

Is the End Near? LeBron James Faces an Uncertain Future with the Lakers

LeBron James has exceeded expectations during his NBA career. James has maintained an All-Star caliber of play well into his 40s, when the majority of NBA players experience a drop in performance in their mid-30s. However, concerns about his future seem more pressing than ever for the first time in years.

The Los Angeles Lakers are in a difficult situation. The team must determine how much of its resources should be dedicated to a player who is nearing the end of one of the greatest careers in professional sports, given that the team is focused on developing for both the present and the future.

Father Time is still unbeaten, but James is still quite productive. The Lakers must make roster selections and develop younger players, which has led to rumors that a long term high paid contract that usually comes as a guarantee to James.

The circumstance prompts the controversial question: Is retirement closer than many fans anticipate?

Almost everything an NBA player can do has been accomplished by James. He is the NBA's all-time top scorer, a four-time champion, multiple MVP, Olympic gold medalist and a prospective first-ballot Hall of Famer. On the basketball floor, he has nothing more to prove.

However, high end competitors like James are sometimes reluctant to just walk away from the game. He's been strongly dedicated to compete and pursue championships throughout his career. James may have to make a tough choice about his future with the Lakers if they are unable to build a championship contending team.

The end of each season will now follow with the question how many seasons does James have left. There's no denying the NBA is getting closer to what once seemed unimaginable: a league without LeBron James.

When that day comes it will be the completion of the longest and one of the greatest careers the NBA has ever seen.