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# 2012 Milwaukee Bucks Overview

The Milwaukee Bucks disappointed everybody when they churned in a losing record last year after going 46-36 in the previous season. They were primed to make a big push in the Eastern Conference but lost all their momentum when injuries hampered their star center in Andrew Bogut. They played excellent defense last year, but simply didn't have the scoring punch needed to consistently win games.

The Bucks were able to sign Stephen Jackson and Beno Udrih while giving up Corey Maggette and John Salmons, they also brought on Mike Dunleavy in free agency. With the additions of these guys, the plan in Milwaukee is that they will have enough talent on offense to finally get back to the postseason.

Jackson has the chance to be the top scorer in this mostly defensive minded squad. He put up 18.5 points/game with Charlotte last year and has every chance to put up 20 a night this season. Udrih put up a career high 13 points/game last season with the Kings, while veteran forward Dunleavy averaged 11 points/game with Indiana.

We should see a starting lineup of C Andrew Bogut, PF Drew Gooden in the post, SF Stephen Jackson on the wings and Mike Dunleavy and Brandon Jennings at the two guard positions. Andrew Bogut is coming off another injury-riddled year while Jennings hit the Sophomore slump after starting strong in his rookie season with 15.5 points during the 2009-10 league year. Milwaukee needs the steady play of Bogut and Jennings if they want to get back in the postseason in the Eastern Conference.

Veteran Drew Gooden is the who plans to start at power forward, but at this stage in his career Gooden is really better off as a bench player than a starter. Gooden put up 11.3 and 6.8 boards last season, well below his 2009-10 figures of 14.8 points and 9.4 rebounds.

Depth is one of the biggest issues for Milwaukee at this stage. While they dealt for Livingston in the Charlotte deal, their only other available choices at the guard spots are Carlos Delfino and Beno Udrih. Ersan Ilyasova, Luc Richard Mbah a Moute and rookie Tobias Harris will plan to see a lot of minutes behind Gooden, but they lack depth at both center and small forward. In order to take advantage of the talents of Dunleavy, the Bucks need to go out and add another option at the shooting guard position, so that he can take the small forward role on the second unit.

Prediction – 3rd in the East's Central Division: Milwaukee will continue to go with coach Skiles defensive mindset, but their top issue is scoring on offense. Both Jackson and Jennings are capable scorers but they have the inclinations to take terrible shots. The focus for Milwaukee to bet back to their winning record is with the play of Bogut on the inside. If the elbow issues continue to hurt him on offense, then Milwaukee will have a tough time getting back to the postseason. They have almost no chance to take on Chicago for the top ranking in the Central Division and they are likely a step behind the Pacers too. That is one reason [NBA handicappers](#) will be shying away from them this season. The Bucks may shock people like they did a few years ago, but a lot of things have to go right for that to happen.

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