

Game Preview

After a three day rest period, The Los Angeles Lakers will host the Philadelphia Sixers for the second and final time of the season tonight at 10:30p.m. ET. in the Crypto.com arena.

The Lakers will have LeBron James, D'Angelo Russel, and Anthony Davis in their starting lineup. In their last meet up with the Sixers, James only scored 18 points. Just three days ago in their 31 point win over the Atlanta Hawks, Russel ended the night with 27 points, James with 25 and Davis with 22.

In a pre-tip off interview, Coach Darvin Ham explains what the break has meant to him and his team: "We've been mindful of what they've been dealing with all year and trying to manage those guys in the most efficient way possible, but you get a break like this at this point in the season...huge. It's huge for our energy, huge for our mental and again for us to get on the same page, all of us together, and look at how we've been playing and things we didn't do so well that caused us to lose and try to rectify those things on the practice floor." With Russel averaging 42% from behind the arc, he is now one three-pointer away from setting the Lakers' new all time regular season record for made threes.

Meeting a total of 325 times, 291 regular season games and 34 playoff matchups. The last time these teams played each other was in late November, when the Sixers' prominent player, Joel Embiid was an active player. He has now since been ruled out with an injury and will not be participating in tonight's game. Both teams head into this game with an equal win-loss record of 38-32.

Viewers can watch this game on NBC Sports Networks, live stream on Fubo or with the NBA League Pass with a free trial.

Game Recap

Lakers Hold Off Sixers Since 2020

The Lakers finally beat the Sixers after their last win against them on March 3, 2020. Their victory, 101 to 94, at one of their five home games left within the regular season. D'Angelo Russell hit his first three of the night with just four minutes left in the first quarter to break the Lakers' season record for made threes. The Lakers were able to maintain the lead the majority of the game. LeBron James gets two slam dunks and Russell goes 6-10 in his three point shooting. With just about a little over one minute of game time left and up by 7 points, Anthony Davis gets a big block against Kyle Lowry.

LeBron James had a total of 20 points and Anthony Davis had 23 points and 19 rebounds. These key players of the team had the help of Reaves, Russell and Hachimura all scoring 14 points.

D'Angelo Russell addresses surpassing Nick Van Exel's record in post game interview: "It just feels good to be a part of like I said one of these types of deals you know and this franchise is one of the most prestigious. So, to have my name just to be a part of it, more than grateful. Blessed beyond measure. Just want to keep continuing to shatter it if I can, you know make it really really hard for the next person."

Winning this game brought them to a steady No. 8 seed. As long as they don't become the No. 9 seed because it will make it much harder for them to obtain a playoff spot.

The Lakers are set to host the Indiana Pacers at the Crypto.com arena in Los Angeles this Sunday, March 24th at 10:00 p.m. ET. Viewers can watch this game on Bally Sports, live stream on Fubo or with the NBA League Pass with a free trial.

Feature Story

From taking a championship away from the Lakers to becoming a Head Coach for the Lakers, Darvin Ham is now trying to bring them to their 18th title.

In 2004, Ham, who played with the Detroit Pistons at the time, would go on to beat Los Angeles in the NBA championship. As an underdog team, the Pistons won the first, third, fourth and fifth round of the finals series over a team that was led by Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O' Neal.

He played for both the Milwaukee Bucks (1999-2002) Atlanta Hawks (2002-2003) who he then later became assistant coaches for. In the 2011-2012 NBA season, Ham worked as a player development coach with the Lakers for Kobe Bryant, Pau Gasol and Dwight Howard. He also assisted the Bucks in the NBA championship win over the Phoenix Suns in 2021.

In breaking news of hiring Darvin Ham as Lakers' new head coach, LeBron James tweeted, "So damn EXCITED!!!!!!!!!! Congrats and welcome Coach DHam!!!"

Lakers being the No. 8 seed, right at the cutoff for playoffs, is a big deal. Ham has brought his team to a record of 39-32 (.560). With the sixth easiest remaining strength of schedule and a healthy team advantage there is a chance securing the playoff spot.

To hear and see more of Darvin Ham, tune in at the next home game on Sunday before tip off and post game.