

Why Anthony Davis is a Strong MVP Candidate

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When we think of the 2015-16 NBA season MVP candidates, we normally think of LeBron James, Stephen Curry, James Harden, and Kevin Durant. But a great MVP candidate that quite a few people tend to overlook is the rising superstar power forward, Anthony Davis. His overall talent forms a great potential threat for the usual MVP candidates in James, Curry, and the others. Here is why.

Let's begin with his offensive game. Anthony Davis possesses great talent in his attacking style of play because of his overall broad range of excellent offensive basketball. First and foremost, his post play is exceptional and in my opinion, is his strongest offensive technique, if not one of his strongest. What makes his post play so lethal is the multiple ways he can play from the post and attack from the position. In other words, Anthony Davis is a player that possesses many threats from the post position.

He can pull a swift, sharp, cutting move to the basket where he will finish at the rim with a nice dunk. Or, he can muster his way against a physical defender close enough to the hoop where he can send a gentle floater, if he's even closer, finish with a layup. What coincides nicely with this attack method is his ability to finish and score. Anthony Davis, if given the chance to fight for space and enough room to shoot from the lower part of the paint, won't miss very many shots with or without contact from defenders.

Secondly, Davis made a large jump from his 2013-14 season to his 2014-15 season in field goal percentage and his mid range capability. In 2013-14 he sat at a .519 field



goal percentage and last year finished with a .535 percentage. With his quick ability to blow by defenders, it is hard to read

explode to the basket with a quick cut around his defender. He thrived under this form of offensive attack last season, where he fine-tuned his mid-range shot and finishing capability.

After coming off a season of improvement like that, Davis has shown everyone what kind of skill set he has and just how effective he can be.

With his ability to improve so dramatically like he did and develop into the rising superstar he has become, Davis is only going to improve and could have

one of the best seasons of his career this year.

The incredible athleticism he carries

will truly help him perfect his talent and without a doubt, could land him in a high contention spot for the MVP Award this season.

Although many analysts tend to look toward players with a strong offensive skill set in deciding who the candidates are for the MVP award or who might win the MVP award period, the excellent defensive play of a player always gives that player an upper hand.

Take James Harden, for example; his offensive skill is insane, and he is hands down one of the toughest guys to guard in the NBA. Because he is very talented offensively, analysts will tend to push aside his lack of good defensive play when putting him amongst one of their top contenders for the MVP award. In other words, Harden is so talented offensively that that's the only reason he finds himself as an MVP candidate.

But with Anthony Davis, he possesses not only a great offensive game but a great defensive one as well. Davis has a tall, lanky, built frame, which might make many think how in God's name does he have a great defensive presence on the court? What makes him so tenacious defensively is his athleticism along with his great height. For a big man, Davis can elevate quite well to say the least, and he has led in blocks per game in the last two seasons. He might not have the bulky physique to defend the larger centers or power forwards he's up against that well but his quickness and long arm reach contribute heavily to his great shot blocking play, making him a threat in the paint at all times.

Lastly, he also holds the great ability to combine his height, jumping expertise, quickness, and ferocity in grabbing rebounds and averaged last year 7.7 defensive rebounds per game, tied sixth in the NBA.

When I think of an MVP, I think of the biggest impact player in the NBA who is just a force to be reckoned with on both the offensive and defensive end of the ball. Anthony Davis has really made a statement last year on both ends with his tremendous improvement. Just imagine what he will do this year. With his skill level on the rise and his overall talent blossoming into this great force of superstar power, it's very easy to understand why Anthony Davis could be the MVP this season and without a doubt, a top contender for the award.

