I want to be as impartial as possible going forward. So firstly, I need to say:

COME TO BOSTON, KEVIN!!! YOU'LL LOVE IT!!! GREEN IS YOUR COLOR!!!  🍀 🍀 🍀 🍀 🍀 🍀🍀🍀🍀

Moving on. . .

A lot of you probably remember the story that circulated recently about [how Nike blew their pitch to Steph Curry](http://ftw.usatoday.com/2016/03/the-story-of-how-nike-lost-stephen-curry-is-unbelievable) and lost him to Under Armour. A mistake? Yes. But at the time (2013) it didn't seem like Nike blew a gigantic opportunity. They had Kevin Durant, who already had three scoring titles and a Finals appearance under his belt. A year later, he had four scoring titles and an MVP award. Then tragedy struck. KD suffered a [Jones fracture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jones_fracture) in his right foot, originally diagnosed in October, 2014. Then he returned to action too early and badly sprained his ankle. Then he returned too early *again*. Eventually he was shutdown for the remainder of the 2014-15 season.

Unfortunately for Durant and Nike, this all happened at the worst possible time. The same season KD suffered his first serious injury, Steph Curry became the deadliest shooter in the NBA. He captivated the entire country and all of a sudden everyone kind of forgot about Durant. The NBA found it's new Golden Boy.

Durant's sneaker sales plummeted as Curry's soared. A season later, little has changed. Through the 2015-16 regular season Durant has played very well, but not sensationally like he did during his 2014 MVP campaign. And not as well as Curry either.

Basically, just as Nike's most promising client not named LeBron went down with a season-ending injury, the guy that Nike let slip through their fingers evolved into the most electrifying player in over a decade. Ouch.

What does this have to do with his free agency?

If I'm working for Nike, I am hoping Durant goes ***anywhere***that isn't Oklahoma. KD dawning a new jersey, new colors is exactly what his sponsors want. Durant staying put is boring. It doesn't make any waves. But a new city welcoming Durant as it's possible savior? That will make headlines, and present new possibilities for sneakers and other apparel that would boost Nike's sales significantly. Durant will have the final decision, but don't think for a second that Nike isn't doing everything they can to get Kevin Durant in a new city.

 you have to think he is staying in OKC. They had a 3-1 advantage on the 73-9 Warriors in the Western Conference Finals. Yeah, they blew it, but this was their first year with Billy Donovan at the helm; their first year Adams and Kanter really came into their own; their first year Dion Waiters didn't suck in the playoffs and the first year they looked like title favorites—if only for a minute.

But given today's free agency landscape and the precedent set by Miami's Big Three encouraging friends to play with each other rather than against, anything could happen. Also, Durant's "Decision" differs from LeBron's because Durant would be leaving a team with another bona fide superstar instead of joining one. If he leaves he will certainly have his loyalty scrutinized, but no one could say he's taking the easy way out.

(I don't believe that being friends with your opponent somehow makes you less competitive. I love beating my brother and my friends in any sort of game. If anything, I'm more competitive with them than I am with opponents I don't know. Which is also why I don't understand why those guys all wanted to join forces in Miami, instead of trying to beat each other. Like every superstar ever has done during the twilight of their career.)

Durant is going to have to make a decision soon (17 championships, Kevin!). While I personally believe he is going to stay in Oklahoma City, it's my duty to consider all the possibilities. What follows are the five most likely destinations for Kevin Durant if he does in fact fly the coop this summer.

**Los Angeles Lakers**

Who better to take the torch from Kobe Bryant? The two greatest scorers since Jordan retired. It would be almost too fitting. The Lakers have more to offer Kevin Durant than you might think. They may have been the worst team in their conference, but now that Bryant has retired the organization can focus on building around what they have, rather than appeasing the Black Mamba. L.A. has a young, talented roster. Jordan Clarkson and Julius Randle have tremendous upside. Plus, they have the second pick in the draft. Add Durant to the mix and you may even had a playoff team.

L.A. has one thing to offer Durant that no other team (besides the Celtics) can. And that is the fact that they are the Lakers. The Lakers have sixteen championship banners hanging from their rafters and more retired numbers than I can count. It's LOS ANGELES! They don't have a football team (not for long) and the Dodgers aren't consistent. It is all about the Lakers in Hollywood. The Clippers too I guess. But that won't last. L.A. bleeds purple and gold.

Who wouldn't want to play for that? Being the new golden boy for the Lakers is every basketball-loving kid's dream. And even Kevin Durant still dreams.

**Golden State Warriors**

I won't lie, the idea of Durant joining the Warriors kind of makes me sick. That can't happen. Durant is a true competitor; he won't jump ship just so he can take the easiest path to success. I hope. Golden State won 73 games without Durant. Imagine what they could do with the two best living scorers playing together.

Plus, do the Warriors really want him? They have a pretty good thing going. And it is possible to have too many scorers. Shots for KD means less shots for Curry and Thompson.If I'm Steve Kerr or any one of the Golden State players, I wouldn't even want KD joining my team. No disrespect to the man, but his addition would change things drastically in Golden State. On and off the court. Why fix what isn't broken?

**Houston Rockets**

I don't like this one either, but for personal reasons. I loathe the Rockets. Dwight complains more than a coddled toddler; he can't be counted on to bring it every night, and it seems like there isn't a place on this planet that Howard would be happy in. Orlando? Nope. Hollywood? Nope. Houston? Nope. Maybe Honolulu needs a team.

Harden just won't play defense. Not **can't. Won't.**He just refuses to try on the defensive end and I can't stand that. But the dude gets buckets. And so does Durant. That could be a deadly combination. Plus, the addition of Durant would cause Howard and Harden to put forth their best effort.

The Rockets have the cap space to afford Durant. But is that enough? Durant wants rings. Maybe playing with Harden and Howard isn't the best way to do that.

**Miami Heat**

Might Kevin Durant take his talents to South Beach? That'd be weird—almost eerie. It would be different though. If Durant went to Miami it would be to take the torch from Wade, not to join him in hoisting it. The real selling point for Miami is Hassan Whiteside. The future is bright for the league's leading shot-blocker.

Playing alongside Dragic and Wade would be a perfect fit for Durant as well. You know Wade's credentials, but at age 34 he's lost almost all of his ups and explosiveness. He makes up for it by being a fierce competitor and savvy veteran. Having Durant to take over the scoring load would also allow Wade to get some of that rest he loves so much.

Additionally, Dragic is a crafty player who doesn't need the ball in his hands constantly to be effective. The rest of Miami's roster is young too with players like Winslow and Richardson.

I don't think KD will jump ship to join 34-year old Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh, who is in a constant struggle with serious blood clots. Don't forget about Pat Riley though. If he can get his fangs in Durant, anything could happen.

**San Antonio Spurs**

This one would bother me more than any other, except for maybe Golden State. The Spurs are like the New England Patriots. They've built their dynasties around a centerpiece they each drafted and, for more than a decade, they surrounded their guy—year after year— with quality role players that their organization valued more than the rest of the league. Signing Kevin Durant would undermine that image completely. The Spurs have the two-time DPOY and an All-NBA Second Teamer. Let's keep the league balanced. Don't go back to Texas, Kevin.

If Kevin Durant is *really* *desperate*to win a championship—like ends-justify-the-means desperate—San Antonio is his best bet. You won't find a more unselfish group of guys, willing to take less shots and sacrifice playing time for the good of the team. And if anyone can integrate a scorer of Durant's caliber into an already proven system, it's Popovich.

The Spurs don't currently have the money to lure Durant though. It would take at least a couple of moves to free up enough cap space for him. This probably won't happen.

**Boston Celtics**

I don't think Durant will join an Eastern Conference team. It would certainly make for an easier path to the Finals, but it wouldn't change the fact that he'd still have to play a Western Conference team in the Finals. I think Durant knows that his image will be tainted if he runs off to join an EC team.

However, Durant has gone out of his way to compliment the city of Boston and the Celtics organization. After shoot-around, before a game at TD Garden, Durant fielded a few questions. One reporter asked for his thoughts on the city of Boston. Durant responded, "I like the city a lot. It's cold but they love sports here. It's a family atmosphere I feel when I walk around the city. So yeah, I like it a lot."

It was noticeable that Durant was making an effort to laud the Celtics players as well as the city and the organization. When asked about his impending matchup with Marcus Smart, Durant gave an enthusiastic answer:

"Marcus Smart, he's a terrific competitor," Durant said. "He plays hard. He's a little guy that can defend three positions so I have my work cut out for me. I'm looking forward to it. I've been watching this team a lot. And they're scrappy. They play hard. They love their coach, they love their system, and especially in this building they play with a lot of energy. So it's going to be a tough test."

I think the Celtic Mystique has made an impression on Durant. He's a student of the game. Someone who appreciates the game's storied history. He understands what it means to be a Celtic. He also realizes that the Celtics are a tough group of ragtag players, led by one of the best head coaches in the league. Plus, the Celtics could use a go-to scorer like KD. I hope to see him in green.

**Washington Wizards**

They say home is where the heart is. I hope that's bullshit. I don't want KD going home to play for the Wizards. A Durant-less Thunder team could wallop the Wizards right now. Why go join a blatantly crappy team?

The whole "home" thing is overblown too. KD went to boarding school in Virginia as a high-schooler. Then went to Texas for college. Now he's in Oklahoma. If he was yearning to get home, it would've happened by now.

This might be the least sensible option for Durant. Washington is not particularly well-coached and John Wall is electric, but he's no Russell Westbrook. Who else do they have? Gortat? Steven Adams is already better.

Washington would be Durant’s best bet if his goal is to never win an NBA championship.

Loyalty is important to Durant. Loyalty to his teammates; to his organization, and to his fans. Ultimately, I believe Kevin is going to stay put. The majority of the evidence points to that conclusion.

I have no doubt though, that Durant is keeping his options open. The NBA is a business, after all. He will likely meet with several teams this summer, but that's to be expected when an athlete of Durant's stature becomes a free agent.

If there's one piece of evidence that compels my belief that KD will stay put, it's his acceptance speech after receiving the 2014 Most Valuable Player Award.

This guy isn't going anywhere.