

NBA.com GM Survey Predicts LeBron James to Win Fifth Kia NBA MVP Award; 13-Time NBA All-Star Tops a Survey-Best Seven Categories

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

Golden State Warriors Tabbed to Win Third NBA Title in Four Years

Oklahoma City Thunder Recognized for “Best Overall Offseason Moves” by NBA GMs; Thunder Forward Paul George Selected “Most Impactful Player Acquisition”

NBA General Managers – based on the results of [this year’s NBA.com GM survey](#) – predict **Cleveland’s LeBron James** (50%) to win his fifth Kia NBA Most Valuable Player Award. Including MVP, the 13-time NBA All-Star topped a survey-best seven categories – **Best Small Forward** (61%), **Best Leader** (43%), **Most Versatile** (55%), **Best Basketball IQ** (64%), **Best Passer** (36%) and **Player Who Forces the Most Coaches Adjustments** (48%).

Additionally, general managers predicted the **Golden State Warriors** (category-record 93% of the vote) to win this year’s NBA Championship, while the **Warriors** (97%) and **Cleveland Cavaliers** (86%) are tabbed to meet for a fourth straight NBA Finals.

Golden State’s Kevin Durant (29%) – the 2013-14 Kia NBA MVP – finished second in the MVP voting, followed by **San Antonio’s Kawhi Leonard** (11%), **Houston’s James Harden** (7%) and **two-time Warriors MVP Stephen Curry** (4%).

Following one of the NBA’s most exciting and active summers, 43% of NBA GM’s recognized the **Oklahoma City Thunder** as having made the **Best Overall Moves** this offseason, followed by the **Boston Celtics** (25%), **Minnesota Timberwolves** (14%) and **Houston Rockets** (11%).

Oklahoma City’s Paul George (59%) was identified as the **Most Impactful Offseason Acquisition**, followed by **Minnesota’s Jimmy Butler** (17%), **Houston’s Chris Paul** (10%) and **Boston’s Kyrie Irving** (7%).

The **Celtics-Cavaliers** trade (45%) was selected the **Most Surprising Offseason Move**, while the **Denver Nuggets’** signing of **Paul Millsap** (24%) was voted **Most Underrated Offseason Acquisition**.

Minnesota’s rising star **Karl-Anthony Towns** (29%) was recognized as the league’s **Best Center** (28%) while also earning the title of **Most Likely to Have a Breakout Season** (21%). The third-year player also repeated as category leader for **Player GMs Would Start a Franchise With**, earning 29% of the vote.

San Antonio Spurs coach, **Gregg Popovich** netted three categories – **Best Coach** (82%), **Best Manager of People** (62%) and **Best Defensive Schemes** (41%). **San Antonio’s Leonard** repeated as **Best Defensive Player** (62%) and **Best Perimeter Defender** (72%).

Leonard, Golden State’s Draymond Green and **Oklahoma City’s Steven Adams** split the **Toughest Player** category, each earning 14% of the vote.

Additional noteworthy 2017-18 NBA.com GM Survey results include:

- **Russell Westbrook, Oklahoma City - Most Athletic** (62%)
- **Lonzo Ball, L.A. Lakers - Kia NBA Rookie of the Year** (62%)
- **John Wall, Washington - Fastest with the Ball** (48%)
- **Giannis Antetokounmpo, Milwaukee - Top International Player** (69%)
- **Rudy Gobert, Utah - Best Interior Defender** (66%)
- **Dennis Smith, Jr., Dallas - Biggest NBA Draft Steal** (37%)
- **Anthony Davis, New Orleans - Best Power Forward** (41%)

[NBA.com](http://www.nba.com) once again surveyed the league's general managers to gather their responses on the best teams, players, coaches, offseason moves and more prior to the 2017-18 NBA season. The general managers were not allowed to vote for their own team or personnel. The complete results of the survey – compiled by John Schuhmann – are available at www.nba.com/gmsurvey/2017.

About NBA TV

NBA TV is a part of NBA Digital, the NBA's extensive cross-platform portfolio of digital assets jointly-managed by the NBA and Turner Sports including NBA TV, NBA App, NBA.com, NBA LEAGUE PASS, NBAGLEAGUE.com and WNBA.com.