

My reason for posting on LeBron James's monumental basketball feats is purely personal, as I draw unstinted inspirations to excel in my academic pursuits of teaching and research by watching LBJ's phenomenal performance on the basketball court every night he plays, year after year without showing any sign of fatigue and fading. It does not matter to me what jersey he wears: Cavaliers, Heat, or Lakers, as he moves on in his quest to etch his name in the sports annals as one of the greatest basketball players ever to play. I am not interested in responding to negative postings that his detractors often dwell on to criticize him relentlessly ignoring his towering accomplishments.



Pinaki

2019

[NBA executive: LeBron James 'killed' the Lakers' chemistry during Anthony Davis trade talks](#)

The real problem occurred when Kevin Durant exercised his rights, within the NBA rules, to join a 2-time NBA champion team, making Warriors ultra strong, thereby making it impossible for any good team to win against them in the NBA Final. Now, all other superstars like James Harden, Anthony Davis, Russell Westbrook, Chris Paul, Paul George, ... have to either forego their dream for donning a championship ring until Warriors implodes after ??? number of years or they will understandably work behind the scene to build viable teams with their All Star buddies. It is ugly for junior players or bench warmers, but that is the reality. So blaming AD or LBJ for the recent trade fiasco and its continuing adverse effects does not solve the core problem.

Pinaki

2018

[Blakely: A ready-made rival to Warriors awaits LeBron in Boston](#)

LeBron James needs 3 more Championship rings to silence all those nay-sayers about his phenomenal achievements. Like once frustrated Kevin Durant took his talents to star-studded Golden State to win two back-to-back championships and two Final MVPs without laboring too much, LeBron should sacrifice some of his contractual \$'s and fit into a promising team (definitely not Lakers) where he can tilt the balance and win a couple of more NBA rings. That is the only way he can advance himself as an uncontroverted candidate for one of the top two players of all time, if not GOAT.

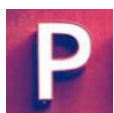


Pinaki

2018

[Stephen Curry tired of LeBron James getting all the credit: 'Don't disrespect the other guys'](#)

Golden State Warriors with four superstar players are superior to a one star Cavs commandeered by LeBron James, but spectators will get to witness LeBron's greatness as he combats against a vastly superior opponent literally all by himself. GSW is likely to win the Finals 4-1 or 4-2 once again, though LeBron's heroics and stats will outshine everything and the media feasting over LBJ to chagrins of the victors.



Pinaki

2018

[The Celtics shook off a 40-point LeBron triple-double to take a 2-0 lead](#)

JR Smith, Tristan Thompson, ... and a whole bunch of unproductive new players cannot be part of a championship caliber team. Constant window dressing by Cavs put them in this precipitous situation. If Milwaukee can push Celtics to 7 games, what is wrong with Cavs? That too after having a dominating performance against Toronto, supposedly a better team than Celtics.



Pinaki

2018

[Tiger Woods weighs in on the LeBron-Michael Jordan debate and what it means to be great](#)

In tennis, one cannot say whether Laver was better than Federer or even Sampras who is eclipsed with the rise of Federer and Nadal. Only Laver had won all Grand Slams in a single year twice in the 60's emulating the feat of Don Budge. The reason of such GOAT debate is futile because the racket technology was so different in the 60's in comparison to modern high-tech rackets. Therefore, any such comparisons based on purely statistics like the number of Grand Slams won and how many weeks being Number 1 in ATP ranking list are superficial. In basketball, the technology does not change but the conditions of players are constantly improving as the money in the sports is soaring. Therefore, number of Championship rings is not a good metric, as some 3-point shooting peripheral players have won more rings than LeBron, Shaq, Johnson, Birds, etc. One should make more objective analysis to calibrate the greatness of a superstar player.



Pinaki

2018

[LeBron Reveals Which Coach Turned Him in the Player He Is Today](#)

LeBron made a quantum leap in his all-round game after losing the 2011 NBA Finals in his first year at Miami. As much it was the Maverick's coaching staff (James Casey) who clipped LeBron's scoring abilities, it was also LeBron's own moment of reckoning as he failed to deliver multiple NBA Championships as he bragged after the controversial transfer. Heat gave away the 2nd Game after coming very close to clinching a 2-0 lead, because of Big 3's overconfidence and then LeBron started floundering by passing balls at critical moments and ultimately lost the Final.



Pinaki

2018

[NBA - Double-whammy for James as Cavs reel off 10th win](#)

Now Thomas can heal for another full month as J-L-W combo piles up winning stats. Kevin Love is playing the best and consistently scoring 20+ and rebounding 10+. With Thomas returning to the team, and the 3-point specialists sharpening their shooting, Cavs are poised to beat the other Eastern Conference teams and make their fourth consecutive appearance in the NBA Championship.



Pinaki
2018

[NBA Rumors: Could LeBron James Be Traded If Cavs' Struggles Continue?](#)

This is a hypothetical proposition. How LeBron gets traded fro Cavs? By swapping LeBron with Kyrie? By sending LeBron to Boston and Kyrie back to Cleveland? Sports writers conjure up some crazy trade scenarios and teams in desperation may fall for media drumbeats. Kyrie was not a defensive player and his departure could not sink Cavs defense that they are struggling against minnow teams. The collapse in Cavs defense may require full scrutiny by coaching staff, unless Cavs are merely experimenting with other teams, knowing very well they can take care of this problem when it matters.



Pinaki
2018

[What we learned from LeBron James' 57-point outburst](#)

In my opinion, LeBron James should concentrate on his personal achievement by playing high-scoring games like this. He should go in the beast mode to amaze basketball fans with his high-octane drives to the basket and sit out whenever he needs to re-energize himself. There is no way he can inject his personal commitment to his fellow players who seem to be lethargic, demotivated, and are banking on LBJ to lead them to another NBA Final, like the way he marched his team into the Final for seven consecutive years.



Pinaki
2 years ago

[J.R. Smith 'likes' a picture of Carmelo Anthony in a Cavaliers uniform](#)

Though Cavs spent most \$\$\$ in the league to beef up their bench before the playoff started, perhaps they made a mistake by not signing in another active All-Star player like Carmelo Anthony. Having 3 All-Star in the team (disregarding the late addition of Deron Williams who was not very effective even as a bench player) is good enough to beat any team in the league. However, it was not sufficient to tame star-studded Warriors which met no resistance in the entire playoff, except Game 4 in the Finals.. Now Cavs may consider revamping the team by bartering many bench warmers against recruiting another superstar along with a couple of tall defenders who can resist scoring machines like Warriors.



Pinaki
2 years ago

[LeBron James' Herculean effort against the stacked Warriors proved there's still no one better in the NBA](#)

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2 years ago

[LeBron: 'No reason to put my head down' after losing 2017 NBA Finals](#)

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Pinaki

2 years ago

[History of LeBron James vs. Kevin Durant](#)

Kevin Durant had it all with Russel Westbrook and James Harden in his 2012-13 OKC team that overcame Lakers and Spurs to play in the NBA Finals, alas only to be beaten tamely by LeBron led Miami Heat. Considering the James Harden was not even a starter at that time, OKC was a dominant team that Kevin Durant could have led to win championships again and again. He did not deliver as the team fell apart slowly and Durant opportunistically melded into the dominant milieu of Warriors star players hoping to win an NBA ring. Though Durant won MVP in regular season as Curry and LeBron did within the last 5 years, presumably Durant will not be measured in the same wavelengths as the latter two MVPs as they shepherded their fledgling teams to win the NBA championship. Durant may have to lead another team to win an NBA championship to restore his stature as his spectacular stats warrant.



Pinaki

2 years ago

[Bill Laimbeer on LeBron vs. Jordan comparisons: "I'll take LeBron James, absolutely"](#)

If LBJ marshals Cavs to win NBA in 2017 by taming the Warriors, he will be considered being almost like Mike, except LBJ will be put down by a large swath of his vocal critics until he uses both hands to adorn the championship rings. So its LBJ's chance to define his position in basketball pantheon.



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2 years ago

[Richard Jefferson Snapped Cavs' ECF celebration](#)

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Pinaki

3 years ago

[Surprise, surprise: One of strangest NBA Finals ever delivers a Game 7](#)

When LeBron James joined Chris Boss and Dwayne Wade to form the NBA dream team of Big 3 and defiantly pronounced that the trio would win "not one, not two, not three, ... but many, many championships", they became the target of public wrath and scorn. In their first effort, Miami fumbled by gifting the Game 2 to Mavericks after gaining a comfortable lead towards the end of the fourth quarter and then the trio choked against a vengeance-seeking Dallas team who lost to Miami in 2006. However, after that humiliating loss, Miami won two back-to-back championships to vindicate their cocky bragging in 2011.

Six years down the line, one can only put things in perspective by looking at what happened in NBA in this period of time. LeBron has to a certain extent vindicated himself of his confident presage by making a historic six straight NBA Finals and performing at the highest level of basketball in the last 5 Finals. Though Spurs won against Miami in 2014 and Warriors against Cavs in 2015, the best player in those two Finals by the metrics of performance measurement was indeed James.

Unfortunately, unlike in many other sports where three different colored medals are given to individuals, in basketball the winning team only gets to adorn their finger with a championship ring. On that count, superstars like Jordan, Kobe, Shaq, Karim, Magic, West, Chamberlain, Bird, et al. in the modern era should be reassessed in terms of how many times they won Gold Ring (champion) and Silver Ring (finalist). If one compares "5 gold" of Kobe with "2 gold (or is it 3?) and 5 silver (or is it 4?)" of LeBron, one can measure their greatness with the correct yardstick.



Pinaki

3 years ago

[Three Things to Watch For: Golden State vs. Cleveland Game 6](#)

At 2-3, is tonight's Game 6 going to be Miami v. Boston (2012) moment for LeBron James that ultimately fetched him the much-coveted maiden NBA championship or is it going to be the historic moment for 73-9 record holder Warriors to win NBA championship in Game 6 as did Chicago Bulls in 1996 after setting up the 72-10 regular season winning record? There are eerie similarities between two historic teams separated by two decades. History is cyclic it appears.



Pinaki

3 years ago

[Why Kyrie Irving could emerge as the best running mate LeBron has ever had](#)

LBJ and Kyrie must perform en core in Game 6 to keep the series alive. Cavs need three big scorers with some help from other players to post 110+ points, while two defenders (Thompson, Mozgov, Jefferson, Shumpert and Kaun) must play physical to restrain Warriors and set the tone. If Love shows up by firing quick baskets in the first quarter, Cavs stands a chance to extend the series. If Love struggles, the coach must act firmly by giving more time for Smith and Frye to step on to the plate by sinking a bunch of 3 pointers. In Game 5, Love played almost 30 minutes and scored only 4 points. Game 6 is expected to be a 3-point fest for Warriors with an attempt to run away from Cavs as early as possible and seal their fate. If Cavs 3-point squad turns up cold, their defense needs to play very aggressive and keep Cavs in contention until the fourth quarter when the deafening noise, sweltering heat and do-or-die intensity of LBJ-KI duo will help Cavs to level the series and avoid witnessing the jubilant Warriors lifting the NBA trophy in the Quicken arena for the second time in a row.



Pinaki

3 years ago

[James loses his cool as Cavaliers pushed to the brink](#)

Presumptive 2016 NBA Champion, Warriors is coached by Steve Kerr, a 2-time NBA Coach of the Year. It is all about coaching when it comes to winning the NBA championship. Jordan, Shaq and Kobe had Zen master (Phil Jackson) to calm their nerves and navigate them through the ups and downs of the championship. Karim and Magic had Pat Riley as Lakers coach as did Wade when Miami won in 2006. Pistons, Spurs, and Celtics all had mature coach when they won the NBA championship. Apparently, LeBron has not been groomed by a good coach at any time. The presence of Pat Riley as GM had helped LeBron to win two championship rings for Miami Heat though the coach, Erik Spoelstra was rather naive.



Pinaki

3 years ago

[LeBron James powers Cavs to Game 3 victory](#)

Cavs are better off with Kevin Love sitting as reserve even if he is cleared for playing in Game 4 and Matthew Dellavedova, with all his running around helter-skelter, is used sparingly. While Love's game to game act is like a weather vane that switches from one direction to another, Dellavedova's presence on the court has been successfully exploited by Cavs in this year's Finals (e.g., Cavs one point advantage in Game 1 in Q3 turned into a 15 point deficit as soon as Dellavedova missed an easy basket and fouled Iggy unnecessarily.. His game is somewhat clumsy. In 2015 Finals, in absence of Kyrie and Kevin, Dellavedova was effective in scoring as well as defending Warriors by often tumbling on them.

Cavs has right set of players to win the Finals, but the coach Lue has to cleverly deploy them at the right time to give LeBron and Kyrie some rest. The absence of Love allows Kyrie to have the ball for longer minutes to crank up his game and he then becomes unstoppable with his intricate dribbling and sharp shooting. That enables LeBron to slacken somewhat in the first two quarters and go berserk in the third and the fourth. In order to win against Warriors, Kyrie and LeBron must sync to play symbiotically, while the rest of the Cavs perform their wonted roles as they are called upon by the coach.



Pinaki

3 years ago

[The Raptors show they belong, and the Cavs now face real adversity](#)

LeBron is a player of rare class and his greatness can be measured by cumulative statistics of baskets scored, assists and rebounds, while high-precision scoring machines like Jordan, Kobe, Karim, etc. will be ahead of LeBron in the records book because their natural killing instincts in dying moments fetched them more championship rings. LeBron's versatile talent often becomes a deterrent for him in closing moments, because he is prone to passing the ball to a player who is better positioned to score than stepping up to the basket and cornering the glory. LeBron needs to adapt his playing style from Magic in the first three quarters to Jordan in the fourth. If he can morph his playing style in that manner, LBJ stands a chance to narrow the chasm between him and other basketball luminaries.



Pinaki

3 years ago

[The Raptors show they belong, and the Cavs now face real adversity](#)

It will be outrageous to blame LeBron after he put in 29 points with 9 blocks and 6 assists, but I do believe that he will hold himself responsible for not closing out. In the last 5 minutes, he did not attempt to bulldoze into the basket and instead tried to pass to open players who were moon-balling from both inside and outside the arc. With Raptors desperately flinging their arms all around LeBron, he turned over or they stole the ball from him in the crucial last 2 minutes. LeBron should have learned from 2011 loss against Mavericks that the greatest players who decide the outcome of a ding#\$%\$ battle of attrition in a basketball playoff match deliver themselves and do not delegate to another player unless that person is Ray Allen, who was rock solid in dying moments. LeBron corrected that mistake in the next year and took all by himself against Boston, Indiana and OKC to loft the trophy. Game 5 has to be one such match for him. Cavs has become trigger happy to shoot 3-pointers after having some success against Hawks. However, with sub-15% shooting on 40 plus attempts, they must review their strategy. Too many giveaways with missing 3-point baskets not only give away the ball for Raptors to pile up scores, but also bolster their confidence. With Raptors speedy offensive drives and strengths in defensive and offensive rebounds as well as blocks around the rim, Cavs may find that they let the Genie out of the bottle in Game 3 by their cavalier attitude after storming through first ten playoff matches.



Pinaki

3 years ago

In today's NBA playoffs, the key is 3 point percentages and number of attempts. As long as Cavs do not go cold in 3-point statistics, it will outdo Hawks and Heat/Raptors in the Eastern Conference playoffs. The showtime will begin when NBA regular season record holder, Warriors (73-9) starts incessantly pouring down 3-pointers to outwit the Cavs. LBJ will have mental roller coaster rides if Cavs have to beat Dwayne Wade's Heat and his last year's nemesis Warriors in succession to win the NBA Championship. Go Cavs.



Pinaki

3 years ago

If you add 3 critical years to LeBron's age, with the facts that Kevin Love's inconsistent performance is much worse than Chris Boss's in 2012-14, Kyrie Irving's is unable to rise to the level of Dwayne Wade or gel well with LeBron, and Cavs do not have a good 3-point shooter like Ray Allen or even a second string shooter like Shane Battier/Mike Miller, the veritable conclusion is that Cavs are less favorite to win the championship than what Miami Heat was in their best years. Not to forget that Heat had almost lost to Boston in 2011-12 Eastern Conference and should have lost in the 6th game in 2012-13 NBA Finals against San Antonio. The Cavs coach has to work on Love and Irving as well as other players in order to keep Cavs in the title contention.



Pinaki

3 years ago

Kevin Love is shaky and should not be a starter to build a lead. He should be brought in later in the second and the third quarters along with other defensive players to protect the lead. His chronic bad shooting does not augur well for Cavs to kick-start a match. LeBron James, Channing Frye, J.R. Smith, Kyrie Irving and Tristan Thomson/Matthew Dellavedova can be the mainstay of the first and the fourth quarters to open and close a match. This is just a thought. Perhaps, no one knows the Cavs dynamics for a recipe to success.



Pinaki

3 years ago

Kevin Love is LeBron's pick against some real good rookies and young players to grab a championship title in the last year itself. Love and Irving (after 2nd game in the final) were both absent against the Warriors licking their wounds. Despite a crushing loss in the Final after a season-long speculation about Love's compatibility with the rest of Cavs, LeBron reaffirmed his faith in Kevin Love by advocating for his resigning with Cavs as a max player in the last summer. Let us see whether LeBron is as good a talent scout as he is known as 4-time MVP. In the last summer, I was expecting Cavs to go after LaMarcus Aldridge who joined Spurs along with David West. Those two would have been a better bargain for the price of up-and-down Kevin Love. May be, Love fits better with the Geico ad crew.



Pinaki

3 years ago

3-Point Statistics for Big Three of Cavaliers is as follows:
LeBron: 0-5; Kyrie Irving: 1-4; Kevin Love: 2-5.

That is a pathetic 3 out of 14 shots, i.e., nearly 20%. Those 11 missed shots will fetch a good team like Warriors a tons of points and Cavaliers will struggle against a good team unless they pull up their 3-point scores to 50%. Right now, Smith is the only one who is sinking those 3-point baskets.



Pinaki

3 years ago

If Cleveland Cavaliers go to the NBA Finals and aspire to win against a formidable opponent like San Antonio Spurs or Golden State Warriors, they have to pull up their 3-point stats. With 46% production rate on 28 attempts, it is like $28 - 13 = 15$ turnovers that can potentially pull up the opponent by 30 to 45 points. This will tell why Cavaliers can be embarrassed by teams who can rain in 3-points at their beck and call to destroy the morale of their opponents like the way Warriors did a few days ago at Cleveland. It must be the coach's responsibility to study the risks and payoff under various circumstances depending on the defense techniques of the opposing teams and then to optimize the number of attempts accordingly.



Pinaki

3 years ago

LBJ ranks #3 in scoring for Cavs and they won by fatigued Raptors by 22 points. That is a good sign for Cavs as all 5 starters scored double digits and the bench scored 20% of baskets while talented Mo Williams and Anderson Varejao have no room in Cav's deep bench. They and other benchwarmers need to become 3-point specialist to get some playing time.



Pinaki

3 years ago

Yesterday against NO Pelicans, it was a heartbreak for LBJ at the end when Cavs blew a game-closing lead due to careless handling of a back-court ball by JR Smith at the critical moment when Cavs just stormed back into the game to lead after trailing by several points in the late 4th quarter. This demoralizing loss has exposed Cavs as a mediocre team since they were struggling throughout against poorly-ranked NO despite the fact that JR Smith sank so many 3 pointers and LBJ was in his prime form in the 4th quarter. The Cavs coach is clueless as to how to field his players and it appears that Cavs is prepared to take some more beating before they expect to start winning with healthy Irvine and Schumpert returning after a long recovery. Kevin Love is not a leader-quality player and is generally less productive than Chris Boss, while Kyrie Irvine, notwithstanding of all good signs, did not rise to the level of Dwayne Wade in the last season. Therefore, the present Cavs are not necessarily as good as the 2011 Miami Heat, and the 2016 Championship is receding farther and farther from the Cavs grasp as the season is gaining momentum.



Pinaki

3 years ago

Cleveland has so many capable players who can score double digits that they can use LeBron mainly in the first quarter to build a good lead and the fourth quarter to close out along with Kevin Love and Kyrie Irving (when he returns). The second and third quarters can be tided away by retaining the lead with

rotation of younger players. In this way, Cavaliers can build a balanced team with deep bench like the way 2014 Spurs literally flooded the court with young players leaving LeBron and Heat clueless in the NBA Finals. This may not sound very exciting for an MVP aspirant player, but LeBron is 2 out of 6 in the Finals, because one-man demolition crew with low key supporting cast cannot win an NBA championship.



Pinaki

4 years ago

James should have been given the playoff MVP award that he deserved more than anybody else in NBA Finals. This ESPY award is meant to undo the omission.



Pinaki

4 years ago

Golden State Warriors is without any doubts the most deserving team to lift the NBA Championship trophy for 2014-15 and it would have been the biggest choke in the Finals if they had not shaken off their nervousness and won convincingly after falling behind 1-2. However, when it comes to deciding the MVP of the Finals series, it should be made on the basis of performance (raw statistics) and not that it must be given to someone in the winning team. In every measurable metrics (baskets, assists, and rebounds), LeBron outdid everyone who had played the Finals, not in one, two, ... but in all six games. In every other international sports such as World Cup Soccer, the Best Player awards is given to the player who has the best statistics to display. The best player award is meant to recognize the efforts and value of the player by measurable metrics.



Pinaki

4 years ago

Well, if LeBron had feigned exhaustion and injury after Game 3 and sat out the rest of the Finals 3 matches, the TV stations, sponsors, fans, sports pundits, and the rest of the world would have understood what the Most Valuable Player means. An MVP, in my view, is the pivotal player, be it in the winning or losing team, who has played and elevated the game of basketball in the Finals to the highest level of competitiveness, as evidenced by the metrics of stats, and entertainment captivating the attention of fans all around. At least, that is how NBA should measure the impact of a player.



Pinaki

4 years ago

The concept of Big 3 does not work since the balance of the \$ cap buys only a couple of average players and a whole bunch of below par players who flounder in the Finals when push comes to shove. With one

Big player (Wade) hobbling in the 2014 Finals, James led Heat lost 4-1 against well-rounded Spurs that had deep bench of energetic young players. With two Big payers (Irving and Love) completely sidelined in the 2015 Finals, James led Cavs has virtually no bench players and is poised to go down tamely against Golden States that is studded with young players. On hind sight, Cavs may realize that trading away the #1 draft pick and eventual rookie of the year (Wiggins) to build a Big 3 combo had constrained them severely. By cramming the bench with aged and faded players (Miller, Perkins, Marion, Jones and Haywood) who have hardly played during the regular season and in playoff series, Cavs has put itself in the same situation as did Miami Heat in 2014 Finals by having a whole bunch of ineffective bench players. It is deja vu for James and his heroics in the Finals will merely be buried as stats in the record book.



Pinaki

4 years ago

The battle fatigued and enfeebled Cavaliers are like Tennyson's Light Brigade marching on dauntlessly to engrave their names in basketball annals by upending the favorite and clearly far more resourceful Warriors in the 2015 NBA Finals. Even if the Cavs come up short at the end due to continued depletion of their men or Warriors shaking off their stupor, their heroics will remain long in memories of basket ball fans, whether they root for LBJ and his troupe or not.



Pinaki

4 years ago

Yesterday I posted the following before the game started predicting Cavs to win 4-2 if Kyrie Irving is healthy. Now it looks like that for the second consecutive year LBJ will be losing in the Finals due to injury of his key teammates (Wade in the last year) despite being the best player in the Finals.

In my estimation, this GS Warriors team is perhaps no better than 2011-12 OKC Thunder (Kevin Durant, James Harden, Russel Westbrook, Sergei Ibaka, Reggie Jackson, ...). In the playoff rounds, OKC blew off the defending champion Mavericks (4-0) and two previous NBA champions Lakes (4-1) and San Antonio (4-2). And, what happened in the NBA Finals? They went down tamely and befuddled (4-1) against LeBron James led Miami Heat, proving all basket ball pundits flat wrong. Reason? Young OKC had no significant NBA Finals experience, except a couple of peripheral players like Derek Fisher and Kendrick Perkins. LBJ had something to prove in 2012 Finals to all naysayers who mocked him in the previous year Finals against Dallas. Likewise, in 2015 Finals it will be LBJ who will make the difference and Cleveland is expected to win 4-2, if Kyrie Irving is healthy.



Pinaki

4 years ago

Spurs should have won in 2013 and they are dominant in NBA Finals for over a decade. GS is not same as SA. Moreover, injured Wade was a non-factor, Bosh is overrated and unreliable, Allen was in his twilight and Miller was gone in 2014. Do not blame LBJ.



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Pinaki

4 years ago

The mistake was not to keep the play simple and going for unnecessary passing of the ball in dying seconds, not once (Harden should not have slowed down on his course to the basket) but twice (Howard should have charged to the basket instead of passing back indecisively). The more the ball changes hands when clock is ticking out, higher the chances are for fumbles. LeBron James had similar indecisive moments in 2011 NBA Final against the Mavericks when he passed the ball too many times and lost in the end because of too many complicated moves in last seconds. In 2012 and 2013 Finals, LBJ was far more decisive and took upon himself to close out.



Pinaki

4 years ago

The outcome of the second round playoff encounter between #2 and #3 in Eastern Conference will depend on whether Cavs first-time play-off players like Love, Shumpert, and Irving learn to build their confidence playing against Bostons. Overall, Chicago looks stronger and may upend the favorite unless LBJ goes in demolition mode being ably assisted by his teammates.



Pinaki

4 years ago

This Atlanta Hawks is like Detroit Pistons, which won NBA championship at two different times with a balanced team of efficient players by beating super-star studded over-rated teams including the Lakers led by Magic Johnson and Karim Abdul Jabbar. Much credit was given to Chuck Daly for the first stint of victories in 1989 and 1990, while Larry Brown coached while Pistons lofted the NBA trophy in 2004.



Pinaki

4 years ago

We live in a commercial world and sports icons are required to do what their sponsors consider good for their businesses. Nike knows very well that die hard millions of cricket fans in India will be too happy to buy Nike products if its superstar role models like Roger Federer, LeBron James, and Tiger Woods evince interests while India is playing in World Cup Cricket. It is nothing to do Pakistan, South Africa, or West Indies. Business interests are governed by the market size and India provides unique advantages over its cricket rivals for the sporting goods manufacturers like Nike. If you are talking about winter sports, it may be a different story.



Pinaki

4 years ago

What about the 2013 NBA Final, Spurs v. Heat in Game 6? Spurs veteran coach Gregg Popovich blew a solid 5-point lead with less than 30 seconds left before they could hoist the Championship trophy. He benched Tim Duncan in the last few seconds, thereby allowing LeBron James to yank Heat out of the jaws of death. Heat went on to clinch the NBA Title in the 7th Game after tying the series in Game 6. It took one full year for San Antonio Spurs to undo the heartbreaking loss by thrashing the same Heat in the 2014 NBA Final.