

Who is the G.O.A.T. of Basketball?

By Elvis Castanos, '25



As of the 2021-2022 NBA season, the NBA has had 75 seasons. With this milestone, the NBA has celebrated its accomplishments by releasing a list of the 75 greatest players to hit an NBA court.

"The NBA 75th anniversary team was selected by a panel of media members, current and former players, coaches and team executives," said Jordan Greer from The Sporting News. Although this list includes the Top 75 players of all time, it fails to rank these 75 players.

"Early in the 2021-22 season, the NBA unveiled its 75th Anniversary Team, a squad full of iconic players representing different points in the evolution of basketball. But the league never ranked them," said ESPN in their own attempt of ranking these players.

In their attempt, they named Michael Jordan, LeBron James, and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as the three greatest basketball players to have ever existed, in that order.

While it would make it fair to mention players like Magic Johnson, Larry Bird, or Kobe Bryant, who are also very high up on the common rankings, the top 3 have consistently remained with Jordan, James, and Abdul-Jabbar.

ESPN, The Athletic, and Complex, all respected news and sports media organizations, have chosen to give their take on the G.O.A.T. debate and have each ranked the top NBA players of all time.

Their lists each conclude that Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is the third greatest player of all time. LeBron is the second greatest player of all time and their acclaimed G.O.A.T. is Michael Jeffrey Jordan.

"This man won three in a row, left to play baseball, then came back to win three in a row again, and then he came back one more time and was one of the oldest players to average 20 PPG and to score 40-plus in a game. The GOAT, no question," said Angela Diaz from Complex.

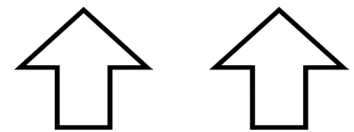
Along with these "professional" lists created by established sports media companies, there comes many uncredited opinions that spawn many outrageous takes as to who is eligible to take on the mantle of G.O.A.T. "Chamberlain has all the numbers to prove he was a complete player, but he owns one of the most shocking statistics that should, alone, push him to the top of the GOAT list," says Mike Thomas from Sports Casting.

Although this opinion isn't the greatest representation of a hot take since Wilt Chamberlain is on many top ten lists. The idea that what can be very agreed upon will usually be contradicted, especially when it comes to the idea that every opinion is heard in the sports world.

Although the idea of a G.O.A.T. can easily be argued, it is evident that Michael Jordan

is the best possible answer to this dilemma. He is 6-0 in the NBA Finals was the best player on one of the greatest teams ever formed, achieved the second highest regular season win record in 1996, has five MVPs, 14x All-Star, and many more accomplishments.

As time passes this topic will continue to be disputed especially since LeBron is still active and has not much more to prove to reach this point in his legacy. But as of November 2022, Michael Jordan is the "Greatest Of All Time"



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