

## Phoenix Suns At Detroit Pistons Game Preview: Grind it Out

Written by  
Saturday, 11 January 2014 13:00 -

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The Suns are coming off a disappointing loss against the Grizzlies, in which they fell apart in the second half. Will the Suns be able to bounce back tonight against the Detroit Pistons?

**What:** [Phoenix Suns](#) At [Detroit Pistons](#)

**Where:** The Palace of Auburn Hills - Auburn, MI

**When:** 5:30 p.m. (AZ)

**Watch:** FSAZ (Locally) , NBA League Pass

Tonight, the Phoenix Suns (21-14) will take on the Detroit Pistons (15-22) in their fourth game of this five game road trip. The Phoenix Suns are in the midst of a back-and-forth volley of wins and losses over the past five games. The good news is they are due for a win after last night's disappointing loss to the [Grizzlies](#) in a game which they were never behind until the last 2:43 of the fourth quarter.

Meanwhile, the Detroit Pistons are coming off a win last night against the [Philadelphia 76ers](#) that finally snapped a six game losing streak. They will be looking to continue their new-found winning ways back at home tonight against a Phoenix Suns team who is struggling a bit lately without one of their best players (Eric Bledsoe), and it's other playing with a sore ankle (Goran Dragic). Will the Suns be able to grind out a win against a very beatable opponent on the road

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tonight?

## Stats:

## Suns:

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FG		3PT		FT		Rebounds		
G		M		M		A		Pct
<a href="#">Goran Dragic</a>	32		34.8		6.7		13.7	
<a href="#">Eric Bledsoe</a>	24		33.5		6.3		13.0	
<a href="#">Gerald Green</a>	35		27.0		4.7		10.7	
<a href="#">Markieff Morris</a>	34		25.4		4.6		9.7	
<a href="#">Channing Frye</a>	35		27.3		4.4		9.7	
<a href="#">Marcus Morris</a>	35		22.8		3.6		8.4	
<a href="#">Miles Plumlee</a>	35		28.2		4.4		8.4	
<a href="#">P.J. Tucker</a>	35		29.8		3.1		7.7	
<a href="#">Leandro Barbosa</a>	2		17.5		1.5		6.5	
<a href="#">Ish Smith</a>	23		12.1		1.5		4.1	
<a href="#">Archie Goodwin</a>	32		11.0		1.3		3.4	
<a href="#">Dionte Christmas</a>	20		6.9		0.8		2.1	
<a href="#">Alex Len</a>	7		7.7		0.9		2.0	
<a href="#">Viacheslav Kravtsov</a>	15		3.3		0.4		0.7	

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## Pistons:

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FG	3PT	FT	Rebounds	Pct
G	M	M	A	
<a href="#">Brandon Jennings</a> 35		36.0	5.8	15.3
<a href="#">Josh Smith</a> 37		35.2	6.1	15.2
<a href="#">Greg Monroe</a> 37		32.8	5.9	11.6
<a href="#">Rodney Stuckey</a> 29		25.3	5.0	11.1
<a href="#">Andre Drummond</a> 37		32.8	5.7	9.5
<a href="#">Kyle Singler</a> 37		23.5	2.9	6.1
<a href="#">Will Bynum</a> 21		18.5	3.1	7.5
<a href="#">Kentavious Caldwell-Pope</a> 35		24.1	2.9	
<a href="#">Charlie Villanueva</a> 11		9.1	1.8	4.7
<a href="#">Chauncey Billups</a> 18		16.7	1.3	4.2
<a href="#">Jonas Jerebko</a> 25		8.0	1.2	2.4
<a href="#">Josh Harrellson</a> 27		9.4	1.3	2.6
<a href="#">Luigi Datome</a> 20		7.8	1.3	3.7
<a href="#">Tony Mitchell</a> 10		3.6	0.3	0.5
<a href="#">Peyton Siva</a> 13		5.8	0.2	0.6

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### Probable Starting Line-Ups:

#### Suns:

G - Goran Dragic

G - Gerald Green

F - P.J. Tucker

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F - Channing Frye

C - Miles Plumlee

### **Pistons:**

G - Brandon Jennings

G - Kentavious Caldwell-Pope

F - Josh Smith

F - Greg Monroe

C - Andre Drummond

### **Injuries:**

### **Suns:**

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Eric Bledsoe - Out (Knee)

### Pistons:

None

### Keys to the Game:

- **Rebounds!** - The Suns are facing a big man duo in Drummond and Monroe who are averaging around 20 rebounds a night between the two of them, good for the 7th best in the league overall, and 1st in the league in offensive rebounding.. This has been a huge area of concern for the Suns who are currently 21st in the league overall, and have given up way too many second chance points because of it. The Suns will need a team effort and especially solid games from Miles Plumlee, Channing Frye, and Markieff Morris to keep the Pistons off the glass.

- **Battle of the Bigs** - The Pistons have one of the best big-man tandems in the league with Andre Drummond and Greg Monroe. Drummond is a strong/athletic beast inside and Monroe is a very skilled big man who uses his footwork and shooting from around the paint to do most of his damage. Plumlee/Frye/Morris will have their work cut out for them on both ends of the floor in battling these two. The Suns will also need to use effective spacing and quick passes to create opportunities at the rim.

- **Tuckered Out** - Josh Smith has been on a tear for the Pistons at home lately, averaging

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nearly 20 points over the past five home games. However tonight he will face the Suns' best lock-down defender in P.J. Tucker. Smith could very well be tonight's x-factor, and If P.J. can help take him out of the game, it should help the Suns secure a much needed win.

- **Catching Fire** - The Suns have floundered a bit offensively without their most dynamic player in the line-up, and Goran Dragic can't do it alone. They will need someone else to step up and have a great game tonight to help the Dragon shoulder the load offensively.