



LeBron James: The Rise of a Star

By David Lee Morgan Jr.

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“A well-rounded, personal portrait of the young superstar” ? Booklist

An up-close look at young LeBron James when he was basketball's hottest prospect, poised at the brink of superstardom.

Sportswriter David Lee Morgan covered the LeBron phenomenon for the Akron Beacon Journal starting with LeBron's freshman year in high school and had unequaled access to LeBron, his family, and his close friends. He saw the exceptional play on the basketball court and the surprising poise with which LeBron has handled the pressure, the scrutiny, the criticism that arrived with the early onset of fame.

The odds were against James from the start. Born in poverty to a 16-year-old single mom, without a stable home for the first decade of his life, LeBron could have become just one more scarred product of a rough childhood in the projects. Instead, he became the darling of the sports world?and he plays the part well.

He was called the best high school basketball player ever. He made the cover of Sports Illustrated as a junior, was featured on national television, and signed more than \$100 million in promotional contracts before the end of his senior year. It was no surprise when he became the no-doubt-about-it No. 1 pick in the NBA draft right after high school graduation.

This is a story for any fan who wants to get to know LeBron better, and for anyone curious about how a high-school basketball phenom is made.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Adult/High School—LeBron James truly has become a star. After appearing on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* and having his high school basketball games broadcast on ESPN, he was the first pick of the lowly Cleveland Cavaliers in the 2003 NBA draft, and actually had them in playoff contention. The book is a breezier read than Ryan Jones's *King James* (St. Martin's, 2003) and doesn't weigh readers down with scores and statistics. Through interviews with those who knew LeBron while he was growing up (poor but loved in Akron, OH), the author draws a portrait of a boy who almost always had that special spark that defines him in the NBA today. Two inserts of color photographs depict the athlete from toddlerhood to recent NBA draftee, and most show him with his recognizable smile—and truly having fun with his gift. Morgan doesn't gloss over the controversy that surrounded the player when he accepted gifts as an amateur, a violation of the high school rules. He just comes across as a typical teen who sometimes screws up, albeit one with a prodigious talent. Demand for all things LeBron James may soon overtake demand for all things Michael Jordan, just as LeBron's statistics are rivaling those of a young Michael.—*Jamie Watson, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 7-12. The son of an unmarried, teenage mother, African American LeBron James overcame a culture of drugs, poverty, and violence in the Akron, Ohio, housing projects where he grew up to become a basketball superstar who signed more than \$100 million dollars in promotional contracts before the end of his senior year in high school. Morgan, a sportswriter for the *Akron Beacon Journal*, offers readers an intimate look at James' life and incredible basketball career, following him to the moment when he became the number-one NBA draft pick. Morgan, who covered James' high-school career for the local newspaper, draws his material from interviews with family, friends, coaches, and teammates. The result is a well-rounded, personal portrait of the young superstar, which does an excellent job of depicting the intense pressure and scrutiny James and his family had to endure when he became basketball's hottest prospect. Sixty color photographs will entice sports fans to this inspiring, well-written biography. *Ed Sullivan*

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Review

An intimate look at James' life and incredible basketball career . . . a well-rounded, personal portrait of the young superstar, which does an excellent job of depicting the intense pressure and scrutiny James and his family had to endure when he became basketball's hottest prospect. Sixty color photographs will entice sports fans to this inspiring, well-written biography. (Ed Sullivan *Booklist* 2004-03-08)

A behind-the-scenes, in-depth, touch-your-heart kind of book. (Rob Mangino *WKBN AM Radio* 2003-10-16)

Morgan's years covering James for the Beacon Journal have given him a depth of understanding . . . It's a story of persistence, focus and strong loyalties with appeal well beyond the ranks of sports fans. (Donna Marchetti *The Plain Dealer* 2003-10-25)

Reads like LeBron on the break?quick and controlled?with a good mix of photos . . . Along the way [you'll discover] some things that you might not know about LeBron, even if you've been following his career since he was . . . well, a kid. (Steve Gleydura *Cleveland Magazine* 2003-12-01)

Selected as one of the year's best books for Reluctant Young Adult Readers. (*American Library Association* 2005-01-24)

A portrait of a boy who almost always had that special spark that defines him in the NBA today . . . Morgan doesn't gloss over the controversy that surrounded the player when he accepted gifts as an amateur, a violation of the high school rules. He just comes across as a typical teen who sometimes screws up, albeit one with a prodigious talent. (*School Library Journal* 2004-06-01)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carol Welch:

Typically the book LeBron James: The Rise of a Star will bring someone to the new experience of reading any book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. In case you try to find new book to study, this book very suitable to you. The book LeBron James: The Rise of a Star is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

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