NBA DRESS CODE: A DOUBLE STANDARD?

Written by Jeffrey L. Boney, Associate Editor
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After looking at some of the interesting choices of attire that I have seen many National Basketball Association (NBA) athletes sporting since the implementation of the mandatory dress code, I can't help but wonder if the decision to implement such a dress code policy was race and culture driven after all.

I remember October 17, 2005 like it was yesterday, when NBA commissioner David Stern announced that all NBA players were going to be subjected to a mandatory dress code policy. This was a monumental announcement, primarily because the NBA became the first major professional sports league to implement such a rule. The dress code went into effect at the start of the 2005–06 NBA season.

If you check out the NBA official website, you will see that the General Policy states that NBA players are to wear "Business Casual" attire whenever they are engaged in team or league business. Commissioner Stern stated that all players must dress in business or conservative attire when they arrive at and depart from a scheduled game.

NBA players must also adhere to the policy while sitting on the bench while injured, and when conducting official NBA business such as press conferences, interviews, charity events, etc. Players who are caught violating the dress code are fined and possibly suspended after repeat offenses.

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