

A player almost never considered top five in the NBA may be the most valuable player of all time. SI's NBA Top 100 players of 2019 has Oklahoma City Thunder guard sitting at number seven. While most would consider this a very high accomplishment, Westbrook deserves to be higher on the list.

Only two players in NBA history have averaged a triple-double in one season. Russell Westbrook is on pace to have done it three seasons in a row. This is a challenge that no other NBA player has come close to doing. Oscar Robertson is the only other player who averaged a triple-double over one season, doing so in the 1962 season.

"You'll be talking about Russ now being the triple double king," Robertson stated.

Usually when a player gets a triple-double, it's the highlight of their season. Arguably the greatest player of all time, Michael Jordan, only had 28 over his entire career. Westbrook had 42 in one season. Some NBA fans think that Westbrook forces these stats to make himself look better. While it is possible for Westbrook to try a little bit harder than others to achieve those stats; it may be a good thing.

According to the ThunderWire "Thunder is 81-18 in the regular season when Russell Westbrook has a triple-double." That's an 82% win percentage.

In the 2016-2017 season, Westbrook had a usage rate of 42%. That is the highest in the history of the NBA. In the 2014-2015 season, he had a usage rate of 38.2%, tying for the third best usage rate of all time. Those stats alone have to make him the most important player on

the court.

According to Basketball Reference, "BPM relies on a player's box score information and the team's overall performance to estimate a player's performance relative to league average. BPM is a per-100-possession stat, the same scale as Adjusted Plus/Minus: 0.0 is league average, +5 means the player is 5 points better than an average player over 100 possessions."

The highest BPM of all time, 15.55, belongs to Russell Westbrook in his MVP season in 2017. This may seem like a boring stat that doesn't excite most fans, but that number puts Westbrook's season above any season that LeBron James or Michael Jordan ever had.

An issue most NBA fans have with Westbrook is his shooting ability/consistency. Westbrook has never been a good shooter from the perimeter in his career, averaging 30.7% from three. Comparisons get made every day to other players in the league like Houston Rockets guard James Harden or Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry. Curry shoots a career average 43.7% from behind the mark; a phenomenal statistic. The issue with these comparisons is they are two very different players in two different systems. Westbrook is not the type of player who needs to shoot three pointers when he is a significant threat to drive to the basket or pass out to one of his teammates.

Michael Jordan only shot a career average of 32.7 percent from three; LeBron James only averaging 34.4%. These statistics show that shooting is not the most important factor in making someone the greatest player on the floor.

Westbrook's lack of shooting ability only shows how valuable his inside scoring, assists and rebounding skills make him. Westbrook's teammates always rave about how great of a leader he is to the team. He gets the most out of his teammates every time he is on the court. He is not only the most valuable player of the 2016-17 season; He may be the most valuable player of all time.