



JASON GRANET & JJ REDICK: Being on Top of Your Game

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Featuring:

Jason Granet, Chief Investment Officer, BNY Mellon

JJ Redick, Retired NBA Player and ESPN Analyst

Moderated by Garrett Marquis, Global Head of External Communications, BNY Mellon

GARRETT MARQUIS: Hi everyone, this is Garrett Marquis, Global Head of External Communications here at BNY Mellon. Welcome back for another episode of our BNY Mellon Perspectives podcast.

We've got a really exciting, unique episode today for any sports fans out there. Our Chief Investment Officer Jason Granet sits down with JJ Redick. As some of you may know, JJ had an illustrious career in the [National Basketball Association]. In 2006, he was selected the 11th overall player in the NBA Draft. For the next 15 years, he played for six different teams in the league, and he won multiple awards before retiring this past September.

During his time in the NBA, JJ also launched a podcast, *The Old Man and the Three*, and co-founded his own media company, ThreeFourTwo Productions. Most recently, he announced that he would be joining ESPN as an on-air sports analyst.

JJ shares some stories the arena, but he and Jason really focus on the resiliency and adaptability it takes to get to the top in any industry. This message, of course, resonates far beyond the sports world; here at BNY Mellon, resiliency is essential to our philosophy and our approach to supporting global markets. They also talk about leadership, mentorship, and role models JJ encountered as he grew up on the court.

And with JJ taking the next chapter in his career as an entrepreneur, he takes listeners through his journey, describing opportunities that have surfaced thanks to his role in the NBA, his desire to shape his own narrative, and sports industry insights for the business world.

So please enjoy this latest episode – even if you've never watched a basketball game, it really has something for everyone. As always, please listen, rate, review, and subscribe wherever you get your

podcasts. We'll see you next time.

JASON GRANET: All right, JJ, thrilled to have you on this episode of BNY Mellon Perspectives. You just made quite a big announcement after a phenomenal career in so many respects – high-school standout, Duke [University team] standout, National Player of the Year, a 15-year wonderful NBA career, sharp-shooter extraordinaire – but why don't we give the listeners a little background on where you're from, who you are. Take me back on what was in the original engine room that got you going and kind of really in love with that Spalding sphere growing up.

JJ REDICK: Sure, sure. Well, first of all, thank you for having me on, Jason. It's a pleasure to talk with you and a pleasure to be on this podcast, so thank you. I'm the middle of five kids, and we grew up in Tennessee and Southwest Virginia, and my parents homeschooled my older sisters and myself. And about the time my sisters were 11 or 12, they started getting into things. First, they were equestrian riders, so they competed in horseback riding, and so I learned how to ride a horse. Then they started playing softball, so I started playing T-ball and baseball, and then they grew to about six feet and I just wanted to do everything they wanted to do. So, my dad put up a hoop in our backyard when we moved to Roanoke, and I started playing basketball in the backyard with them. And because I was homeschooling at the time, and because I was naturally sort of a self-motivated autonomous person, I would finish my schoolwork by 11:00 or 11:30 [am], and I would just go play basketball by myself.

I'd go throw a baseball against the side of the garage by myself, and there was something so addicting to me about shooting a basketball and watching it go through the net. It was something I could do alone. It was something that for three decades, basically, I worked at trying to master, and that routine and that autonomy of shooting in my backyard really set the table for everything else I was able to do in my basketball career. But it all started in that backyard. And I like to describe this backyard; by the way, it was uneven. It was one-third dirt, one-third gravel, and one-third grass. In the right corner there was a little well sticking out of the ground, about two feet. And then there was this tree branch hanging over the left corner, so you had to put a little extra arc on it from the left side of the court. So, it wasn't your typical paved blacktop basketball upbringing. I was literally shooting on a dirt patch.

JASON GRANET: Shades of Larry Burton in Indiana I'm hearing there.

JJ REDICK: Yes, yes.

JASON GRANET: Yeah, so look: One of the things I feel that's very, very underappreciated on professional athletes is that you have so many fans, so many people watching, claiming they can do that. But really you guys are the top 1 percent of the 1 percent at whatever it is that you're doing – for you it's shooting a basketball and playing hoops – and so that sustained, tremendous excellence is something just fascinates me. And it shows up in business worlds and other places, but there's so much, just, critical difference that you have, to be among so many other people. And so, you're out in the backyard, obviously doing that for years and years and years. When did the switch flip and when did you realize that you had something that was exceptional relative to others? Did someone tell you, did you realize it in some big games in high school? When did you feel that you could now make it in a way that was unique relative to society?

JJ REDICK: Yeah, that's a great question. First of all, to your first point about us basically being that much better than the general population of basketball, I would have to agree with that. Brian Scalabrine has this great quote. There was a random person off the street who was talking trash to him, telling him he could beat him. And Brian's quote was, "I'm closer to LeBron than you are to me."

JASON GRANET: That's great.

JJ REDICK: When you get to our level, you're talking about hours and hours and millions, really, of repetitions and work at something. I probably realized that I was going to be a good basketball player in eighth grade, and a couple things happened there. Number one: The summer between seventh and eighth grade, I broke my wrist. As soon as I got my cast off, I broke my opposite wrist, which was my left wrist, and for about two and a half months, I could only shoot a basketball with one hand. And instead of so many 13-year-olds who use their left hand and it's all on the shot, I would sit two feet out, three feet out, five feet out, whatever it was, and I would shoot one-handed, over and over again, eventually on that [right] wrist – because again, I was coming off a broken wrist.

Eventually that wrist got strong enough that I could make my way out to eight feet, 10 feet, 12 feet. Then I started shooting free throws, and then I eventually made it out in those two months to where I could shoot a one-handed set-shot three-pointer. So, when I got my cast off my left wrist, I was now able to shoot with my left hand being a guide hand. That really set the foundation. I could shoot it before, but in terms of becoming a great shooter, those wrist breaks really, really helped me. The second thing that happened that year was I grew about eight or nine inches. So I was 5'6" to start seventh grade, and I was about 6'2", 6'3" to start eighth grade.

JASON GRANET: It always helps in basketball.

JJ REDICK: Yes, and it helps to be tall. I was very lucky to have tall parents. So I realized I was good. I started as an eighth grader on our [Junior Varsity] team, I was our team's leading scorer. I played at Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) that summer, there was a specific moment that I remember my AAU team went to the Nationals in July in Orlando. This is the summer before my ninth grade, and we played pretty well, and we ended up going into this consolation tournament. We had to win 10 games over the course of four or five days to win this consolation tournament.

And we played a team in New Orleans in the consolation championship. I probably had 35 or 30, 35 – I remember every stat from every game – but I had 35 points, and we won the championship. And it was one of those days where you're just making everything, and my mother came over to me after the game and she says to me, "You're going to do it." And I looked her, I said, "I'm going to do? What are you talking about?" And she said, "You're going to play at Duke." She knew from the time I was eight years old that I was a Duke fan, and my mother was very empowering to me.

She instilled a real sense of confidence and healthy ego in me, and that whole year, going through those broken wrists, getting to that point at the end of the eighth grade where you're one of the best players in the country at that point, that's what sort of gave me the confidence. And that's what made me realize, "OK, I can play [Division 1] basketball." I would not have predicted at that point in time that I'd have a 15-year NBA career, though.

JASON GRANET: Yeah – that's the type of career that is a very rare event, so I can imagine that. Look, one of the priorities in our business and our firm is resiliency. Things happen in markets, things happen with clients, and we have to be resilient, we have to adapt. So now you're finishing eighth grade, you're putting up 35 in Orlando – a little foreshadowing there to other things that might have happened in Orlando – and I know there were bumps between there and your time at Duke and otherwise. So talk to me about how you responded in that situation, and [about] what resiliency looks like for a professional, high-performing athlete. I know what it looks like on Wall Street, but what does it look like in your sphere?

JJ REDICK: I would say it's no different. There are always bumps in the road. I left an important part of the story out [from] my eighth-grade year. So, I break my wrist at the AAU nationals in summer before eighth grade. About a week after I got my cast off, I break my right wrist, and I learn how to shoot one-handed. I start on JV that whole season with two games to go. I get undercut for the third time in six months playing basketball, and I land on my right wrist and break it again. So I have three wrist-breaks in six months, all playing basketball.

And every time that I had broken my wrist, I would stay home from school the next day. I was down, I was in a lot of pain. So that day, I stayed home from school. This was February of my eighth-grade year. I stayed home from school that day, and I told my mother in the morning, I said, "I don't know that I want to do this anymore. I don't know that this is really worth it. This keeps happening." And my dad came home from work – we were not particularly well off, there was no extra discretionary spending money – but he came home from work that day, and he handed me a Nike Duke shirt.

He knew it was my dream to play at Duke, just like my mom did. He handed me that shirt. He didn't say, "You got to keep playing." He just handed me that shirt. It gave me some perspective. That was the moment where I gained a little bit of perspective on bumps in the road. And if you really want to achieve something at a high level, you have to be able to push through those obstacles.

There were moments at Duke where I wanted to quit. There were moments early on in my NBA career where I didn't think that I was going to make it in the league. I always go back to my routine and my work. And so, it doesn't matter if I'm preparing for a podcast, preparing for a public speaking event, or going to play an NBA game. I always felt like I was going to be prepared, because I had the routine and I had to work down. And so those blips, those 0-for-12 shoots – well, not maybe, 0-for-12, but those one-for-10 shooting nights, those zero-for-five from three shooting nights – I was always able to bounce back from that because I had that perspective, and I had that confidence in my routine, in the work that I was doing when the lights weren't on.

And that's something that I've tried to pass on to every young guy I've come across over my last four or five years in the NBA is just developing a routine. That's where your confidence comes from; that's where your resiliency comes from.

JASON GRANET: Hey, look, you started to touch on your leadership role in the NBA over the last couple years, and you've played with some of the brightest young stars in the game over your last few years, but let's go kind of earlier in your career at Duke. I want to talk about leaders you've played, from some of the most legendary college coach, arguably the side of John Wooden. You played for

some wonderful NBA coaches, very renowned coaches. I want to talk about leadership from a couple different angles, but let's talk about coaches.

Obviously, you get to Duke, you're playing for one of the best. Give me a little bit of his style and talk about some of the other things from some of your other NBA coaches that got you to the point where later in your career, you could be the person that teams brought in to specifically help the team, help the younger guys, et cetera.

JJ REDICK: Yeah, "Coach [Michael Krzyzewski] K." Any good thing that's ever been said about him is 100 percent true. He is as good as it gets. I still remember junior year, senior year, literally pinching myself in team meetings or pinching myself in a huddle: I can't believe I'm living this out. I can't believe I'm playing for this guy and getting to learn from this guy.

The biggest lesson I got from coach was adaptability. I saw that in my four years, I saw that, especially when I left, and the entire landscape of college basketball changed with the one-and-done system coming in. And I saw that even as a fan before I got there. Coach does not have a system, there's no system at Duke. Coach figures out who his best players are, his best talent. He develops those players. He puts confidence in those players, and everybody else gets to ride on that bus.

He talks about being on Shane Battier's bus, Jay Williams' bus, Grant Hill's bus. He's had some great players, and that relationship with Coach has been a big driving factor. So just always being able to adapt to changing environments was a huge lesson I learned from him. I used that a ton in my NBA career. Look, I played for the [Los Angeles] Clippers for four years. My role changed a little bit year to year. The locker room changes year to year. The coaching staff changes year to year.

I played seven years in Orlando. My roles were all over the place. And so, I had to constantly adapt to every team that I was on. And at the end of my career, moving around year to year when you get older, you're not signing long-term deals anymore. So being able to adapt to all those changing environments was huge for me. And look, you mentioned this earlier, but I do think adaptability, resiliency – they go hand in hand.

JASON GRANET: Look, you talk about the "changing locker rooms." This is something that's very different. JJ Redick, the four-year player at Duke, maybe doesn't happen in 2021, 2022, the way it happened for you 15, 20 years ago. In the NBA, I grew up personally a [New York] Knicks fan where I got Patrick Ewing, basically the better part of his whole professional career. Those teams stayed together. They would have rivalries against the [Chicago] Bulls and the [Miami] Heat, and the same cast of characters would come back time and time again. And now it feels very different. Two years here, two years there, for different guys.

Talk a little bit about what's behind that, this idea of a player empowerment era. Players cannot go to a *Sports Illustrated* writer and have a big profile piece put out; they go directly to their fans. Talk about the intersection of these different things and the way that the locker rooms change, which feels like more frequently than was the case then maybe when you and I grew up?

JJ REDICK: Sure, I have some theories on this actually.

JASON GRANET: Interesting.

JJ REDICK: There are a few factors here. So first of all, for any player, but especially for high-level players – not just star players, but high-level role players, starters – our contracts are shorter. There was a [Collective Bargaining Agreement] in 2005 with our union and the NBA. Prior to that, you could sign a seven-year deal with your incumbent team, or a six-year deal with another team; they shortened that to six and five. A lockout happened in 2011, I was a part of that. They shortened the deals again: five with your incumbent team, four if you're signing with somewhere else. So contracts [become] shorter; naturally you're going to have more player movement.

The second part of that is player empowerment for sure. Guys have figured out, “Let me get my check.” Especially with restricted free agency being the essential factor after a rookie contract, they'll sign the rookie extension, they'll get their money and worry about getting the place or the team that [they] want to be later on. The player-empowerment era happened in my generation, and the biggest driver of that was LeBron James. His decision to go to Miami was a watershed moment for professional athletes. It really was.

The third part of this is social media, for sure. So the fans, the media, the discourse, the narrative that occurs on social media on a 24/7 news cycle like [ESPN's] *First Take*, like any show on ESPN or Fox News, it puts more pressure on the players. So players are naturally going to align themselves with other great players, because we live in this rings culture where – unless you're a first-team NBA guy and win a championship, win a ring for your team – there's just constant animosity, constant negativity towards you on social media. And I think that's been a driving force of this player movement era.

The last part of this, and I firmly believe this, is the new generation of owners. A lot of them are private equity guys, and it's a different mindset in some of the owners that owned teams in the '90s. I mean, look, one of those owners was there for 40 years. I think I played for an owner with the Milwaukee Bucks that was there for over 25 years. And there's this new generation of owners. They want things quicker. I played in Philly, and if you look at the process and even post-process when they got the star players and they got good role players, there's been so much player turnover there looking for that one specific result.

So, I think we devalue continuity in our sport, and when we talk about leadership – when we talk about sustained success – that's tough to do when your rosters are continuing to turn over. And so, you need to be able to develop a certain level of trust, a certain level of chemistry. You need the right people in the locker room, you need the right people in the huddle, speaking truth. And that has really not happened over the last five to 10 years.

JASON GRANET: Yeah. One of the other interesting things that's happened over this period, which really encompasses your career since in the 2000s and now, is: I think players are also behaving differently in the business world. You started your own production company; you have a very successful podcast, *The Old Man and the Three*. You started, I believe, and had the only going commentary inside the [NBA] bubble. You've been very forward thinking; you're going back years past on some articles you've written, or working with Bill Simmons or others on doing interesting things in

a business mind. But you hear stories every day of athletes investing in venture capital, and tech, and this and that. ESPN famously made a documentary called *Going Broke* about all the athletes who had eight, nine figure [net worths] and found ways to spend it and lose it all.

I find this generation of athletes is much more focused on business and wealth preservation, and building brand and using their position in a very different way. As someone who's kind of pushing forward in the business world, now retired officially, I mean, that's more what you're going to be spending your time on going forward. How do you think about that? What's been the culture change among athletes to really pursue those things?

JJ REDICK: Some of it is access. It's access to information, it's access to better financial planning, it's access to better advice. It's access to deals: Iguodala and the Golden State Warriors dynasty [00:21:00] coinciding with this surge in VC tech money has been a big driving force in that. And we have a very competitive environment in the NBA. We compete about everything: What shoes do you have on? What sneakers do you have on? What car do you drive? Then it was watches, then it was wine. Now it's, what deals are you seeing? I mean, I literally have these conversations with my peers all the time. And again, I do think there was some good that came of that movie *Going Broke*. It was eye opening for a lot of players. And I also think players now make five times what some of those guys make.

I mean, Luka Dončić— if he signs his second max deal with the Mavericks, his super-max extension in a few years – will be under 30-years-old with over \$500 million in guaranteed contracts. That's unheard of. [For context,] Michael Jordan made \$90 million in his playing career from the NBA. So, the new television deal that happened in 2016, raising the salary cap, raising the amount of money that owners have to spend on players, has been a boon for this generation of players. And it's going to be, for somebody making \$500 million in their NBA career, or \$300 million, it's going to be hard to spend all of it. It just is. And I sense and have seen that guys are much more financial savvy than they were 15, 20 years ago.

JASON GRANET: Yeah. You also mentioned a lot of the new ownership in the NBA are also people that come from that space...

JJ REDICK: I've had great conversations with a few of my owners. Prior to me going to the Clippers, the team was sold to Steve Ballmer. And prior to that I had a few owners, one in Orlando, one in Milwaukee, and of course Donald Sterling. But prior to Steve Ballmer buying the Clippers, I had never really had a real conversation with any owner. And then, I go to Los Angeles, and I'm having dinner with Steve Ballmer two or three times a year, I'm sharing time with him after games, I'm getting to pick his brain. I get to spend time with two of the biggest private equity guys in the world, David Blitzler and Josh Harris. I spend a few months with Mark Cuban and pick his brain and get to talk about deal flow, talk about crypto, all this interesting stuff. So these owners now are much more – I've seen it – they're more willing to sort of have a personal relationship with you and provide some level of mentorship.

JASON GRANET: Yeah, I mean, that's definitely different. Changing ownership used to be some person who sat maybe high up in the suite. And now they're – I think Mark Cuban famously is someone who probably broke a little bit of the seal on that. So look, you mentioned a lot of owners

that are leaders. Let's talk about some of your teammates that have a reputation for being leaders.

I heard you recently tell a story about Chris Paul. He's someone that obviously had a phenomenal season last year, and your affinity for him. He's seen as a very prominent leader in the game: I remember, vividly, him carrying Team USA down the stretch in one of the Olympic games. Talk about your experience with him, because he's someone who gets a lot of PR as being a wonderful leader, and then give someone that people don't know – who isn't profiled on TV by the TV shows you mentioned earlier as being a leader, [but] who's a sneaky, really valuable leader in locker rooms that you've had time with?

JJ REDICK: What Chris [Paul] is great at, and this is why I've loved playing with him as much or more than any other team I've ever had, is the accountability aspect. So I knew every night that Chris was going to bring his best. So to distill that down, there's a couple of concepts.

Personal excellence, just bringing your best every day; I knew I was getting that from him. The other one is, and he's probably the best example I've come across in the NBA of this, is just competitive stamina. The guy is willing to give whatever he has. He wants to win so bad[ly]. He wants to be the best so bad[ly]. He's willing to give whatever he has every single day. Over and over, year after year, he rehabs when he has an injury, he attacks a rehab like he attacks the game. It's just constant. And so when we think about accountability, leader has to be accountable to self. And Chris is a shining example of that.

The guy I always think of when I get asked that question, someone who's a little under the radar – he's not as under the radar now because he just got a head coaching job – but Willie Green was one of the best leaders that I ever played with. He was so perfect in our locker room in Los Angeles. He's now the head coach of the New Orleans Pelicans. There was a transition period for me in my own leadership style in my seventh year, which is my last year in Orlando, and my eighth year, which was my first year with the Clippers.

And when I say transition in those two years, my seventh year, we were rebuilding in Orlando. We had traded Dwight Howard, and they had fired Stan Van Gundy. I was now the elder statesman in the locker room, and so I had to be a voice. I'd always been talkative, but I had to be a voice. I had to be. I was in a position of leadership, and I get to LA, and it's a different locker room. It's one of the most unique locker rooms I've been in. And what I learned that seventh year, and what I learned from Willie was that how you say something and when you say something is as important as what you say. So a great leader communicates, but a great leader also communicates at the right time, and in the right way. And that was a huge lesson for me, especially as I got later on in my career, when at times I was the de facto leader of the team.

And so, learning that in those two years was huge for me. And I learned it from Willie, and he's to me one of the best leaders I've ever seen in the NBA, but a guy who doesn't get a ton of credit, because he was a role player, but he had a long career. He was a role player, but he's a great leader.

JASON GRANET: Oh, that's really cool. And he's got one of the best young talents in the league. So hopefully he can, a fellow Duke, a fellow "Dukey," as they say.

JJ REDICK: Yes.

JASON GRANET: All right. So I actually want to spend one last minute on your production company and your business, and what you're doing. I think you've done some unbelievably cool stuff with so many different people. I recently liked your conversation with Travis Kelce. It's nice to hear a sharp shooter talking to a barreling tight end; quite an interest duo. But what are the types of messages? What are the things you're trying to do with that? That's obviously a big platform. You have a lot of access, which is something that we've talked a little bit about here. What are some of the things you're trying to achieve with that platform as you go into the next phase for you?

JJ REDICK: I originally started podcasting about five and a half years ago in February of 2016. Part of the reason I was doing that was that I wanted to sort of control the narrative. And when you have a platform – and at the time it was with *Yahoo!* – you have a platform to speak every week, to react in real time to what's happening in the NBA. It allowed me to control a little bit of my own narrative, a little bit of the Clippers narrative, a little bit of the narrative surrounding professional athletes.

The other driving force at the time was intellectual curiosity. And so, I knew when I started a podcast five and a half years ago that I wasn't just going to talk about basketball; I wasn't just going to talk about the NBA. So some of the cool things that we've done is we've had conversations with people like Stacey Abrams, David Solomon, Bob Iger. I get to speak to other athletes like Travis Kelce and Collin Morikawa.

Sometimes you find these commonalities, these really cool commonalities, about team building and about leadership. We did an entire leadership series last year with a number of individuals, including Bob [Iger], also David Rubenstein, LaToya Cantrell, the Mayor of New Orleans, Bryan Stevenson from the Equal Justice Initiative. I learned as much in these conversations as any listener would learn. These are people that fascinate me, and so getting the chance to talk to a number of people that I admire and have looked up to has been really rewarding. And what has transpired over the last five and a half years, which I didn't initially set out to do, but I all of a sudden built a skillset that I didn't even know I had and didn't even know that I could develop.

And so that's been a really fun thing for me: becoming an interviewer. I was naturally introverted as a kid, as a teenager when I was at Duke, when I first got to the NBA. Partially because I married an extroverted person in my wife, but also because of this podcast, I've developed a whole new skillset that I wasn't even aware that I had.

JASON GRANET: Very cool. And speaking of your wife, how are some of the experiences, locker room, all these access to leaders and other things you had, how does that make you a better parent? How does that make you better in the home? Look, you're on the road a ton, by definition. I [also] used to travel upwards of 80 business days a year. You feel somewhat stress when you come home; maybe you have a bad game, or you have the joy of a good game, but you come home at 1:00 am and no one's awake for them to share in those moments with you. Talk a little bit about how this all translates at home.

We talk a lot in our profession about work–life balance, and God knows what that looks like for a

professional athlete who keeps the schedule you have in the hours. What did that mean for you when you were playing, especially in the last few years, you were in a couple different cities and these things? Talk a little bit about how that translated to make you a better person at home.

JJ REDICK: Well, one of the best leaders that I've ever been around, and certainly the best man that I've ever known, is my father. He always took on the role of the leader in our household. And so when I started having children – my wife is absolutely a leader as well – I knew that I had to be a leader of my household, and there's certain responsibilities that come with that. Of course, one of the great lessons I learned from my father is sacrifice. And he was always present, and yet somehow always working. He was doing everything he could to provide for our family, but when he was home, he was there. And I try to do that with my own children. Now, when we talk about sacrifice, being away from your family for days, weeks at a time – in my case, in the last season of my career, eight months I was away from them – that's a little bit extreme.

But even in the summer off-season, my kids are not in school, [but] as a player, I was still in the gym three or four hours a day, and it was time away from them. So that was a sacrifice on my own part. I'll butcher the quote, but there's a great quote about selfishness, and selfishness can be a good thing when selfishness is to provide for the people that you love the most. And I had to do that at times, because there was a lot of times I didn't want to be in a hotel room in Cleveland in February, and I wanted to be home with my children in dropping them off at school. But I knew in the long term that selfishness and that sort of sacrifice was what was necessary.

I go back to a very simple parenting philosophy. It's like, what do you want? What do you want out of your kids? I want two very simple things. And through how I live my life, hopefully my kids will learn these two simple things. I want them to feel loved, and I want them to love other people. And by other people, I mean everybody. And if they do that, I've succeeded as a parent.

JASON GRANET: That's awesome. All right, JJ, we'll finish up. I'd be remiss not to ask you a few basketball questions as well. Once again, congratulations on a wonderful career. Selfishly, I would have loved having you on the perimeter on some of those great Knicks teams that could have used a guy like you knocking down some three-[pointer]s. What arena did you play in that was your favorite? Just the adrenaline was a little bit better than the other arenas.

JJ REDICK: Sure. Look, Cameron Indoor Stadium will always have a special place. I had so many great memories there. There's not a more intense crowd in basketball than the "Cameron crazies," 100 percent. However, however, my favorite arena to play in is Madison Square Garden. The energy's different. The feeling is different. My very first time playing in Madison Square Garden, I was 17 years old in the McDonald's All-American Game. Carmelo Anthony was in that game, there were a bunch of great players in that game. And I played well, and my team won, and I got Most Valuable Player. And from the first time I've been in the building I'm like, "It's electric, it's buzzing." And ever since then, whether it was playing there in college when I was at Duke or even early on in my career as a rotational player getting 10, 12 minutes a game, it's just always been to me the most special place I played.

JASON GRANET: And I love being there for a big game, I agree. And it was nice to see those [big

games] again, it was nice to see those again this spring.

What player, the night before the game and you saw you were matching up against them the next day, did you just go, "Oh man, he owns me. There's nothing I can do." What player just when you woke up on game were just like, "Oh no, not him again."

JJ REDICK: You know, I never felt like anybody owned me, because I always felt they had to chase me around too. So Kobe was the most unstoppable player offensively that I had to guard. And it didn't matter if it was me or any other player: Kobe had such a deep bag of moves. His arsenal was so much different than everyone else's. A lot of guarding Kobe is, he's either going to make it or miss it; there's really nothing I can do to stop him.

But the guy that I always was, not fearful, but the guy that I respected and knew I had to bring my A-game against was Dwyane Wade. "D. Wade" was, to me, the hardest player that I had to guard my career. He did so many things well: his athleticism, his strength, his agility, his intelligence. There was a study a few years ago about D. Wade's cutting – he's probably the most elite cutter that I ever played against. And so, he would be the guy that probably gave me the biggest headache the night before a game, thinking about having to match up with him.

JASON GRANET: And on the other end of the spectrum, when you saw someone on the schedule, did you just smile? Because you're like, I always make it in those games. Was there a team or a player that you always had a smile on when you saw that they were the next game on the schedule?

JJ REDICK: Yeah. All my former teams.

JASON GRANET: Very funny. Now, anyone who's listened to you recently knows you like to put a little white sphere on a little plastic tee and hit it as far and straight as you can. One golf course that you've not played yet is on your, I need to get there list now that you're in the retired world.

JJ REDICK: So, I'm going to Pasatiempo, Pebble Beach, Cypress Point, which is Baton, Pine Valley. Those are sort of the number one, number two courses in the country, and Spyglass Hill. So I'll knock off a couple bucket list items...

JASON GRANET: That's a few in one week.

JJ REDICK: Yes. The course that I want to play the most is a called Sand Hills, which is in Mullen, Nebraska. It's in the middle of nowhere in Nebraska. It's generally [00:39:00] considered a top 10 course in the United States. It's a Coore & Crenshaw design. They built it sometime in the mid-1990s, I believe. And they didn't really build the course; they discovered 18 holes on this barren sand hill deposit over millennia. The *Golf Digest* has this video of every hole at Pebble Beach, every hole at Cypress, and they have one of every hole at Sand Hills, and I've watched that video 20 times. And that's the course for me that I just cannot wait to play someday.

JASON GRANET: All right. Well, I hope you get out there with some of your time. And then, lastly, I'm not going to ask you to pick, because I'm sure you have a lot of friends – but name a couple players

that are poised for the world to notice in a big way, that are kind of going to be some of the next generation guys that you think are going to have a little breakout here in '21, '22.

JJ REDICK: Yeah. I mean, I would say Tyrese Haliburton from the Sacramento Kings, he was third in the Rookie of the Year voting. You could argue he maybe should have been a little bit higher than that, but I think he's going to have a great second season. I know how hard he works, and I know how smart he is and the skill and the mind with him are going to continue to develop. He's going to be an all-star in this league. I think he's going to have a big jump in his second year.

And then I got to give some love to Zion [Williamson]. Assuming he's healthy. I think Zion's going to go to an All-NBA level this year, and the Pelicans have a real chance to make the playoffs. And if that's the case, I think he'll be an All-NBA player this year.

JASON GRANET: JJ Redick: 11th pick in the 2006 draft; National Player of the Year at Duke; sharp-shooter extraordinaire. Thank you very much for joining us on BNY Mellon Perspectives. All the congratulations to you on a wonderful 15-year career, including 13 consecutive playoff appearances. And enjoy the time with your family, enjoy the time strolling up and down the hills out on the West Coast. And we greatly appreciate you joining us here today.

JJ REDICK: Thank you again, Jason. It's been a lot of fun. Thank you, I appreciate it.

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