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12 Most Badass NBA Dunks

Posted Friday 01/15/2010 1:30 PM in [Articles](#) by [Kyle Stack](#)
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Anyone can enjoy a tantalizing slam dunk. Not everyone can dole them out. Leave it to NBA ballers to demonstrate aerial tricks so sublime that they had to be ranked for your pleasure.

Compiled here are 12 of the biggest and baddest posterizations in NBA history. There was at least one essential to every dunk on this list: 1) The announcers had to make a big commotion after the dunk. If they didn't, it probably wasn't any more exciting than Gilbert Arenas taunting a teammate with an unloaded weapon. 2) The guy who got dunked on had to fall backward, cover his head or get ridden like a horse (you'll see).

Without further ado, here are 12 dunks that will make you happy your momma didn't make you grow up to be an NBA center.

12. Dominique Wilkins over Larry Bird, 1982



Hard to imagine what was running through Bird's brain on this play. 'Nique was the most ferocious dunker of his generation and he had a hell of a running start. This rip should come with its own warning label, as in "Don't stick your head in or around this two-handed dunk."

11. Tracy McGrady over Shawn Bradley, 2005 playoffs



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Just like locker room pranks and exhausting training camp practices, nearly everyone has their own "I dunked on Shawn Bradley" story. This is the filthiest. You'd think a 7'6" guy would at least get his elbow over a guy's head. Instead, it was stuck in his ribs as a result of T-Mac.

10. Kevin Johnson over Hakeem Olajuwon, 1994 playoffs

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KJ apparently didn't care that Hakeem was well on his way to becoming the NBA's all-time blocks leader. Of course, in light of his future as a politician — he's currently in the midst of several financial and sexual harassment scandals — it seems KJ was getting an early start on how to treat people like the scum of the earth.

9. Vince Carter over Alonzo Mourning, 2006

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This definitely won't be the last you see of Half Man-Half Amazing on this list. 'Zo always stalked the opposition with a menacing presence from inside the paint, but you couldn't blame him if he chose to curl up in the fetal position after this one.

8. Baron Davis over Andrei Kirilenko, 2007 playoffs

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Here's a better version of KJ's dunk on Hakeem. As play-by-play guy Mike Tirico deftly points out, the dunk was "nasty." If there were ever a guy to get punked like that, wouldn't it make sense for it to be Kirilenko? The guy's wife lets him sleep with [one groupie per year](#), for goodness sakes. What NBA player can focus with that on his mind?

7. Chris Webber over Mark Jackson, 1993-94 season

Tough to decipher which 'Clippers at Warriors' game this was from that season: An early Christmas gift from Webber during a December 23, 1993 game or if C-Webb was getting a head start on his 21st birthday celebration on March 1, 1994. Either way, Jackson got a face full of crotch while playing for the Clippers. It's not possible to reach a lower point in the NBA.

6. Scottie Pippen over Patrick Ewing, 1994 playoffs

After Michael Jordan's first retirement before the 1993-94 season, Pippen spent his one full year without MJ showing the league his Hall of Fame-worthy all-around game. That included showing Mr. Ewing a unique view that could make a grown man sick. (This isn't the last time you'll see a Bull throw one down on Ewing.)

5. Shawn Kemp over Alton Lister, 1992 playoffs

Ahh, Seattle in the early '90s. Nirvana helped popularize the grunge genre, Starbucks ramped up its mission for world coffee domination and Shawn Kemp was slamming on everyone as the Reign Man. This was before Kemp was known for fathering kids out of wedlock then looking like he ate them at birth. This was the Kemp who was so dynamic that the Bulls nearly dealt Pippen for him in 1994. To double your pleasure, go to the 1:26 mark for a second Reign Man slam.

4. Kobe Bryant over Ben Wallace, 1997 preseason

Remember when crossovers were the rage in the mid-'90s? Kobe pulled it off in this game just before his second pro season, then topped it off with the throw-down on the future four-time NBA Defensive Player of the Year.

3. Michael Jordan over Patrick Ewing, 1991 playoffs

As was natural given the pecking order of their relationship, MJ made Ewing look like a discombobulated loon well before Pippen did the same. It was fitting that MJ burned his greatest defensive nemesis (John Starks) and his old bodyguard on the mid-'80s Bulls (Charles Oakley) before getting turned loose on Ewing, who as a Georgetown Hoya was beaten by MJ's game-winning shot for North Carolina in the 1982 NCAA Championship.

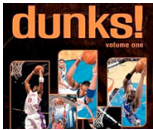
2. Dwyane Wade over Anderson Varejao, 2009

It isn't just how Wade managed to dunk the ball after temporarily losing it then regaining control at the peak of his jump (watch the slow-mo portion of the video). Varejao looked like he got shot out of a cannon as Wade went up for the "facial," as Marv Albert wisely described it during the game's broadcast. See Varejao smiling at the :16 mark as Wade is walking away? That's a smile that says, "At least he didn't teabag me like Vince did to that French dude!" Speak of the devil...

1. Vince Carter over Frederic Weis, 2000 Olympics

The mother of all in-game dunks for the rest of eternity. Frederic Weis was a legit 7'2" but that still couldn't prevent Carter from scraping his manhood across Weis' forehead. If you want to contemplate how embarrassing this was on a hypothetical scale, think of the broadcast team on this call. After all, it's a pair of French announcers mocking a fellow Frenchman and practically catcalling an American player. Even Varejao could get sympathy from the Brazilians.

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