

LEBRON VS JORDAN

Stats

staff writer reed fnseth

Stats

PPG 27.5

30.1 PPG

REB 8.6

6.2 REB

AST 9.1

5.3 AST

STL 1.4

2.3 STL

BLK 0.9

0.8 BLK



Awards

Awards

NBA Championship ● ● ● ● ●

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● NBA Championship

MVP ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ MVP

All-Star Selections ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● All-Star Selections

DPOY (none)

■ DPOY

Who is the greatest of all time? This question has plagued sports fans forever. Basketball fans are increasingly separated on this issue. The rise of Michael Jordan had an unprecedented effect on the game of basketball. Jordan led the Chicago Bulls to three NBA titles in a row before retiring in 1993 to pursue a career in minor-league baseball. Then in 1995, he returned to the Bulls and led them to three more consecutive titles, solidifying his reputation among a majority of basketball fans as the best basketball player of all time. However, in 2003, directly out of high school, came a player who would call Jordan's legacy into question. LeBron James was drafted as the number one overall pick by the Cleveland Cavaliers. In the summer of 2010, LeBron joined Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh in Miami and signed with the Heat. There he won two titles back to back, then

he returned to Cleveland in one of the most epic homecomings in basketball history and promised Cleveland fans a title. He fulfilled his promise in 2016 bringing Cleveland its first NBA title. Despite all of his success, LeBron's career is far from over. He has made eight consecutive appearances in the finals and signed with the Los Angeles Lakers this summer.

The rise of the LeBron era has caused many basketball fans to question Jordan's legacy as the greatest basketball player of all time.

"LeBron James [is better] because he has played probably the most consistent at a top level, especially at 33 years old and he's still considered the best," Sophomore and basketball fanatic Mitchell Medlin said.

LeBron's impact on the game is impressive; however, many loyal supporters of Michael Jordan

including Sarah Spann, Assistant Coach of the SA girls' basketball team, point out that Lebron's legacy was undoubtedly affected by Jordan.

"[Basketball] was slow paced, not that much entertainment," Spann said. "And then when Michael came, how he dunked the ball, how he pretty much put the Bulls on his back, and then won six NBA championships [showed his dominance], now, Lebron has come behind him and Lebron is really good but he is not Michael Jordan."

Lebron's influence is not limited to the court though. Even Coach Spann is forced to admit that Lebron has had a more positive influence in the community.

"I think Lebron has been a better influence in the world in a [more]positive way than what Jordan has [been]," Spann said. "I mean Jordan everyone knows with his shoes and he's in a movie here and there, but Lebron has really set his platform, and he just opened up his own school. He has done other things for kids, not that Michael hasn't, I just think it's bigger what Lebron has done and what he is still doing, but to me he is still not the G.O.A.T."

“I think Lebron has been a better influence in the world in a positive way than what Jordan has [been].”
-Sarah Spann

Lebron's new promise school in Akron, Ohio, targets at risk youth. Its inaugural class contains 240 third and fourth graders. Never before has a basketball player made it his or her mission to be the best representative for the community that they can be.

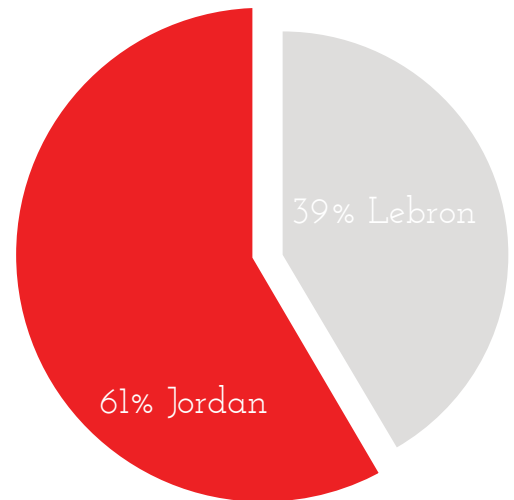
Many of Jordan's fans feel that the league itself has changed since Jordan's time as well. Assistant Coach of the SA boys' basketball team JeMario Rugley argues that the league is not currently as physical as it was in Jordan's time.

"A lot has to do that the game has changed now," Rugley said. "Back when Michael Jordan was playing the league was more physical, a lot of hand checking, a lot of pushing. They didn't call a lot of flagrant fouls. And in today's game it has changed because they want to see these high scoring games."

One of the reasons that it is so difficult to compare the two athletes is the difference in their time periods. Jordan played at a time when the league was physically demanding, and most

people thought that the post players were the key to winning. Since Jordan's time, they have banned hand checking, the process of extending an arm to stop an approaching player, and quick moving guards now dominate the league with their pinpoint accuracy shooting.

Who is the greatest basketball player of all time?



Despite Lebron's impact on the game and his community, 61 percent of St. Andrew's students feel that Jordan is the best basketball player of all time. Lebron still has a lot of ground to make up if he wants to be considered one of the all-time greats; however, he still has time. By signing with the Los Angeles Lakers, Lebron has successfully surrounded himself with a strong young core that desperately needs the leadership of a veteran player to guide them to success. If Lebron can lead this young core to defeat the five all star powerhouse of the Golden State Warriors, I believe fans will be forced to accept him as the greatest of all time, but as of now, the King still bows to His Airness.



“I support LJ. He's doing an amazing job for his community.”
-Michael Jordan

“I think I fell in love with the game because of Mike. just seeing what he was able to accomplish.”
-Lebron James

