

NBA Players and Black Lives Matter

National Basketball Association (NBA) players showed great compassion after the Jacob Blake shooting and the George Floyd killing. After the Jacob Blake shooting, many sports teams in America boycotted their games. The Milwaukee Bucks were the first of many NBA teams to boycott NBA playoff games. While NBA teams were protesting, the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) and other sports teams protested too. This essay will explain how professional basketball players put basketball aside to protest for Jacob Blake after he was shot. I will also explain the effect it had on my life and why it inspired me to write about it. NBA players showed compassion when they had heard about what had happened to Jacob Blake and George Floyd.

At 5:11 on a Sunday afternoon a call from a woman in Wisconsin came through to a local police station. The woman was complaining that her boyfriend was not supposed to be on the premises and had taken her car keys. When police officers arrived at the house, Jacob Blake was putting his boys, aged eight, five, and three years old, in his girlfriend's car. Suddenly, a police officer shot Jacob in front of his three children. Jacob was then repeatedly shot seven times, in front of his kids. Once NBA players had heard this they were immediately heartbroken and felt sorrowful for all of Jacob's family and friends. Many athletes, Jacob's family, and Jacob's friends were mournful and bitter about his death.

Before any of the Jacob Blake protests, NBA players wore phrases and quotes on the back of their playing jerseys. The quotes helped spread awareness about the black lives matter movement. The first Jacob Blake protest was when the Milwaukee Bucks did not warm up against the Orlando Magic. Concerned after the shooting, the Los Angeles Lakers and Clippers did not play their games as well. Both teams originally decided to boycott the remainder of the NBA season due to the protests. The two teams soon changed their mind about boycotting the season because they are both serious title contenders. It is amazing that the players stopped the sport they love to go and protest with the Black Lives Matter Movement. The NBA players showed that worldwide problems, such as racism, must stop before less important things carry on.

Professional sports players acted differently from the George Floyd killing when Jacob Blake died. For example, when George Floyd was killed NBA players still protested. They were not playing basketball due to Covid-19, so they fled to the streets and held up signs that spread awareness. Unlike the George Floyd killing, after the Jacob Blake killing NBA players had to protest a different way. They did this by kneeling for the national anthem, but not playing their games. While the NBA players spread awareness two different ways, they still showed compassion and empathy for the innocent lives lost. They showed kindness during both the George Floyd killing and the Jacob Blake killing.

After the Jacob Blake shooting, the Washington Mystics protested as well. The Washington Mystics, a WNBA team, showed great compassion, empathy, and bravery to do this on live television. They wore white shirts that had the letters of Jacob Blake's name on them. On the back of the white shirts there was seven shots that represented the seven times Jacob Blake was shot. After the national anthem, the Mystics returned to the locker room to continue the protest and make a stand. The Mystics showed great compassion and should be recognised for this.

NBA players protesting has inspired me and many others. NBA fans look up to the players and with them showing compassion towards a worldwide problem, it inspires the fans. NBA players protesting is important. As a kid, or even an adult, you want to be able to look up to your idols. You want to see what the NBA players are doing to help the rising problems. It matters that the players are doing this because it can inspire other people to do the same thing. Their actions could have such a big impact on you. Are NBA players inspiring you?

NBA players showed great compassion, bravery, and empathy after the Jacob Blake shooting. Many NBA teams and WNBA teams protested by not playing their games, but still kneeling for the national anthem. Do you think this will go down as a historical event in years to come? Do you think they acted the correct way to this growing country wide problem? I think the players did the right thing and many other people should agree.

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