



Name in English: Jeremy Shu-How Lin
Name in Chinese: 林书豪 [林書豪]
Name in Pinyin: Lín Shūháo
Gender: Male
Birth Year: 1988
Birth Place: Los Angeles, California
Current location: Palo Alto, California
Philanthropy: Yes

Profession (s): National Basketball Association Player, Community Philanthropist

Education: Artium Baccalaureus, Economics, Harvard University, 2010

Awards: 2012, NBA Rising Star, National Basketball Association; 2011, ABA Club Championship MVP, Asian Basketball Association; 2010, All-Ivy League First Team, Ivy League Coaches; 2006, first-team All-State and Northern California Division II Player of the Year, California Interscholastic Federation; 2004, Vision New America Scholarship Award, Vision New America

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Contribution(s): Jeremy Lin is the only Chinese/Taiwanese American to have played in the National Basketball Association and is among the select few Asian Americans to ever play in the NBA. He has stood out all throughout his basketball career. As a Sports Illustrated article pointed out in 2010 in an article about Lin and the Harvard basketball program, "According to the most recent NCAA Race and Ethnicity Report (released in 2009), there are only 18 Asian-American men's basketball players in Division I (0.4%). By contrast, there are 23 students at Harvard with the last name of Lin."

Gie-Ming Lin and Shirley Lin, his parents, are immigrants from Taiwan. Gie-Ming Lin's family had originally immigrated to the island from Fujian Province in 1707. His father, Lin Xinken, learned several languages and worked as a translator in Indonesia, but died in Taiwan when Gie-Ming was just 5 years old.

Life was a struggle for Gie-Ming Lin's mother and four siblings as they survived on his father's savings. Gie-Ming managed to enter the prestigious National Taiwan University

to study electrical engineering. It was while he was there that Professor Ping Tcheng, teaching at Old Dominion University in Virginia, wrote to his former university in Taiwan asking them for an engineering research assistant. Gei-Ming was selected for the position and arrived in the United States in 1977 and began studying electrical and mechanical engineering and assisting Professor Tcheng with his research for NASA.

While at Old Dominion, Gei-Ming met a fellow Taiwanese student, Wu Xinxin, who changed her name to Shirley Wu after arriving in the United States to study computer science. After graduation, the couple went to Indiana to pursue post-graduate studies (post-graduate and doctoral the same thing) at Purdue University. Through the 1980s, the couple led a nomadic existence, moving from Indiana to Florida and from Northern to Southern California, wherever jobs took them, Gei-Min as an electronics engineer and Shirley as an engineer working mostly with airport ticket dispensers. They eventually settled in Palo Alto, California in 1993 with their family of three sons.

Jeremy Lin was inspired to play basketball by the exploits of Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls in the 1990s, his two competitive brothers, visits to the local YMCA that his father took him to, as well as the NBA games that his father videotaped. But it was his mother who really supported Jeremy throughout all of his athletic endeavors. Palo Alto had no elite basketball league for children like Jeremy, who were finishing elementary school until Shirley and other concerned parents formed a local National Junior Basketball program. Shirley would be his cheering section in all his games sitting among all the other parents while Gei-Ming would videotape the action.

Shirley's support for her son's basketball efforts earned criticism from other Chinese parents in the community, as Jeremy Lin later said, "Growing up, some of my mom's friends would tell her that she was wasting everyone's time by letting me play so much basketball. And so she would get criticized, but she let me play because she saw that basketball made me happy."

Jeremy was such a skilled player that, although only 5'3" as a freshman, he played on the varsity basketball team at Palo Alto High School. In 2006, when he was a 6'2" senior, the team won 32 games, losing only one, and beat nationally ranked Mater Dei in a 51-47 game for a California state championship title. Jeremy earned first-team All-State and Northern California Division II Player of the Year honors,

Despite his outstanding performance as a high school basketball player and with a 4.2 grade average, Lin failed to find any basketball scholarships or academic offers. He dreamed of going to UCLA or Stanford (the family home in Palo Alto being practically across the street from the Stanford campus), with nationally known basketball programs. His only half-hearted offer though was a chance to be a walk-on at UCLA. Harvard University made it a priority to recruit him after an assistant coach saw his aggressiveness in a particularly competitive game. They feared Stanford would gain an edge by offering a scholarship, but Stanford never did. "It's funny because once I got into Harvard, the same moms that were criticizing her were asking her questions about which sports their kids could play to go to Harvard. It was a funny reversal for me to see

them support me in basketball, even though not many other Asian parents would have done the same.”

Jeremy compiled an outstanding record on the Harvard basketball team, not noted for its athletic programs for many decades, but suddenly a contender for NCAA basketball titles. He became the first player in the history of the Ivy League to record 1,450 points in his senior year (2009-2010). He also didn't neglect his academic studies, graduating from Harvard in 2010 with a degree in economics and a 3.1 GPA. However as Sports Illustrated pointed out in 2010: Jeremy Lin "...encounters racism at virtually every game on the road, whether it's fans yelling 'Chinese' gibberish (Lin is not fluent in Mandarin, for the record) or opponents using the most vile epithets that can be directed at Asians." At first the racial abuse visibly affected Lin, but he would shake it off. In a 2013 interview with MTV, he said, "...I just didn't care anymore about the racist stuff. I didn't pay attention to it at all... But I feel that, for me at this point in my life, I don't really get caught up in that stuff anymore. It's just whatever."

No team selected Jeremy Lin in the 2010 NBA Draft. In 2013, the NBA Commissioner, David Stern, was asked if there was ever discrimination against Jeremy because he was Asian American. He replied, "I think in the rawest sense the answer to that is yes." The Dallas Mavericks gave him a chance to play in the NBA Summer League and he performed well enough to receive offers from four teams. He chose the lowest offer, because his local team, the Golden State Warriors, wanted him. They had an eye towards gaining more of the San Francisco Bay Area Asian fan base. Jeremy received little playing time and was assigned three times to the Warriors D League affiliate, the Reno Bighorns. He was viewed as a player with much to learn who could possibly serve as a backup to name players on the team. In 2011, he briefly played for the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) club, Dongguan Leopards, in Guangzhou, China before being cut by the Warriors on the first day of training camp in December 2011 without having a chance to show off his improved skills. He was also cut by the Houston Rockets without having a chance to play.

By the end of December 2011, after being passed over by every other NBA team, Jeremy was picked up by the New York Knicks. The Knicks were not competitive at all that season, having lost their most outstanding players to injuries. They hardly played Jeremy and even considered cutting him in favor of signing another D League player. Jeremy was so unsure about his prospects of staying in New York or remaining in professional basketball that he slept on his brother's couch in his Manhattan apartment and on a teammate's couch rather than rent an apartment.

On February 4, 2012, Coach Mike D'Antoni started Jeremy Lin in a game against the New Jersey Nets. Jeremy's 23 points and seven assists inspired the Knicks to victory and was the start of a seven-game winning streak that brought the Knicks back over a .500 winning percentage. On February 10, Jeremy scored a new career-high 38 points and had seven assists, leading the Knicks in their 92–85 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers. He outscored the Lakers' Kobe Bryant, who had 34 points. On February 11, Lin scored 20 points and had eight assists in a narrow 100–98 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves. Lin was named the Eastern Conference Player of the Week after

averaging 27.3 points, 8.3 assists and 2.0 steals in four undefeated starts with the Knicks.

On February 14, with less than a second remaining, Lin scored a game-winning three-pointer in a Knicks 90-87 win against the Toronto Raptors. Members of the Los Angeles Lakers watching on TV before their own game against the Atlanta Hawks, broke into cheers. Veteran player Metta World Peace, (formerly Ron Artest) even running out of the locker room towards reporters shouting, "Linsanity! Linsanity!" and waving his hands above his head. Jeremy became the first NBA player to score at least 20 points and have seven assists in each of his first five starts. He scored 89, 109, and 136 points in his first three, four, and five career starts, the most by any player since the merger between the American Basketball Association (ABA) and the NBA in 1976-77. Jeremy played for 26 games before being sidelined with a knee injury and ended the season as a restricted free agent. The sudden turnaround in the Knicks' fortunes and the team's location in the media capital of the world, New York City, made Jeremy Lin an NBA cult phenomenon and spread "Linsanity" around the world.

In 2012, the Houston Rockets made a three-year contract offer that the Knicks were unwilling to match, so Jeremy moved to Houston, ironically to the same team that had cut him a year before.

In interviews, Jeremy Lin has made it clear that while he works in Houston, he still considers Palo Alto his home because his parents, friends, and the restaurants he loves are all there. Modestly, he credits his success as an NBA player to God, his community, and his family.

Philanthropy:

The Jeremy Lin Foundation was founded in 2012 to help impoverished and disadvantaged youths. As his foundation website explains it, Lin wanted to support kids and organizations that found themselves in the same situation he'd been in, "Sitting on the bench as opportunities pass, being cut from the team or not even being considered to play in the first place."

External Links:

http://www.nba.com/playerfile/jeremy_lin/

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/26/sports/basketball/tight-knit-family-shares-lins-achievement.html?_r=0&pagewanted=all

<http://www.sfgate.com/preps/article/BOYS-PLAYER-OF-THE-YEAR-Jeremy-Lin-A-knack-for-2538272.php>

http://www.gocrimson.com/sports/mbkb/2009-10/bios/Jeremy_Lin_Bio

<http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault/article/magazine/MAG1165302/index.htm>

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18560_162-57578300/linsanity-jeremy-lins-rise-to-stardom/

http://espn.go.com/los-angeles/nba/story/_/id/7579495/when-los-angeles-lakers-let-fun-shows

<http://www.mtv.com/news/articles/1703807/jeremy-lin-linsanity-documentary.jhtml>

<http://www.chron.com/about/houston-gives/article/Lin-foundation-aims-to-net-positive-change-for-4290357.php>

<http://www.jeremylinfoundation.org/>