



JORDAN VS BIRD

THE
MEAN
MACHINES
ARCHIVE

So, you like playing basketball do you? Well, Jordan Vs Bird is a digital representation of one-on-one - a sort of cut-down version of Basketball where only two players participate attempting to score more baskets than the opposing player.

In this case, only two different players are available, the eponymous Jordan and Bird. Each specialises in different types of basketball plays, be they slam dunks or three-point baskets (that's where they score from outside of the basket area). It's up to you to choose your basketball warrior and go into battle, outwitting and outfoxing the opposition by capitalising on your own strengths and your opponent's weaknesses.

Jordan Vs Bird also gives you the opportunity to develop your basketball skills in a series of practise rounds before your face up to your sporting nemesis in a one-on-one basketball duel!

THREE-POINT CONTEST ACTION



Another of the practise rounds in the game is a third person perspective effort that sees your player attempting to score baskets from outside of the basket area (a three-point shot, as it's known). The A button collects the ball, the B button springs you into the air, while a stab on the C button releases the ball and sends it off to the basket. You get five balls to throw before you move off to another part of the court to attempt this manoeuvre again. You receive your total score at the end, along with a report from the sometimes sarcastic commentators.



SLAM DUNK SHENANIGANS

One of the practise rounds in Jordan Vs Bird is the Slam Dunk stage. This is viewed from the side and sees your player running straight at the basket. It's your job to control his actions using the A, B, and C buttons on your joystick. You choose the slam dunk manoeuvres you want to attempt at the start of the round, and it's your job to carry them out. Your efforts are then marked by a panel of distinguished judges.



▲ Bird lines up for a three-point shot, but it's a very tricky shot. Can he pull it off?



▲ Two shots depicting slam-dunk action. The picture to the right shows the practise round.

▼ Some lively banter from the commentators.



And what a matchup it is! Bird, two extremely talented players with two very different styles of play. It'll be Larry Bird's awesome outside shooting versus the tremendous inside game of Michael Jordan...

RAIN



COMMENT

This is actually a conversion of a crappy, very limited and boring eight year old C64 computer game called One-on-One Basketball. And even though EA

JULIAN

have added a few extra elements and attempted to beef it up, at the end of the day it's still the same old crappy, very limited and boring game. The sound is pretty good, but the animation on the players is appalling (both players run around as though they've got 15 pounds of cack in their trousers) and the gameplay is virtually devoid of excitement - even with two players - due to the frustratingly hopeless control method. The slam dunk competition is laughably easy and really there's little else to keep you playing. If you're a basketball fan either go for Supreme Court Basketball or wait for the forthcoming Bulls Vs Lakers. Both are infinitely better than this tosh.



▲ Some ace slam-dunking thrills here as Jordan tucks the balls away.



◀ Some sad scoring for that particular effort. It looks like Jordan is going to need a lot more practise!

ONE-ON-ONE SKYLARKING

This is the main part of the game. Here, you are thrust head-first into a timed session which sees you trying to score more baskets than your pal. All sorts of dummies and throws are available for use... if you can master them, of course!



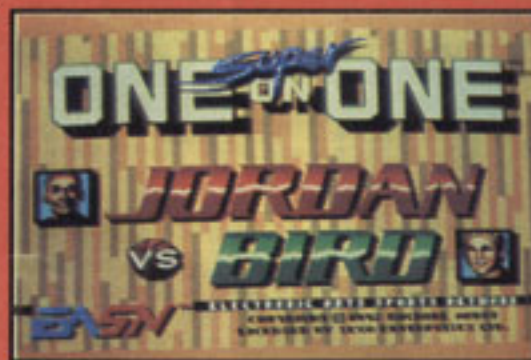
COMMENT



RICH

I thought Electronic Arts could do no wrong and was really looking forward to Jordan Vs Bird. Unfortunately, something has gone drastically wrong. The main part of the game, the one-on-one section is completely devoid of excitement and boasts severely deformed characters with laughably disabled animation. Also, actually scoring a basket seems to be more of a matter of luck than real skill - especially the three-pointers. The Slam Dunk Event is more of a non-event. Running up to the basket and performing manoeuvres is incredibly easy and involves little use of skill. The same can be said for the graphically pleasing Three Point Contest. I scored full marks from all positions on my second attempt! Considering that EA are responsible for the likes of the amazing John Madden '92 and EA Hockey, frankly I'm surprised that they released this sub-standard piece of software. Hopefully, the forthcoming Bull Vs Lakers will see a return to the usual high standard we expect from Electronic Arts.

REVIEW



BY: EA

PRICE: £34.99

RELEASE DATE: OUT NOW

GAME DIFFICULTY: EASY

LIVES: N/A

CONTINUES: N/A

SKILL LEVELS: 5

RESPONSIVENESS: OKAY



PRESENTATION 89%

Excellent. Many interesting options to tweak and a great instant replay option.

GRAPHICS 69%

These range from being superb on the three-point screen, to being rather sad on the main one-on-one section.

SOUND 80%

Some good effects and great music courtesy of Rob Hubbard.

PLAYABILITY 54%

All three sections are either completely devoid of thrills or are laughably simple to complete.

LASTABILITY 38%

The lack of variety or longevity on each of the sections make this grow dull extremely quickly.

OVERALL 40%

A substandard sports simulation that won't even appeal to basketball fans. Check out Supreme Court Basketball or wait for Bulls Vs Lakers.