A HISTORY OF THE
NBA ALL-STAR WEEKEND

The National Basketball Association (NBA) has been holding annual basketball exhibition games since 1951. Each year, the best players from each of the leagues within the competition, the Eastern Conference and the Western Conference, are invited to the NBA All-Star Game.

This competition has grown over the years to include supporting events, showcasing skills and young talent. Three supporting events include the Slam Dunk Contest, the Three-point Shootout, the Skills Challenge and the Rising Stars (or Rookie) Challenge. These games and the All-Star Game make up the NBA All-Star Weekend.

Since 1951, the first five starting players representing their league are chosen by public vote numbers. Therefore, the best and most popular basketball players in the NBA play in the All-Star Game. The remaining five substitute players for each team are chosen by the respective head coaches, which are positions filled by the head coaches of the teams with the best record of their league.

The NBA All-Star Weekend is a weekend of skill and athleticism and brings together the best basketball players in the NBA in competition. It is a showcase of flair and athleticism, and has become one of the most watched and most popular annual sporting events in the world.

3-POINT SHOOTOUT

WINNERS

- 2019: Braxton Key (Milwaukee)
- 2018: Devin Booker (Phoenix)
- 2017: Mitchell Robinson (New York)
- 2016: Joe Harris (Brooklyn)
- 2015: Gary Harris (Denver)

POINTS

- 2019: 24 points
- 2018: 23 points
- 2017: 23 points
- 2016: 22 points
- 2015: 21 points

MONEY BALL

Players comparing the Three-Point Contest attempt to score three-point field goals from five different positions behind the three-point arc. Each position has five basketballs four standard orange game balls worth one point each, and one All-Star style ball (with red, white and blue panels) worth two points if scored. This ball is referred to as the money ball due to the extra points awarded if the ball is not the best ball at each position.

SKILLS CHALLENGE

SLICK AND QUICK

The Skills Challenge competes through a series of skill and agility stations, with the fastest declared the winner.

WINNERS

- 2019: Jayson Tatum (Boston)
- 2018: Donovan Mitchell (Utah)
- 2017: Eric Gordon (Los Angeles)
- 2016: McCrae Beatty (Washington)
- 2015: Paul George (Indiana)

THE BEST OF THE BEST

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RISING STARS

The Rising Stars Challenge is a game played by the best and most popular basketball players in the NBA. It is originally played by five rookies and five sophomores (pre-2000, teams consisted of all rookies; between rookies and second-year players, the highest amount of life-time All-Star votes of each team's player). This event has been a highlight in the NBA calendar since its beginning.

ALL-STAR GAME

The NBA All-Star Game is the main event of the NBA All-Star Weekend. The best players in the NBA are given an opportunity to play with their peers in a charity event. These players are made-up of the entire conference, where regular All-Star voting is canceled.

GAME TIME

Since its beginning in 1951, the NBA All-Star Game has been significant in the NBA calendar. The game has been an annual event, except in 1999 when a labor dispute lockout occurred, postponing the start of the regular season and canceling the All-Star Game.

Players receive MVP honors at events all around the United States, with Las Vegas being the most frequent location. The Eastern Conference has won the last 26 games.

Points scored by Conference in each game

As demonstrated in the line graph above, the points scored by each All-Star Game is relatively high with an average of 124 points scored by teams in an All-Star Game. This may be a result of the nature of the All-Star Game being an exhibition game, a game with no ramifications to the regular NBA season and a demonstration of skill and athleticism.

The close proximity of the graph lines indicate that normally results in close games. The score margin in each game is small, with an average winning margin of 5 points. The largest winning margin occurred in 1966, when the Eastern Conference defeated the Western Conference by 40 points (137–97).

SELECTIONS RECORD

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar holds the record for the most NBA All-Star selections with 18 and has played in all those games. Kobe Bryant shares the record, with 18 All-Star games. The most All-Star selections out of the players currently active in 2019 are Kobe Bryant with 20, and Kevin Durant with 19.

IN RECENT TIMES

The past ten years from 2012 has seen significant growth in the NBA All-Star Game, with slower and higher scoring games. This annual event has been hosted in nine different cities and featured seven different MVP winners.

GAME results

Points scored by Conference in each game