

Stephen Curry repeats as MVP, and this time it's unanimous

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Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry won his second straight NBA Most Valuable Player award on May 10, 2016. Curry, who received the award at a ceremony in Oakland, California, is the first MVP winner to get every first-place vote. Photo: AP/Ben Margot

OAKLAND, Calif. — Stephen Curry has made history again, as the first unanimously chosen NBA MVP. Never before have all NBA sportswriters and broadcasters voted for the same player to win the prestigious first place rank. Curry earned the award for the second straight year on Tuesday after leading the Warriors to a record-setting season.

Curry Led Warriors To Record-Breaking Season

The NBA superstar is the 11th player in league history to be voted MVP two seasons in a row. He is the first guard to do so since Steve Nash in the 2004-05 and 2005-06 seasons. Curry received a total of 1,310 points from the 130 media voters from the U.S. and Canada.

Kawhi Leonard of San Antonio took second place in the vote and LeBron James of Cleveland took third. They were followed by Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook and Kevin Durant, and Curry's teammate Draymond Green was seventh.

Curry is the first two-time winner in the history of the Golden State Warriors, and Wilt Chamberlain (1959-60) is the only other winner from the Warriors. After leading the Warriors to their first championship in 40 years, Curry and his team went on to a record-breaking season. The Chicago Bulls broke the record for the most regular-season victories in 1995-96 when they went 72-10. This season, the Warriors won 73 games.

In a stunning overtime performance Monday night in the playoffs, Curry showed he can take over a game in a matter of seconds. He returned from a sprained right knee to score 40 points, including 17 in overtime, in a 132-125 victory at Portland. The Warriors are up 3-1 in the Western Conference semifinals.

What Curry Did "Was Crazy"

Steve Kerr, who is coach of the Warriors, was voted NBA Coach of the Year last month. Kerr said he figured Curry would make a few shots at the end of the game, but what Curry did "was crazy."

Today, Curry is one of the most recognizable athletes in the entire world. He was presented with his MVP trophy Tuesday at Oracle Arena.

With his dazzling ball handling and amazing long-range shots, Curry has forced defenses to work harder. He made a record 402 3-pointers after no player had previously even hit 300 in a season. He averaged 30.1 points per game, the best in the NBA, along with 6.7 assists and 5.4 rebounds. He also led the NBA with 2.1 steals per game. He shot 50.4 percent from the field, 45.4 percent from 3-point range and 90.8 percent from the foul line.

From the start of the season, Curry vowed to take his game to another level, and he met that goal with enthusiasm. Now, all that matters to him is staying healthy and leading the Warriors to another title.

Kerr said Curry is as good as he is because he can score from anywhere, even beyond the 3-point line.

Curry understands how much more attention and pressure MVPs and players on championship teams get.

"They're going to have more of a spotlight, and people are going to ask questions about whoever it is," he said. "When there are legends and people that I looked up to as a player — as a young kid, as a basketball player — Hall of Famers and guys that talk about our team, it means that obviously we're doing something good so we keep doing it. I take it with a grain of salt."

Quiz

1 Which of these sentences would be MOST important to include in a summary of the article?

- (A) For the second year in a row, Curry led the Warriors to a record-setting season.
- (B) Wilt Chamberlain is the only other MVP award winner from the Warriors besides Curry.
- (C) The Chicago Bulls had the record for regular-season victories before Curry and the Warriors broke it.
- (D) Curry understands that he will get more attention because he won the MVP award.

2 Which detail from the article is MOST important to the development of the main idea of the article?

- (A) Curry was voted as MVP by 130 media voters.
- (B) Curry received a total of 1,310 points from voters in the United States and Canada.
- (C) Curry made a record 402 3-pointers.
- (D) Curry and his team are leading the Western Conference semifinals by 3-1.

3 Read the paragraph below from the section "What Curry Did 'Was Crazy.'"

Steve Kerr, who is coach of the Warriors, was voted NBA Coach of the Year last month. Kerr said he figured Curry would make a few shots at the end of the game, but what Curry did "was crazy."

What is the MOST likely reason the author includes this paragraph in the article?

- (A) to suggest that Curry received the MVP award because his coach was voted Coach of the Year
- (B) to illustrate that even Curry's own coach is impressed with what Curry is able to accomplish
- (C) to suggest that Curry acted in a disturbing manner at the end of the Portland game
- (D) to show that Curry's coach predicted how well Curry would do at the end of the Portland game

Read the sentences below from the section "Curry Led Warriors To Record-Breaking Season."

After leading the Warriors to their first championship in 40 years, Curry and his team went on to a record-breaking season. The Chicago Bulls broke the record for the most regular-season victories in 1995-96 when they went 72-10. This season, the Warriors won 73 games.

Which BEST explains the role of the sentences in developing the main idea of the article?

- (A) The sentences establish that Curry plays basketball for a championship team.
- (B) The sentences point out how many years it took for Curry and his team to win their first basketball championship.
- (C) The sentences give an example of a basketball record that Curry helped his team accomplish.
- (D) The sentences indicate that another basketball team almost won as many games as Curry and his team won.