

# How they rank

BEN BOLCH'S RANKINGS, COMMENTS THROUGH SATURDAY

## SELFLESS, COLD AND COMPOSED

1. SAN ANT. (59-17) Spurs would like to fatten up by ordering the No. 19 as often as possible. (1)
2. OKC (55-20) You'd have to favor Thunder in series vs. Spurs, assuming Thunder gets there. (3)
3. MIAMI (52-23) Perfect time for Wade to take the fifth by sitting out again before playoffs. (4)
4. CLIPPERS (54-23) Playoff fortunes will determine whether Doc's in or out of favor with fans. (5)
5. INDIANA (53-24) No coincidence Pacers' woes began with arrival of Andrew Bynum, Evan Turner. (2)

## FAIR

6. HOUSTON (50-25) Thunder saw Dwight Howard sidelined, raised Rockets a Russell Westbrook. (6)
7. PORT. (49-28) If Blazers face Clippers in playoffs, Neil Olshey gets credit either way it goes. (7)
8. GOLD. ST. (47-29) Having to dismiss reports of dysfunction means there's dysfunction. (8)
9. DALLAS (46-31) No need for Cuban to gauge HGH's impact on injuries; just call Andy Pettitte. (11)
10. MEMPH. (45-31) There will be no joy in Mudville if fans can't twirl "We don't bluff" towels in May. (9)
11. PHOENIX (45-31) If Suns miss playoffs, they will be sent directly to extended spring training. (10)
12. TORONTO (45-32) Unlike USC pal O.J. Mayo, it's about playoffs, not payoff, for DeMar DeRozan. (12)
13. CHICAGO (45-32) Spice Girls-singing Joakim Noah easily wins MVP: Most Vivacious Person. (13)
14. BROOK. (42-34) Jason Collins wouldn't mind making news again for getting big basket. (14)
15. WASH. (40-37) Proposed Wednesday return of Nene would give Wizards zap for playoffs. (15)

## EVAPORATED

16. MINN. (38-38) Better to have Kevin Love and lose him than to never have had Love at all. (16)
17. CHAR. (39-38) Dodgers fans may have to go to Time Warner Cable Arena for broadcasts. (17)
18. DENVER (33-43) In retrospect, losing in playoffs better than not coming close to making them. (20)
19. ATLANTA (33-42) Nothing like a visit from wildly inconsistent Cavs to soothe a fading team. (19)
20. N.Y. (33-44) Phil Jackson not miffed he may not be able to go to Montana until May. (21)

## BATTLE OF WHO COULD CARE LESS

21. N. ORL. (32-44) Lone highlight: weekend when Smoothie King Center blended NBA's best. (18)
22. CLEVE. (31-47) Will Kyrie Irving stay? Will LeBron James come back? Looks like no and no. (22)
23. DETROIT (28-49) Pistons have misfired on all cylinders since being .500 in December. (23)
24. SAC. (27-49) Duet of Boogie Smooth, Shaquille O'Neal would be double vocal trouble. (24)
25. LAKERS (25-51) Should revoke Irving Azoff's seats for wanting Phil ... to go to Knicks. (25)

## ONE ANGRY DWARF AND 200 SOLEMN FACES

26. UTAH (24-52) Al Jefferson, Paul Millsap describe leaving Jazz as onward and way upward. (27)
27. BOSTON (23-54) Shots fired—but don't hit anything—in tank skirmish between Celtics, 76ers. (26)
28. ORLAN. (22-55) Amway Center replaces Disney World as happiest place on earth for foes. (28)
29. PHIL. (17-60) Going against convention, the first Noel will come in October, not December. (29)
30. MIL. (14-63) Marijuana suspension shows things can always get worse for Larry Sanders. (30)