



Introduction

Now that football has overtaken our televisions, we know basketball isn't far off. EA Sports is back with their latest installment in the NBA Live series. They got rid of the silly Freestyle Superstar moves and have focused much more on realism. This, of course, means a renewed importance on good basketball fundamentals. IGN is here with new tips and strategies to help you out on offense, defense, as well as a team-by-team analysis, which will prepare you for dynasty run.


So what are you waiting for? Lace up your sneakers and let's hit the hardcourt!

In this NBA Live 08 strategy guide, you'll find:

- **BASICS** // A breakdown of the basics of NBA Live play.
- **OFFENSE** // Offensive tips for NBA Live neophytes.
- **DEFENSE** // Defensive strategies to improve your game.
- **TEAMS** // Tips and info on every team in the NBA.
- **FAQ** // Answers to some very frequently asked questions.

Guide by: Jim Chamberlin





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NBA Live 08 Basics

With so many game modes in NBA Live 08, it may be a little overwhelming, so we'll be offering a brief description of each one to help you out.

Play Now

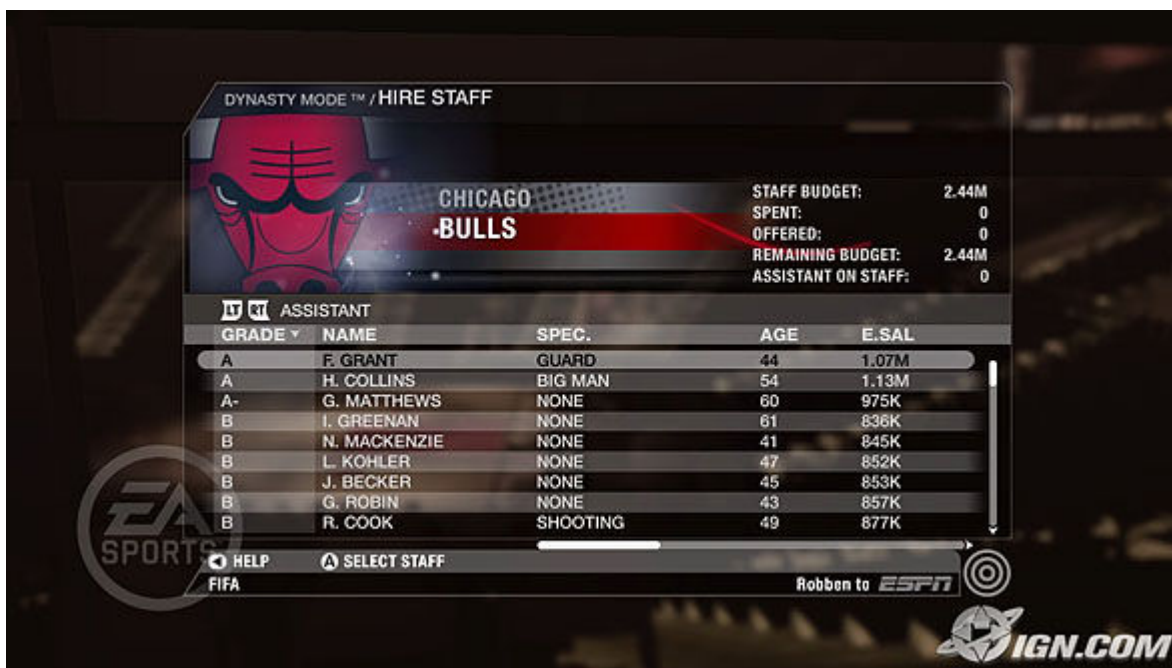
This mode is more or less a quick match or exhibition game mode. You're given two teams (home and away) and you can change them to whatever team you want. In addition to the regular league teams, you can also choose from All Star teams as well as international teams.

Play Online

Very much like the play now mode, the play online mode is an exhibition game, but requires you to connect to the Internet. This will give you the ability to play against people from around the world.

Dynasty Mode

Always looked forward to, the dynasty mode gives you twenty five years to take a team of your choosing to the NBA Finals. Put on your general manager cap and see if you wheel and deal and make your team a championship contender.



FIBA World Championship

Compete in an eight-team tournament with any of the top international teams in the world or and NBA teams.



NBA All Star Weekend

This part of the NBA season is geared directly for the fans. You'll be able to compete in various challenges including the Rookie Challenge, 3 Point Shootout, Slam Dunk Contest, and NBA All Star Game.

Quick Pick Play

Play a Play Now game with any ten players on any two teams. Basically, you can create your own Dream Team for a single game.

Scenario Play

Create your own scenario or select a random scenario to play to see if you can control the outcome your way.

Practice

As soon as you start the game, you'll find yourself in the NBA Live Practice Arena. You can practice your jumpshot, dunks, layups, and go-to moves with any NBA player. The game offers you a menu which will allow you to change which player you control.

NBA Live 08 Offense

In this section, we will be covering the basics of an effective offense in NBA Live 08.

Know Your Players

This may sound obvious, but it's very important to understand what each of your players is capable of. This is not limited to your starting five, of course. Look at the attribute ratings each of your players have in shooting and passing, for instance. Your center probably has pretty poor ratings for 3 pointers, so try and keep him down by the basket whenever possible. On the same token, your point guard probably won't be a great dunker, so feed the ball to your big man in the paint, and slam it down your opponent's throat.

Practice Shooting

Before getting right into the game, practice your shooting in the gym. Get a feeling for the controls and understand how the shooting system works. You want to release the ball at the highest point of your jump. Releasing it too early or too late will increase the odds of you missing your shot. Once you think you've gotten this under control, go ahead and play a regular game. Shooting with no one defending you is one thing, but it's completely different to have someone trying to either steal the ball or has his hand up in your grill.

Use Pre Set Plays

Unlike football, the sport of basketball doesn't feature players huddling together to agree on a play to call. Instead, it's a faster paced game, with the point guard calling out all of the plays with his hands. You can do the same with your D Pad (depending on which game console you're using). Since there are only four directions, you only get four plays to call. The plays available to you depends on which team you're using. Each team's playbook is a little different, and it can be customized, adding/removing plays to suit your needs.

Take It To The Hole

The defense won't often give you an open lane to the rim, but when it does, take advantage of it. Regardless of the size of the player, they can all either do a dunk or a lay up of some kind. Taller players will be able to do big dunks, while good shooting guards will be able to pull off flashier dunks and/or lay ups. Driving the ball down the lane not only allows you to pull off a high percentage shot, but it increases the odds of you getting fouled and getting to the free throw line, occasionally giving you the opportunity for a three point play. You can also get the opposing team into foul trouble when you drive to the basket often enough.



Don't Dribble Into A Crowd

The CPU often does a very good job at clogging the lane to the rim. It doesn't matter which player you're using, you'll eventually have the ball stolen from. Instead of always driving the ball to the hoop, pass it to someone who is open or pull up for a jumper.

Kick It Out For a Three

The CPU can play some pretty stingy defense in the paint. Because of this, throw it in to your big man. As the defense swarms him, toss it out to your perimeter shooter for an open shot.



Use Your Go-To Moves

A lot of the star players have what are called "go-to" moves. These are often fancy jumpshots, such as fadeaways, which will allow the player to create some space between himself and the defender. While you can practice these moves in the practice mode, it's always better to give them a try under fire, so to speak.



Hit The Boards

When you miss a shot, don't give up. Keep your center and power forward near the rim when possible. Grabbing rebounds isn't particularly easy. It relies very much on positioning and timing. You have to time your jump properly. Work on your rebounding to get second chance points, something every team needs.

NBA Live 08 Defense

In this section, we will be covering the basics of an effective defense in NBA Live 08.

Know Your Opponents

Although you obviously cannot study film of your opponents, you can research the attribute points of your opponents. Look to see what each player can do well and what they're terrible at. For instance, Shaq can be a big threat when he's got the ball near the hoop, but he's terrible shooting free throws. This is why many teams have used the "hack a Shaq" method of defense during certain parts of the game. Study your team's strengths and weaknesses, and you won't be surprised in a game.

Clog Up The Paint

When you're on offense, you'll often see that the CPU has defenders in the paint, making inside passes and drives to the hole a little more problematic. Why not do the same? You'll cause similar problems for the CPU's offense. Just be sure to keep defenders on their man, so as not to allow open shots on the perimeter.

TIP

Don't stay in the lane too long, or you'll be called for an illegal defense.

Take It Like A Man

Whether you're clogging up the paint or guarding someone on the perimeter, you will likely eventually encounter a player who has decided to drive to the basket. Get in front of him, plant your feet, and take a charge. Charges can sometimes change the momentum of a game.

Keep Your Hands Up

Whether your defending an in bound pass or simply defending a player, keep your hands up. This will cut down on the number of passing lanes available to your opponent, possibly causing them to throw an errand pass.



Pick-and-Roll

The CPU teams call a lot of pick-and-rolls compared to last year's game. Keep an eye out for a man setting up for a screen and quickly get around him. If you get tangled up with him, don't worry about it. A few times a game isn't out of the ordinary and won't hurt your chances of winning by very much.

Just... Take It

Some of the best defenders in the NBA don't wait for the point guard, for instance, to make a bad pass. He'll actually create opportunities for himself by reaching in and taking the ball away. Don't be afraid to reach in and steal the ball. Your steals won't likely take place when you and the ball handler are standing still. Instead, you'll likely get the ball if you time your steal attempt(s) when the ball handler is attempting to make a move, perhaps in a pick and roll, for instance. The refs won't call a foul for every steal attempt, but they will call it on occasion, so don't go crazy with it. After you've got the ball, you've got a great fast break opportunity, so take it to the hole.

Stuff It

One of the most enjoyable plays on defense is stuffing a guy's dunk or layup attempt. Such a play can not only lead to a fast break, but it can be the start of a big shift in momentum. While it's possible to block a shot from behind, you'll be far more successful if your primary shot blocker is in front of the shooter. Try to be as close to the shooter as possible. If he's been able to get a cushion between the two of you, he'll likely be able to get the shot off and over your outstretched arms. As the player goes up for a shot, make your leap upward. Timing is very important. Although it's quite easy to move towards the shooter as he's shooting, keep your hands off of the player movement control. Lunging at the shooter in mid air may very well cause in a foul.

Staying with the issue of timing, you should be aware that the CPU offense tends to use the Pro Hop frequently while in the paint. This can be difficult to defend against if you're inexperienced, so be aware that the Pro Hop is intended, in part, to throw off your timing. If you attempt to block the shot and get fooled by the Pro Hop, you're going to be up in the air, blocking nothing but the glare of the spotlights and looking like a damn fool. Be patient and study the move and time your jump properly, and you'll be stuffing players left and right.

Hit The Boards

Whether on offense or defense, grabbing rebounds are a key to winning. If you want to win, don't rely on the CPU to rebound for you. Keep your center and power forward near the rim when possible. Grabbing rebounds isn't particularly easy. It relies very much on positioning and timing. You have to time your jump properly, so jump just as the ball bounces and hits the rim.

NBA Live 08 Teams

This section of the guide covers each of the regular NBA teams. You'll find team strengths and weaknesses discussed below, along with a list of the starters. It's important to keep in mind that this information is based on the starting lineups in the game. These are subject to change.

EAST

Atlantic Division	Central Division	Southeast Division
Boston Celtics	Chicago Bulls	Atlanta Hawks
New Jersey Nets	Cleveland Cavaliers	Charlotte Bobcats
New York Knicks	Detroit Pistons	Miami Heat
Philadelphia 76ers	Indiana Pacers	Orlando Magic
Toronto Raptors	Milwaukee Bucks	Washington Wizards

WEST

Northwest Division	Pacific Division	Southwest Division
Denver Nuggets	Golden State Warriors	Dallas Mavericks
Minnesota Timberwolves	Los Angeles Clippers	Houston Rockets
Portland Trailblazers	Los Angeles Lakers	Memphis Grizzlies
Seattle Supersonics	Phoenix Suns	New Orleans Hornets
Utah Jazz	Sacramento Kings	San Antonio Spurs

Boston Celtics

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	K. Perkins	65
PF	K. Garnett	92
SF	P. Pierce	89
SG	R. Allen	87
PG	R. Rondo	69

Of all the teams in the NBA, Boston made the biggest moves in the offseason, acquiring top-notch talent like Ray Allen and Kevin Garnett. After last year's terrible season, things are looking up for the Celtics. Garnett, Pierce, and Allen should account for over eighty percent of the team's points from game to game, leaving very little opportunity for the bench players to have much of an impact. Of the starters, Rondo and Perkins are the least experienced, but we don't think it'll be a big problem for the team.

Team Coach	Doc Rivers
Team OVR Rating	80
06-07 Record	24-58

New Jersey Nets

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	J. Magloire	72
PF	N. Krstic	69
SF	R. Jefferson	82
SG	V. Carter	88
PG	J. Kidd	85

The Nets have one of the most impressive backcourts in the league with Vince Carter and Jason Kidd. When they're at the top of their game, the Nets can be a very exciting team. In the front court, expect a good performance from Nenad Krstic, who spent most of last year in rehab thanks to a torn ACL. If he can remain healthy, Krstic will provide the Nets with a big man who can score.

Team Coach	Lawrence Frank
Team OVR Rating	82
06-07 Record	41-41

New York Knicks

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	E. Curry	73
PF	Z. Randolph	78
SF	J. Jeffries	69
SG	J. Crawford	75
PG	S. Marbury	83

The Knicks are one of the easiest teams to criticize. Although you won't find many superstars on the team, the roster is loaded with talent. The problem comes when they actually play – they can't play together. And defense? Forget it. The average high school team can play better defense. If you're to have success with the Knicks, share the ball. All of these guys are scorers, so make sure they get their touches, or you'll hear it in Dynasty mode.

Team Coach	Isiah Thomas
Team OVR Rating	75
06-07 Record	33-49

Philadelphia 76ers

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	S. Dalembert	72
PF	S. Randolph	63
SF	R. Carney	67
SG	A. Iguodala	84
PG	A. Miller	77

Although Iverson is no longer with the 6ers, their acquisition of Andre Miller provides them with a more traditional point guard. Miller can not only score, but he'll focus more on feeding the ball to the big men, and Iguodala will be able to provide you with 20 points a game.

Team Coach	Maurice Cheeks
Team OVR Rating	70
06-07 Record	35-47

Toronto Raptors

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	R. Nesterovic	63
PF	C. Bosh	86
SF	A. Bargnani	72
SG	A. Parker	68
PG	T. Ford	76

The Raptors surprised a lot of people last year with a solid performance and a trip to the playoffs. Since neither Parker nor Ford are consistent scorers, make sure you get the ball to Chris Bosh, one of the league's best big-men. He's a fantastic scorer but can also kick it out to a perimeter shooter like Jason Kapono.

Team Coach	Sam Mitchell
Team OVR Rating	69
06-07 Record	47-35

Chicago Bulls

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	B. Wallace	78
PF	T. Thomas	66
SF	L. Deng	80
SG	B. Gordon	80
PG	K. Hinrich	83

The Bulls currently have one of their best teams since the Michael Jordan championship years. Sure a guy like Hinrich doesn't have a well-known name, but his game speaks for itself. He's one of the most consistent point guards in the league, averaging over 16 points and 6 assists a game last year. Expect the offense to continue to focus on Deng, Gordon, and Hinrich, as the big-men are more suited to play defense.

Team Coach	Scott Skiles
Team OVR Rating	80
06-07 Record	49-33

Cleveland Cavaliers

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	Z. Ilgauskas	75
PF	D. Gooden	72
SF	L. James	96
SG	L. Hughes	80
PG	D. Gibson	67

Cleveland didn't make many moves in the off-season, and why should they? They made the finals last year with a solid team, led by LeBron James, an absolute monster on the court. Sure King James may have carried the Cavs to the finals, but he had some help with the surprise performance of the inexperienced Daniel Gibson. Gibson is accompanied by shooter Larry Hughes. As long as you can keep Hughes off the injured list, you should be able to go far with the Cavaliers.

Team Coach	Mike Brown
Team OVR Rating	77
06-07 Record	50-32

Detroit Pistons

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	N. Mohammed	66
PF	R. Wallace	84
SF	T. Prince	79
SG	R. Hamilton	82
PG	C. Billups	86

With Billups and Hamilton, the Pistons have what is likely the best starting backcourt in the league. They're both dependable scorers and will provide the bulk of the offense. If Antonio McDyess is made a starter, he could bring more energy to the team and provide an explosive offense.

Team Coach	Flip Saunders
Team OVR Rating	82
06-07 Record	53-29

Indiana Pacers

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	T. Murphy	72
PF	J. O'Neal	85
SF	M. Dunleavy	73
SG	D. Granger	76
PG	J. Tinsley	74

The Pacers are looking for some improvement by bringing in a new head coach in Jim O'Brien, but the offense will still focus around Jermaine O'Neal. Tinsley is a good point guard, but the team could use another impact player if you're able to find one in free agency for your Dynasty. They're one or two moves away from going far into the playoffs.

Team Coach	Jim O'Brien
Team OVR Rating	67
06-07 Record	49-33

Milwaukee Bucks

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	A. Bogut	75
PF	C. Villanueva	76
SF	B. Mason	72
SG	M. Redd	85
PG	E. Boykins	72

Michael Redd has been the man in Milwaukee and will be for the foreseeable future. He's an explosive player, along with Maurice Williams in the backcourt. The Bucks have a deep frontcourt with Bogut, Villanueva, and rookie Yi Jianlian. The Bucks will be much improved over last year's performance.

Team Coach	Larry Krystkowiak
Team OVR Rating	72
06-07 Record	28-54

Atlanta Hawks

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	S. Williams	75
PF	A. Horford	73
SF	J. Smith	78
SG	J. Johnson	84
PG	S. Claxton	72

The Hawks are a big scorer in the front court away from being a playoff contender. They've got a terrific shooter in Joe Johnson, who will put up 25 points a game reliably. With Claxton and rookie Acie Law, Atlanta has a pair of young talent at the point guard. As they tire in games, sub one of them out for the other and you'll be in good shape.

Team Coach	Mike Woodson
Team OVR Rating	75
06-07 Record	30-52

Charlotte Bobcats

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	P. Brezec	68
PF	E. Okafur	79
SF	G. Wallace	79
SG	J. Richardson	85
PG	R. Felton	77

The acquisition of Jason Richardson will be a huge boost to Charlotte's offense. He will be the team's primary source of points. Although Okafur will be great for rebounding and contributing ten or so points, he's on his own as Brezec is a waste of salary. Get rid of him and find someone more capable for your Dynasty.

Team Coach	Sam Vincent
Team OVR Rating	76
06-07 Record	33-49

Miami Heat

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	S. O'Neal	87
PF	U. Haslem	72
SF	A. Walker	73
SG	D. Wade	93
PG	J. Williams	74

Shaq may not be the force that he was when he was with the Lakers or Magic, but the big fella can still get it done in the paint. Dwayne Wade will be the team's leading scorer, but he's got a great ballhandler in the backcourt with Jason Williams. The Heat can be a very exciting team.

Team Coach	Pat Riley
Team OVR Rating	80
06-07 Record	44-38

Orlando Magic

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	D. Howard	85
PF	T. Battie	61
SF	R. Lewis	84
SG	H. Turkoglu	68
PG	J. Nelson	79

With Dwight Howard and Rashard Lewis, the Magic have great big-men, but their backcourt leaves much to be desired. Jameer Nelson and Hedo Turkoglu don't provide much of a scoring threat, averaging about a dozen points a game. One of the unique attributes about Turkoglu is his height. At 6-10, this unusually tall shooting guard can be great for grabbing the few rebounds Howard misses.

Team Coach	Stan Van Gundy
Team OVR Rating	69
06-07 Record	40-42

Washington Wizards

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	B. Haywood	68
PF	A. Jamison	80
SF	C. Butler	78
SG	D. Stevenson	70
PG	G. Arenas	91

The young Wizards are in serious need of a big man. It's the one area they're missing. Antawn Jamison is great at power forward, but Brendan Haywood isn't going to help take the team to the next level, even with the help of stellar point guard, Gilbert Arenas.

Team Coach	Eddie Jordan
Team OVR Rating	72
06-07 Record	41-41

Denver Nuggets

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	M. Camby	75
PF	Nene	73
SF	C. Anthony	86
SG	J. Smith	70
PG	A. Iverson	91

The Nuggets should have a good season this year with Iverson playing his first full season with the team, alongside Carmelo Anthony. The star power may be with Anthony and Iverson, but the rest of the starters are solid at their positions. The frontcourt (Camby, Nene, Anthony, and Martin) is as good as it gets in the NBA.

Team Coach	George Karl
Team OVR Rating	81
06-07 Record	45-37

Minnesota Timberwolves

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	T. Ratliff	64
PF	A. Jefferson	77
SF	R. Davis	79
SG	R. Foye	76
PG	S. Telfair	68

Much of Minnesota's roster for this season is made up of guys acquired in the big trade which sent Kevin Garnett to Boston. The team has a solid group of big men, with Juwan Howard coming off the bench in a leadership role. If there's a weakness on the team, it would be with the backcourt. Foye is a decent shooting/point guard, but the Timberwolves need another dependable guy in their backcourt.

Team Coach	Randy Wittman
Team OVR Rating	71
06-07 Record	32-50

Portland Trailblazers

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	G. Oden	75
PF	L. Aldridge	70
SF	M. Webster	70
SG	B. Roy	75
PG	J. Jack	65

Your Dynasty will depend on how real you play with the roster. If you sit Oden out because of his real-life injury, Portland will not have much of a presence in the paint. Even with Oden, however, Portland won't likely make it to the playoffs. Brandon Roy simply isn't talented enough to lead the team to the promised land. The Trailblazers will be in re-building mode for several more seasons unless you're able to land a big player in free agency or through a good trade.

Team Coach	Nate McMillan
Team OVR Rating	70
06-07 Record	32-50

Seattle Supersonics

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	R. Swift	68
PF	C. Wilcox	74
SF	K. Durant	78
SG	W. Szczerbiak	73
PG	L. Ridnour	73

With rookie Kevin Durant being the new cornerstone of the Supersonics, don't expect a great season. Durant may have some talented teammates in the backcourt in Szczerbiak and Ridnour, but the team is still young at the core and will take a few more years to mature into a good team.

Team Coach	P.J. Carlesimo
Team OVR Rating	69
06-07 Record	31-51

Utah Jazz

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	M. Okur	72
PF	C. Boozer	81
SF	A. Kirilenko	82
SG	G. Giricek	69
PG	D. Williams	83

The Jazz have one of the better starting lineups in the league. Their only weak spot comes at the shooting guard position. Utah hasn't yet found a good shooter to occupy that position. Deron Williams is an exciting young point guard and with Boozer, they will lead the team to the playoffs with ease. Okur is one of only a handful of big men who can shoot the ball from the perimeter, so use him in that manner, not just in the paint.

Team Coach	Jerry Sloan
Team OVR Rating	76
06-07 Record	51-31

Golden State Warriors

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	A. Biedrins	72
PF	A. Harrington	75
SF	S. Jackson	75
SG	M. Ellis	74
PG	B. Davis	88

Golden State has a rather average roster of players. At point guard, Baron Davis is the clear leader of the team, but don't overlook Monta Ellis. He has improved his game dramatically over the past few years and creates a good tandem threat with Davis.

Team Coach	Don Nelson
Team OVR Rating	74
06-07 Record	42-40

Los Angeles Clippers

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	C. Kramer	72
PF	E. Brand	75
SF	C. Maggette	75
SG	C. Mobly	74
PG	S. Cassell	88

The Clippers have a lot of experience in Mobly and Cassell in the backcourt. Cassell, however, is getting pretty old for the game and will likely retire soon. Use him while you can or trade him for some young talent with high potential. Elton Brand is out due to surgery on his leg, but you can still play as the big fella here, can't you?

Team Coach	Mike Dunleavy
Team OVR Rating	77
06-07 Record	40-42

Los Angeles Lakers

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	K. Brown	69
PF	L. Odom	83
SF	L. Walton	69
SG	K. Bryant	96
PG	D. Fisher	72

With Derek Fisher leaving Utah for Los Angeles, the Lakers have a very talented point guard to run their triangle offense. Fisher may be getting older, but he can still provide the team with leadership and a quick step. Kobe will still do his thing, putting up 30 a night - that's a given. The Lakers, however, are in need of a big man. Things haven't been the same since Miami nabbed Shaq a few years ago. Odom could use another guy in the post.

Team Coach	Phil Jackson
Team OVR Rating	77
06-07 Record	41-41

Phoenix Suns

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	A. Stoudemire	88
PF	S. Marion	88
SF	G. Hill	75
SG	R. Bell	75
PG	S. Nash	91

It's practically a guarantee that Phoenix will make the playoffs. Their starting five is perhaps the best in the NBA. Steve Nash is the team's playmaker, able to not only score at will, but he's sure to get the ball to his big men, Marion and Stoudemire. Grant Hill could be a liability. His career peaked years ago and has been on the decline ever since. One option would be to trade him for a younger talent who has the potential to be an impact player in a few years.

Team Coach	Mike D'Antoni
Team OVR Rating	87
06-07 Record	61-21

Sacramento Kings

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	B. Miller	76
PF	S. Abdur Rahim	75
SF	R. Artest	84
SG	K. Martin	74
PG	M. Bibby	83

Kevin Martin and Mike Bibby offer one of the better backcourt tandems in the league. Martin's a little under-rated in *NBA Live 08* in our opinion. The front court of the Kings is loaded with talent, including Ron Artest, consistently one of the best defensive players. Brad Miller could be replaced for a better scoring threat, but keep in mind that he led his team in blocked shots per game last year. You need to have a guy like that in the paint on defense.

Team Coach	Reggie Theus
Team OVR Rating	77
06-07 Record	33-49

Dallas Mavericks

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	D. Diop	68
PF	D. Nowitzki	90
SF	J. Howard	85
SG	J. Terry	85
PG	D. Harris	79

Dallas had one of the best records in NBA history last year, winning 67 of their 82 games. The Mavericks have a very solid group of starters, with Nowitzki a dominate force. Dirk is nearly unstoppable, able to score inside and from behind the three-point arc. MVPs like Dirk are hard to come by, so feed him the ball and kick it out to Terry for the occasional shot from the perimeter.

Team Coach	Avery Johnson
Team OVR Rating	87
06-07 Record	67-15

Houston Rockets

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	Y. Ming	86
PF	C. Hayes	61
SF	S. Battier	74
SG	T. McGrady	92
PG	S. Francis	77

Houston's front office did a good job at retaining some great talent last year. The Rockets are one of a handful of teams which have a good, balanced starting five, although they're weak in the power forward position. Substitute Hayes and Scola in and out for one another to keep one another fresh, and bring in Dikembe Mutombo to give Yao a breather. Tracy McGrady and Yao will provide much of the team's offense. Take advantage of the new post-up controls to let Yao dominate the defense.

Team Coach	Rick Adelman
Team OVR Rating	84
06-07 Record	52-30

Memphis Grizzlies

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	D. Milicic	67
PF	P. Gasol	85
SF	R. Gay	71
SG	M. Miller	74
PG	M. Conley	75

With their first round draft pick, the Grizzlies chose Ohio State point guard Mike Conley, a stellar young talent. With Conley, you should be able to run a more up-tempo offense, not unlike Steve Nash does with the Suns. Mike Miller is an excellent shooter and Pau Gasol is set to have a career season. If you're good, you should be able to take Memphis pretty far considering the players you have to work with.

Team Coach	Marc Iavaroni
Team OVR Rating	70
06-07 Record	22-60

New Orleans Hornets

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	T. Chandler	75
PF	D. West	73
SF	P. Stojakovic	76
SG	M. Peterson	74
PG	C. Paul	87

One of the most exciting young point guards in the league is Chris Paul, who was named NBA Rookie of the Year in 2006 and averaged over seventeen points a game last season. He's one of the best playmakers in the NBA. Chandler is great as a big-man, grabbing rebounds left and right last year. Peja Stojakovic is still a great perimeter shooter, so get him the ball when your big-man is double-teamed.

Team Coach	Byron Scott
Team OVR Rating	72
06-07 Record	39-43

San Antonio Spurs

STARTERS		
Position	Player Name	OVR Rating
C	F. Oberto	66
PF	T. Duncan	91
SF	B. Bowen	72
SG	M. Finley	74
PG	T. Parker	87

What can you really say about the defending champions? The Spurs are the odds on favorites to win another championship this season, but there is reason for concern in the future. There's no denying the Spurs are loaded with talent, on the court and on the bench. But, the team is getting old. San Antonio was the oldest team last year and that statistic will likely remain the same. If you're going to continue the dynasty, a creative general manager is needed.

Team Coach	Gregg Popovich
Team OVR Rating	83
06-07 Record	58-24

NBA Live 08 FAQ

This brief FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) will cover some of the more commonly asked questions in regards to NBA Live 08. Should you have a question that isn't answered in this section or any other section of this guide, you can turn to our [NBA Live 08 message board](#) to ask the regulars for help.

Q?	I don't have a favorite team, so which team should I play as?
A!	If you don't have a favorite team, perhaps you have a favorite player. Check out the team he's on and play a game or two. If not, look elsewhere. You have a lot of choices to find a team you feel comfortable with.
Q?	Is Michael Jordan in the game?
A!	Unfortunately, no. You'll have to create him.
Q?	How can I improve my free throw percentage?
A!	With no practice mode for this, it can be a little frustrating to miss free throws. Use the in game help screen when you have to shoot free throws as it'll tell you what you need to do. Move down on the right analog stick and when the ball is up in front of the shooter's face, push the stick upwards. Make sure you do it in a straight line, however. We've witnessed many free throws which were off to the left or right because some people hold their controller in such a way that when they press the stick up, it ends up left or right slightly. Be careful of this. If you're still having problems after a while, you may consider buying a new controller. The sticks on controllers get worn out after a while and yours could need replacing.
Q?	I've been training players in certain aspects of the game in the Dynasty Mode. When will I see improvements?
A!	You won't receive these reports until just before the next season begins.
Q?	The game seems a little sluggish. Is there anything I can do to fix this?
A!	Yes, we recommend cranking up the gameplay speed. How far is debatable. If you go all the way, you'll likely run into problems when guarding players. It's easy to over-pursue players when this is maxed out. Play around with this until you find the right feel for you. You should notice the game plays a little more smoothly.
Q?	What happened to the Superstar Abilities?
A!	While they were fun, those have been removed from this year's game. Instead, there are go-to moves and quickstrike ballhandling.