

HEAT 2025-26: BUILDING THE FUTURE CORE

Flexible lineup built on internal development

Exploring trades for financial flexibility

Focus on spacing, defense and Heat culture

 **by Elias Haile**



PROPOSED STARTING FIVE



Davion Mitchell (PG)

POA defender, low-usage connector



Tyler Herro (SG)

Primary scorer, off-ball shooter



Haywood Highsmith (SF)

3&D wing, switchable defender



Nikola Jović (PF)

Stretch forward, floor spacer

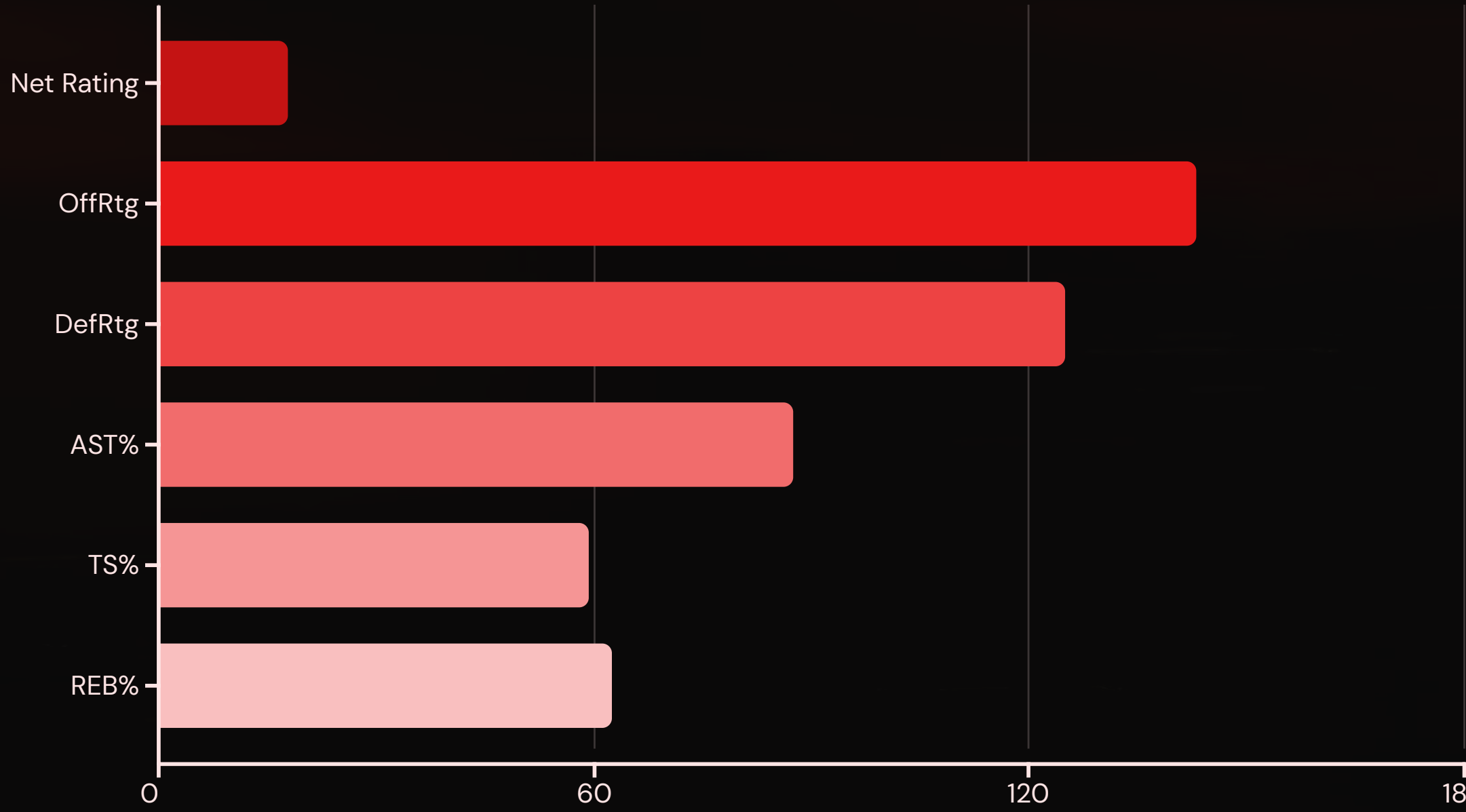


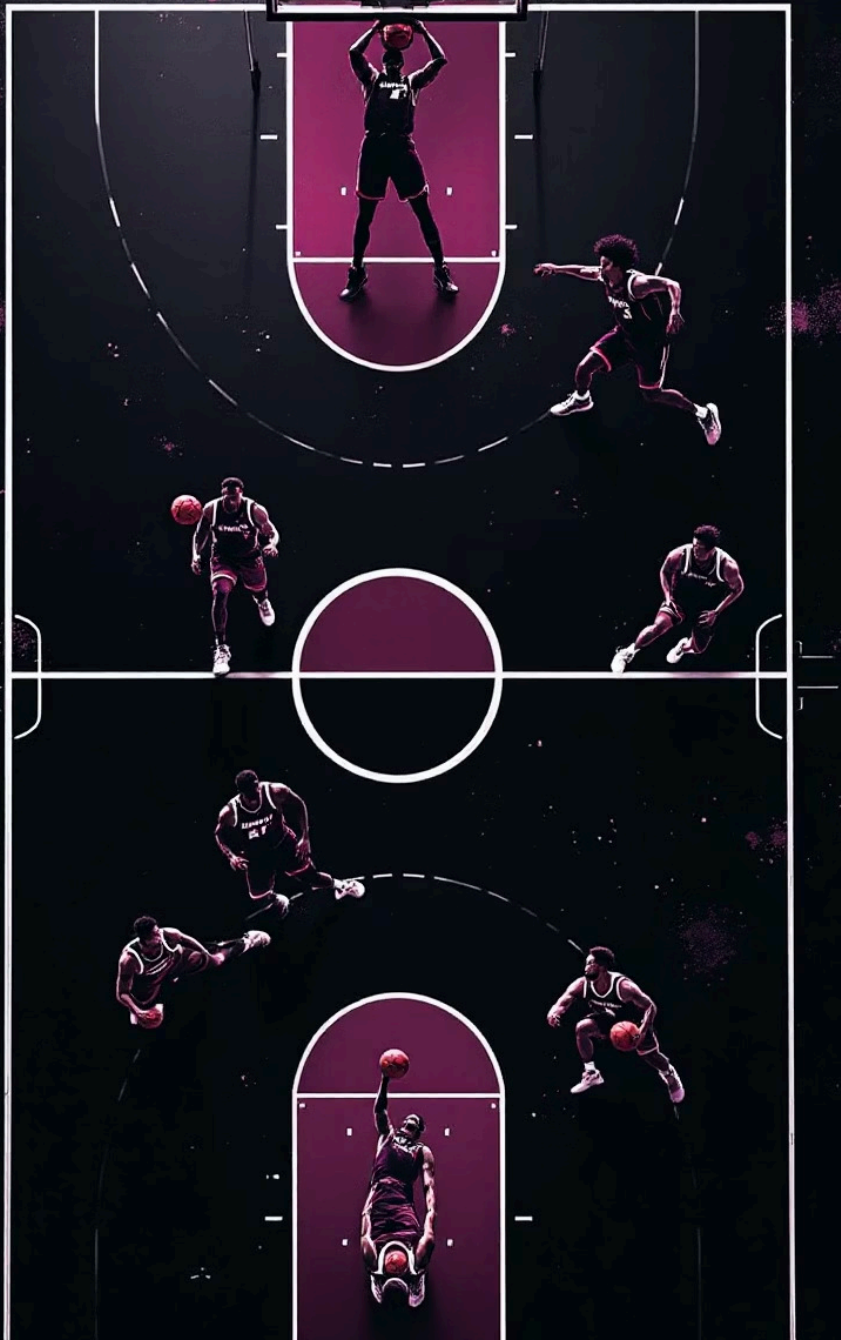
Bam Adebayo (C)

Anchor big, short-roll hub

ON-COURT PERFORMANCE METRICS

Small but promising 9-minute sample size





WHY THIS LINEUP WORKS



Defensive Balance

Mitchell protects Herro, Bam anchors backline



Optimal Spacing

Jović and Highsmith stretch floor for Herro/Bam actions



Elite Metrics

87.5% AST%, 62.5% REB%, +17.9 Net Rating



Heat Culture

Defense, unselfishness, internal development

ADDRESSING POTENTIAL CONCERNS



Small Sample Size

Metrics strong enough to justify extended testing



Defensive Concerns

Mitchell/Highsmith cover for Herro/Jović weaknesses



Limited Creation

Bam, Herro and Mitchell serve as playmakers



Rozier's Role

Forward-facing lineup anticipates potential trade or exit

FINAL RECOMMENDATION



Test Mitchell at PG

Give serious minutes to evaluate long-term fit



Cost-Controlled Core

Maintains financial flexibility for future moves



Forward Thinking

Supports next wave of Heat basketball