

International stars set pace for wild MVP race

Associated Press

Luka Doncic had 60 points and 21 rebounds and 10 assists on Tuesday, a stat line never seen before in NBA history. Nikola Jokic had 41 points and 15 rebounds and 15 assists on Sunday, a stat line that was managed on only two

other occasions.

Two amazing games without a single dunk.

The two best playersn the NBA right now — and likely the current frontrunners in the MVP race — do not play with LeBron James' strength and force, or with Michael Jordan's acrobatic creativity, or with Wilt Chamberlain's ability to just overmatch anyone who dared to stand near his path. They do not put on the shooting and dribbling display of a Stephen Curry, or glide from one end of the floor to the other like Giannis Antetokounmpo, or make scoring look as easy as Kevin Durant does.

easy as Kevin Durant does.

Doncic and Jokic do it differently. They dominate by making the game get played at their pace. They do what they want, when they want, almost always making the smartest play. Play off them, and they shoot the midrange or the 3. Play up on them, and they'll use their bulldozing ability to create just enough space for a move or the right pass.

"I guess I was kind of lucky," Doncic said.

Being prepared to take advantage of an opportunity is how players make their own luck. That's also how 60 points and 21 rebounds and 10 assists happen – it isn't getting lucky. Nor was a 41-15-15 effort by Jokic to get a Christmas win over Phoenix.



It's hard to win the MVP award, harder still to win it twice and Jokic is going to find out how difficult it is to win it three consecutive years.

Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic, left, meets with former NBA player Vlade Divac before an NBA basketball game against the Sacramento Kings in Sacramento, California, Dec. 27, 2022.

Doc Rivers has said many times that players like Jordan or James would have more MVP's if not for voter fatigue and people simply getting tired of the same person winning every year. He's right, and Jokic will probably have to deal with some of that when the ballots get sent in next April.

But he's obviously earned serious consideration. So has Doncic, obviously. So has Philadelphia's Joel Embiid, whose monster season so far includes a 59-point, 11-rebound, eight-assist, seven-block game in November.

The numbers are just absurd, everywhere.

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
|  | |  | |
| <p>DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION DIPARTAMENTON AMINISTRASION GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY</p> | | <p>LANDMARK A USPS OFFICE Guam (Pago Bay)</p> | |
| <p>Alensian Sabision Hinirat Email: gsa@ccuamnet.gsa.gov Website: www.gsa.dga.guam.gov</p> | | <p>AGS&A E. TERRENO Guam (Pago Bay)</p> | |
| <p>STEWART R. BERN Director (General) STEWART C. GIBBS Deputy Director Deputy Director</p> | | <p>TECHNOLOGIES, Inc.</p> | |
| <p>VENDOR: Tyler</p> | <p>DESCRIPTION: Standard Software Maintenance</p> | <p>CONTRACT TERMS: One (1) Year</p> | <p>AMOUNT: \$184,443.50</p> |
| <p>Agreement (SMA) for FY2023 Computer Aided Dispatch, Law Enforcement Records Software, Data Analysis/Crime Mapping/Management Reporting, Mobile Management Server Software, Mapping Software</p> | | | |
| <p>THIS ADVERTISEMENT WAS PAID WITH LOCAL FUNDS BY: Guam Police Department Public Law 36-70</p> | | | |
| <p>Sole Source Public Law 36-70 56CASA5214</p> | | | |
| <p>Sole Source awarded are posted on the Agency's website at www.gsa.dga.guam.gov</p> | | | |

THIS ADVERTISEMENT WAS PAID WITH LOCAL

FUNDS BY:

**Guam Police Department
Public Law 36-70**

Sole Source awarded are posted on the Agency's website at

WWW.GSA.DOA.GUAM.GOV