The New York Knicks (7-11) have a combined 12 all star appearances compared to the 2 by the Cleveland Cavaliers (7-10). The Knicks have 3 guys who are making money in the territory of the maximum contract allowed by the NBA. The Cavs are in the middle of a rebuilding project that has shed salary. New York City is a market that star players want to play in and Cleveland is not as desirable. Despite all of these commonly accepted factors, the Cavs appear to be in a better situation moving forward than the Knicks.

The Knicks are struggling. Mike D'Antoni is supposed to be an offensive-minded coach, yet they came into Wednesday night's game with the 29th worst field goal percentage in the NBA. To make matters worse, their defensive field goal percentage is rated 20th out of 30 teams. The Knicks have a lot of problems, but the root of them start with the fact that they spent all of their cap space on a small forward, power forward and center. They do not have any wing players who are above average. When Iman Shumpert is designated the starting point guard and expected to run an offense so early in his career, your team is fundamentally flawed.

Considering the star power on the Knicks and the amount of salary paid, it is unacceptable that they have lost 7 of their last 8 games. If the playoffs were to start tomorrow, the Cavs would be in the playoffs and the Knicks would be in the lottery. This is something that few people would have predicted before the season. Whether the Knicks are struggling because of a poorly-constructed roster or coaching is a moot point. The Knicks are almost a finished product and they need to figure out a way to win with the team that they have. Carmelo Anthony and Amar'e Stoudemire need to figure out a way to be more effective together because they are both under contract with the Knicks for a long period of time.

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