

In **The Portal**, we discuss stellar performances of current players in Europe and identify comparable players in the NBA, exploring similarities in the style of play, statistical contributions by category, and impact on team success.

**Walter Tavares**

Real Madrid | Cape Verde

The 7'3" veteran is having a great season for Madrid, currently 2nd in the Euroleague at 17-7, and positioned for another deep post-season run



**Walker Kessler**

Utah Jazz | United States

The 7'1" rookie from Auburn has been a major contributor offensively and defensive force for the Jazz, currently 9th in the West

**Numbers Story**

- Per Game Stats: 10.8 PTs, 7 REBs, 2.4 BLKs
- Great Shotblocker: **1st in Euroleague** in BLKs/game
- Possession Extender: 3.0 ORebs/game, 3rd in EL
- Very Efficient: PER of 22.92

**Team Impact**

In his 5th season with Madrid, Tavares has produced with the same consistency and efficiency as in years past, anchoring Real's defense while contributing offensively as the 3rd best scorer

**Numbers Story**

- Per Game Stats: 8.2 PTs, 7.9 REBs, 2.2 BLKS
- Great Rebounder: **2nd in NBA** in REBs/min
- Rim Protector: 5th in the NBA in BLKs/game
- Highly Productive: PER of 21.12

**Team Impact**

Kessler, who began the season in Utah coming off the bench (17 MPG), became a starter in December (27 MPG since), and has improved each month, leading the Jazz in blocks and o-rebs



**Walter Tavares**

Euroleague MVP Candidate

Per Game <b>Parallels</b>		
<b>3.0</b> OREBs	<b>O-Rebounding</b> Forces on the boards who create 2nd chances	<b>2.9</b> OREBs
<b>2.4</b> BLKs	<b>Shot Blocking</b> Defensive anchors that limit FGAs and impact FG%	<b>2.2</b> BLKs
<b>65.8%</b> 2PT%	<b>Inside Scoring</b> Efficient at the rim with consistent production	<b>71.2%</b> 2PT%



**Walker Kessler**

All NBA Rookie Team Candidate

**On-Court Contrasts**

- **The Line:** Tavares shoots 77.1%, (2.25 PTs/game from FTs), Kessler struggles behind the stripe at 53.4%
- **Team's Focus:** Tavares is more featured with a 19.4% USG rate, compared to Kessler's 12.9%
- **Shot Selection:** 94% of Kessler's shots are at the rim and Tavares scores mostly in pick-and-roll
  - Tavares is a better post-up option, Kessler is more productive with put-backs (**both finish strong**)