

# Turner Sports' Innovative Players Only Franchise Returns to TNT Tuesday, Jan. 23, with Cavaliers/Spurs & Celtics/Lakers

Thursday, January 11, 2018

## Shaquille O'Neal Joins *Players Only* Team; Expands TNT Role to Tuesdays & Thursdays

### TNT's *Players Only* Adds Two-Time NBA All-Star Caron Butler as Reporter

TNT's innovative *Players Only* franchise - with former NBA stars serving in all broadcast roles - will return for its second season on the network starting **Tuesday, January 23**. The weekly live game series, incorporating a more conversational delivery and unique player integrations, will tip off with a doubleheader featuring the **Cleveland Cavaliers** at **San Antonio Spurs** at **8 p.m. ET**, followed by the **Boston Celtics** at **Los Angeles Lakers** at **10:30 p.m.**

New for this year's *Players Only* presentation on TNT will be the addition of **Shaquille O'Neal**, who **expands his studio analyst role** beyond the Sports Emmy Award-winning *Inside the NBA* to now include Tuesday and Thursday nights. **Caron Butler**, a two-time NBA All-Star, will also be a new addition to the *Players Only* roster as an **on-site reporter**. The *Players Only* presented by *State Farm* team of **Greg Anthony** (primary host/play-by-play), analysts **Kevin McHale** and **Richard "Rip" Hamilton**, and reporter **Dennis Scott** will provide commentary for **Cavaliers vs. Spurs** at **8 p.m.** The night's second game will include **Brent Barry** (primary host/play-by-play), analysts **Grant Hill** and **Derek Fisher**, with reporter **Butler** on the call for **Celtics vs. Lakers** at **10:30 p.m.**

**Chris Webber**, **O'Neal**, **Isiah Thomas** and **Baron Davis** will provide studio analysis and commentary throughout each night of *Players Only* coverage via the *Players Only Pregame Show* presented by *Autotrader*; *Players Only American Express Halftime Report* and *Players Only Postgame* presented by *Kia*.

Additionally, segments from **Area 21** with TNT analyst **Kevin Garnett** will also be incorporated into the *Players Only* studio and game coverage throughout the evening, including special content via Facebook airing during the third quarter.

*Players Only* will continue **Tuesday, Jan. 30**, with **Cavaliers** vs. **Detroit Pistons** at **8 p.m.** and **Portland Trail Blazers** vs. **LA Clippers** at **10:30 p.m.**



ADDITIONAL NOTES

- **Tuesday, Jan. 23**

- **8 p.m. ET - Cleveland Cavaliers vs. San Antonio Spurs**

- Greg Anthony, Kevin McHale, Richard Hamilton & Dennis Scott

- **10:30 p.m. - Boston Celtics vs. Los Angeles Lakers**

- Brent Barry, Grant Hill, Derek Fisher & Caron Butler

- ***Players Only Postgame presented by KIA***

- Chris Webber, Shaquille O'Neal, Isiah Thomas & Baron Davis

- Kevin Garnett & special guest in *Area 21*

- **Tuesday, Jan. 30**

- **8 p.m. ET - Cleveland Cavaliers vs. Detroit Pistons**

- Barry, Hill, Fisher & Scott

- **10:30 p.m. - Portland Trail Blazers vs. LA Clippers**

- Anthony, McHale, Hamilton & Butler

- ***Players Only Postgame presented by KIA***

- Webber, O'Neal, Thomas & Davis

- Garnett & special guest in *Area 21*

- In addition to TNT, the *Players Only* franchise extended to **NBA TV** this season as the network's featured game of the week on Tuesday nights from October 24 through January 16. The final *Players Only* telecast of the season airing on NBA TV will feature the **New Orleans Pelicans** at **Boston Celtics** and **Phoenix Suns** at **Portland Trail Blazers** on **January 16**, in a doubleheader tipping off at **7:30 p.m.** Additionally, a new ***Players Only: Monthly*** series debuted in December on NBA TV with an emotional reunion between **Magic Johnson** and **Thomas**. The next episode premiere will be **Sunday, January 28, at 7 p.m.**
- Live streaming coverage of all NBA on TNT games is available via <http://www.tntdrama.com/watchtnt> and the Watch TNT app. Fans are able to access the games whenever and wherever they desire by logging in with the user name and password provided by their TV service provider.