

## Phoenix Suns at Sacramento Kings: Preseason Preview

Written by  
Thursday, 17 October 2013 14:00 -

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### (3-1) SUNS @ (2-1) [Kings](#)

**GAMETIME:** 7 p.m. PST, 9 p.m. CST, 10 p.m. EST

**TV:** It doesn't look like either team will be televising this one. That means more Al McCoy for everyone (which is never a bad thing).

### Last Time Out...

On Tuesday, the [Suns](#) lost for the first time under new head coach Jeff Hornacek as [Chris Paul](#) did

Chris Paul things and was simply too much for the Suns to handle with 24 points and nine assists. It was the first time

[Eric Bledsoe](#)

and, on the other side,

[Jared Dudley](#)

played against their former teams, and Bledsoe finished with eight points and a team-high seven assists while Dudley knocked down five of his seven shots en route to 12 points.

[Goran Dragic](#) was the star for the Suns with 20 points on 8-12 shooting while the frontcourt of [Marcin Gortat](#)

, [Markieff Morris](#)

and

[Channing Frye](#)

chipped in 12, 10 and 11 respectively.

The [Clippers](#) jumped out to an early lead, but the Suns came charging back with a strong third quarter. However, a few Dudley jumpers put an end to the run and allowed Los Angeles to pull away.

[Kendall Marshall](#) entered the game late and nearly brought the team all the way back before the Suns' comeback attempt sputtered with under a minute to go.

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### What about the Kings?

Like the Suns, Sacramento has a new coach in [Mike Malone](#) as well as a new general manager and, perhaps most importantly, a new ownership group (no more Maloofs!).

The Kings opened the preseason with a loss to the [Golden State Warriors](#) before sweeping Los Angeles with wins against the [Lakers](#) and [Clippers](#). DeMarcus Cousins dominated the Clippers in the last game with 31 points, although [Blake Griffin](#) and [DeAndre Jordan](#) (in addition to a few other key Clippers) sat out. Cousins is always a handful (for his coach and for opposing teams alike) and the Suns quartet of centers have to be ready to play.

Over the offseason the Kings acquired point guard [Greivis Vasquez](#) from New Orleans, and he made his Sacramento debut against the Clippers, although he only played 11 minutes. We'll probably see more of him tonight as he teams up with [Isaiah Thomas](#) and rookie [Ray McCallum](#) to form a nice little point guard rotation that will challenge the Suns' backcourt.

The Sacramento backcourt also includes rookie [Ben McLemore](#), who was taken seventh overall in this summer's draft after being passed over by the first six teams (including the Suns). McLemore has been decent so far in the preseason, scoring 13, 12 and seven in the first three games while playing between 20 and 30 minutes in all three.

We won't see free agent addition [Carl Landry](#) tonight or for the near future, as he has a hip injury and will be out for quite some time.

### Lineups?

What the starting lineup for tonight's game is going to be is anyone's guess; Hornacek has

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mixed and matched nearly every possible way in the first four games, going so far as to start [James Nunnally](#) against the Clippers.

However, in the second half we saw what will likely be the starting five for the regular season as Dragic, Bledsoe, [P.J. Tucker](#), Markieff Morris and Gortat came out to open the third quarter and got the Suns back into the game. Perhaps Hornacek is starting to settle down a little bit with only three games left of the preseason.

We saw a lot of [Miles Plumlee](#) and none of [Alex Len](#) against Los Angeles. I doubt that will be the case again tonight as Len will likely re-enter the rotation and perhaps even get significant minutes. We know what Marcin Gortat is; let's let the rookie get out there and try to adjust to the speed of the NBA game.

I think we'll see a decent amount of the Bledsoe-Dragic backcourt again. Who plays point guard and who plays off the ball at shooting guard will be determined by match-ups more often than not. In the last game, Bledsoe played point while Dragic was unleashed to create havoc against [Willie Green](#) at the two. None of the Sacramento guards are really lockdown defenders at this point, so it will be interesting to see how Dragic and Bledsoe split the ball-handling duties.

Kendall Marshall sat most of the game before entering for the first time in garbage time halfway through the fourth quarter. He proceeded to play well and spark a comeback that brought the Suns within one possession before it fell apart. I don't think we're going to see [Ish Smith](#) get the call off the bench before Marshall again in this one. At least, we shouldn't.

What do you think Bright Siders? What will the lineups look like tonight? Which players sit this one out?

Make sure to join us on the game thread to discuss tonight's game as it happens. Where else would you rather be on (preseason) game night?

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