

## **NBA Season Awards Predictions**

**By: Max Hall and Eoin Donnelly**

**ROTY: Ben Simmons (PHI)**

Ben Simmons was highly touted coming out of LSU. His do-it-all playmaking ability makes him the favorite for Rookie of the Year. So far he's averaging 18.5 points, 9.6 rebounds, 7.9 assists, and 1.5 steals. He can get rebounds and distribute like a point guard, and he plays like a proven veteran, a trait most rookies don't have.

Other Candidates: Jayson Tatum (BOS), Lonzo Ball (LAL), Dennis Smith Jr. (DAL)

**MVP: Giannis Antetokounmpo (MIL)**

Giannis has been on the rise for years now and from the looks of it is ready to take over the NBA. His ability to score at will, collect rebounds, get his teammates involved and close out games will factor into his MVP season. However, if the Bucks get a low seed it will be hard for him to win the award.

Other Candidates: LeBron James (CLE), Kawhi Leonard (SAS), Russell Westbrook (OKC)

**MIP (Most Improved): Vic Oladipo (IND)**

Victor Oladipo has shown flashes of his star potential during his first few seasons. This year, he should be the #1 option on a struggling Pacers team, and as a result a breakout season seems inevitable. He has already won Eastern Conference Player of the Week, and upgrades over last season's averages of 15.9 pts, 4.3 rbs, and 2.9 asts are in store.

Other Candidates: Jaylen Brown (BOS), Myles Turner (IND), Kristaps Porzingis (NYK)

**Comeback Player of the Year: Jabari Parker (MIL)**

Jabari Parker has torn his ACL twice in his first three NBA seasons. However, he has shown he can produce when healthy, and already is one of the better scoring power forwards in the league. He can provide a steady scoring hand to a Bucks team without a clear third option, and will be a key contributor to the team down the stretch.

Other Candidates: Joel Embiid (PHI), Chandler Parsons (MEM), Zach LaVine (CHI)

**Coach of the Year: Brad Stevens (BOS)**

Brad Stevens is leading a completely new-look Celtics and so far, he has been successful. A devastating loss of Gordon Hayward won't help the Celtics, however the Celtics have still managed to start off the season well. Brad Stevens will win COTY because he has developed chemistry with the completely revamped Celtics, something coaches have difficulty doing with new players.

Other Candidates: Gregg Popovich (SAS), Mike D'Antoni (HOU), Scott Brooks (WAS)

6th Man of the Year: Eric Gordon (HOU)

Eric Gordon can fill it up in a hurry, and he gives the already high octane Rockets offense an instant scoring punch off the bench. He is looking like a true scorer in the early going of the season, and while he might not do much else, he fits the Rockets space and pace offense perfectly. He has the potential to average 20 ppg off the bench this year.

Other Candidates: Lou Williams (LAC), Andre Iguodala (GSW), Marcus Smart (BOS)

DPOY (Defensive): Rudy Gobert (UTA)

Rudy Gobert is arguably the most dynamic shot blocker in the NBA. His presence in the paint makes other teams scared to enter and attempt a shot. If he doesn't block a shot, he is just as good at altering it and making people miss. He'll also gobble up rebounds at an above-average rate, making him one of the most complete defensive players in the NBA this year.

Other Candidates: Draymond Green(GSW), Kawhi Leonard(SAS), Anthony Davis(NOR)