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# 2011-12 Miami Heat Season Overview

Despite making the Finals last year, the Miami Heat felt a huge disappointment after losing to the Mavericks in six games. After adding LeBron James and Chris Bosh last year, the team guaranteed multiple championships and they almost won one last year. After struggling at the beginning of the season, the Miami Heat ended up having the second best record in the Eastern Conference at 58-24. Miami coasted in the first 3 rounds of the playoffs beating the 76ers, Celtics and Bulls but lost in the Finals.

There is no doubt that the heat is on Miami's Big Three to step up and bring home the championship this season. Miami let go of free agents Mike Bibby and Jamaal Magloire to free agency and lost Zydrunas Ilgauskas to retirement. The team did bring in veteran SF Shane Battier, sign Eddy Curry and re-sign Mario Chalmers, James Jones and Juwan Howard. They also took PG Norris Cole with their draft selection.

The Heat's big three of James, Wade and Bosh totaled almost 71 points of the team's 102 points per night last season so they really didn't need to make a lot of additions in the offseason. James and Wade are two of the premiere players in the entire NBA; they are not just superb on offense but they are excellent on defense also. Their skills to make their other teammates better is also what makes this such a great team. James is one of the more well-rounded players in the NBA and he is a triple-double threat everytime he plays a game. He put up 26.7 points, 7.0 assists, and 7.5 boards/game last season. Wade isn't far behind, as he averaged 25.5 points, 6.4 boards, and 4.6 assists.

After playing as the top option in Toronto for many seasons, Chris Bosh staggered offensively at times after being seen as the third option. Bosh put up a career-high 24 points in his last year in Toronto, and came in having put up at least 22 points over the past five years. In his first season with the Heat he put up just 18.7 points/game. Wade and James have to find a way to keep him more involved in the offense if they want to win it all this season.

Chalmers and Joel Anthony will round out the starting five. Chalmers really seemed to find his groove in the playoffs, as he enjoyed a string of strong performances down the stretch to prove his worth in Miami. Anthony gives the team a solid inside defender and rebounder, who will be asked to do even more with the departures of Ilgauskas and Magloire.

The rest of the team is made up of a bunch of capable role players. Battier gives them a solid defender and a guy who can hit the open corner three, Mike Miller is a deadly outside shooter, and Udonis Haslem does whatever the team needs of him on both sides of the ball, Two players that can also shoot the ball and provide a lift offensively off the Miami bench is James Jones and Eddie House.

Rookie point guard Norris Cole is an underrated pickup who can take minutes away from Chalmers with his defensive ability and poise. Eddy Curry, who was once seen as one of the best potential post men in the league, could be used as another inside guy in the rotation.

Pick: 1st in the East's Southeast Division - The Miami Heat is certainly the top team in the East at the moment, and looking to the [NBA Finals odds](#) they are even the top team in the entire NBA. After last season's disappointing defeat in the Championship, this team will approach the new year even more hungry to take what they think is rightfully theirs. Their sole issue going forward is their late game play. It was an area they found difficulty with all year, as they didn't seem to know who should take the final shot. If they can get that figured out, they should be back in the Finals.

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