

How Sports Teams Improve: Team Chemistry vs. Superstar Talent

Sports teams typically rely on one of two things to get better:

1. **Team Chemistry and Strategy**

They slowly build a roster of different guys who may not be the best players in the league, but who synergize extremely well and play a specific playstyle. Over time, they develop insane chemistry. Even though it's a team game, good overall teams rarely win consistently. They might be dominant in the regular season and perform well in the playoffs, but they often fall short without star power.

2. **Superstar Talent**

That's where the second approach comes in: having a superstar. A superstar can single-handedly change the course of a game in so many ways. They make life easier for everyone else on the team — the rest of the players don't need to be elite.

Enter: The Draft

The draft is where you usually get these superstars. It's an event where teams select new players. The setup is designed to help the worst teams by giving them a better chance at getting top picks. These "lottery picks" are awarded based on a calculated chance, influenced by the team's win-loss record in the previous season.

Naturally, the earlier your pick, the more likely you are to draft the best player in that draft class (the pool of new players). Teams scout these prospects as early as middle school, analyzing their weaknesses, tendencies, size, attitude — everything — to find the next superstar.

The system is adjusted so the worst team doesn't automatically get the #1 pick, to prevent teams from intentionally losing just to draft a generational talent. Of course, teams still "tank," but the lottery system makes it somewhat better — debatable, sure.

At the end of the day, it's still a game of chance. If you're a bad team, the draft is basically your only reliable way to improve. Already established stars won't want to join a losing team — they want to win too. So you have to make it appealing. If you get a top pick, you can select a young player, invest in their development, and hope they become a superstar or at least a high-level contributor to your desired playstyle.

Of course, you'd prefer to draft a superstar over a role player, but you never know for sure what a player will become. You can make a good guess — but sometimes things just don't go your way.

A Basketball Example: Stephen Curry

Take Stephen Curry. By NBA standards, he's very small — just 6'1", which is considered undersized. But like every true star, he had one special quality: shooting.

He arguably changed the NBA forever. Since its inception, the league focused on playing inside the paint — around the basket. That made sense. Tall players could jump and simply reach in to score. It was a high-percentage shot, and the game was built around it. You needed big, strong guys who could push through defenders and score in the post.

So in 2009, teams weren't eager to take a smaller guard — even a good shooter. Nobody really knew just how good Curry was or how much impact his shooting could have. He ended up going 7th in the draft to the Golden State Warriors, a team that was historically irrelevant. They had never been close to good.

Fast-forward to 2015: Curry wins the Most Valuable Player award. A 6'1" guard wins MVP in a league that had LeBron James, arguably the greatest player of all time. Why? Because Curry single-handedly led the Warriors to an NBA Championship. Before that, they weren't even a playoff team.

Curry was so good at three-point shooting — from way beyond the arc — that he didn't need to battle inside the paint. And this changed the game for everyone on his team. If a player like Curry can pull up and sink a three from anywhere, defenders have to guard him closely, sometimes even double-team him. That leaves someone else on his team wide open.

This is known as gravity — the attention a player draws from the defense. When Curry has two defenders on him in a 5v5 game, that leaves a 4v3 advantage for his teammates. He passes to the open man, and they get an easy shot. It's simple but devastatingly effective.

The Impact of a Generational Talent

All of this is to say: Curry revolutionized the game. He made the three-pointer something every team had to focus on. This led to:

- New players working on their three-point shot
- Older players improving their three-point shot
- Teams changing their entire playstyle

Now, teams must defend the perimeter just as much — if not more — than the paint. Defense became more strategic. You couldn't just get a tall, muscular guy to dominate in the post anymore. That type of player is now too slow to guard someone like Curry, who can dribble quickly, step back, create space, and sink a three.

This is what you call a generational talent. Sure, there are plenty of superstars and champions. But players like Curry, Michael Jordan, and LeBron James are considered generational because they changed the game.

Before Jordan, the league was dominated by huge seven-footers throwing hook shots and bullying their way into the paint. Then Jordan came along — shooting mid-range, finessing defenders, and dunking over everyone with freak athleticism. Now, that playstyle is common, but Jordan was the one who created it. That's why many consider him the GOAT (Greatest of All Time).

Now, as I said before, the best players in the league are called superstars. These are guys who can completely change the outcome of a game or even a season. Naturally, every team wants one — but they're rare.

Here's the catch: good players want to win, and they usually prefer to play for well-known, popular teams — especially teams in big cities like Los Angeles (Lakers) or New York (Knicks). These cities have better weather, more media exposure, and lifestyle perks. So sometimes, a superstar on a smaller team will say, 'I want to go play in LA,' and pressure their current team into trading them there.

But trades are supposed to be fair. If you're giving up a superstar, you should get something valuable in return — maybe another rising star, a bunch of young talented players, or future draft picks (which are basically lottery tickets for future players).

The Dallas Mavericks got lucky in the draft and got to trade a player called Luka Doncic. Basically after Steph. Luka is THE player that has changed the game. He entered the league at only 19 years of age, which is 2 years less than the average NBA rookie. He obviously won Rookie of the Year and has been an All Star (top 10 player) in the league every year since and within the first 5 years of him playing he has been the top 3 best player with a good case for being number 1. At the age of only 25, last year he took his team to the NBA Finals. So not only has he lived up to the hype he had before this draft, he overachieved. And the fact that he is only 25 he has a good 10 years left in him. He has the potential to be the greatest basketball player of all time by the end of his career.

Luka isn't just a good player — he's a franchise-changing talent. So when you get a player like him, first of all you don't even THINK of trading him. Like the odds of you getting another good player let alone a generational talent like Luka are close to NOTHING. AGAIN, ESPECIALLY IF HE IS ONLY 25 YEARS OLD. He might just get sick of your team and ask for a trade and that's when you consider trading him and get a ton of other stuff for him because any team would kill for him and give you anything they have on their team. But no, Luka loved Dallas, he wanted to spend his entire career there. He was happy there.

Now, after a Finals run, and a season ahead of him. Halfway through the next season, Shams Charania, someone that reports on trades around the NBA and is the highest trusted source tweets this out on a random day



Shams Charania  @ShamsCharania · 4m

BREAKING: The Dallas Mavericks are trading Luka Doncic, Maxi Kleber and Markieff Morris to the Los Angeles Lakers for Anthony Davis, Max Christie and a 2029 first-round pick, sources tell ESPN. Three-team deal that includes Utah.

Obviously, the first thing everyone did was see if it was a fake account. Once verified, everyone fully believed he was hacked. He had to clarify that he wasn't hacked. And then after multiple other sources confirmed this trade, everyone loses their shit. Not only did the Dallas Mavericks trade Luka Dončić, arguably the best player in the NBA at the age of 25 (one of the youngest superstars ever so he is not even in his prime yet), they trade him to the Los Angeles Lakers, a team that has LeBron James (arguably the greatest player of all time in the history of basketball, sure he is 40 now but like he's still LeBron James).

And then you see what the Lakers gave in return, and it's nothing. Anthony Davis is a great player, a star, but he is 30 and nowhere NEAR as good as Luka. Again, for a player of Luka's caliber, even if the team makes a stupid decision of deciding to trade him, they will kind of announce it around the whole league. And then every team in the league wants to make an appealing offer — they will give up multiple players in return, another superstar, some draft picks, anything to trade for him. But no. No one in the league except for the General Manager of the Dallas Mavericks Nico Harrison and the team owner knew about this.

People saw how terrible this deal was and assumed Luka was sick of Dallas and wanted to move and he specifically asked for the Lakers (which MIGHT be understandable). But then a report comes and says that Luka did not request a trade, he was just as blindsided by the trade as everyone.

This was insane because the only reasonable scenario where you trade him is if he himself says he wants out. And even if he does, WHY WOULD YOU TRADE HIM TO THE LAKERS FOR NOTHING. There were probably 10 teams ready to jump on the offer to give them MUCH better stuff than what they received for him.

Not only do you trade the generational young player, you don't ask for anything in return when you could ask for EVERYTHING in return and any team would give it to you. You just go ahead and call the GM of the Lakers and offer him Luka Fucking Dončić on a silver platter. Right as LeBron is about to retire and everyone expects the Lakers to start rebuilding and getting ready to tank, they get saved for the next 10–15 years by getting a player like Luka Dončić for nothing.

This is why people started suspecting the NBA is rigged. The Los Angeles Lakers are very popular, they affect the ratings to an extent. The league benefits from them being good. A player like Luka would just skyrocket the team to oblivion.

Luka was heartbroken, Mavericks fans couldn't believe it. Nico Harrison had to get an extra security detail because Mavs fans were plotting killing him LMAO. Again, what's crazy is how no one knew of the trade until it happened. Almost every trade before it happens gets leaked to an extent and people put out rumors and shit. No one had any idea of this. It goes down in the NBA as the craziest trade in its history and it's crazy how I watched it unfold live.

Also Luka is a Grandmaster in Overwatch and he is Slovenian.