

Jayson Tatum has been snubbed again



Netflix have released the basketball documentary “Court of Gold” which chronicles the tournament at the Paris Olympics last summer, however one of its biggest subplots was completely ignored.

Six time All-Star Jayson Tatum had a polarising Olympic Games as despite winning his second gold medal he saw his play time be reduced to the point where he only played 71 minutes and received two DNP’s.

Any fans who were keen to see the behind the scenes drama regarding the Team USA subplot of Tatum’s benching will be thoroughly disappointed, as not only does Tatum not speak during the entirety of the 6-part documentary, he is not mentioned by name until the final episode.

The entire narrative regarding Tatum’s benching was avoided and the only comments alluding to limited player minutes was Team USA Coach Steve Kerr saying that it was “the hardest part of the job” after footage was shown of an interaction between Kerr and Indiana Pacer Tyrese Haliburton.

“I think the hardest part of the job for me is playing time. Even picking the rotations, you know. How do you put seven Hall of Famers on the bench?” said Kerr during the documentaries third episode.

Although Kerr did his job by guiding Team USA to their fifth consecutive Olympic Gold Medal, the decision to bench Tatum was considered egregious given the season the St Louis native had just had.

Tatum had won his first NBA Championship a month prior having led his Boston Celtics to a record setting 18th Championship in a 4-1 demolition of the Dallas Mavericks.

Tatum was also the only American Player to achieve an All-NBA First Team honour for the 2023-24 season, yet he played less minutes in the Olympics than both his Celtic teammates Jrue Holiday and Derrick White.

Only Tyrese Haliburton played less minutes in the Paris Games than the Celtic's superstar, but what made Tatum's benching baffling was that he was a key player in the 2020 Olympic Gold Medal win yet had his role reduced despite being a superior player this time around.

The inclusion of legends such as LeBron James, Stephen Curry and Kevin Durant most definitely affected Tatum's role, but the extent to which it was minimised was still a shock.

NBA legend and pundit Charles Barkley sarcastically joked about the Olympic benching when Tatum was announced as an All-Star Starter earlier this month.

"Great Player. Just not good enough to play in the Olympics but he's a great player. One of the five best (players) in the East but not good enough to represent his country" joked Barkley on TNT's Inside the NBA.

Tatum has seemed to have bounced back from his summer frustrations as his Celtics currently sit second in the Eastern Conference and are still the favourites to win another NBA Championship this season.

The "Court of Gold" documentary itself is a must-watch for hoops fans as there is behind the scenes footage from the camps of USA, Canada, Serbia and France throughout the tournament, with international stars such as Nikola Jokic and Victor Wembanyama being featured.

Court of Gold is available now to stream exclusively on Netflix.