



Russell Westbrook - High School Highlights 10,125 views0:44 Video: Russell Westbrook high school highlights Oklahoma City Thunder star stood out for Leuzinger High School in Southern California. Hoops. They did it again. The remarkable 2014-15 performances of James Harden and Russell Westbrook continued on Sunday with the two going head-to-head in an epic showdown. File photo by Louis Lopez James Harden, Artesia Harden had 41 points on 12-of-22 shooting and Westbrook recorded his 11th triple double of the season with 40 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds in Houston's 115-112 victory. The debate of who will be the league's MVP continued — Golden State's Stephen Curry is certainly in the mix as well — but who will win the scoring title (Harden is at 27.68 and Westbrook 27.66) is just as up in the air. It also stirs up the quandary who was the better prep player, a question we've asked before. In post-game interviews, Harden talked about the two growing up in Southern California. Harden played at Artesia (Lakewood) and Westbrook at nearby Leuzinger (Lawndale). "That's my brother from childhood," Harden told reporters. "We've grown up together. We've grown up into some great young men. Obviously he's a great player. He got another triple-double tonight. He's a great competitor. So every time we go against each other it's going to be a great battle." Westbrook, with a massive five-inch growth spurt heading into his sophomore year, turned into one of the region's most lethal scorers and dominating players. File photo by Dirk Dewachter Russell Westbrook, Leuzinger The then 6-foot-3, 170-pound guard averaged 25.1 points, 8.7 rebounds and 3.1 steals per game for the 25-4 Olympians his senior season in 2005-06, leading his team to a 25-4 season. He scored at least 30 eight times that season with a career high of 51 in a 81-65 win over Carson. Harden was on one of the top teams in the country the following season — 2006-07 — leading Artesia to an easy state championship. The polished 6-5 senior had 22 points and three fourth-quarter dunks leading the Pioneers (33-2) to a 91-64 Division III title over Bishop O'Dowd-Oakland at Arco Arena. Harden averaged 18.8 points and 7.9 rebounds per game for the Pioneers his senior season. He was a model of consistency, scoring at least 20 in 19 games with a high of 31. He shot a remarkable 62 percent from the floor and made 41 3-pointers. Los Angeles Times prep writer Eric Sondheimer covered both when they were in high school. "Harden was better as a high school player," Sondheimer wrote. "(He was) much further along and played on a much better team. He was a star from freshman on. Westbrook was late bloomer oozing with athleticism and potential. I saw Westbrook when he had few offers as a senior but you could tell he might be very good down the road." James Harden - High School Highlights 3,606 views2:49 Video: James Harden high school highlights NBA MVP candidate was a superstar for Artesia High School.

Russell Westbrook - High School Highlights 10,125 views0:44 Video: Russell Westbrook high school highlights Oklahoma City Thunder star stood out for Leuzinger High School in Southern California.

Hoops. They did it again.

The remarkable 2014-15 performances of James Harden and Russell Westbrook continued on Sunday with the two going head-to-head in an epic showdown.

File photo by Louis Lopez

James Harden, Artesia

Harden had 41 points on 12-of-22 shooting and Westbrook recorded his 11th triple double of the season with 40 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds in Houston's 115-112 victory.

The debate of who will be the league's MVP continued — Golden State's Stephen Curry is certainly in the mix as well — but who will win the scoring title (Harden is at 27.68 and Westbrook 27.66) is just as up in the air.

It also stirs up the quandary who was the better prep player, a question we've asked before. In post-game interviews, Harden talked about the two growing up in Southern California.

Harden played at Artesia (Lakewood) and Westbrook at nearby Leuzinger (Lawndale).

"That's my brother from childhood," Harden told reporters. "We've grown up together. We've grown up into some great young men. Obviously he's a great player. He got another triple-double tonight. He's a great competitor. So every time we go against each other it's going to be a great battle."

Westbrook, with a massive five-inch growth spurt heading into his sophomore year, turned into one of the region's most lethal scorers and dominating players.

File photo by Dirk Dewachter

Russell Westbrook, Leuzinger

The then 6-foot-3, 170-pound guard averaged 25.1 points, 8.7 rebounds and 3.1 steals per game for the 25-4 Olympians his senior season in 2005-06, leading his team to a 25-4 season.

He scored at least 30 eight times that season with a career high of 51 in a 81-65 win over Carson.

Harden was on one of the top teams in the country the following season — 2006-07 — leading Artesia to an easy state championship. The polished 6-5 senior had 22 points and three fourth-quarter dunks leading the Pioneers (33-2) to a 91-64 Division III title over Bishop O'Dowd-Oakland at Arco Arena.

Harden averaged 18.8 points and 7.9 rebounds per game for the Pioneers his senior season. He was a model of consistency, scoring at least 20 in 19 games with a high of 31. He shot a remarkable 62 percent from the floor and made 41 3-pointers.

Los Angeles Times prep writer Eric Sondheimer covered both when they were in high school.

"Harden was better as a high school player," Sondheimer wrote. "(He was) much further along and played on a much better team. He was a star from freshman on. Westbrook was late bloomer oozing with athleticism and potential. I saw Westbrook when he had few offers as a senior but you could tell he might be very good down the road."

James Harden - High School Highlights 3,606 views2:49 Video: James Harden high school highlightsNBA MVP candidate was a superstar for Artesia High School.

Who scored more points in his career? Who averaged more points in playoffs? Who won more championships? Who led the season more times? Who won more MVP awards? These questions and many more, are answered here. It includes NBA Championships, seasons, playoffs, awards, statistical data for points, rebounds, assists, steals, blocks and percentages.

NBA Timeline:

1946-47

2022-23

─

James Harden:

2010 to 2023

─

Russell Westbrook:

2009 to 2023

─

James Harden 24.9

Russell Westbrook 22.6

James Harden 5.6

Russell Westbrook 7.4

James Harden 6.9

Russell Westbrook 8.4
James Harden 1.5

Russell Westbrook 1.6
James Harden 0.5

Russell Westbrook 0.3

James Harden 23,840

Russell Westbrook 23,720
James Harden 5,406

Russell Westbrook 7,719
James Harden 6,583

Russell Westbrook 8,832
James Harden 1,471

Russell Westbrook 1,730
James Harden 521

Russell Westbrook 328
James Harden 959

Russell Westbrook 1,050

James Harden .442

Russell Westbrook .437
James Harden .361

Russell Westbrook .304
James Harden .860

Russell Westbrook .781

James Harden 36.1

(2019)

Russell Westbrook 31.6

(2017)

James Harden 8.1

(2017)

Russell Westbrook 11.5

(2021)

James Harden 11.2

(2017)

Russell Westbrook 11.7

(2021)

James Harden 2.0

(2019)

Russell Westbrook 2.1

(2015)

James Harden 0.9

(2020)

Russell Westbrook 0.5

(2023)

James Harden 22.9

Russell Westbrook 24.6

James Harden 5.5

Russell Westbrook 7.2

James Harden 6.2

Russell Westbrook 7.9

James Harden 1.7

Russell Westbrook 1.8

James Harden 0.5

Russell Westbrook 0.3

James Harden 3,414

Russell Westbrook 2,727

James Harden 815

Russell Westbrook 794

James Harden 922

Russell Westbrook 874

James Harden 247

Russell Westbrook 198

James Harden 81

Russell Westbrook 31
James Harden 149

Russell Westbrook 111

James Harden .426

Russell Westbrook .408
James Harden .335

Russell Westbrook .296
James Harden .869

Russell Westbrook .827

James Harden 31.6

(2019)

Russell Westbrook 37.4

(2017)

James Harden 6.8

(2019)

Russell Westbrook 12.0

(2018)

James Harden 8.6

(2022)

Russell Westbrook 11.8

(2021)

James Harden 2.4

(2016)

Russell Westbrook 3.0

(2013)

James Harden 1.0

(2013)

Russell Westbrook 0.6

(2019)

- Stats
- Graphs

Teams

Russell Westbrook Oklahoma City Thunder (2008-2019), Houston Rockets (2019-2020), Washington Wizards (2020-Present) James Harden Oklahoma City Thunder (2009-2012), Houston Rockets (2012-2021), Brooklyn Nets (2021-Present)

Position

Russell Westbrook Point Guard James Harden Shooting Guard, Point Guard

Height

Russell Westbrook 6'3" James Harden 6'5"

Weight

Russell Westbrook 200 James Harden 220

NBA Championships

Russell Westbrook 0 James Harden 0

Finals Appearances

Finals MVP

Russell Westbrook 0 James Harden 0

Hall of Fame

Russell Westbrook No Still Playing James Harden No Still Playing

Number Retired

Russell Westbrook No Still Playing James Harden No Still Playing

Regular Season MVP

All-NBA First Team

All-Star Games

Rookie of the Year

Russell Westbrook No James Harden No

All-NBA Second Team Team

Defensive Player of the Year

Russell Westbrook 0 James Harden 0

All-Defensive First Team

Russell Westbrook 0 James Harden 0

NBA Scoring Leader

NBA Rebound Leader

Russell Westbrook 0 James Harden 0

NBA Assist Leader

NBA Steals Leader

Russell Westbrook 0 James Harden 0

Games (G)

Russell Westbrook 1,030 James Harden 951

Minutes Played Per Game (MP)

Russell Westbrook 34.6 James Harden 34.6

Points

Russell Westbrook 23,445 James Harden 23,675

Assists (Ast)

Russell Westbrook 8,665 James Harden 6,487

Steals (Stl)

Russell Westbrook 1,711 James Harden 1,459

Blocks (Blk)

Russell Westbrook 317 James Harden 518

Rebounds (Reb)

Russell Westbrook 7,593 James Harden 5,357

Field Goals Made (FG)

Russell Westbrook 8,374 James Harden 6,983

Free Throw Made (FT)

Russell Westbrook 5,542 James Harden 7,096

Free Throw Attempts (FTA)

Russell Westbrook 7,076 James Harden 8,251

Three Pointers (3PT)

Russell Westbrook 1,155 James Harden 2,613

Three Point Attempts (3PTA)

Russell Westbrook 3,783 James Harden 7,236

Triple-Doubles

Russell Westbrook 194 James Harden 69

Points Per Game (PPG)

Russell Westbrook 22.8 James Harden 24.9

Assists Per Game (APG)

Russell Westbrook 8.4 James Harden 6.8

Rebounds Per Game (RPG)

Russell Westbrook 7.4 James Harden 5.6

Blocks Per Game (BPG)

Russell Westbrook 0.3 James Harden 0.5

Steals Per Game (SPG)

Russell Westbrook 1.7 James Harden 1.5

Field Goal Percentage (FG%)

Russell Westbrook 43.8% James Harden 44.2%

Free Throw Percentage (FT%)

Russell Westbrook 78.3% James Harden 86%

Three Point Percentage (3PT%)

Russell Westbrook 30.5% James Harden 36.1%

Minutes Played

Russell Westbrook 35,687 James Harden 32,948

Turnovers

Russell Westbrook 4,220 James Harden 3,565

True Shooting Percentage

Russell Westbrook 56.6% James Harden 65.7%

Games (G)

Russell Westbrook 111 James Harden 149

Minutes Played Per Game (MP)

Russell Westbrook 37.5 James Harden 35.7

Points

Russell Westbrook 2,727 James Harden 3,414

Assists (Ast)

Russell Westbrook 874 James Harden 922

Steals (Stl)

Russell Westbrook 198 James Harden 247

Blocks (Blk)

Russell Westbrook 31 James Harden 81

Rebounds (Reb)

Russell Westbrook 793 James Harden 816

Field Goals Made (FG)

Russell Westbrook 948 James Harden 1,017

Free Throw Made (FT)

Russell Westbrook 678 James Harden 1,011

Free Throw Attempts (FTA)

Russell Westbrook 820 James Harden 1,163

Three Pointers (3PT)

Russell Westbrook 153 James Harden 369

Three Point Attempts (3PTA)

Russell Westbrook 517 James Harden 1,102

Points Per Game (PPG)

Russell Westbrook 24.6 James Harden 22.9

Assists Per Game (APG)

Russell Westbrook 7.9 James Harden 6.2

Rebounds Per Game (RPG)

Russell Westbrook 7.1 James Harden 5.5

Blocks Per Game (BPG)

Russell Westbrook 0.3 James Harden 0.5

Steals Per Game (SPG)

Russell Westbrook 1.8 James Harden 1.7

Field Goal Percentage (FG%)

Russell Westbrook 40.8% James Harden 42.6%

Free Throw Percentage (FT%)

Russell Westbrook 82.7% James Harden 86.9%

Three Point Percentage (3PT%)

Russell Westbrook 29.6% James Harden 33.5%

Turnovers

Russell Westbrook 441 James Harden 520

True Shooting Percentage

Russell Westbrook 50.8% James Harden 63%

Games (G)

Russell Westbrook 82 (2012-13) James Harden 82 (2015-16)

Minutes Played Per Game (MP)

Russell Westbrook 36.4 (2020-21) James Harden 38.3 (2012-13)

Points

Russell Westbrook 2558 (2016-17) James Harden 2818 (2018-19)

Assists (Ast)

Russell Westbrook 840 (2016-17) James Harden 907 (2016-17)

Steals (Stl)

Russell Westbrook 163 (2015-16) James Harden 158 (2018-19)

Blocks (Blk)

Russell Westbrook 34 (2009-10) James Harden 60 (2019-20)

Rebounds (Reb)

Russell Westbrook 864 (2016-17) James Harden 659 (2016-17)

Field Goals Made (FG)

Russell Westbrook 824 (2016-17) James Harden 843 (2018-19)

Free Throw Made (FT)

Russell Westbrook 710 (2016-17) James Harden 754 (2018-19)

Free Throw Attempts (FTA)

Russell Westbrook 840 (2016-17) James Harden 881 (2016-17)

Three Pointers (3PT)

Russell Westbrook 200 (2016-17) James Harden 378 (2018-19)

Three Point Attempts (3PTA)

Russell Westbrook 583 (2016-17) James Harden 1028 (2018-19)

Triple-Doubles

Russell Westbrook 42 (2016-17) James Harden 22 (2016-17)

Points Per Game (PPG)

Russell Westbrook 31.6 (2016-17) James Harden 36.1 (2018-19)

Assists Per Game (APG)

Russell Westbrook 11.7 (2020-21) James Harden 11.2 (2016-17)

Rebounds Per Game (RPG)

Russell Westbrook 11.5 (2020-21) James Harden 8.1 (2016-17)

Blocks Per Game (BPG)

Russell Westbrook 0.5 (2018-19) James Harden 0.9 (2019-20)

Steals Per Game (SPG)

Russell Westbrook 2.1 (2014-15) James Harden 2.0 (2018-19)

Field Goal Percentage (FG%)

Russell Westbrook 47.2% (2019-20) James Harden 49.1% (2011-12)

Free Throw Percentage (FT%)

Russell Westbrook 84.5% (2016-17) James Harden 87.9% (2018-19)

Three Point Percentage (3PT%)

Russell Westbrook 34.3% (2016-17) James Harden 39% (2011-12)

Turnovers

Russell Westbrook 177 (2013-14) James Harden 106 (2010-11)

True Shooting Percentage

Russell Westbrook 55.4% (2016-17) James Harden 66% (2011-12)

Teams

Russell Westbrook Oklahoma City Thunder (2008-2019), Houston Rockets (2019-2020), Washington Wizards (2020-Present) James Harden Oklahoma City Thunder (2009-2012), Houston Rockets (2012-2021), Brooklyn Nets (2021-Present)

Position

Russell Westbrook Point Guard James Harden Shooting Guard, Point Guard

Height

Russell Westbrook 6'3" James Harden 6'5"

Weight

Russell Westbrook James Harden

NBA Championships

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Finals Appearances

Russell Westbrook 1 (2012) James Harden 1 (2012)

Finals MVP

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Playoff Appearances

Russell Westbrook 11 (2009-14, 2016-2021) James Harden 12 (2010-2021)

Hall of Fame

Russell Westbrook No Still Playing James Harden No Still Playing

Number Retired

Russell Westbrook No Still Playing James Harden No Still Playing

Regular Season MVP

Russell Westbrook 1 (2017) James Harden 1 (2018)

All-NBA First Team

Russell Westbrook 2 (2016-2017) James Harden 6 (2014-2015, 2017-2020)

All-Star Games

Russell Westbrook 9 (2011-2013, 2015-2020) James Harden 8 (2013-2020)

Rookie of the Year

Russell Westbrook No James Harden No

All-NBA Second Team Team

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Defensive Player of the Year

Russell Westbrook James Harden

All-Defensive First Team

Russell Westbrook James Harden

NBA Scoring Leader

Russell Westbrook 2 (2015, 2017) James Harden 3 (2018-2020)

NBA Rebound Leader

Russell Westbrook James Harden

NBA Assist Leader

Russell Westbrook 2 (2018-2019) James Harden 1 (2017)

NBA Steals Leader

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Games (G)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Minutes Played Per Game (MP)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Points

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Assists (Ast)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Steals (Stl)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Blocks (Blk)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Rebounds (Reb)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Field Goals Made (FG)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Free Throw Made (FT)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Free Throw Attempts (FTA)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Three Pointers (3PT)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Three Point Attempts (3PTA)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Triple-Doubles

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Points Per Game (PPG)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Assists Per Game (APG)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Rebounds Per Game (RPG)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Blocks Per Game (BPG)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Steals Per Game (SPG)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Field Goal Percentage (FG%)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Free Throw Percentage (FT%)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Three Point Percentage (3PT%)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Minutes Played

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Turnovers

Russell Westbrook James Harden

True Shooting Percentage

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Games (G)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Minutes Played Per Game (MP)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Points

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Assists (Ast)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Steals (Stl)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Blocks (Blk)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Rebounds (Reb)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Field Goals Made (FG)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Free Throw Made (FT)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Free Throw Attempts (FTA)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Three Pointers (3PT)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Three Point Attempts (3PTA)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Points Per Game (PPG)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Assists Per Game (APG)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Rebounds Per Game (RPG)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Blocks Per Game (BPG)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Steals Per Game (SPG)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Field Goal Percentage (FG%)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Free Throw Percentage (FT%)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Three Point Percentage (3PT%)

Russell Westbrook James Harden

Turnovers

Russell Westbrook James Harden

True Shooting Percentage

Russell Westbrook James Harden

⌂ Loading ...

LeBron James would probably be the MVP every year if the award made any sense; Kawhi Leonard, like his forebear Tim Duncan, will land a couple of them before he's done because it makes sense he'll win one eventually. But with all due respect to James and Leonard, this year it's a two-horse race between former Oklahoma City Thunder teammates Russell Westbrook and James Harden. Both are having extraordinary seasons. Westbrook, as you may have heard, has a good shot at making statistical history by averaging a triple-double, and Harden has been reborn as an ingenious playmaker helming Mike D'Antoni's madcap offense. It's practically a toss-up, and yet, the two are so distinct from each other that comparing them almost doesn't make sense.



How did a No. 15 pick from San Diego State become the best two-way player in the league and a potential MVP?

Superficially, Westbrook and Harden have much in common. Both are dynamic, stat-stuffing guards who, in one way or another, are directly responsible for most of their team's points. Westbrook currently averages a triple-double; Harden isn't far off and also leads the league in assists. Both are having career years that have proven them to be fully viable franchise players. With the Rockets currently proud owners of the league's third-best record and the post-Kevin Durant Thunder playoff bound, both Westbrook and Harden have come into their own as leaders. Both are

colorful personalities given to outlandish fashion statements. And both are, in a sense, tales of redemption. Westbrook, who was once viewed as prickly and possibly selfish, is a hell-bent folk hero and Harden—chided last year for his poor defense and cursed for his endless trips to the free throw line—has cemented himself as one of the league's most entertaining players.

The two are also a study in contrasts, to the point where picking one over the other, if not a matter of ideology, could just come down to personal taste. Their styles of play may yield similar numbers but the two approach the game in totally different ways.

Without fail, Westbrook goes for broke on every possession. He's an unstoppable force who has yet to meet an immovable object, regularly pulling off the impossible to such a degree that it's almost moot to question his decision-making. While never forced, Westbrook's nods to respectability often come across as concessions or brief moments of clarity and are soon papered over by yet another moment of derring-do. Neither accountable nor ill-advised, Westbrook is basketball's fog of war.

Harden, on the other hand, is lethal and precise. He pinpoints defensive weaknesses and exploits them with calm bravura. Even when he's at his most freewheeling—a practical necessity when trying to execute D'Antoni's plan—Harden's control is palpable even as he attacks the basket more aggressively than ever. He no longer relies heavily on drawing fouls, which has allowed us to fully appreciate his understated athleticism, consummate body control, and canny first step. With Harden, everything happens for a reason and every gambit leads somewhere. If Westbrook is a natural cataclysm, Harden is mankind's innate resourcefulness.

The two play totally distinct roles. Nominally a point guard, Westbrook has exploded the idea of that position—or for that matter, any position—whatsoever. He's everywhere at once, sowing disorder and filling a (perceived) vacuum whenever one presents itself. Westbrook handles the ball and runs the offense because he's a non-stop catalyst, an inexplicable weapon who can set into motion a truly remarkable chain of events. The Thunder let Westbrook shape every single possession because to do anything else would rob them of their competitive edge. Their system is, at best, rudimentary. They lack outside shooting, and it makes more sense to think of the team as orbiting around Westbrook and constantly responsive to his whims. He doesn't destroy anything because the team concept has already been thoroughly deconstructed on his behalf. As goes Russell Westbrook, so goes the Thunder.

Harden, while still a voluminous scorer, has transformed himself into an honest-to-good playmaker. The Rockets' system may be tailor-made for his strengths but it also requires a high level of intelligence and flexibility. That team puts up stratospheric numbers in large part because—as Steve Nash once did for the Suns—Harden has become adept at moving with the ball to disrupt space and finding passing lanes that scarcely existed before. Everything he does happens for a reason. He has proven himself capable of harnessing his powers in the service of a sophisticated machine. If Westbrook subsumes the system, Harden works tirelessly to facilitate it, even when it might appear that he's out to get his.

But MVP voting often comes down to more than individual accomplishments. There's both the tiresome matter of optics and very real win/loss considerations. For all his willingness to involve teammates, Westbrook is his team's alpha and omega. He defines them so thoroughly that imagining another player in his place is nothing but garble. At least compared to Harden, Westbrook—through no fault of his own—comes off as somewhat haphazard. Harden, while equally integral to the Rockets, can at least be viewed as participating in something larger than himself. Westbrook is impossible to ignore; Harden plays in such a way that it sometimes appears that the system is running itself.

And then there's the matter of team success. The Thunder will likely head into the postseason as the sixth seed in the West; the Rockets have an outside shot at a championship. Westbrook has far less talent to work with and almost certainly maximizes the effectiveness of those around them. Harden's doesn't just get the most of his teammates. He uses them to bring to life a thoroughly evolved version of the game. But what Russell Westbrook has done this season goes beyond mere stats. We're saying an absolutely transcendent athlete pushing himself to breaking point, refusing to yield, and never once looking back. In the end, Harden will likely be the 2016-17 MVP. In any other year, we'd be positively agape over his stats. And with the Rockets rolling like they have, it's simply easier to point to his play as yielding results. But if there were any justice in the world, the two would be co-MVP's. It's not just that the race is a toss-up. Westbrook and Harden are totally different players having totally different seasons. And for that, they both deserve recognition.

Watch Now:

Luka Sabbat Teaches You How to Speak Like a Teen