

Written by  
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The 2013 NBA Draft has been widely rumored to be shallow in upper-end talent. At this point, there is no clear franchise-changer like [Anthony Davis](#) , [Kyrie Irving](#) , [Blake Griffin](#) , [LeBron James](#) , [Derrick Rose](#) , [Kevin Durant](#) , or even Brittany Griner.

But there certainly are potential boom-bust guys out there. We don't know if a [James Harden](#) (#3 in his draft) or [Stephen Curry](#) (#7) or [DeMarcus Cousins](#) (#5) or [Damian Lillard](#) (#6) will emerge as All-Star talents after the fact, or if teams at the top of the draft will be stuck with a [Derrick Williams](#) (#2), [Hasheem Thabeet](#) (#3), [Tristan Thompson](#) (#4), [Jan Vesely](#) (#6) or a [Wesley Johnson](#) (#4) or [Michael Beasley](#) (#2).

All we know is that the more chances you get to draft a star, the better your chances to land one. (Cap'n Obvious reporting for duty!)



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As of today, the Suns project to be second-worst in the West because they have a much easier schedule than Sacramento down the stretch. March is a particularly easy month for the Suns.

### The Lakers

The Lakers have a better chance today to make the playoffs than they did a week ago, but still less than 1 on 3 shot to make it. The [Jazz](#) appear to be their only true competition for the 8th spot and have a tougher remaining schedule, but their current 5-win lead gives them the final edge.

Note that it currently only appears to require 42-43 wins to make the playoffs in the West this year, after needing a full-season average of 48 wins the last several seasons. It's a down year in the West.

If the Lakers can go 24-14, they have a good shot to make the postseason.

Even those of you wanting the Suns to tank should definitely root for the Suns to somehow beat the Lakers this season at least once.

### The T-Wolves

The [Timberwolves](#) appear totally out of the postseason picture, with only a 1.5% chance of making it at this point. They have endured lots of injuries, which has caught up with them big time.

This is a good thing for Suns fans though. The Wolves lottery-protected pick rolls over for up to 4 years. As soon as the Wolves make the playoffs, it's the Suns' pick. With [Kevin Love](#) and [Ricky Rubio](#) healthy for only one full season, that should be an easy target.

If Minny had made it this season, the Suns would get the WORST of theirs and Memphis - which is currently projected to be a pick in the 20-25 range. If Minny makes the playoffs next season, the Suns get Minny's pick outright which should be in the teens (in a better draft) rather

## Playoff Probabilities Update 1/29/2013: Phoenix Suns, Los Angeles Lakers, Minnesota Timberwolves

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than the 20s of a weak draft.