

King James holds court in London

By JULIAN LINDEN in London
Reuters

In an Olympic sport played by giants, LeBron James towers above everyone else.

He may not be the tallest player on the floor but there is no doubt that King James holds court.

After winning his first NBA championship with the Miami Heat in June, James would have been forgiven for skipping the London Olympics and spending his summer break lazing on the beach.

He has already achieved every honor in the sport of basketball, including a gold medal with the US team at Beijing four years ago, and is rich beyond his wildest dreams but the thought of skipping the Games never entered his mind.

Committed to the Olympics, James won a bronze medal at Athens in 2004 then gold at Beijing and now London in what may be his last appearance at the Games.

"It has been a great ride (but) I don't know if I am going to be a part of the 2016 (Olympics)," said James.

"We've had ups and downs, but thankfully there have been more ups than downs."

With a star-studded team packed with NBA players, the US was one of the hottest favorites in London to win gold whether James was there or not.

It duly delivered, beating a gallant Spain 107-100 in Sunday's final, with James the standout player of the tournament in a team that had an embarrassment of talent.

By winning, James capped a golden summer where he cleaned up the four biggest team and individual honors in the sport.



LeBron James of the US dunks in the men's gold medal game against Spain at the North Greenwich Arena in London on Sunday. The US won 107-100.

In addition to winning his first NBA title against the Oklahoma City Thunder and second Olympic gold medal, he was named as the Most Valuable Player during the NBA regular season for the third time.

He also won the MVP award for the final. Only Michael Jordan, whom LeBron is constantly and unflatteringly compared with, completed the same rare grand slam, at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics when active

NBA players first went to the Games.

"It has been a great ride for me. I could have never scripted it this way," James said.

"I've had many dreams about it, winning an NBA championship and then following it up with a gold medal being part of so many great teams.

"I'm fortunate to be in this position and healthy. I'm happy that I am able to do this for our country."

For James, the lure of going

to London was simple. The kid that used to play basketball to bring some stability to his troubled upbringing, just wanted to play ball with his pals.

From the start of the tournament, it was clear James was having fun. Unlike the NBA playoffs, he was not shouldering the burden of expectation, happily switching from offence to defense and sharing the ball with his All-Star team.

When the final buzzer went, James leapt into the air, hug-

ging and high fiving his team mates and bouncing around like he was auditioning for *Dancing With the Stars* before draping himself in the American flag.

"We have an incredible team, we love when it gets tight," James said.

"That's when our will and determination shows, it was the same in 2008 we played against those guys (Spain), who are a great team and much respect to them."

Shved leads Russia to a bronze finish over Argentina

By AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in London

NBA-bound Alexey Shved scored 13 of his game-high 25 points in the fourth quarter to power Russia over Argentina 81-77 on Sunday to win the Olympic men's basketball bronze medal game.

The bronze was the first for Russia playing under their own flag in the sport since the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Shved, a 23-year-old guard who will play for the NBA Minnesota Timberwolves next season, sank a 3-pointer in the final seconds to give Russia a 79-77 edge.

Andres Nocioni missed a 3-pointer for Argentina and after a scramble for the loose ball, the Russians found Vitaly Fridzon for an uncontested fast break layup that sealed the triumph.

Argentina went home empty handed after having won Olympic gold in 2004 and beating Lithuania for the bronze in 2008.

Andrei Kirilenko, who will join Shved at Minnesota next season, scored 20 points while Fridzon had 19 for Russia.

NBA star Manu Ginobili, the top scorer at the Olympics, led Argentina with 21 points while Nocioni added 16 and Carlos Delfino had 15 in a losing cause.

Shved scored every Russian point in a 7-2 run late in the third period that produced a 71-66 lead, but Nocioni and Ginobili sank back-to-back 3-pointers to put Argentina on top 72-71 with 2:45 to play.

Shved and Delfino traded three free throws each but Argentina went back on top when Fridzon sank two free throws with 56 seconds remaining to his team ahead 76-75.

Ginobili, who had been flattened to the court by a Victor Khryapa shoulder blow only moments earlier, answered with a reverse layup, only to have Shved finish seizing command of the game with NBA style.

A Kirilenko slam dunk opened a 12-2 run that put Russia ahead 61-50 with 1:16 remaining in the third period.

But Argentina replied with a 12-1 spurt, Ginobili scoring five points in the span that pulled the South Americans even at 62-62 with 7:02 to play, setting up the dramatic finish.



Russia's Alexey Shved (right) and teammate Andrei Kirilenko celebrate victory against Argentina after their men's bronze medal match on Sunday.

ICBC 工银伦敦

Protecting the best traditions - and your best interests.

China's reputation for culture and craftsmanship is acclaimed across the globe, as is ICBC's reputation as one of the world's most trusted banks. Join our high profile international clients and let us help further your interests with integrity, expertise and meticulous attention to detail.

Call or email us to find out more:

+44 (0)20 7397 8888

Forex | Money Market | Corporate Banking | Transactional Solutions

Registered office:
81 King William Street
London
EC4N 7BG

info@icbclondon.com | www.icbclondon.com

ICBC (London) plc is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority



Terracotta warrior sculpture,
3rd century BC, Qin dynasty.

ICBC (London) plc is a wholly owned subsidiary of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Limited