

THE LIST

\$0.25B BARGAIN

Dirk Nowitzki is not only an all-time great, his salary has also been an incredible value.

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29,797
POINTS 7th all-time

10,681
REBOUNDS
33rd all-time

21.8
CAREER PPG

87.9%
FREE THROW %

38.1%
3-POINT %

- ▶ 13-time All-Star
- ▶ '06-07 NBA MVP
- ▶ '10-11 NBA champ /Finals MVP

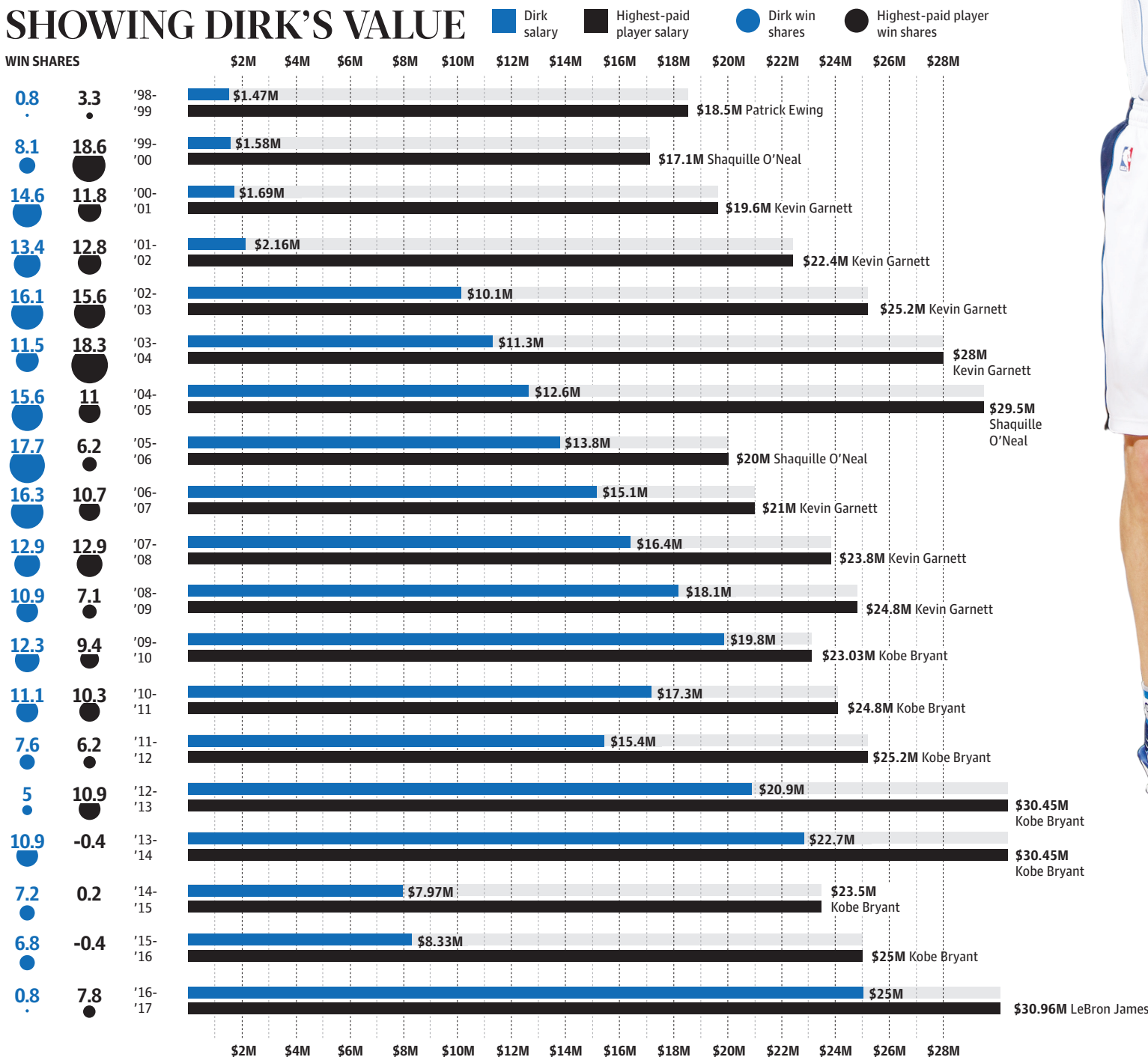
AS OF FEB. 5

Dirk Nowitzki has made nearly \$242 million – or about a quarter of \$1 billion – in his 19-year career for the Dallas Mavericks. While that’s a lot of money for playing basketball, he has actually been underpaid relative to his performance. Nowitzki is one of the all-time greats. How great? There’s a statistic that quantifies NBA players’ overall performance called “win shares.” For example, in Nowitzki’s 2006-07 season when he won MVP, he had 17.7 win shares. That means if you took Nowitzki off the Mavericks that season, the team would win 17.7 less games.

He has never been the highest-paid player in the NBA, but during his career, he’s had more win shares in a season than the highest-paid player in the league 13 times. He has taken a smaller salary in the past to help the team with the salary cap, but this year Nowitzki is making a career-high \$25 million. The negotiations between Nowitzki and Mavericks owner Mark Cuban weren’t typical. Nowitzki asked for a number, but the team had more money to play with so they gave him more than he asked for.



SHOWING DIRK'S VALUE



SOURCE: Spotrac and Basketball Reference

NBA PHOTOS/GETTY IMAGES