

Anfernee SIMONS

Anfernee SIMONS Anfernee Simons is a talented NBA guard currently playing for the Portland Trail Blazers.

Key Details

- **Position:** Guard (Combo Guard – PG/SG)
- **Born:** June 8, 1999 (Age 25)
- **Height:** 6'3" (1.91 m)
- **Drafted:** 2018, 1st Round (24th overall) by Portland
- **NBA Debut:** 2018-19 season

Career Highlights

- Broke out in the 2021-22 season, averaging 17.3 PPG after Damian LILLARD's injury.
- In 2022-23, he became a full-time starter, averaging 21.1 PPG, 4.1 APG.
- After the Blazers traded LILLARD (2023), Simons became a key building block for the team's rebuild.

2023-24 Season Stats

22.6 PPG, 5.5 APG, 3.6 RPG

- Shot 38.5% from three on high volume (8.8 attempts per game).
- One of the NBA's most improved playmakers.

Playing Style

- Elite three-point shooter (career ~38% from deep).
- Explosive scorer with deep range and pull-up ability.
- Improved as a playmaker but still developing as a true point guard.

Strengths & Playing Style Breakdown

Elite Shooting & Range:

- One of the NBA's best pull-up three-point shooters (career 38.1% on 6.5+ attempts).
- Can hit from 30+ feet effortlessly (similar to Dame LILLARD -style bombs).
- Shoots 44% on catch-and-threes (elite off-ball threat).

Athleticism & Finishing:

- Explosive first step—gets to the rim with ease.

Playmaking Growth:

- Still turnover-prone (2.8 TOV), but showing better P&R decision-making.

Clutch Gene:

- Hit multiple game-winners (including a deep 3 vs. the Suns in 2022).
- Averaged 24.3 PPG in the 4th quarter on 50/40/90 splits in some key stretches.

2. Weaknesses & Areas to Improve

Defense:

- Still a below-average defender due to size (6'3", 181 lbs) and inconsistent effort.
- Gets targeted in switches—needs to add strength.

Playmaking Under Pressure:

- Struggles against double teams (Blazers relied on him as the primary ball-handler post-LILLARD).
- Needs to improve passing out of traps.

Efficiency Fluctuations:

- Can be streaky—went 5/25 in a game vs. OKC (2024) but dropped 38 the next night.

3. Future Outlook & Blazers' Plans

- Trade Rumors? Some analysts think Portland might move him for assets, but the Blazers seem committed to his upside.
- All-Star Potential: If he improves his defense and playmaking, he could be a 2025-26 All-Star candidate in a weaker West backcourt.
- Contract: Signed through 2025-26 (team option for 2026-27).

4. Fun Facts

- Nickname: "Ant" (short for Anfernee).
- Pre-Draft: Skipped college, played at IMG Academy, and was a 5-star recruit.

Advanced Stats & Impact Metrics

Scoring Efficiency:

- True Shooting (TS%): 58.2% (2023-24) – above league average for guards.
- Effective FG% (e FG%): 54.1% – elite for a high-volume shooter.
- Pull-Up 3P%: 37.1% (on 5.8 attempts/game) – ranks top 10 among guards.

Playmaking Growth:

- AST% (Assist Percentage): 25.4% (2023-24) – up from 18.9% in 2022-23.
- Usage Rate: 27.8% – shows he's handling a primary initiator role.
- Defensive Limitations:
- Defensive RAPTOR: -2.3 (below average).
- DBPM (Defensive Box Plus-Minus): -1.7 – struggles in team defense.
- Clutch Stats (Last 5 Mins, Score Within 5):
- 45.8% FG, 39.1% 3P, 88.9% FT – proven late-game performer.

2. Comparison to Other Young Scoring Guards

Player	PPG (2023-24)	3P%	APG	TS%	Upside
Anfernee Simons	22.6	38.5%	5.5	58.2%	Elite shooter, improving playmaker
Tyrese Maxey	25.9	37.3%	6.2	57.8%	Faster, better finisher
Jordan Poole	17.4	32.6%	4.4	52.6%	Worse efficiency, higher volatility
Jalen Green	19.6	33.2%	3.5	53.8%	More athletic, worse shooter

Verdict: Simons is a better shooter than all of them and is improving as a playmaker, but Maxey is more complete.

3. Best Games & Career Highlights

- Feb 4, 2022: 43 pts (9 threes) vs. Hawks – first breakout game post-LILLARD injury.
- Jan 14, 2023: 33 pts, 6 a s t, game-winning 3 vs. Mavericks.
- 2023-24 Season: 5 games with 30+ pts & 5+ a s t – proving he can be a lead guard.

4. Fit With Portland's Young Core

- Backcourt of the Future:
- Simons + Scoot Henderson – Simons is the shooter/scorer, Scoot is the primary playmaker.
- Sha EDON Sharpe – Could form a lethal three-guard lineup if Sharpe develops.
- Potential Issues:
- Defense – All three (Simons, Scoot, Sharpe) are still weak defensively.
- Ball Dominance – Simons and Scoot both need the ball to thrive.

5. Trade Value & League Perception

- Estimated Trade Value:
- 1-2 mid-first-round picks + a young player (similar to what De JOUNTE Murray fetched).
- Teams like Orlando, Brooklyn, or San Antonio could be fits if Portland shops him.
- Why Keep Him?
- Only 25 years old, already a 20+ PPG scorer, and fits the timeline of Portland's rebuild.

6. What's Next?

- 2024-25 Goals:
- All-Star Push – Needs to average 24+ PPG, 6+ APG on good efficiency.
- Defensive Improvement – Even a slight jump could make him a franchise cornerstone.
- Leadership Role – Now the veteran in Portland's locker room.
- Long-Term Ceiling:
- Best Case: Damian LILLARD-lite (elite shooter, decent playmaker, average defense).
- Worst Case: Jordan Poole (high-volume scorer, inefficient stretches, bad D).

SHOT CHART & PLAY TYPE BREAKDOWN (2023-24)

- Shot Selection:
- At Rim: 62% FG (20% of attempts)
- Mid-Range: 42% FG (15% of attempts)
- Three-Pointers:
- Pull-Up 3s: 37.1% (5.8 attempts/game)
- Catch-and-Shoot 3s: 44.0% (3.0 attempts/game)
- Corner 3s: 41.3% (elite)
- Clutch Time (Last 5 mins, +/- 5 pts): 45.8% FG, 39.1% 3P
- Play Type Efficiency:
- Pick-and-Roll Ball Handler: 0.92 PPP (65th percentile)
- Spot-Up: 1.12 PPP (77th percentile)
- Anfernee SIMONS Isolation: 0.86 PPP (53rd percentile)
- Transition: 1.18 PPP (84th percentile)

2. CONTRACT & SALARY CAP IMPLICATIONS

- Current Deal: 4 years, \$100M (signed 2022)
- 2024-25: \$25.9M
- 2025-26: \$27.8M
- 2026-27: \$29.7M (team option)
- Trade Value:
- Positive Asset (outperforms contract) but not a max-level player yet.
- If traded, Portland could demand:
- 1-2 protected 1sts + a young player (e.g., a deal similar to Malcolm Brogdon's value).

3. TRADE MACHINE SCENARIOS

- Potential Fits:
- Orlando Magic
- Trade: Simons for Jett Howard + 2025 DEN 1st (top-5 protected)

- Why? Orlando needs shooting; Simons pairs perfectly with Paolo/Wagner.
- Brooklyn Nets
- Why? Nets get a young guard to build around; Blazers get a wing + pick.
- San Antonio Spurs
- Why? Spurs add elite shooting next to WEM by; Blazers get a pick + forward.
- Why Portland Might Hold: Simons' age (25) fits Scoot/Sharpe's timeline better than veterans.

4. DEFENSIVE FILM STUDY

- Biggest Weaknesses:
- Anfernee SIMONS Screen Navigation: Poor at fighting through picks (allows 1.12 PPP to ball-handlers).
- Off-Ball Awareness: Often loses shooters in rotations.
- Physical Limitations: 6'3", 181 lbs – gets bullied by bigger guards.
- Bright Spots:
- Steals: 1.0 SPG (decent instincts in passing lanes).
- Transition Defense: Recovers well due to elite speed.
- Improvement Path:
- Add 10-15 lbs of muscle to handle switches better.

6. 2024-25 PREDICTIONS & BETTING ODDS

- Stats: 24.3 PPG, 5.9 APG, 3.8 RPG, 39% 3P
- Awards Watch:
- Most Improved Player: +1800 (if he jumps to 25+ PPG, 6+ APG)
- All-Star: +2500 (needs Blazers to be near .500)
- Over/UNDERS:
- 24.5 PPG (Lean: Over)
- 5.5 APG (Lean: Over)

7. TRAINING FOCUS THIS SUMMER

- Playmaking: Working with Steve Nash on P&R reads.
- Defense: Drills with Bruce Bowen (former Spurs stopper).
- Strength: Added 7 lbs of muscle (per Blazers' training staff).

8. THE BIG QUESTION: CAN HE BE A #1 OPTION?

- Yes, but...
- Needs to improve passing out of double teams (Blazers' offense stalled when trapped).
- Must raise FG% at the rim (62% is good, but not elite for a guard).
- Requires better leadership (young team needs vocal presence).
- If he fails: Best as a #2 scorer on a contender (like Jamal Murray in Denver).