

# LEBRON: HELPING HIS TEAMS WIN



LeBron James is an incredible basketball player. He started playing in the NBA right after high school in 2003. The Cleveland Cavaliers eagerly chose LeBron to play for them. He was super talented. He also grew up near Cleveland.

Playing against NBA players was a big adjustment. But LeBron played great during his first season. He scored 25 points in his first NBA game. Cleveland won more games. He won the Rookie of the Year Award.

LeBron continued playing well. But his dream was to win championships. He made it to the NBA Finals in 2007. But Cleveland lost to San Antonio.

LeBron decided to play for the Miami Heat in 2010. People in Cleveland were sad. The owner of the Cavaliers said some mean things about LeBron. But LeBron was happy with his decision. He led the Heat to the NBA Finals four straight years. The Heat won the title in 2012 and 2013.

LeBron had a ton of success in Miami. But he missed Cleveland. He returned to the Cavaliers in 2014. Cleveland

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was one of the NBA's worst teams after LeBron left. But he helped the Cavaliers get to the NBA Finals once he returned. They lost to the Golden State Warriors.

LeBron led Cleveland to the NBA championship one year later. They had to beat Golden State, which had the best season in NBA history. But LeBron wasn't scared of them. He helped Cleveland win the 2016 NBA Finals. He scored 41 points in two games. He blocked a shot near the end of the final game. LeBron cried for several minutes after they won. He was so happy he delivered a championship to Cleveland. Lots of people celebrated. It was Cleveland's first pro sports championship since 1964.

LeBron decided to join the LA Lakers in 2018. The Lakers are a famous team. They lost a lot from 2013-2018. LeBron wants to help them win again.

LeBron wears number 23 because that's the same number Michael Jordan wore. LeBron loved watching Jordan on TV when he was a kid.

LeBron has won many awards. But LeBron enjoys making his teammates better. LeBron said, "I've always loved the success of my teammates more than myself."

# CURRY: A WINNING WARRIOR



Stephen Curry was famous when he played college basketball. He was eager to join an NBA team when he left college in 2009. He was an excellent shooter. He made his teammates better.

But some NBA teams thought Stephen was too weak. They thought he wasn't athletic enough.

Six players were chosen before Stephen in the 2009 NBA Draft. The Golden State Warriors were thrilled with that. They chose Stephen with the seventh pick.

The Warriors were a terrible team. But they knew a hard-working player like Stephen was just who they needed. Their fans were excited too. His #30 jersey was the team's best-seller.

Stephen played well in his first game. Fans thought Stephen could be the person to save the Warriors. He played 77 games during his first year. He made 166 three-point shots. That was sixth best in the NBA.

Stephen played well his first three seasons. But he was not as good as he wanted to be. The Warriors continued losing. He sprained his ankle several times during his second season. His ankle kept hurting worse. Stephen had surgery on it during his third season. He missed 40 games. It would have been easy for Stephen to give up.

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# CURRY: A WINNING WARRIOR



Stephen's father played in the NBA. Stephen remembered the lessons his dad taught him. He knew that succeeding in the NBA was going to take lots of hard work.

So Stephen started taking 1,000 shots *before* practice. He spent more time working out. He watched athletes in other sports. Stephen attended practices with football superstar Cam Newton. He learned lessons by watching Cam practice.

This hard work made Stephen and the Warriors much better during the 2012-2013 season. He led the NBA by making 272 three-pointers. The Warriors made the playoffs. Their fans were excited about the future with Stephen.

Stephen's breakout season was in 2014-2015. He was voted as the NBA's Most Valuable Player. He led the Warriors to an NBA championship. It was their first one since 1975.

The Warriors continued dominating during the next season. They set a record by winning 73 games. Stephen set a record by making 402 three-point shots in one season. They made it back to the NBA Finals. But they lost to Cleveland. Stephen was sad to end the season by losing.

He made up for it the next two years. The Warriors won the NBA championship trophy in 2017 and 2018. They beat Cleveland both times. Stephen played great. He made lots of three-point shots from far away.

Stephen proves a small player can lead a team to big things.