

Will Jeremy Lin Be the First Asian-American NBA Draft Pick?



If Harvard University makes it into the NCAA* Basketball Championships this year, it will be the first time in 64 years that they will be part of “March Madness.” One of the big reasons for the team’s success is their 6-foot 3-inch star, Jeremy Lin. This season, the Asian-American Lin has led his school to its best record in more than 20 years. At the same time, he has racked up more than 17 points per game.

Among more than 340 schools that play NCAA Division I basketball, only 18 Asian-Americans play the game. But many basketball experts think that Lin has what it takes to play professional basketball in the National Basketball Association (NBA). If the NBA drafts Lin this year, he will be the first Asian-American ever picked in the draft. If he ends up playing in the NBA, he will be the first Harvard player to do so since 1954.

Lin has played basketball since he was a small boy in California. After he and his two brothers finished their homework, their dad would take them to a nearby YMCA to play. The boys would try to mimic the moves and plays they saw NBA players make on TV. With practice, Jeremy’s skills got better and better. In 2006, he led his high school basketball team to a 32-1 record and a state championship.

NEWS WORD BOX

division mimic
taunt professional
percentage senior

Thanks to Lin, lots of people are packing the gyms at Harvard and other schools to watch him play. But that doesn’t mean that all the fans are on his side. At almost every game, some people in the stands boo him and call him names because he is Asian. Those taunts used to bother Lin, but he tries not to let them get him down. At Harvard, Lin co-leads the school’s Bible study group and he says he might become a preacher someday.

MORE ABOUT JEREMY LIN

- When Jeremy started playing high school basketball, he was 5-feet 3-inches tall. By his senior year in high school he had grown to a height of 6-feet 1-inch.
- Last year, Lin was the only player in the U.S. to rank among the top 10 players in his conference in scoring, rebounding, assists, steals, blocks, field goal percentage, free throw percentage, and three point field goal percentage.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Why, do you think, do some people in the stands call Lin bad names?
How do you think Lin is able to ignore the name callers?