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NBA Tip-Off Games

The Denver Nuggets started the new season the way they ended the last one: with a win. They put away the Los Angeles Lakers 119-107 behind a huge starter effort that carried the emotion of the ring ceremony through much of the game. Nikola Jokic put up 19 points and 9 rebounds in the first half as the Lakers defended him 1-on-1 for the most part and finished with a triple-double of 29 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists. Jamal Murray had 21 points and 6 assists, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added 20, Michael Porter Jr. put up 12 and 12 despite a wayward shot and Aaron Gordon was doing a little bit of everything with 15 points, 7 rebounds, 6 assists and some good defense. LeBron James was on a bit of a minutes limit but still led the Lakers attack with 21 points, 8 rebounds and 5 assists. Anthony Davis was a scoring force in the first half with 17 but went scoreless in the second half, and Taurean Prince hit 3 threes to keep the Lakers close.

The Phoenix Suns opened their 2023-24 campaign with a win, 108-104 over the Golden State Warriors. Devin Booker led the way in scoring, with 32 points on 13-of-21 shooting. Without Bradley Beal, Kevin Durant scored 18 points and had 10 rebounds, with Jusuf Nurkic adding 14 points and 14 rebounds. On the Golden State side of the ball, a Draymond Green-less Warriors team was led by Steph Curry's 27 points. His foul trouble limited him to 31 minutes played, and he was 4-of-14 from deep.

The Celtics defeated the Knicks, 108-104. Jayson Tatum led the way with 34 points and 11 rebounds for the Celtics, while Kristaps Porzingis added 30 points, eight rebounds, four blocks and five threes. in the victory. RJ Barrett and Immanuel Quickley tallied 24 points each for the Knicks in the losing effort. The Celtics improve to 1-0 on the season, while the Knicks fall to 0-1.

Led by Luka Doncic's 33 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists, the Dallas Mavericks defeated the Spurs, 126-119. Kyrie Irving added 22 points (10 in the 4th quarter) and 6 assists in the victory. Devin Vassell tallied 23 points, 5 rebounds and 3 assists for the Spurs, while the debut of rookie sensation Victor Wembanyama was highly anticipated. He added 15 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals and 3 threes. in his debut in the losing effort.

