sense of volatility.

When awards season arrived Shai Gilgeous-Alexander was the obvious choice for Most Valuable Player after leading the league in scoring and anchoring a historically dominant team. Stephon Castle of the San Antonio Spurs was named Rookie of the Year after establishing himself as a reliable two way guard. Evan Mobley of the Cavaliers took home Defensive Player of the Year while Dyson Daniels of Atlanta was rewarded as Most Improved Player. Payton Pritchard gave Boston a valuable spark off the bench and was honored as Sixth Man of the Year. Kenny Atkinson guided the Cavaliers to the best record in the East and was named Coach of the Year while Jalen Brunson of the Knicks won the Clutch Player of the Year for his many late game heroics.

The playoffs brought even more drama. In the Play-In Tournament the Miami Heat made history by becoming the first ever tenth seed to advance into the postseason. In the Eastern Conference the Cleveland Cavaliers entered as favorites but the Indiana Pacers stunned the league. Led by Tyrese Haliburton's playmaking and a balanced attack they upset the Milwaukee Bucks and then eliminated Cleveland to secure a surprise trip to the NBA Finals. In the Western Conference Oklahoma City continued to dominate by sweeping past Memphis and then surviving a tough series against Minnesota. Golden State's addition of Jimmy Butler was not enough as Anthony Edwards powered the Timberwolves past the Warriors in five games. Injuries also shaped the bracket, most notably when Jayson Tatum tore his Achilles in the middle of the Celtics' series against the Knicks, effectively ending Boston's hopes.

The Finals between the Thunder and Pacers went the full seven games. Indiana proved resilient and balanced, but Oklahoma City had the best player in the series. In Game Seven the Thunder reached 103 points, becoming the first team since 1988 to score over 100 in a Game Seven of the Finals, and won 103–97. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander capped his season by earning Finals MVP, completing a rare double of regular season MVP and Finals MVP. The championship was the first for the Thunder franchise since its days as the Seattle SuperSonics in 1979 and delivered the state of Oklahoma its first major professional sports title.

The legacy of the 2024–25 season is defined by numbers and narratives alike. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander's 32.7 points per game, Trae Young's 11.6 assists, Domantas Sabonis's 13.9 rebounds, Victor Wembanyama's 3.8 blocks and Dyson Daniels's 3.0 steals highlighted the statistical excellence of the year. But more than the stats, it was the combination of a young champion, blockbuster trades, unforgettable individual nights, and the drama of the playoffs that made this season unforgettable and a turning point in NBA history.