

Should The C's Add or Stay Put?

By Jesse Almeida 2/5/23

One year ago today, there were discussions taking place surrounding Tatum and Brown. Can the two play together? Could the duo of Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown bring the Celtics a championship? It looked like the Jays would be broken up, and as we know now Brad Stevens went out and added Derrick White to what they had and resulted in being 2 wins away from winning a title. After losing in the Finals in 6 games, it was clear that the Celtics were going to go all in for a championship. In the offseason, the Celtics went out and got Malcolm Brogdon, Danilo Galinari who ended up getting hurt, and signed Blake Griffin. So, where do the Celtics stand now?

At this current moment the Boston Celtics are the number 1 seed in the Eastern Conference, and are tied for the best team in basketball. As of recently, Marcus Smart has been hurt and the Celtics have taken a small step back. During the last 10 games, the Celtics are 6-4 and have an overall record of 37-16 which is 1 game ahead of the Bucks. The Celtics are the 4th best offensive team in the NBA with an Offensive Rating of 116.6, and 4th best defensive team with a 110.6 Defensive Rating which is still very good in the league. There was a point in time this year however where the Celtics looked unbeatable, and the Celtics need to get back to that form. When Marcus Smart comes back that will help a lot for sure, but the Celtics need to get back with the ball movement as recently they drifted away from it. The defense could be a little bit better, but with the Celtics offense they will be fine at 4th best in the league. Do the Celtics need anything during the trade deadline to address this?

The Boston Celtics could definitely do something at the trade deadline. You are not going to see anything major, but Brad Stevens could make a move to put the Celtics over the top. Could the Celtics also stay put and run it with the team they have? Absolutely they could, but additions never hurt. If the Celtics are looking at the trade market what should they look to add?

The Celtics should look to add some wing depth or a backup center. The Celtics have a few Trade Player Exceptions, one for \$5.9 million, another one for \$2.2 million, and a couple of them at \$1.6 million. So that opens the door for just trading picks for a role player. If you wanted a better talented player, you could see Justin Jackson, Luke Kornet, and Payton Prichard who recently said he wants a bigger role. If the Celtics get a deal where it makes a big impact on their roster now, but it would involve giving up Grant Williams, the Celtics would have to look into it as Grant is seeking a deal at around \$13-\$15 million per year in the offseason.

Who is available that would make sense for the Celtics. One name is a former Celtics player in Kelly Olynyk from the Jazz. Olynyk is making around \$13 million and would be under contract for next season as well. Olynyk would add some shooting along with size off the bench. In order to get Olynyk however, you would have to give a contract or two up in order to acquire the 31 year old center. Olynyk is averaging 11.5 Points Per Game, 5 Rebounds, and 3.3 Assists.

Another name is P.J. Washington of the Hornets. With Washington, he fits right into the 5.9 Trade Player Exception, so all the Celtics would have to do is trade picks. The only thing with Washington is that he is 24 years old averaging 15 Points Per Game, 4.5 Rebounds, and 2.4 assists. Would the Hornets be willing to part ways with Washington? Another center to keep an eye on would be Jakob Poeltl from the Spurs. This would give Al Horford less stress to play over 30 minutes a game, while adding a solid center at the same time. How much would it take to get Poeltl is the question. Definitely multiple contracts and a first round pick. Is that worth it for Poeltl who is averaging 11.8 Points Per Game, 9 Rebounds and 3 Assists? Another wing that could be a good addition is Jae Crowder. Crowder has proved before that he can play in Boston, but would he accept his role off the bench? Along with that, would the Suns send him off for cheap seeing that he is currently not playing for the team? The last name that fans should keep an eye out, but is a long shot is Malik Beasley of the Jazz. Beasley would provide the Celtics with 3 point scoring off of the bench as well as perimeter defense, but once again would the cost of a first round pick be worth it for Beasley who is having a down season shooting the ball?

There are a few more names that have been linked to the Celtics like Jarred Vanderbilt, Nerlens Noel, and Will Barton. The Celtics could make a trade to put them over the top, but the Celtics should not feel pressured to make a move. If a deal is not there where the Celtics feel comfortable with parting ways with picks or a player, they should definitely make a move at the buyout market. The Celtics are in a good spot right now, all the C's really need to do is tighten up their ball movement and go back to making the right plays. If the Celtics make a move, it should be a move where it puts them over the top, or to add to this current roster.