

Chapter 1 : Lakers News: LeBron James Finds It Easy To Ignore Saga Between Magic Johnson, Luke Walton

Nov 04, 2014 - Lakers coach Luke Walton sits with Magic Johnson, the team's president of basketball operations, during an NBA Summer League game in Las Vegas.

Thomas , to be their first head coach, by meeting with him and selling him on the team. Although they defeated the Rochester Royals in the first round of the playoffs, they were defeated by the Fort Wayne Pistons in the semifinals. The Lakers had one of the worst seasons in team history in 1958 when they won a league-low 19 games. Mikan was fired in January when the team was 9-30, and Kundla was rehired. On January 18, 1958, the team was coming off a loss and traveling to St. Louis when their plane crash-landed. No one was hurt. Despite a losing record, the Lakers made the playoffs. In a game five victory, Baylor grabbed 22 rebounds and set the still-standing NBA record for points in a finals game with 61, [47] despite fouling out of the game. Wilt arrives Wilt Chamberlain played for Los Angeles for five seasons during the late 1950s and early 1960s. He was an integral part of their 1972 team that is considered one of the best in NBA history. Owner Jack Kent Cooke brought in Bill Sharman as head coach, [68] and Elgin Baylor announced his retirement early in the season after realizing that his legs were not healthy enough. Los Angeles took the first game by three points, but New York won the series in five games. Building "Showtime" During the 1974 season , the team was hampered by the loss of West, who played only 31 games before his legs gave out. Following the season, West retired due to contract disagreements with Cooke, and filed a suit for unpaid back wages. Abdul-Jabbar had his fourth MVP season in 1976 , leading the league in rebounding, blocked shots, and minutes played. In the first two minutes of the first game of the 1978 season, Abdul-Jabbar punched Bucks center Kent Benson for an overly aggressive elbow and broke his hand. Johnson won the Finals MVP award, after starting at center for the injured Abdul-Jabbar in game six, and tallying 42 points, 15 rebounds, and seven assists. Houston won the series when Ralph Sampson hit a foot jumper as time expired in game five at The Forum. Green into the starting lineup, and acquired Mychal Thompson from the Spurs. They swept the Spurs in the first round of the Western Conference Finals before pulling out a tough seven-game series win over the Utah Jazz led by youngsters Karl Malone and John Stockton. In their seventh trip to the Finals in nine years, they met the Detroit Pistons. In the 1989 season , Los Angeles won 57 games and their eighth consecutive Pacific Division crown. They swept the through the playoffs defeating Portland , Seattle , and Phoenix. The Lakers still cruised through the Pacific Division, winning their ninth consecutive division crown with a 63-19 record. However, after beating the Rockets in the first round, they lost four games to one in the second round of the playoffs to the Suns. After cruising through the Western Conference playoffs , the Lakers found themselves in the NBA Finals once again, their ninth trip to the Finals in 12 years. The Finals represented a changing of the guard as the Lakers were defeated in five games by the Chicago Bulls , led by superstar Michael Jordan. Following the season, head coach Mike Dunleavy was fired. The Lakers would lose 43 games in 1993 under Randy Pfund , their first losing season since 1963. The Lakers would still make the playoffs, and would become the first eighth seed to win the opening two games on the road against a number one seed when they took a 2-0 lead against Phoenix. Magic Johnson, would coach the final 16 games of the season with former teammate Michael Cooper as his lead assistant. The Kobe Bryant era Championship banners, Lakers retired jerseys, and honored Minneapolis Lakers banner hanging in the rafters of Staples Center 2010 In the final two months, the Lakers won 22 of their final 25 games, [] finishing 61-21, but still finished second to Seattle in the standings. Although the Sonics won the first game, the Lakers responded with four straight wins, taking the series, [] but were swept by the Jazz in the Western Conference Finals.

Chapter 2 : Magic Johnson, Front Office Prepared for Free Agency | Los Angeles Lakers

Lakers president Magic Johnson admonished coach Luke Walton as the new-look roster featuring LeBron James has gotten off to a sluggish start. Patience is a virtue: The areas to improve for the Lakers.

Kawhi Leonard has won a championship, is relatively healthy and is from Southern California. Take it all with a grain of salt when it comes to his free agency. They have a ton of interesting and quirky personalities, plenty of drama, a quick pace and a terrible defense -- making for lots of close, high-scoring games. But they also are a team with a ton of new pieces that need time to jell with one another, so their being under. And with the way their roster was constructed, a team around 10th in offense and in the bottom 10 in defense feels spot on. The Lakers have a lot of talent, and they need to figure out how to get that talent to fit together. The way that the team was built this offseason was always interesting. Despite that, when they execute well with their quick pace and knock down shots, this team has formidable -- if not scary -- upside against most teams in the Western Conference. Which is more true? The Lakers need to make a big move. The Lakers should be patient. They could have tried to build a more traditional team around James with shooters at every position, retained talented big Julius Randle and made a harder push to win now. Instead, they kept their youngsters, opened salary-cap space for next offseason and brought in veterans on one-year deals. Now, they need to develop their young players, earn a playoff spot and be primed to add an offseason star so they can contend next season. Making a franchise-altering move after Game 10 out of the games for which LeBron James is under contract with the Lakers would be an act of impulsive desperation. This seems like a cop-out, but the question could be answered both ways depending on expectations. If you think the Lakers need to see what they have in their young core, they should be patient and see how good they are, and which guys fit with James. Between their young talent and their cap space, the best version of the Lakers is still to come. So they should make a move only if it helps both their long- and short-term future rather than overreacting to try to salvage. First off, I think a lot of us expected them to struggle some out of the gate. If they were going to really shake things up this early, why not just swing for the fences in the summer and truly go for it? Do the Lakers need more from LeBron James? The Lakers need James to make more of an impact. The same theory from the previous answer applies to this one. Is LeBron James playing as hard as he can? One thing he could, and arguably should, do is play some center -- but he never was going to do that, and the Lakers knew that, too. So unless someone else on that roster can morph into a high-volume, high-efficiency, playmaking force, the Lakers will need a little more. But where they could really use more impact from James is on the defensive end. The early, somewhat noisy net-rating stats -- which show the Lakers have been -- The offense will improve, but he has to do more on the defensive side of the ball, where he tends to coast, especially in transition-defense situations. They could certainly expect more from him this season. Add in his inconsistent defensive effort, and James has thus far been less effective than at any point in the past decade. Naturally, better production from James would make the Lakers more formidable. If James puts on his Superman cape and takes over, the team could win a few more games, but the young players would not develop as needed. For this team to ultimately compete, the young talent has to learn to carry more of the load itself. JaVale McGee has been their second-best player thus far, providing badly needed rim protection and activity while finishing everything around the basket. In the long term, I still think Lonzo Ball is their second-best player, particularly given the improvement he has shown as a 3-point shooter. At the moment, likely McGee or Rajon Rondo. Both veterans have shown the ability to be effective in their given roles. However, the Lakers need this answer to come from their pool of young guys. Kyle Kuzma has been the most effective of the youngsters offensively, able to shoot and score effectively playing off James. Some part of that trio needs to pop moving forward. They also need Ingram to drill the 3-point shot at the 39 percent clip he turned in last season, and to hit them in greater volume. In terms of performance? He has been a bright spot, playing the most minutes he has in years, on both ends of the court. As the season wears on, though, I think either Ingram or Ball will become the second-best player on the team. That development would be a good one for the team long term. Most answers to this question would probably include Ingram, Ball or Kuzma. Mine, though, is Josh Hart. How good is the best version of this

team? I imagine the Lakers will have a stretch when they reel off six or seven victories in a row, if not more. That would presumably leave them as a fringe playoff team, fighting for one of the final two or three seeds. This is what this team should look like. Defensively challenged when it loafs. Stuff will improve over time, but based on who they went out and signed, we should have expected these results to this point. A first-round exit as the lower-seeded team. That leaves their ceiling as the fifth seed or worse -- and, in turn, has them going out in the first round. Whether they can survive the morass of teams out West fighting for one of those final spots in the playoffs is another story. One thing to note on this front: And yet even with that factored in, the Lakers are under. Whenever his play regresses -- as many scouts eventually expect it to -- watch out. This current team still has win potential if everything meshes. The Lakers have the athletes to play fast effectively, and with Chandler joining the fold, they should have a solid rim protector and rebounder on the court as much as they like to help start the break. The young guys will get better at fitting their talents around James, and he clearly still has another gear when the team needs him to lift it up. There have been moments when the Lakers looked to me like a win team capable of winning a first-round series in the Western Conference. Despite their limited shooting, they put so much pressure on the rim that they can create good shot attempts in the half-court offense.

Chapter 3 : Los Angeles Times - We are currently unavailable in your region

Sources: After a winless two-game trip, Magic Johnson's meeting with Luke Walton on Tuesday reverberated throughout the Lakers organization. The pressure's on the coach to win sooner than later.

Chapter 4 : Los Angeles Lakers - Wikipedia

Nov 08, Â· Magic Johnson sits with Luke Walton at an NBA Summer League game earlier this year. (Wally Skalij / Los Angeles Times) Hi this is Tania Ganguli, Lakers beat writer for the Los Angeles Times, here.

Chapter 5 : Report: Magic Johnson â€™admonishedâ€™™ Luke Walton over Lakers slow start

Do the Lakers need to make moves? Our NBA experts answer the big questions about LeBron, Magic and L.A.

Chapter 6 : Lakers coach Luke Waltonâ€™™s job not in jeopardy, Magic Johnson says | NBA | Sporting News

In a move that should surprise few fans, Los Angeles Lakers President of Basketball Operations Magic Johnson and head coach Luke Walton held a private meeting after a recent road losing streak.

Chapter 7 : Magic Johnson Suggests Expectation Is For Luke Walton To Remain Lakers Head Coach

Magic Johnson, Lakers Learning Quickly Who Runs LeBron's Teams Ken Berger @ @KBergNBA. Featured Columnist | November 9, a coaching change in L.A. is unlikely during the season.

Chapter 8 : Magic Johnson Discusses Role As Advisor to Lakers Ownership | Los Angeles Lakers

Sep 21, Â· Los Angeles Lakers president Magic Johnson says guard Lonzo Ball is poised for a "breakout season" playing alongside LeBron James and that Ball's shooting adjustments this offseason will help.

Chapter 9 : Los Angeles Lakers 5-on-5 debate - LeBron James, Magic Johnson and Luke Walton

Sep 20, Â· Magic Johnson and the Los Angeles Lakers made the biggest move of the NBA offseason by signing LeBron James to a four-year, \$ million deal. There's little to criticize about bringing in a four.