

James leads call to end gun violence at ESPY's

By BETH HARRIS
Associated Press



Photo by Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP

NBA basketball player LeBron James, of the Cleveland Cavaliers, accepts the award for best NBA player at the ESPY Awards at the Microsoft Theater on Wednesday, July 13, 2016, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES — LeBron James won five trophies, including best male athlete and best NBA player, at the ESPY Awards on Wednesday night when frivolity gave way to a James-led call to end gun violence and racial profiling.

The show honoring the year's best athletes and sports moments opened on a somber note, with James and fellow NBA stars Carmelo Anthony, Chris Paul and Dwyane Wade standing four abreast on stage addressing the recent shootings of blacks by white police officers.

"The urgency to create change is at an all-time high," Anthony said.

Paul, the nephew of a police officer, recited the names of several men who have been fatally shot. Wade urged a stop to racial profiling, a shoot-to-kill mentality and "not seeing the value of black and brown bodies."

"Enough is enough," he said.

James echoed Wade, noting, "We all feel helpless and frustrated by the violence."

James urged his fellow

pros to educate themselves and renounce violence while using their resources and time to help strengthen and rebuild their communities.

"We all to have do better," he said.

Golden State star Stephen Curry thanked the quartet for their message while accepting the night's first award for record-breaking performance. He hit 402 3-pointers during the regular season.

James won male athlete and championship performance for the third time in his career and his fifth

trophy as top NBA player. He shared the team and best moment awards with his Cavaliers teammates, who upset Golden State to deliver the first championship for Cleveland in 52 years.

In accepting best moment, James brought teammates Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love on stage, where he saluted Pro Football Hall of Famer Jim Brown for his early social activism in the hardscrabble city.

Breanna Stewart won best female athlete on her third try, beating WNBA MVP Elena Delle Donne and

two Olympians, swimmer Katie Ledecky and gymnast Simone Biles. Stewart helped UConn win a fourth straight NCAA basketball championship before going to the WNBA.

In her speech, Stewart called for equality for female athletes.

"Female athletes don't receive half the fame. I know everyone in this room loves and supports women and girls in sports and wants to be a part of that change, right?" she said. "Equality for all takes each of us making an effort. Together let's be better."

WWE star John Cena hosted the show from Microsoft Theater in downtown Los Angeles.

In one of the night's most emotional moments, Zaeveion Dobson, a 15-year-old high school football player from Knoxville, Tennessee, was honored posthumously with the Arthur Ashe Courage Award for giving his life to shield two young women from gunfire last year. His mother, Zenobia Dobson, and two brothers accepted the trophy from Curry, with last year's honoree Caitlyn Jenner joining the standing ovation.

Baseball

MLB argues against overtime pay in minors

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Major League Baseball doesn't think minor leaguers should be entitled to overtime.

Minor leaguers filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in San Francisco two years ago, alleging their pay violates federal and state minimum wage and overtime laws. The case could go to trial next year.

Two members of the House of Representatives, Kentucky Republican Brett Guthrie and Illinois Democrat Cheri Bustos, introduced legislation last month that would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to state no employer could be subject to liability under that law for work performed by minor league baseball players, who are not unionized. Six days later, Bustos announced she was withdrawing her support of the proposed legislation, which is called the Save America's Pastime Act.

"This is not a dollars-and-cents issue," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said Tuesday

during his annual meeting with the Baseball Writers' Association of America. "It is the irrationality of the application of traditional workplace overtime rules to minor league baseball players. It just makes no sense. I want to take extra BP — am I working, or am I not working? Travel time — is every moment that you're on a bus, is that your commute that you don't get paid for or is that working time? Where's the clock? Who's going to punch a clock to keep track of those hours? When you're eating in a clubhouse with a spread that the employer provided, is that working time or is that your lunch break?"

Minor league minimums are \$1,100 a month for a five-month season at Class A, \$1,500 a month at Double-A and \$2,150 at Triple-A, and players get \$25 meal money on road trips and a dinner is provided at ballparks after games. For players on 40-man major league rosters who are optioned to the minors, the minimum is \$41,400 per season.

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