

= 2006 ? 07 Toronto Raptors season =

The Toronto Raptors 2006 ? 07 season is the twelfth National Basketball Association (NBA) season for the Toronto Raptors basketball franchise . Following a poor 2005 ? 06 season , General Manager Bryan Colangelo greatly revamped the team roster during the pre @-@ season but continued to build the team around All @-@ Star Chris Bosh . Despite a sluggish start , the 2006 ? 07 season transformed into a watershed year for Toronto . The Raptors captured their first division title , finished third in the Eastern Conference , made the playoffs for the first time in five years , equalled their best ever regular season record , and secured home court advantage for the first time in franchise history . However , the Raptors met the New Jersey Nets in the first round of the playoffs and were defeated four games to two . At the end of the regular season , head coach Sam Mitchell and Colangelo were named NBA Coach of the Year and NBA Executive of the Year respectively .

= = Pre @-@ season = =

= = = NBA Draft = = =

= = = Pre @-@ season trades = = =

Before the season , Toronto won the NBA Draft Lottery and were awarded the 1st overall pick in the 2006 NBA Draft . To prepare for their draft choice , the Raptors traded Rafael Araújo for Kris Humphries and Robert Whaley , and traded Matt Bonner , Eric Williams and a second round pick for Rasho Nesterovi? and cash considerations . The 1st overall pick was used to select Italian Andrea Bargnani , making him the first European drafted number one overall . Maurizio Gherardini was hired as the club 's vice @-@ president and assistant general manager , making him the first European elevated to an NBA executive job . Promising small forward Charlie Villanueva was traded for point guard T. J. Ford and cash considerations , while Chris Bosh was rewarded with a three @-@ year extension .

= = Roster = =

= = Regular season = =

General Manager Bryan Colangelo continued to surround Bosh with complementary players , and signed two @-@ time Euroleague Most Valuable Player Anthony Parker . Spanish international Jorge Garbajosa and former slam dunk champion Fred Jones were also signed from free agency . The Raptors concluded pre @-@ season transactions by re @-@ signing veteran Darrick Martin . With this new lineup , Toronto looked to maintain a team who could both pass and shoot the ball , but was also stronger defensively than the 2005 ? 06 roster . As a showcase of their new roster , on 15 October 2006 , the 119 points by Toronto marked the third highest total in a pre @-@ season game in franchise history . The Raptors finished the pre @-@ season with a 7 ? 1 win @-@ loss record , which was the best record in the league and a franchise record .

= = = Push for playoffs = = =

The first half of the season produced mixed results as Toronto struggled towards the .500 mark after a dismal 2 ? 8 start . Bosh 's consistent performances however ensured he was named an All @-@ Star starter in the 2007 NBA All @-@ Star Game on 25 January 2007 . He received the most number of votes after LeBron James among all Eastern Conference forwards . A day later , the

Raptors hit the .500 mark for the first time since the 2003 ? 04 season after defeating the Boston Celtics at the Air Canada Centre . On 2 February , the Raptors went 24 ? 23 , the first time since 2001 ? 02 that they had been over .500 this late in a season . As a result , the Raptors won three NBA Eastern Conference awards for the month of January : Player of the Month (Bosh) , Rookie of the Month (Bargnani) and Coach of the Month (Sam Mitchell) . On 4 February , the Raptors ' 122 ? 110 home win against the Los Angeles Clippers represented a season @-@ high in points for the Raptors . Within the same week , Bosh 's career @-@ high 41 points in a win against the Orlando Magic prompted an unheard of event at the Air Canada Centre ? chants of " MVP " by the home fans . This chant was repeated in a win against Vince Carter 's New Jersey Nets ten days later ? to the disbelief of Carter ? a game which also saw the team break franchise records for most number of home wins and highest home winning percentage entering the All @-@ Star break .

After the break , Colangelo traded Jones for Juan Dixon , a versatile guard . Luke Jackson was also signed to provide depth to Toronto 's bench . Following a win against the Charlotte Bobcats on 1 April 2007 , Toronto clinched a playoff berth for the first time in five years . They then claimed their first division title when they defeated the Philadelphia 76ers five days later , winning the Atlantic Division crown . Another franchise record was set when Toronto won the next game against the Bulls , this time for most home wins .

The Raptors were eventually seeded third in the Eastern Conference , marking one of the biggest turnarounds in NBA history in terms of league standing and defensive ranking . Throughout the season , they were lauded for playing solid defense and good sharing and moving of the ball . José Calderón , Bargnani , Dixon and Morris Peterson turned in reliable performances from the bench while Ford and Bosh ran the offence with consistent numbers . And in Parker and Garbajosa , the Raptors had two very versatile players who could both defend and attack . Furthermore , in contrast to previous seasons , the Raptors were able to win games despite injuries to key players such as Bosh , Bargnani , Parker , Ford and Garbajosa . Colangelo , Gherardini and Mitchell were also largely credited for transforming Toronto 's fortunes .

= = = Standings = = =

= = Playoffs = =

As third seed , the Raptors played sixth seed New Jersey Nets in the first round of the 2007 NBA Playoffs . The series drew much media attention as Vince Carter , a former Raptor who left Toronto under acrimonious circumstances two seasons ago , was now back at the ACC as a Net . In the opening game , while Carter was constantly booed by the home crowd and was not an offensive threat , Toronto 's inexperience was evident as they too struggled offensively and were down 65 ? 78 going into the fourth quarter . A late rally by Toronto in the fourth quarter was not enough as they eventually lost 91 ? 96 . The Raptors won game 2 89 ? 83 at the ACC to tie the series 1 ? 1 , as Bosh recorded 25 points and a game @-@ high 13 rebounds . The Nets won games 3 and 4 to lead 3 ? 1 , but Toronto forced a game 6 when they narrowly won 98 ? 96 in game 5 . In that game , the Raptors set two post @-@ season franchise records : most number of points going into halftime and biggest lead for a half . The attendance for the game was also a franchise record for a playoff game . In game 6 , however , New Jersey won 98 ? 97 , sealing the series 4 ? 2 and sending Toronto out of the first round .

In recognition of being the chief architects of Toronto 's turnaround season , on 24 April 2007 , Mitchell was named 2006 ? 07 NBA Coach of the Year , the first Raptors coach to receive this honour ; Colangelo was later named 2006 ? 07 Executive of the Year .

= = Game log = =

= = = Playoffs = = =

