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CAN LEBRON REPEAT HIS MAGIC IN LOS ANGELES?

He sparked a championship parade in Miami. He was responsible for the championship parade in Cleveland. So can LeBron James do it again in Los Angeles?

The spotlight-hogging National Basketball Association star learned the ropes in the NBA with the Cleveland Cavaliers, the closest thing he had to a hometown team, having grown up in Akron, Ohio. But after seven seasons without a title with the Cavaliers, and desperately eager for a championship, he famously announced on a TV special set up specifically for his announcement that he was “taking my talents to South Beach,” joining Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh on a Miami Heat team in 2010 that proceeded to win two NBA titles in four years.

Free agency beckoned again, and James, the undisputed king of the NBA court, returned to Cleveland in 2014 and Cavaliers’ fans — who snapped up brand new ‘James 23’ jerseys to replace the ones they burned four years earlier — were quick to forgive and forget. And with good reason. James led the Cavs to three NBA Finals in a row, losing twice to the juggernaut Golden State Warriors, but winning the title in 2016.

Now, at age 33 and still at the top of his game, James has moved again, taking up residence in Los Angeles where he is the star of a mediocre Lakers team that probably won’t win anything other than television ratings’ wars.

But he’s in Hollywood, where a star of his magnitude probably belongs. His game seems to be as solid as ever, but he won’t be part of a championship team this year. The Lakers won only four of their first nine games, despite James putting up averages of 28 points and nine rebounds a game. But he’s the game’s brightest star in the brightest city in the league, and that’s good news for the NBA.

James turns 34 Dec. 30, so his best years are behind him. Still, he can dominate for another three or four years, so the Lakers’ brain trust has a couple of years to produce a supporting cast strong enough to challenge for another title.

The Hall of Fame awaits, whether or not James — who has secured a spot on the Mount Rushmore of NBA history — wins an NBA crown in Los Angeles, but what a legacy it would be for him to have brought NBA titles to three different cities by the time he finally calls it a career.

- Comedy writer **Jim Barach**: “A former Adidas executive was convicted in the college basketball corruption case. It looks like he will be wearing gear with a whole new set of stripes.”
- **RJ Currie** of sportsdeke.com: “Sportsnet’s hockey panel asked what kind of team the Lightning will be down the road if they don’t sign **Brayden Point** to a new deal. Let me guess. Pointless?”
- **Dwight Perry** of the Seattle Times: “The Florida Marlins announced the signing of touted Cuban outfielder **Victor Victor Mesa**. Team officials can’t decide whether to start him out playing in Walla Walla or Pago Pago.”
- **Scott Ostler** of the San Francisco Chronicle, on Twitter: “Big gamblers/losers usually get a comp room in Vegas. Raiders will get a comp stadium.”
- NBC comedian **Jimmy Fallon**: “Last night marks the first World Series won by the Red Sox since 2013. Today, five-year-olds in Boston were like, ‘Finally, the curse is broken.’”
- ABC comedian **Jimmy Kimmel**, wondering who President Trump was rooting for in the World Series: “Maybe Boston because he loves **Tom Brady** or maybe the Dodgers because that’s how he got out of Vietnam.”
- **RJ Currie** again: “SI.com reports **Jon Gruden** is on a three-year rebuild so the Raiders win the Super Bowl in 2020. Why not use his old formula? Have **Tony Dungy** build the team, then take over.”
- **Norman Chad** of the Washington Post, on baseball’s pace: “Basketball plays well with any music as a backdrop — rock and roll, jazz, country, hip-hop, et al; baseball plays well to a funeral dirge.”
- Humorist **Brad Dickson** on Twitter: “Normally Ohio State fans only boo the assistant coaches’ parole officers.”
- **Jack Finarelli**, aka The Sports Curmudgeon: “The Browns axed a coach named Hue. The Cavs axed a coach named Lue. This is not a good omen for anyone in Cleveland who has a dog named Blue.”
- **Bob Molinaro** of pilotonline.com (Hampton, Va.): “With his release from the Denver Broncos, quarterback **Chad Kelly** has been kicked off his high school, college and pro teams. The question now is whether he’ll settle for the ‘bad teammate’ Triple Crown or join the Canadian Football League and shoot for the Grand Slam.”
- Comedy writer **Alex Kaseberg**: “In London on Saturday at 3 a.m., three Jacksonville Jaguars players were arrested for running out on a \$64,170 bar tab. The next day, those three Jaguars players had to undergo hangover-protocol.”
- Kaseberg again: “Today on Halloween four kids came to our door dressed as Jacksonville Jaguars. They gave us a bar tab for \$64,170 and then ran away.”

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