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## LeBron James addresses his preference on playing against or with Michael Jordan

**By Scott Gleeson / USA TODAY**

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LeBron James said he felt inspired from watching “The Last Dance” documentary on Michael Jordan’s Chicago Bulls.

In discussing his respect for Jordan on his Uninterrupted YouTube channel Monday, James grew ecstatic about the idea of playing alongside Jordan as a teammate because of his facilitating style and MJ’s scoring ability.

James, often compared to Jordan in the best-of-all-time debate, later tweeted that his excitement about playing with MJ didn’t mean he preferred it over competing against him.

“I didn’t say I envisioned MJ as a teammate not an adversary,” James tweeted Monday night. “A question was asked ‘Do I think I could have been a teammate of his and compliment his game.’ I love the greats and would have loved to play with them all during their runs because I (am) a historian of the game but I also would die to compete vs every single one of them too! Don’t ever get it twisted!”

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The Jordan-LeBron debate has been reignited since "The Last Dance" began airing, with a younger generation getting exposure to Jordan's prowess in the 1990s. In public interviews, Jordan has batted down the James comparison because of the difference in eras. In James' initial comments on the Uninterrupted video, the 6-8 point forward explained how the two players' contrasting styles – with James more pass-oriented and the 6-6 Jordan more of a scorer – would've meshed well together.

"Me personally, the way I play the game – team first – I feel like my best assets work perfectly with Mike," James said. "Mike is an assassin. When it comes to playing the game of basketball, scoring the way he scored the ball, (then) my ability to pass, my ability to read the game plays and plays and plays in advance."

James grew up a Bulls fan watching Jordan in Akron, Ohio, and paid respect to Jordan in his tweet: "Nevertheless MJ Thank You for being my angel, inspiration, superhero!!"

James has won four NBA MVPs and three NBA championships. Jordan has five MVP awards and six NBA titles.

James met Jordan and played in a pickup game with him in 2001 when he was 16 years old and Jordan was preparing to make his final comeback with the Wizards, according to ESPN. After he was drafted in '03, James scrimmaged at Jordan's annual summer camp at UC Santa Barbara.