NBA's new All-Star format features US, World teams

Field Level Media

Leaning into the quality and fame of the league's international talent, the NBA unveiled a new All-Star Game format on Tuesday that will incorporate U.S. and World teams.

For the midseason exhibition on Feb. 15 at Inglewood, California, one squad of international players and two teams of U.S. players will compete in a round-robin format. Each game will last 12 minutes. The top two teams after the round robin will meet in the finale.

For the selection of five designated starting All-Stars from each NBA conference, a formula will be used that consists of 50% fan vote, 25% player vote and 25% media vote. NBA coaches will then select seven reserves from each conference, with all 24 players being chosen regardless of position.

The NBA will determine which players get assigned to which U.S. squad.

If fewer than eight World players or fewer than 16 U.S. players are among the 24 selected, commissioner Adam Silver will add additional players to a team as needed.

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Stephen Curry, right, shoots as Nikola Jokic defends during the NBA All-Star Game on Feb. 16 in San Francisco.

The 2025 NBA All-Star Game in San Francisco was widely panned for a format that included three drafted teams plus the team that had won the Rising Stars Challenge.

All-Star Games prior to that also received criticism for the lack of defense played. The Eastern Conference won the 2024 game in Indianapolis 211-186, and a team drafted by Giannis Antetokounmpo defeated a team drafted by LeBron James 184-175 in Salt Lake City the previous year.

Highlighting the NBA's international nature, the past seven regular-season MVP honors went to international players: Greece's Antetokounmpo (2018-19 and 2019-20), Serbia's Nikola Jokic (2020-21, 2021-22 and 2023-24), Cameroon-born Joel Embiid (2022-23) and Canada's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (2024-25).

The 2026 All-Star Game will be broadcast on NBC, after a 23-year run by TNT, and will happen during NBC's coverage of the Winter Olympics in Milano Cortina.

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Wednesday's games

Nuggets 130, Clippers 116: Nikola Jokic scored 25 of his season-high 55 points in the first quarter to help the visitors extend their winning streak to six games. Jokic added 12 rebounds with six assists; his 25 first-quarter points were a high for any quarter in his career.

Magic 124, Knicks 107: Franz Wagner scored 13 of his 28 points during a decisive second-quarter run by Orlando, which overcame an injury to Paolo Banchero to hand New York its first home loss of the season.

Warriors 125, Spurs 120: Stephen Curry scored 46 points, nearly half of them in a pivotal run in the third quarter, to help visiting Golden State earn a win over San Antonio in the first of two games between the teams in three days in the Alamo City. The squads will battle again Friday in an NBA Cup clash.

Thunder 121, Lakers 92: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 30 points and nine assists in just three quarters of action to lead Oklahoma City to a home win.

Celtics 131, Grizzlies 95: Payton Pritchard made five 3-pointers and scored a game-high 24 points to propel Boston past visiting Memphis.

Cavaliers 130, Heat 116: Jarrett Allen scored a game-high 30 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as short-handed Cleveland won at Miami.

Rockets 135, Wizards 112: Kevin Durant scored 23 points and Tari Eason and Reed Sheppard combined for 41 off the bench in a home win.

Suns 123, Mavericks 114: Devin Booker scored 26 points and Phoenix topped host Dallas for its fourth straight victory.

Hornets 111, Bucks 100: Miles Bridges scored 20 points and rookie Ryan Kalkbrenner made all eight of his shots from the field as Charlotte won at home to snap a three-game losing streak.

Pistons 124, Bulls 113: Paul Reed piled up 28 points, 13 rebounds, six assists and four steals as the depleted hosts won an eighth straight game, knocking off visiting Chicago.

Trail Blazers 125, Pelicans 117: Shaedon Sharpe scored a season-best 35 points and Deni Avdija had 32 in a road win.

Hawks 133, Kings 100: Jalen Johnson recorded 24 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists to help visiting Atlanta steamroll Sacramento.

Skubal wins AL Cy Young; Skenes unanimous in NL

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Detroit Tigers left-hander Tarik Skubal won his second consecutive American League Cy Young Award and Pittsburgh Pirates right-hander Paul Skenes was the unanimous choice for his first National League Cy Young on Wednesday.

Skubal is the 12th pitcher -- and fifth in the American League -- to win back-to-back honors. The last pitcher to accomplish that was the New York Mets' Jacob deGrom in 2018-19, while the most recent AL hurler was the Boston Red Sox's Pedro Martinez in 1999-2000.

A two-time All-Star, Skubal went 13-6 with an AL-leading 2.21 ERA and 6.5 WAR for pitchers. He led the majors with a 0.891 WHIP, 1.5 walks per nine innings and 7.30 ratio of strikeouts to walks. He totaled 241 strikeouts to 33 walks while pitching 195 ⅓ innings over 31 starts.

"It's an individual award, obviously, but I'm proud of our team," Skubal said on MLB Network on Wednesday night. "I'm proud of the way we competed this year. Obviously, (we) went through some adversity late in the season but came back in the playoffs and competed. Obviously, came up short, but a lot of credit for this award goes to the guys that play behind me and the guys behind the dish, too, and just our organization. I think a lot of credit needs to go to those people in moments like this."

Skubal received 26 first-place votes and four second-place votes for 198 total points in voting by the Baseball Writers Association of America.

Garrett Crochet of the Red Sox was second with four first-place votes, 26 second-place votes and 132 points. Hunter Brown of the Houston Astros was third with 24 third-place votes and 80 points. Max Fried of the New York Yankees was fourth with six third-place votes and 61 points. Bryan Woo of the Seattle Mariners was fifth with 26 total points.

An All-Star in each of his two seasons, Skenes did not get much run support in 2025, when he was 10-10 with a 1.97 ERA, 42 walks and 216 strikeouts in 187 ⅔ innings over 32 starts.

He led the majors in ERA and home runs allowed per nine innings (0.5) while tops in the NL with a 0.948 WHIP.

"It truly is a team effort, with the coaches that we had, the players," Skenes said on Wednesday night on MLB Network. "It's pitchers making each other better, our catcher-pitcher relationship, coaches, the organization putting you in good spots to succeed. I couldn't have done it by myself. I'm super grateful that I have the infrastructure around me and the people around me to succeed."

Skenes, 23, received all 30 first-place votes for 210 points. The Philadelphia Phillies' Cristopher Sanchez got all 30 second-place votes for 120 points, and the Los Angeles Dodgers' Yoshinobu Yamamoto had 16 third-place votes and 72 points for third. Logan Webb of the San Francisco Giants had 10 third-place votes and 47 points. Freddy Peralta of the Milwaukee Brewers had four third-place votes for 44 points and fifth place.

The 2024 NL Rookie of the Year, Skenes was third in the Cy Young voting that season when he went 11-3 with a 1.96 ERA, 32 walks and 170 strikeouts in 133 innings over 23 starts.

He is the fifth pitcher to collect a Cy Young Award in his first two seasons, joining Fernando Valenzuela of the Dodgers (1981), Bret Saberhagen of the Royals (1984), Dwight Gooden of the Mets (1985) and Tim Lincecum of the Giants (2008).

Pittsburgh selected Skenes first overall in the 2023 MLB Draft out of LSU.

"As I look back on my past in baseball up to this point, I got recruited to college as a catcher, kept growing and started pitching and got better on the mound," Skenes said. "Never thought I would end up here. Never thought that I would be in the major leagues, much less winning a Cy Young. It doesn't always work out how you think it's going to, but if you stay the course, you surround yourself with good people, you work hard, that's the minimum, you're going to do exactly what you're supposed to do, whatever that looks like."

Skubal won his first Cy Young Award in 2024 when he earned the pitching Triple Crown with 18 victories, a 2.39 ERA and 228 strikeouts in 192 innings over 31 starts.

His career record is 54-37 with a 3.08 ERA, 172 walks and 889 strikeouts in 766 2/3 innings over 137 regular-season games (134 starts) since making his major league debut in 2020.

He went 1-1 with a 2.37 ERA in three starts in the 2024 playoffs and 1-0 with a 1.74 ERA in three starts this year, but Detroit fell short each time. The Tigers eliminated the Cleveland Guardians in the 2025 AL wild-card series but lost to the Seattle Mariners in their divisional series in five games. In 2024, the Tigers swept the Houston Astros in the wild-card round but fell to the Guardians in five games in the divisional series.

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R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Central KY Line is soliciting sealed bids, BID NO. 25-352 RJCC KSLIP Track Rehab Project – Labor and Equipment, for Track Rehab for an upcoming project in Fayette County, Kentucky as part of Kentucky Short Line Infrastructure and Preservation (KSLIP). The invitation to bid with specifications can be accessed at https://www.rjcorman.com/contact/bidding-opportunities. The deadline to submit the bids via sealed envelope is 12/17/2025 at 4:00 PM Local time. No bids will be taken after this date and time. All bids must be mailed to: ATTN: Jessica Lewis, 1588 Leestown Rd, STE 130-313, Lexington, KY 40511. Public Opening of Bids to be held on 12/18/2025 at 10:00 AM local time, bidders are invited to attend by phone or Teams meeting. R. J. Corman reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
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