

HOW ANTWERP CAN DETHRONE OSTEND BY SEDUCING THEM TO PLAY LIKE GOLDEN STATE




Finals preview, EuroMillions League 2017-2018

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As the final act of the 2017-2018 season in the Belgian [EuroMillions League](#), the two best ranked teams of the regular season, BC Oostende and Antwerp Telenet Giants, will face each other in a *best-of-five* series.

In a [previous analysis](#), it appeared that Oostende has by far the best rating, both in offense as in defense, over the regular season. Antwerp has the 2nd best defense of the league, while it is ranked 3rd in the league for their offense. During the regular season, both teams matched up four times, resulting in two victories for Oostende early in the season and two *back-to-back* wins for Antwerp during the last weekend before the start of the play-offs.

In this overview, we will compare their regular season stats with their performances in those four match-ups. It may not surprise that in general the ratings of both teams drop when facing their toughest opponent of the regular season.

PREVIEW							
	Regular Season	2 wins ANT	2 wins OOS		2 wins ANT	2 wins OOS	Regular Season
OFFENSE	117,1	107,6	113,4	ORtg	112,5	87,7	112,2
	58,1	49,2	54,1	eFG%	58,4	37,9	53,6
	15,0	11,6	18,0	TOV%	15,1	12,3	14,1
	27,4	19,1	29,6	OR%	19,6	28,6	29,2
	0,38	0,36	0,53	FT/FGA	0,21	0,27	0,31
STYLE	70,4	71,8	67,2	Pace	71,8	67,2	71,8
	36%	42%	37%	3PA/FA	33%	37%	36%
	62%	74%	70%	AST/FGM	61%	64%	66%

Overall, Oostende starts this finals series as the clear favorite, dominating the league all season long on both ends of the floor, and after winning the last 6 (!) titles in Belgium. It is interesting to see what gave Antwerp the edge in those two recent regular season wins and which playing style they need in order to beat Oostende, based upon their previous match-ups:

ANTWERP WINS WHEN THEY 	OSTEND WINS WHEN THEY 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speed up the game tempo, going into a full court transition game - Close the paint in defense, securing Ostend to a lot of 3pt attempts and allowing few free throws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Control and slow down the pace of the game, going into their half court set plays with their floor leader Djordjevic - Attack the basket aggressively, provoking a lot of free throws

One can conclude that Oostende has to play the opposite style of the Golden State Warriors, which defined by being very high paced and relying heavily on their three-point shots.

Stats are just stats, right? Nothing more, nothing less. It is just one small segment of the gameplan, just as there is the form and mindset on gameday, individual match-ups, detailed tactical choices in offense and defense, ... Let us all hope that these finals turn into a series where details make the difference. And if you have to make the calls on one of both benches, you definitely want to know which playing styles have lead to succes and failure in your previous match-ups with the opponent!

Author



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He has been coaching at the highest level in The Netherlands (BSW Weert), France (Arras women) and Belgium (DBC Houthalen women). As a FIBA-instructor, he shared his knowledge in Qatar, Tunisia, Albania and spent two months in the coaching staff of NCAA1 St-Joseph's Hawks.

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Legenda:

<i>ORtg:</i>	<i>points scored per 100 possessions</i>
<i>eFG%:</i>	<i>effective field goal % (which values extra point of scored 3pt)</i>
<i>TOV%:</i>	<i>number of turnovers per 100 possessions</i>
<i>ORB%:</i>	<i>the percentage of available offensive rebounds a team grabbed</i>
<i>FT/FGA:</i>	<i>number of free throws provoked per field goal attempt</i>
<i>Pace:</i>	<i>number of possessions per 40 minutes</i>
<i>3PA/FGA:</i>	<i>% of field goal attempts taken behind the 3pt line</i>
<i>AST/FGM:</i>	<i>% of field goals that are made coming out of an assist</i>