

UNIVERSAL DONOR presents: NBA LITERAL TEAM-NAME TOURNAMENT

(random draw, no seeds)



* A tourney like this requires a power of two for the total number of participants, and the NBA has 30, so I just made up and added two teams that shouldn't be able to beat *anybody*: the Proctors and the Fatigue. (Rejected alternates: The Grammarians, the Yogurt, the Croup, the Neckfat.)

I know some of you will disagree with me, somehow, no matter what, so in the spirit of transparency, I tried to make this as explicit as possible. Still have a gripe? A pertinent tidbit of trivia? God help me, a correction? In the immortal words of Mike Skinner: Introduce them up your jacksie. (Special thanks to Sarah Bunting and Katie LaGreca for advice about birds and kings.)

HOW I EXECUTED THE TOURNAMENT

1. I took all the NBA team names, removed their geographical markers, and sorted them randomly.
2. I made up the two fake teams to bring the total participants up to 32.
3. I considered each matchup and thought seriously about who would win. Sometimes easy, sometimes not.

Hence:

BATTLE RULES

1. Humans can fight with whatever accessories they might logically be expected to have.
2. Animals should be pictured in their naturally occurring groups.
3. If both are living things, the one who would usually kill the other in an enclosed space wins.
4. If both are inanimate objects, the cooler, bigger, or more destructive object wins the round.
5. If one is alive and the other an object:
 - a. If it's obvious, it's obvious.
 - b. otherwise pick the heavier or cooler one and move on.
4. If either is an abstract concept, well, just look the fuck out. You'll see what I mean real soon.

NOTES BY ROUND

See the cute little numbers in circles? Notes.
ROUND 1: 1. SuperSonics are jets, right? Jets beat wolves. 2. Stupid. Why bother? It doesn't matter who wins this contest, because look who they play next. 3. The Warriors might have the coolest-sounding of the human names, but for the purposes of the tourney, Heat is not a muggy day in Atlanta. It's the very concept of heat. 4. Nuggets, indeed. Pffft. 5. Lakers is a stupid name for a team. For the purpose of the battle, I'm gonna just pretend they're called the Lakes and visualize all the lakes in Minnesota. This is just a bad draw for the Nets, who could have beaten most of the animal teams and some of the humans, but don't stand a chance against a fucking lake. Good luck fighting a lake. 6. I wasn't really sure how to call this because I couldn't picture it -- birds vs a boat? But my friend Katie said: "Hawks win because they can fly and flying beats almost everything." Aww! I swear she's not 6 years old, but you'd believe me if I said she were, right? 7. Raptors should be birds, but I just know the team is named after Velociraptors. This is Spielberg's fault. 8. At first I wasn't sure if "Pacers" was a quaint midwest nickname like "Hoosiers" or "Sooners" or "Pigfuckers." The team logo offers no clue. A pacer is a horse of some sort. But somebody told me it's Indy 500-related, so I pictured a car. And cars beat deer. This I know. 9. Tough call. I was all set to let a beast be soothed, and then this. But let's quit kidding around and give it to the flying tubes of explosive-packed metal. Eat it, Miles. 10. Dude. I don't care if it is also another word for New Yorkers, knickerbockers are buckled kneepants. Hornets win. What could lose? *Lard* would beat knee-breeches. 11. The all-metal round. Piston wins by weight.

ROUND 2: 12. Aha! Take that, note 5! What beats a lake? Sun beats lake. Sun beats 10,000 lakes! Fucking sizzle! 13. Assuming a legitimately skilled wizard and not some poser (all hat, no staff), any animal should lose. 14. Don't even. It's Rockets.

QUARTERFINALS: 15. A lesson in synecdoche (or metonymy, I can never remember which): a wizard could never defeat the very source of his power! Can a raindrop tame an ocean? Why, the very notion is frankly absurd, sir! 16. I got a little muddleheaded here and started thinking that the combined power of all the kings ever would easily trump a stupid rocket. But Sarah said something like: "this isn't WMD vs The Power of the State. A rocket blows up a King same as anybody." Word. Thanks.

SEMIFINALS: 17. Again with the synecdoche. Suns were my instinctive pick for the whole shebanger, but no.

FINALS: 18. Aaaaannnd... The winner is Heat! Sorry, Magic, but I don't even know if you exist beyond Earth. But Heat? Heat's it. Without heat, there isn't anything else. NOTHING. No need to rescrumble the teams and try again, either. Until somebody starts the Gainesville Gravity or the Tulsa Time, this league is *solved*. QED.

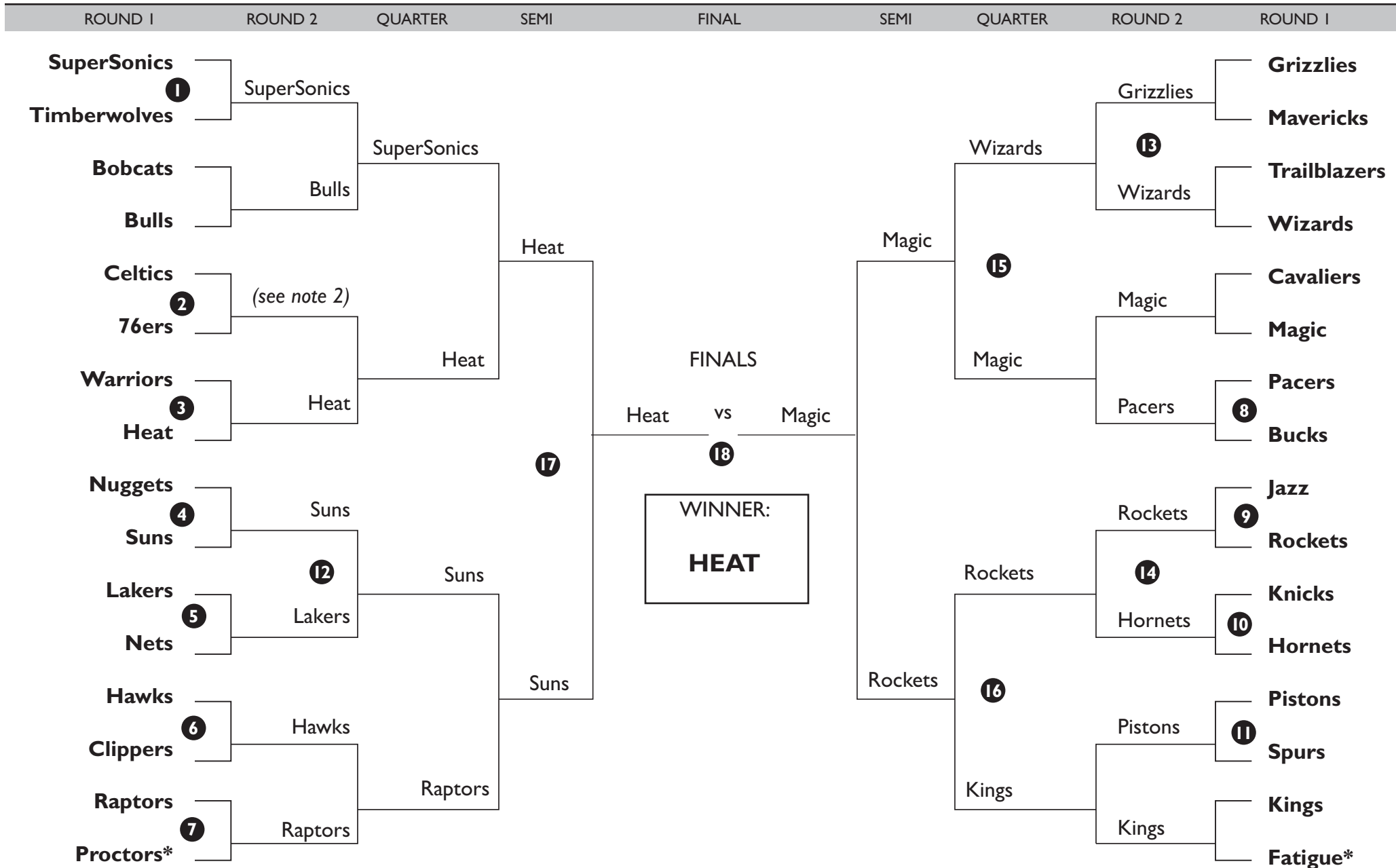
www.jeremybroomfield.com

ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE, I MADE A CHART

TEAMS BY CATEGORY	WHAT I PICTURED FOR BATTLE PURPOSES
ANIMALS	
Bobcats	one big cat
Bucks	one male deer
Bulls	one bull
Grizzlies	one bear, but big
Hawks	a bunch of birds, with talons
Hornets	a swarm of stinging insects
Raptors	should also be birds, but: a dinosaur
Timberwolves	a pack of wolves
HUMANS	
76ers	a be-wigged politician
Cavaliers	soldier on a horse
Celtics	I did not bother to picture this
Kings	a pampered inbred in ermine
Knicks	dude in buckled knee-breeches
Mavericks	Tom Cruise
Trailblazers	hippie with a stick
Warriors	big guy with sword
Wizards	Merlin
INANIMATE OBJECTS	
Clippers	a sailboat
Nets	a net
Nuggets	a small hunk of gold
Pistons	a piston
Rockets	a weapon, not a vehicle
Spurs	a spur
Suns	a giant ball of fucking flame
SuperSonics	a fighter jet
CONCEPTS	
Heat	the very concept is mind-boggling
Jazz	how can you fight music?
Magic	some great mystical power
UNCLEAR	
Lakers	I pictured lakes, because that's cool
Pacers	I pictured a first round loss

UNIVERSAL DONOR presents: NBA LITERAL TEAM-NAME TOURNAMENT

(random draw, no seeds)



* A tourney like this requires a power of two for the total number of participants, and the NBA has 30, so I just made up and added two teams that shouldn't be able to beat *anybody*: the Proctors and the Fatigue. (Rejected alternates: The Grammarians, the Yogurt, the Croup, the Neckfat.)