

## Mavericks' Hopes of Signing Chris Paul Fade as Veteran Prefers Los Angeles

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DALLAS – The Dallas Mavericks' plans to strengthen their backcourt this offseason have suffered a major setback. With Kyrie Irving expected to miss a large part of the season, the Mavericks were exploring options to bring in 12-time All-Star Chris Paul as a temporary solution. However, new reports suggest Paul has no plans to move to Texas.

NBA insider Marc Stein reported that Paul, who just completed a full 82-game season with the San Antonio Spurs, is focused on playing near his home in Los Angeles if he returns for a 21st NBA season.

“Chris Paul would be another Mavericks target at \$5.7 million,” Stein wrote. “But there is a growing belief that Paul after starting all 82 games last season in San Antonio as a 39-year-old newcomer to the Spurs is determined to play closer to his home base in Los Angeles.”

This update is disappointing for Dallas, which was hoping to add Paul’s experience and leadership to guide the team while Irving recovers. Even at 39, Paul showed he can still contribute, averaging 8.8 points and 7.4 assists per game last season.

Paul has long been respected for his ability to control a game and mentor younger players. Despite never winning an NBA championship, he has earned a reputation as one of the most reliable point guards of his era. For the Mavericks, his presence could have provided a steadying influence on the floor and in the locker room.

If Paul had agreed to join Dallas, he would likely have stepped into a starting role. Once Irving returned, Paul could have shifted to a key bench position, helping rookie Cooper Flagg and providing valuable depth for the playoffs.

Instead, the Mavericks must look elsewhere to fill the gap. Paul’s preference to stay in Los Angeles suggests he could rejoin the Clippers or even consider the Lakers for one last attempt at a title.

For Dallas, this means going back to the market to find another veteran playmaker who can help keep their playoff hopes alive. As training camp approaches, the front office will need to act quickly to secure the support their roster needs.