



PREGAME NOTES

Minnesota Timberwolves at Memphis Grizzlies, October 26, 2016

Tonight's Matchup

- The two teams split the season series (2-2) in 2015-16. Overall, the Wolves lead in the regular season series, 45-35, and are 20-20 on the road.
- Tonight's contest marks the second time in two weeks the two teams are pitted against each other after the Wolves defeated the Grizzlies 101-94 in the preseason.

Wolves Notes

- The Wolves are 16-11 on Opening Night, including a 15-5 record since 1996. Tonight marks the third consecutive season the Wolves have opened on the road, but just the third time since 2000.
- Last year's 112-111 victory over the Lakers (Oct. 28) was Minnesota's first Opening Night win away from home since a 106-98 decision at Houston on Oct. 31, 2000.
- Tonight's game represents the earliest start date in franchise history. The Wolves began the 2010-11 campaign on Oct. 27; a 117-116 home loss to Sacramento.
- Gorgui Dieng and Zach LaVine are expected to make their first-ever Opening Night starts this evening, becoming the 69th and 70th players to start an opener for Minnesota. Ricky Rubio is slotted to start for a fourth straight year, which would tie him for the 3rd-longest streak in team history behind Kevin Garnett (11) and Doug West (5). A year ago, Karl-Anthony Towns was the seventh Wolves rookie to draw an Opening Night starting assignment.
- Tom Thibodeau has an Opening Night record of 3-2 as a head coach, including a 5-5 overall record against Memphis. He has an overall coaching record of 255-139 in five seasons as a head coach, all with Chicago and was the 2010-11 NBA Coach of the Year.
- Minnesota finished the preseason with a 5-2 record and has a 108-93 record in preseason play, including registering six winning preseason records in the past seven years.
- The Wolves Opening Night roster features five players who were not with the team in 2015-16: Cole Aldrich, Kris Dunn, Jordan Hill, John Lucas III and Brandon Rush.
- Wolves Opening Night Individual Highs
Points: 34, Kevin Garnett, at Sacramento (11/5/99) - game played in Tokyo
Rebounds: 21, Kevin Garnett vs. Milwaukee (10/29/03)
Assists: 15, Pooh Richardson vs. Dallas (11/2/90)
- Wolves Individual Highs in NBA Debut
Points: 26, Donyell Marshall at Denver (11/4/94)
Rebounds: 12, Karl-Anthony Towns at L.A. Lakers (10/28/15)
Assists: 6, Ricky Rubio vs. OKC (12/26/11) and Howard Easley at Denver (11/4/94)

Grizzlies Notes

- The Grizzlies are 3-18 on Opening Night, including a 1-14 record in Memphis with the lone victory coming against Minnesota on Oct. 29, 2014.
- The Grizzlies were 4-2 in the preseason, playing their final three preseason contests on the road.





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- Head coach David Fizdale will make his debut as an NBA head coach after spending eight seasons in Miami (2008-16).
- Tonight marks the seventh Opening Night for the Grizzlies' Core Four of Mike Conley, Marc Gasol, Zach Randolph and Tony Allen since Allen was added to the trio in 2010.
- Minnesota ties: Grizzlies associate head coach J.B. Bickerstaff was an assistant coach for the Timberwolves from 2007-11. Bickerstaff also played collegiately at the University of Minnesota (1999-2001). Timberwolves assistant coach Andy Greer was an assistant coach for the Grizzlies from 2007-09.

Wolves Preseason Leaders

Karl-Anthony Towns	17.3 ppg
Karl-Anthony Towns	9.3 rpg
Ricky Rubio	5.7 apg

Wolves Leaders 2015-16 (Qualifiers)

Andrew Wiggins	20.7 ppg
Karl-Anthony Towns	10.5 rpg
Ricky Rubio	8.7 apg

Grizzlies Preseason Leaders

Mike Conley	14.8 ppg
Zach Randolph	6.0 rpg
Mike Conley	4.8 apg

Grizzlies Leaders 2015-16 (Qualifiers)

Marc Gasol	16.6 ppg
Zach Randolph	7.8 rpg
Mike Conley	6.1 apg

