

Top-Ranking Rookie Sets Records, A Place In NBA

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR?

Leads all rookies and ranks in the Top 10 in NBA for rebounds; ranks No. 3 in NBA for offensive rebounds.

Posted 24 double-doubles this season, 15th among all NBA players.

Scored 18 points, seven rebounds in 22 minutes for first-year players at Schick Rookie Challenge; also in the Slam Dunk Contest.

One year ago he was playing against high school players 18 years old and younger. In fact, he played a total of only 62 games over his entire high school career – 75% of the NBA season.

Was atop the weekly NBA.com Rookie Rankings five times since start of 2003, more than any other first-year player.

Phoenix has the fourth-best improvement in the NBA and is on track to win 43 games after 36 wins in 2001-02.

THAT'S

AMARE!

NBA Rookie of the Month
January 2003

As a high school-to-NBA rookie... on pace to set record for points (13.4) and rebounds (9.3); scored an NBA record 38 points (16-24 FG) at Minnesota (12/30/02) – in only his 31st game.

Ranks No. 8 among all NBA players in Nestlé Crunch Time stat for all-around performance in the final two minutes of regulation and overtime. He is only rookie in the Top 20 of the rankings.

NBA rookie season-best and Suns rookie record 21 rebounds (8 offensive, 16 total in 2nd half) vs. Memphis – the first 20-rebound game by a Sun since 1/9/96 and the most rebounds by a Sun since 3/24/95... 10 offensive rebounds at San Antonio (1/14/03) – the most by ANY NBA player this season and the most by a Sun since 3/24/95.



What They're Saying About Amaré Stoudemire...

Houston Rockets Coach

Rudy Tomjanovich:

"He really is something. The good thing about tape is you can run it back and say 'My God I can't believe he leapt from the top of the key and dunked it.' He's amazing. That kid has got amazing confidence. I told him after the game, 'You're going to be a great player.' I said, 'Wait, you're a very good player now.' He's a high-school kid who helps his team in a big way."

NBA Commissioner

David Stern:

"I'm not surprised, I'm impressed. This is a very sculpted young man with an enormous amount of physical talent and he's doing very well. I think that Bryan Colangelo gets a big gold star here for the gutsy decision to draft Amare."

Los Angeles Lakers Guard

Kobe Bryant:

"It's kind of a no-brainer. I'd give it to Stoudemire. What he's been able to do for that basketball team is exceptional. He's energized the Suns and provided a low-post threat."

Phoenix Suns Guard

Randy Brown:

"The kid does something different every game. What's Amare going to do today? He's doing a lot of amazing stuff. He's a freak. When Amare is in the game, you know something is going to happen. You just don't know what it's going to be."

Minnesota Timberwolves Guard

Kendall Gill:

"The kid Stoudemire is something. I don't know if I've seen anybody jump that quick with that force and that strength. In a couple years, you might have to send three guys at him defensively. He'll bowl right over two. I don't care how old he is, he's a true stud."

Los Angeles Lakers Center

Shaquille O'Neal:

"I've seen the future of the NBA and his name is Amare Stoudemire. Don't get me wrong. Yao is good. Damn good. But Stoudemire is already dominating more guys who have been in the league for several years, and he's going to get much better. Mark this down: that guy is

going to be scary."

Utah Jazz Head Coach

Jerry Sloan:

"He's a tremendous athlete. He plays hard and he's fun to watch because he goes after the basketball and he's not afraid to stick his nose in there. He doesn't seem to be intimidated at all. What he's doing doesn't surprise me at all. (Phoenix) has a wonderful young player."

Houston Rockets Center

Yao Ming:

"It seems like he's played for several years already. He is very fast and has great jumping ability so it takes a lot of energy to guard him. I've never seen a 20 year-old play that well. I think when I was 20, I was only half his width. If there aren't more players like Stoudemire in the future, I think I can last."

San Antonio Spurs Center

David Robinson:

"You know, I went into the game determined not to just give him anything, but he still took the ball aggressively to the hole. He has poise and aggressiveness not usually found in a rookie."

New Orleans Hornets Head Coach

Paul Silas:

"He's terrific. He's a young horse who's helped turn that ball club around. You need that, that ferociousness, a guy that can really give you some tough play. That's what he does for that ball club."

Orlando Magic Head Coach

Glenn "Doc" Rivers:

"Stoudemire is my pick for rookie of the year. Not only has he surprised us all, he's turned around the entire spirit of that team. He gives Phoenix their swagger and toughness. Coming from someone so young, that's rare."

Boston Globe Columnist

Bob Ryan:

"Absolutely Stoudemire. I'm the President and CEO of the Yao Ming fan club. But anyone who wouldn't vote for Stoudemire hasn't been watching this season. Stoudemire is the Rookie of the Year... I'll be stunned if he doesn't get it."

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YEAR	PLAYER	AVG REB	
92-93	Shaquille O'Neal	13.9	Rookie of the Year
97-98	Tim Duncan	11.9	Rookie of the Year
92-93	Alonzo Mourning	10.3	1st Team All-Rookie (finished behind O'Neal)

YEAR	PLAYER	AVG REB	
99-00	Elton Brand	10.0	Rookie of the Year
02-03	Amaré Stoudemire	9.2	Rookie of the Year?
93-94	Chris Webber	9.1	Rookie of the Year

In the last 10 years only five first-year players averaged better than 9.0 rebounds, and four won Rookie of the Year honors. The fifth player didn't win because he was second among rookies and was runner-up. Last season's Rookie of the Year, Pau Gasol, just missed joining the club with 8.9 rebounds.

