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# Turner Sports to Tip Off 2014-15 NBA Season With Marquee Opening Week Doubleheaders & Special Fan Events in New York City & Cleveland

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Monday, October 20, 2014

Turner Sports will officially launch *Kia NBA Tip-Off '14*, the opening week of the 2014-15 NBA regular season, with a pair of marquee NBA doubleheader and special live broadcasts and on-site attractions in New York City and Cleveland during *NBA Premiere Week presented by AutoTrader.com*. Entering its 31st consecutive year of NBA coverage, TNT will open the season with a doubleheader Tuesday, Oct. 28, beginning at 7 p.m. ET with the Sports Emmy® Award-winning studio team of Ernie Johnson, Charles Barkley, Kenny Smith and Shaquille O'Neal providing live pre-game coverage from Times Square in New York City. The special *NBA on TNT Opening Night 2014 Presented by AutoTrader.com* telecast is part of a daylong New York City attraction sponsored by *NBA 2K15* and Samsung GALAXY celebrating the start of the NBA season.

Following TNT's special one-hour pre-game show, which will also include live coverage of the championship ring ceremony for the San Antonio Spurs, TNT's opening night doubleheader will feature the defending champion Spurs and Tim Duncan hosting the Dallas Mavericks and Dirk Nowitzki [at 8 p.m.](#) After the Mavs/Spurs matchup, TNT will feature the Los Angeles Lakers and the return of Kobe Bryant against the Houston Rockets and Dwight Howard at 10:30 p.m. Marv Albert will call the Mavs/Spurs telecast with analysts Grant Hill and Greg Anthony and reporter David Aldridge, with Kevin Harlan providing play-by-play for Rockets/Lakers with analyst Reggie Miller and reporter Rachel Nichols.

For NBA fans in New York City, TNT's critically-acclaimed studio show will be part of a daylong on-site attraction open to the public and sponsored by 2K and Samsung GALAXY that will be featured in Times Square on Tuesday, Oct. 28. Beginning at 10 a.m., the space will feature fan events including signings from NBA Legends and retired New York Knicks players, performances from the Knicks' drumline, kids dance teams and more. The event space will feature a Samsung GALAXY-branded basketball court, *NBA 2K15* gaming lounge, *NBA Game Time* app demo area, a NBA on TNT social media vending machine, Samsung GALAXY Experience and a massive video board from which fans can watch the evening's NBA on TNT coverage. Beginning at 7 p.m., Johnson, Barkley, Smith and O'Neal will be on hand to broadcast live from Times Square throughout the entire night including pre-game, halftime updates and the post-game *Inside the NBA presented by Kia*.

In addition to the Times Square takeover, a replica of the *NBA on TNT* studio desk will pop up at various locations throughout NYC on Tuesday to celebrate the start of season. Fans will be able to take photos of themselves at the desk, which is also sponsored by *NBA 2K15*, as well as pick up 2K and NBA swag and more.

*NBA on TNT Premiere Week presented by AutoTrader.com* will also include a highly-anticipated doubleheader [on Thursday, Oct. 30](#), including LeBron James making his regular season debut in Cleveland when the Cavaliers host the New York Knicks and Carmelo Anthony at 8 p.m. The network's doubleheader will culminate with the Los Angeles Clippers and Blake Griffin hosting the Oklahoma City Thunder and Russell Westbrook at 10:30 p.m. Albert will provide the call for the Knicks/Cavaliers game with analysts Barkley and Miller and reporter Nichols, with Harlan handling play-by-play for the Thunder/Clippers game with analyst Anthony and reporter Aldridge. Studio coverage from Atlanta will

be anchored by Johnson with analysts Smith, O'Neal and Chris Webber.

With James' return to Cleveland on Thursday night, Turner Sports will televise a pre-game event live from downtown Cleveland's Gateway District featuring a musical performance from Kendrick Lamar, whose new single "i" provides the musical backdrop to the NBA on TNT's start of season coverage. With a special guest appearance by Kevin Hart with host Kristen Ledlow, the hour-long *TNT NBA Tip-Off presented by AutoTrader.com* will be broadcast at 7 p.m. on TNT. Located just outside of Quicken Loans Arena, the free fan event will open at 4 p.m. and feature appearances by the Cavalier Girls dance team, the Scream Team hip-hop troupe and more. Once the game tips off, the event will serve as a viewing party for fans with the TNT broadcast featured on the massive LED screens that will be set up in the space.

Kendrick Lamar's "i" promotional video for Turner Sports' NBA on TNT coverage can be found here: [http://www.nba.com/video/channels/tnt\\_overtime/2014/10/20/nba-on-tnt---home.nba/](http://www.nba.com/video/channels/tnt_overtime/2014/10/20/nba-on-tnt---home.nba/)

### **The NBA on TNT Premiere Week Presented by AutoTrader.com schedule:**

#### **Tuesday, Oct. 28**

##### **7 p.m. (ET)**

NBA on TNT Opening Night 2014 Presented by AutoTrader.com

Ernie Johnson, Charles Barkley, Kenny Smith, Shaquille O'Neal

*\*Broadcast live from New York City's Times Square*

##### **8 p.m.**

Dallas Mavericks at San Antonio Spurs

Marv Albert, Grant Hill, Greg Anthony, David Aldridge

##### **10:30 p.m.**

Houston Rockets at Los Angeles Lakers

Kevin Harlan, Reggie Miller, Rachel Nichols

##### **Post-game**

Inside the NBA presented by Kia

Johnson, Barkley, Smith, O'Neal

#### **Thursday, Oct. 30**

##### **7 p.m.**

NBA on TNT Tip-Off presented by AutoTrader.com

Includes special pre-game performance and event Featuring Kendrick Lamar presented by Samsung GALAXY Note 4

##### **8 p.m.**

New York Knicks at Cleveland Cavaliers

Albert, Miller, Barkley, Nichols

**10:30 p.m.**

Oklahoma City at Los Angeles Clippers

Harlan, Anthony, Aldridge

**Post-game**

Inside the NBA presented by Kia

Johnson, Smith, O'Neal, Chris Webber

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