

# **FINAL ROUND**

## **Preliminary Instructions**

Teams must follow the instructions given by the General Manager for each club as listed in the fact pattern and the confidential facts. The general facts and confidential facts for each team supersede any conflicts with real world salary numbers, team rosters, or any collective bargaining agreement. For the purposes of this round, there is no salary cap and salary cap issues should not be discussed. The only salary parameters are those contained in the general and confidential facts.

In this round, the Assistant General Manger and the General Counsel represent each team. Please use your own names and do not assume the names of the actual people in these real-world positions. Neither negotiation team has the authority to change the parameters stated in their confidential facts.

Online research is limited to NBA.com, NBAPA.com, and free news service websites such as ESPN.com, etc.

**NO INFORMATION MAY BE UTILIZED FROM ANY WEBSITE REQUIRING A FEE, SUCH AS A SCOUTING SERVICE WEBSITE. ADDITIONALLY, NO INFORMATION MAY BE USED FROM A WEBSITE THAT REQUIRES A USER NAME AND PASSWORD.** All information used during the course of this round must be able to be cited and each team will be responsible for providing the judges or opposing team with said information upon request.

## **GENERAL FACTS FOR BOTH TEAMS**

### **“A CHANGE OF SCENERY”**

The NBA is a League that values young players with tremendous upside and proven veterans that have performed in the clutch. There is always a struggle for teams to balance energetic young players with the leadership and wisdom of veterans. With every player, there comes a point in which the value of his services may be worth more on the open market than on the court for his current team. There are occasions when a team has to part with a player who is obviously talented and will remain a fixture in the League in order to improve the team by receiving players in return who will fill holes that franchise management sees on its squad.

On the other side, there is also a time when teams give up several players to acquire a proven veteran, rising star, or a role player. This is especially true where there is a belief in the front office, and in the locker room, that one player can elevate the team to the top of the League.

### **The Celtics and Rajon Rondo**

Point Guard Rajon Rondo was drafted by the Phoenix Suns in the first round of the 2006 NBA Draft and was subsequently traded to the Boston Celtics, where he signed in July of 2006. Rondo has been a leading point scorer since entering the NBA. Rondo grew up in Louisville, Kentucky and was a standout at Oak Hill High School. Oak Hill has always been recognized as a top basketball program and Rondo excelled there. In college at the University of Kentucky, Rondo was named to the Southeastern Conference All Freshman Team, and was a member of the teams that reached the Sweet 16 in the NCAA Tournament in both of his collegiate seasons.

Rondo is a leader and great facilitator for his team, creating scoring opportunities, racking up assists, points, all the while running the offense. Since Rondo's rookie season, he has stayed consistent in points per game (10-13) and rebounds (4-5), while increasing his steals (2.4 per game in 2010-2011), while leading the team in 2010-2011 with 13.8 assists per game. This production and Rondo's energetic style of play were large reasons why the Celtics were able to win the NBA title in 2007-2008 and reach the finals again in 2009-2010.

Rondo is a part of a Celtics' team that has been at the top of the NBA for a number of years. However, the salary of the Celtics' roster has ballooned with the team's success. With some of their star players getting older, the salaries paid to some of these athletes is not providing the franchise with a high return on their investment. Despite the popularity of some of the Celtics' stars, other teams will not consider trading for these players because of their high salaries. However, Rondo is not one of those players. Rondo continues to develop his leadership skills on the court and is considered by many NBA scouts to be one of the top young point guards in the game.

Despite being an exciting player on the court, Rondo is not considered one of the leaders of the Celtics' team with veterans like Kevin Garnett, Ray Allen, and Paul Pierce; although, Rondo is viewed by Celtics' officials as a young, up and coming player in the League.

Rondo is due to make \$10 million for the 2011-12 season, \$11 million for the 2012-13 season, \$12 million for the 2013-14 season, and \$13 million in the final year of his contract, the 2014-15 season.

Because of the success of the team over the past several seasons, the salaries of players on the team have dramatically risen to a point where the Celtics cannot sustain the current payroll and remain young and competitive. During the 2010-2011 season, the Celtics had sixteen (16) players that contributed to the team reaching the upper echelon of total salary among NBA teams. As the larger contracts conclude in the coming years, the Celtics will have more salary room. Boston is currently attempting to restructure the salary components of its team by trading some of its more established players for younger players and draft picks to make the Celtics a faster team, while lowering the overall salary commitments to its players. Ownership wants the team to remain competitive in the Eastern Conference, and so it does not want to trade all of its current players for unproven players.

**BOSTON CELTICS ROSTER (Salaries in Millions of Dollars)**

<b><u>Player</u></b>	<b><u>2010/2011</u></b>	<b><u>2011/2012</u></b>	<b><u>2012/2013</u></b>
<b>Kevin Garnett</b>	18.8	21.2	21.2
<b>Paul Pierce</b>	13.9	15.3	16.8
<b>Ray Allen</b>	10.0	10.0	10.0
<b>Rajon Rondo</b>	9.1	10.0	11.0
<b>Jermaine O'Neal</b>	5.8	6.2	7.0
<b>Nenad Krstic</b>	5.5	\$5.5	5.5
<b>Jeff Green</b>	4.5	5.9	5.9
<b>Glen Davis</b>	3.0	3.0	3.0
<b>Avery Bradley</b>	1.4	1.5	1.6
<b>Von Wafer</b>	.85	.9	.9
<b>Delonte West</b>	0.85	0.85	0.9
<b>Troy Murphy</b>	0.215	0.475	0.475
<b>Sasha Pavlovic</b>	0.21	0.475	0.475
<b>Carlos Arroyo</b>	0.20	0.5	0.5
<b>Chris Johnson</b>	0.30	0.475	0.475
<b>JaJuan Johnson</b>	N/A	1.5	2.3
<b>E'Twaun Moore</b>	N/A	1.2	2.0
<b><i>TOTALS:</i></b>	<b><i>74.625</i></b>	<b><i>84.875</i></b>	<b><i>90.025</i></b>

One additional constraint the Boston Celtics face is that several players on their roster affect the team's salary for this season who contribute modestly to its Eastern Conference power. While many of the player options that were set to affect the team's salary commitments for the 2011-2012 season were declined and gave the Celtics some room, the Celtics are still looking to clear room to spend on other free agents and trade possibilities. Boston has a significant jump in salary for this season because of the large back-loaded contracts to Kevin Garnet, Jeff Green, and Nenad Krstic.

While the Celtics have salary issues, there are other teams with their own roster problems that are interested in Celtics' players. These teams are willing to discuss trading players to see if each team can improve and have their financial and playoff goals met.

### **The Law of the Denver Nuggets**

In 2009, the Denver Nuggets took Ty Lawson in the first round of the draft to backup local hero Chauncey Billups. The Nuggets thought the former North Carolina Tar Heel possessed the skills to become a starting point guard, but at the time, the Nuggets were led by Forward Carmelo Anthony and Point Guard Chauncey Billups. The Nuggets were one of the top teams in the Western Conference and management did not want to compromise a chance to win the title with an unproven player running the team up and down the floor.

Once Carmelo Anthony and Chauncey Billups were traded in the middle of last season to the New York Knicks, Lawson became the starting Point Guard. He played well, and by all accounts, benefitted from observing the veteran Billups for a few seasons. However, while Lawson benefitted from the trade because he had the opportunity to start, he also faced splitting time with several new players acquired in the Anthony/Billups trade, including Raymond Felton. The players included in this trade provided Head Coach George Karl with several player options. At the end of last season the Nuggets were one of the best teams in the league with or without Lawson. The Nuggets, while happy with the players the team acquired in the Anthony deal, realize the team does not have a proven veteran leader with playoff success.

The Nuggets have salary room to work with because they only had 14 players on the payroll last season and have several players locked up with multi-year deals at reasonable salaries.

The Nuggets have leeway with some of their high priced players, after moving the large contracts of Anthony and Billups. Recently, the Nuggets signed Felton to a two-year deal worth \$8 million per season. Ownership wants to see the Nuggets remain competitive. Management feels a veteran playoff performer could be part of the process if that player can contribute to the team and provide value for their contract amount. With room to work, the Nuggets are willing to look at options that could turn the team into a winner immediately.

Even with only a few players locked into long-term contracts, the Nuggets need to be careful the salary of players being brought in will not hamstring the team down the road. The Nuggets feel they may be only one player away from a Western Conference Championship.

**DENVER NUGGETS ROSTER (Salaries in Millions of Dollars)**

<b><u>Player</u></b>	<b><u>2010/2011</u></b>	<b><u>2011/2012</u></b>	<b><u>2012/2013</u></b>
<b>Kenyon Martin</b>	16.5	18.0	19.0
<b>Raymond Felton</b>	7.0	8.0	8.0
<b>J.R. Smith</b>	6.8	6.9	6.9
<b>Al Harrington</b>	5.8	6.2	6.7
<b>Chris Andersen</b>	4.5	4.9	5.2
<b>Timofey Mozgov</b>	3.6	3.3	3.1
<b>Danilo Gallinari</b>	3.3	4.2	5.6
<b>Wilson Chandler</b>	2.1	3.1	3.2
<b>Arron Afflalo</b>	2.0	2.9	2.9
<b>Ty Lawson</b>	1.5	1.7	2.5
<b>Kosta Koufos</b>	1.3	2.2	3.2
<b>Melvin Ely</b>	.850	.900	.900
<b>Gary Forbes</b>	.475	.964	.964
<b>Kenneth Faried</b>	N/A	1.9	3.3
<b>Jordan Hamilton</b>	N/A	1.2	1.9
<b>C. Maduabum</b>	N/A	.975	.975
<b>Andre Miller</b>	N/A	3.2	3.2
<b><u>TOTALS:</u></b>	<b>55.725</b>	<b>70.539</b>	<b>77.539</b>

**The Trade Negotiation**

Representatives of the Celtics and Nuggets have scheduled a meeting in San Diego on September 24, 2011, to see if they can work out a mutually beneficial trade. Each team has all of its draft picks for the next three seasons (one first round and one second-round pick for each season).