

Goat Parade - On the Life and Legacies of LeBron James and Aaron Rodgers

Matthew J. Dodd

Department of Player Hating, Institute of Learned Sports Fans

Abstract—The prompted argument that "LeBron James is a superior athlete, competitor, and overall human to Aaron Rodgers" is analyzed for substance and veracity. Relevant figures of merit are developed and presented.

I. INTRODUCTION

Aaron Rodgers was, until recently, employed as the quarterback for the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League (NFL) since 2005. He became the starter in 2008 and since that time has produced the highest efficiency statistics for any NFL quarterback in history including passer rating, TD/INT ratio, and INT percentage [1]. Only Peyton Manning has won more MVP awards than Rodgers, and his ongoing dominance of the whole league but NFC North division in particular, has garnered many flocks of petty haters. Most notable amongst Rodgers haters are Chris Weinberger, Sam Latto, the state of Illinois, and the employees of ESPN.



Fig. 1: shows a photograph of Chris, Sam, and Scheffer pulling up to Rodgers 5th MVP award ceremony in 2024.

Due to his utter stranglehold on the greatest quarterback of all time title, many of Rodgers haters will grasp at other tenuous routes of discrediting his accomplishments. In the current instance, we will compare Rodgers to LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers of the National Basketball Association (NBA) in terms of their perceived abilities as 'competitors', 'athletes', and 'overall human beings'.

James began his professional career in 2003 when he was drafted by the Cleveland Cavaliers immediately after graduating high school. Unlike Rodgers who has only played in Green Bay, James has taken his talents to several different organizations searching for opportunities to succeed. Similar

to Rodgers, James has won the NBA MVP award four times although he never did so in consecutive years of dominant performance like Rodgers did. This brings to question his abilities as a competitor, where he has not demonstrated an ability to operate at his peak ability for more than one season at a time. Also unlike Rodgers, there are more peers in his vicinity of MVP tallies in history. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (6), Bill Russell (5), and Michael Jordan (5) have all won the award more times than James indicating that his argument as the greatest of all time is pedestrian at best [1]. Due to a lackluster playoff and regular season record for teams that James has been a member, his only all-time contention record is his 13 all-pro appearances which is more than any other NBA player. This is in stark contrast to Rodgers, who is the all-time leader for the majority of quarterback statistics. As previously mentioned, Rodgers is the all-time NFL leader in passer rating, TD/INT ratio, lowest INT rate, most seasons with 35+ touchdowns, most seasons with 40+ touchdowns, most seasons with 45+ touchdowns, most 70+ yard touchdowns of all time, and fewest seasons to reach 400 touchdowns. The final stat is especially impressive considering Rodgers was not the full-time starter until his fourth season in Green Bay.

The organization of the remainder of this paper will be as follows. Section II will analyze the 'competitor' comparison. Section III will analyze the 'athletes' comparison. Section IV will analyze the 'overall human beings' comparison.

II. COMPETITOR

The competitor aspect of this analysis will be based on the individuals ability to compete and win, but also their drive to maintain consistency and lengths to achieve success.

One of the most powerful arguments to support James as a competitor is his ring chasing tendencies. James has prioritized committing to organizations that are willing to help him assemble 'super-teams' that he believes will help him win an NBA championship. In this endeavor, he has been inarguably the most successful ring chaser in NBA history. One of the most impressive super-teams ever assembled was that built by James and Pat Riley in Miami where he won his first NBA championship. Some critics will say that James lacks loyalty or character for his ring-chasing, but prioritizing winning above all else is the utmost characteristic of the ultimate competitor.

In contrast, Rodgers has played for Green Bay his entire career. As long as his contract is in order, Rodgers has appeared content to make due with utterly dismal teams assembled around him and still maintain dominance of the league. Rodgers has never taken team friendly contracts, citing a desire to not distort the market for his fellow players. It is undeniable

TABLE I: TOMBI Parameters

Player	f_l	f_w	N_i	N_t	TOMBI
Rodgers	0.42	0.654	4	8	0.778
James	0.22	0.649	13	7	5.55

that he lacks the 'whatever-means-necessary' mentality to winning championships that James has demonstrated, likely at the expense of several more NFL championships. Instead, Rodgers appears to prioritize integrity, hard work, and personal relationships.

In attempt to provide a quantitative approach to this section, we present the newly developed Team On My Back Index (TOMBI) as a figure of merit to compare the ability to succeed with sub-par teammates. The TOMBI is intended to address common points of contention in GOAT arguments where an individual's teammates are called into question in responsibility for their success. TOMBI is defined by

$$TOMBI = \int \frac{f_w N_i}{f_l N_t} dt$$

where N_t is the number of all-pro nods given to an individual's teammates, f_w is win percentage density (to accommodate integration). N_i is an individuals number of all-pro awards, and f_l is the ratio of roster size to total all-pro awards given in a league. The f_l term is included to allow comparison across different leagues where the probability of an all-pro award might be different. Difference in all-pro likelihood are primarily caused by injury rates, positional competition, and roster sizes [2]. TOMBI may be computed across any desired integration period, where dt is typically discretized to one year intervals to match the all-pro awards cycle. For accurate TOMBI calculation, only first-team awards should be considered. The integration period for this exercise will be the entirety of each individuals career. It is noted by the author and reviewers and should be considered in drawing conclusions from the data that this period is not aligned and gives a five year advantage to James, since the current implementation of TOMBI is not normalized to time.

It is clear from the TOMBI calculation in Table I that James has carried his teams much more than Rodgers. Although they have similar win percentage, James has contributed much more to the wins by this metric. It should be obvious that James 13 all-pro selections are primary driver for this, compared to Rodgers 4. An interesting aside, Rodgers has only been selected all-pro in the years that he also won MVP.

Thus by the analysis provided herein, James is the superior competitor. Over Rodgers' career he has appeared content to chill in Green Bay, eatin cheese curds, boolin with Jordy and the boys, all while slinging the rock better than anyone in history. Meanwhile, James was selling his soul to chase rings, clamour his way onto super teams, biologically engineer diseases for competitive advantage, and ride banana boats with Chris Paul. Many will agree that James' approach to his career is admirable, apparently.

TABLE II: Combine Results

Player	40yd Dash Percentile	Vertical Jump Percentile	Average Percentile
Rodgers	76.5	86.8	81.7
James	62	99	80.5

III. ATHLETES

From the results presented in Table II, Rodgers is the superior athlete from a quantitative perspective, compared to his peers.

From a qualitative perspective, Rodgers piles on the lead with an impressive amateur golf career. He won the 2023 Pebble Beach Pro-Am shooting an impressive (-23), and has won "The Match" twice. It is clear that Rodgers can leverage his superior athleticism in any discipline to which he applies himself.

On the flip-side, many speculate that James "could totally play tight end in the NFL". This type of mouth-breather argument, frequently invoked by the typical audience of this article, is the entire extent of James' off-the-court demonstrations of athleticism. He once mounted a banana boat with Chris Paul, a feat to be revered.

This section is brief because Rodgers is the clearly superior athlete.

IV. OVERALL HUMAN BEINGS

Rogers and James have reputations in their fields that are similar in some ways but very different in others. Both are known for asserting more control on the strategic direction of the team than the average player. This is not an uncommon trait for generational talent athletes. In Rodgers case, this trait is manifested in dictating play calls, offensive schemes, and personnel choices. The astute sports fan may argue that all of these decisions are within the responsibilities of the quarterback, but since that does not include the audience of this work, we will count this controlling trait against Mr. Rodgers.

Similarly, James is particular about his teammates and coaches. James has been known to force out teammates and coaches he doesn't like on more than one occasion, most famously trying to force an ultimatum on Pat Riley to fire Spoelstra. In hindsight, this was an all-time clown move. Although James is not shy about ousting his detractors, they frequently oust themselves. Many renowned athletes have passed on opportunities to play with James and others who have found themselves on a roster with him have sought greener pastures. This is in stark contrast to Mr. Rodgers whom elite athletes are eager to team up with, and NFL executives are required to actively block too many elite WRs from joining or being traded to the Packers. To further support this claim, Rodger was recently traded to the New York Jets despite his general intentions to retire. Being an overall great human being and competitor, Rodgers embraced a new challenge. Nearly a dozen of his former Green Bay teammates who were finding themselves without a place on the Green Bay roster eagerly followed him to New Jersey. Rodgers charisma stretches to

both sides of the ball, with offensive and defensive personnel eager to share a locker room with the GOAT once again. This is an indisputable sign a generational leadership talent and sensational human being.

Both athletes are similarly active in philanthropy efforts. LeBron has a high school or something. Rodgers runs a grant program for rural small businesses in Northern California, is the largest donor in history to the Green Bay, Milwaukee, and Madison Girls and Boys Clubs, and is a minority owner of the Milwaukee Bucks who have recently revitalized dilapidated sections of the city and improved moral and economic vigor of Southwest Wisconsin.

From this purely qualitative analysis of "overall human being" Rodgers is distinctly way chiller. He does peyote and chills with Joe Rogan, and all of his teammates love him. Most of LeBron's teammates decline to comment on his character and he might be a virgin (as evidenced by the distinct lack of basketball talent demonstrated thus far by LeBron Jr.).

V. CONCLUSIONS

Each of the prompted claims from the abstract is analysed in detail. While the particular approach adopted in this work indicates that James is a superior competitor, Rodgers has the clear edge in the categories of athleticism and overall human being.

REFERENCES

- [1] wikipedia.com
- [2] trust me bro