

The Tusker Tribune

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Winter 2019

NBA Mid-Season Status Report



By Michael Abrams
Tusker Tribune Staff

Midway through the NBA season and we have a LOT of things to talk about. Let's go!



Who are the top 3 players in average points per game?

1. James Harden: 36.3 Points per game
2. Anthony Davis: 29.3
3. Steph Curry: 29.3

Who are the leaders in average assists?

1. Russel Westbrook
2. Kyle Lowry
3. Ben Simmons



av-

Who leads the league in average rebounds per game?

1. Andre Drummond
2. Deandre Jordan
3. Anthony Davis



Who leads the league in average steals per game?

1. Paul George
2. Russel Westbrook
3. Robert Covington

Who leads the league in average blocks per game?

1. Myles Turner
2. Anthony Davis
3. Hassan Whiteside

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Super Bowl LII is This Weekend



By Arjun Ojha
Tusker Tribune Staff

February 3rd is a big day for football fans worldwide. It's a big day because it's Super Bowl Sunday.

It's a big day for the two teams in the Super Bowl because they know that they'll have a chance to be victorious and come away with the Lombardi Trophy.

The Super Bowl will be played on February 3rd, 2019 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium down in Atlanta, GA. The two teams in it are the Los Angeles Rams and the New England Patriots.



The Los Angeles Rams finished the season 13-3, beating the Dallas Cowboys 30-22 and the New Orleans Saints 26-23 in the playoffs.

That game was won by Greg Zuerlein. He hit a 57-yard field goal to win the game in overtime.



The New England Patriots finished the season 11-5, beating the Los Angeles Chargers 41-28 and the Kansas City Chiefs 37-31 in the playoffs. That game also went to overtime and was won by Patriots running back Rex Burkhead. The New England Patriots are led by the "G.O.A.T", Tom Brady.

Tom Brady has had a lot of experience winning 5 Super Bowls, while Rams Quarterback Jared Goff is young and is playing in his first Super Bowl. He has only played two playoff games in his career (the ones he won this year).

In my opinion, I want the Los Angeles Rams to win. I know that there are some New England Patriots fans in the school. I think the Los Angeles Rams will win 45-38.

Penny Wars/Food Drive Reminder

Bring in loose change and non-perishable items to your Advisory class between now and February 14. Not only on Tuesdays, but also throughout the week.

Any money will be accepted. The class that brings in the most money and/or food will win a cookie cake! The money will be donated to an organization.

The Tusker Tribune is the online Somers Middle School Student Newspaper. It is published weekly (except during school vacations) on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from:

Somers Middle School
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Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at DPappas@somersschools.org

NBA

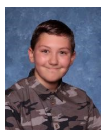
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Who Will Probably Win the MVP Award?

I think James Harden will win the MVP because he has done everything he can do to help the Houston Rockets become a contender in the playoffs.



D DAY, JUNE 6, 1944 OPERATION OVERLORD



By Peter Shay
Tusker Tribune Staff

D Day happened on June 6th, 1944 on the invasion of Normandy France and was the largest amphibious attack there ever was in history. The battle was the allies which were the Americans and the British battling it out on several beaches vs the Germans who didn't really like the allies coming and saying, "Normandy is ours!" So, the Germans set up defenses on the beaches. These were some of the various beaches attacked on D Day:

- Utah beach
- Omaha beach
- Gold beach
- Juno beach
- Sword beach



The most iconic beach was Omaha because it met the most resistance. That is most likely the beach that people would say when asked where was d day? The attack has lost the lives of around 209,000 allies and around 425,000 Germans after the battle.

At around 6:30 a.m., the allies left the ships and onto the 1,089 LCVP'S (Landing craft vehicle personnel) And sailed through the Atlantic toward the beaches.

The Germans immediately started filling the bunkers with Germans and they started firing the MG42's at the hundreds on LCVP's and the terror was within those vehicles. The LCVP's could hold up to 32 soldiers in the front 2 machine gunners and 1 pilot. The soldiers were very terrified knowing very many of them would die during the battle and if you were standing in the front of the vehicle you could hear the machine gun fire hitting the door. The LCVP Had a very interesting ramp/door mechanism, you would turn a valve and a big ramp at the front would lower down onto the ground.

During the launch many people had to either jump off the side of the LCVP's because of the Germans MG42 fire spraying into the open ramp and into the craft. Essentially if you were in the front of it, you were dead, very dead. So, people jumped off the side of the LCVP and into the water, but since there gear was too heavy most of them drowned. The 2 Machine guns on the craft helped a bit but they died to the superior MG42's going through the metal and they eventually got shot, or if they were lucky, they would live and jump off the side and either drown or die in the battlefield.

So, if you were lucky enough at the beginning of the attack and get on the beach and either die from the MG fire or step on a land mine. Yeah, Land mines Omaha beach was basically just a big land mine field and barbed wire, so the Americans had their demolition experts blow up the mines so the men could go through, but most of the land mines had already been blown up by soldiers.

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We Were Smart

Well, we weren't that smart during the attack but still we were smart and lucky. We had decided to go attack on low tide. That meant that they could see most of the traps that were supposed to blow up the LCVP's when they landed because at high tide all the traps would be under the water. The downside to us coming at low tide was that we had this huge expansive beach between us and the Germans. The traps that were there were very interesting—first there were the anti-tank hedge hogs which were these weird X formation metal traps. And they were used to stop tanks. Hedge hogs weighed up to 5 tons and were around 5 feet 11 inches. Other traps were basically logs that were propped up and had land mines all over them so when the LCVP's hit the log, it would blow up.



The Mound

During the battle the allies had made it to "the mound" is what they called it, which was a mound due to the sea pushing sand in a long mound formation, the Germans took advantage of this and put barbed wire all over it and the Americans had to blast through it with a Bangalore or let the Germans blow it up accidentally. The Americans lined up



against it and they couldn't get shot by the MG fire from there. The mound was very close to the sea wall which was the hill that the Americans were trying to get up.

The German Defenses

The Germans had 3 bunkers visible on the beach and 2 of those were MG42 bunkers that were on the far-left side due to that was where most of the Americans landed and the other one was a naval artillery cannon that was there to destroy the LCVP's when they landed. The Germans had a very sophisticated system to their bunkers. And even though only 2 MG42's could fit in one bunker, they still laid down some serious firepower.



The Trenches

The Germans had a very good trench system that was dug behind the bunkers, these trenches led to the bunkers, gun emplacements, outcroppings and different parts of the defensive line. These trenches were also dug to help fortify behind the seawall and the defense area just in case the Americans decided to drop a ton of paratroopers behind them. They were also used in case of the Americans breaking through the bunkers defense line and getting on top of the seawall.



6ix9ine, DMX and the History Of Yelling In Hip-Hop

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**By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff**

As an art form that prides itself on self-expression, hip-hop has always been loud. And today, we're hearing that style of yelling in rap more than ever. Everyone from boisterous MCs like South Florida's Ski Mask the Slump God, Harlem's Sheck Wes and Comethazine of St. Louis. But who were the first rappers to really make yelling on a track a trend?

From its earliest days, hip-hop has always been a way to express yourself. From happiness to

sadness and everything in between, MCs often spit their feelings on wax.

In the beginning, MCs rapped to rock a party and usually played it cool, but Run-DMC took it to another level, with the help of their Def Jam records producer, Rick Rubin. "Back in the 70s we used to have old disco records with no beats hardly. So, we had to find something to scratch, so we would take the heavy metal records and just scratch the drum part over and over so that's how we came up with the heavy metal idea," they said.

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Yelling

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Tracks like “Rock Box” and “It’s Like That” mark some of the earliest examples of MCs yelling on their records. And while they weren’t always yelling, in 1986 the group broke new ground in hip-hop by collaborating with Aerosmith on “Walk This Way,” that took their popularity to new heights.

Around the same time, another Queens rapper and Def Jam signee LL Cool J, brought an even more charismatic energy on songs like “I’m Bad.” Next up, the former punk band-turned-rappers the Beastie Boys dropped their debut album, *Licensed to Ill* featuring “Fight For Your Right.” As hip-hop evolved over the course of the 80s, even more high-energy acts like the Fat Boys, Public Enemy and N.W.A. arrived who sometimes, but not always, yelled at us. And then came Onyx.

The Queens MCs came out swinging, both in their energy and literally, with their debut album *Bacdaf--up* in 1993. “We got the chorus from Nirvana’s “Smells Like Teen Spirit” that’s where the idea came from. We wanted to have black people, hip-hop, slam dancing in the gym just like that,” they said. Now, we see that kind of thing at rap shows all the time. Their single, “Slam” took over the charts, peaking at #4 on the Billboard Hot 100. “What I want our legacy to be remembered as is that we just brought that mad face to music. That’s it. That mad face, that slam dancing, that angst, that energy.”

And we saw Staten Island’s legendary Wu-Tang Clan bring a whole new energy to hip-hop. “Wu-Tang is really straight up, raw, it isn’t no cut in it, isn’t no speed or nothing baby. It’s straight up raw” ODB of Wu-Tang said on MTV. The 90s gave us several other loud acts, like the Brooklyn duo M.O.P. Lil Fame and Billy Danze (the two members) have carved a special place in rap with their singular Brownsville, Brooklyn style. “We aren’t angry at one person we angry at majority of the country. We from Brownsville, dawg and people don’t know how it is in our world. All that is, is just frustration.” Danze said in an interview. And down south, there was Louisiana’s own Mystikal.

When asked he would describe his style, he said, “I don’t know. Different, unique. And I know that’s broad but that’s what it is,” he said. Later the world was also introduced to DMX, one of the loudest and most unforgettable rappers. DMX said that “he came out like that dude that every dude wanted to be. Ready for war.” DMX’s growls and gruff sound set him apart from his

contemporaries and made his voice one that you couldn’t ignore.

By the early 2000s, DMX had earned himself 15 songs on the Billboard Hot 100, and to this day is still a household name in hip-hop. The 90s also gave us Three 6 Mafia, whose impact is reflected in everything from today’s emulating their old flow, to their old beats. The late 90s brought

us plenty of loud songs and loud rappers who sometimes yelled. There was Master P, Pastor Troy, Busta Rhymes and Ja Rule, just to name a few.

But the early 2000s were arguably ruled by another rambunctious artist: Lil Jon. Lil Jon started as a DJ, but his high energy ad-libs and verses helped popularize crunk music and define the sound of an era. “There weren’t no cats in Atlanta making records for Atlanta people to get crunk and rowdy to. So as a DJ I saw that and I was like, “Man, let’s make a record.”,” Lil Jon said.

Lil Jon ultimately scored himself 21 songs in the Hot 100 and 8 Top 10 hits, helping to cement his place in the soundtrack of that time. But as the early aughts ended and Crunk began to fade, some point to Atlanta’s Waka Flocka Flame as the next one in rap’s lineage of yelling along with being the father of today’s loud style. And even Waka himself thinks so. “I am the first, of my generation, to carry it.” His rowdy songs and intensity made him stand out from his peers. “I don’t have no formula. I just hear the beat, rap, and go hard.”

Shortly after in 2012, Chief Keef dropped a few of his early bangers and got a lot of attention just from the energy he was putting into each track. Rapper YBN Almighty Jay said that “most of the words that you hear now came from Chief Keef – ‘opp,’ that’s Chief Keef. Everybody remembers where they were when the first time they heard “Don’t Like.” Of course there were plenty of other artists, like Philly’s Meek Mill, who became known for just how loud he is on the track, even if he isn’t always yelling. As the 2010s rolled on, we got even louder artists like OG Maco and OT Genasis. Today, so many artists have taken this delivery to a new level. Like the late XXXTENTACION, whose posthumous album, *SKINS* features a distinct metal-influenced sound. Brooklyn’s Tekashi 6ix9ine has also made a name for himself as someone who’s almost always yelling at us.

Other artists, like City Morgue’s ZillaKami and SosMula, Denzel Curry and Rico Nasty have all helped push forward yet another wave of yelling. Yelling on a track isn’t distinct to just one artist. But whether rappers are yelling because they’re mad or they just wanna make sure you hear them, hip-hop isn’t quieting down any time soon.

