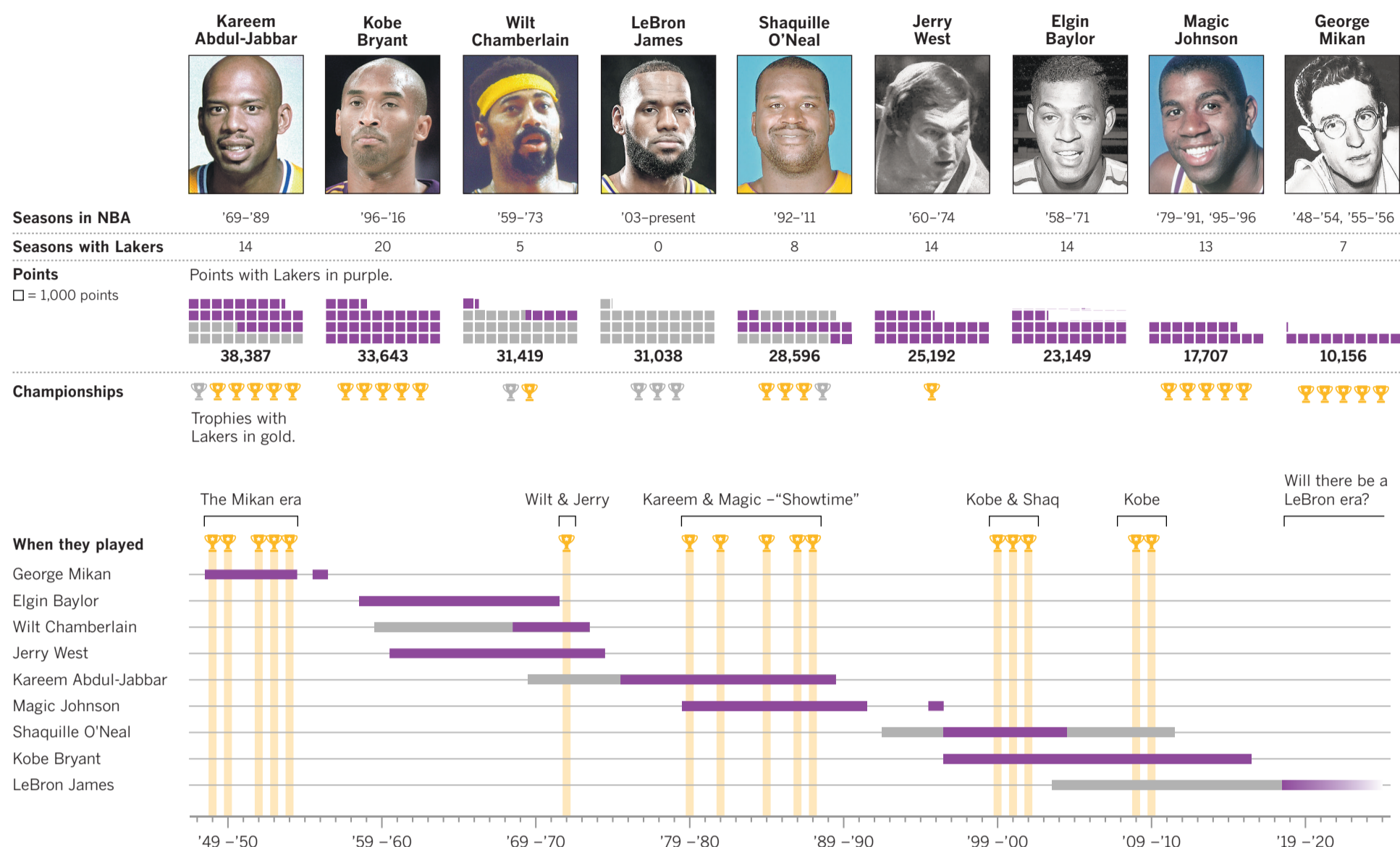


# NBA PREVIEW: LAKERS

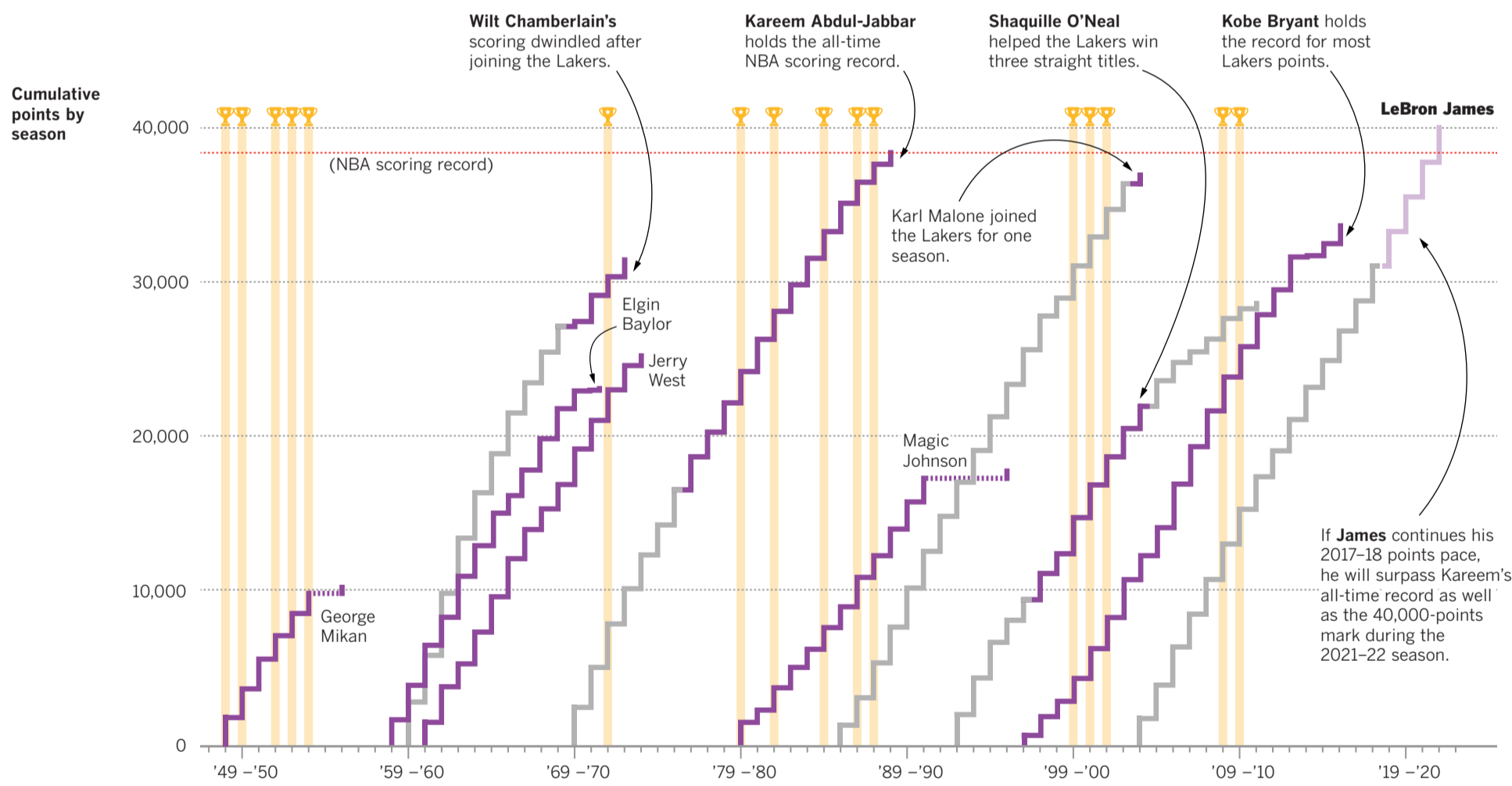
# A PLACE IN HISTORY

**LeBRON JAMES** signed a four-year contract to play for the Lakers. He joins a storied franchise that has won 16 championships since its founding in 1947. James is undoubtedly one of the NBA's great scorers, seventh in all-time NBA scoring, but can he break Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's record? We compare him with some of the greatest scorers to have worn a Lakers uniform. —JULIAN H. LANGE AND ELLIS SIMANI



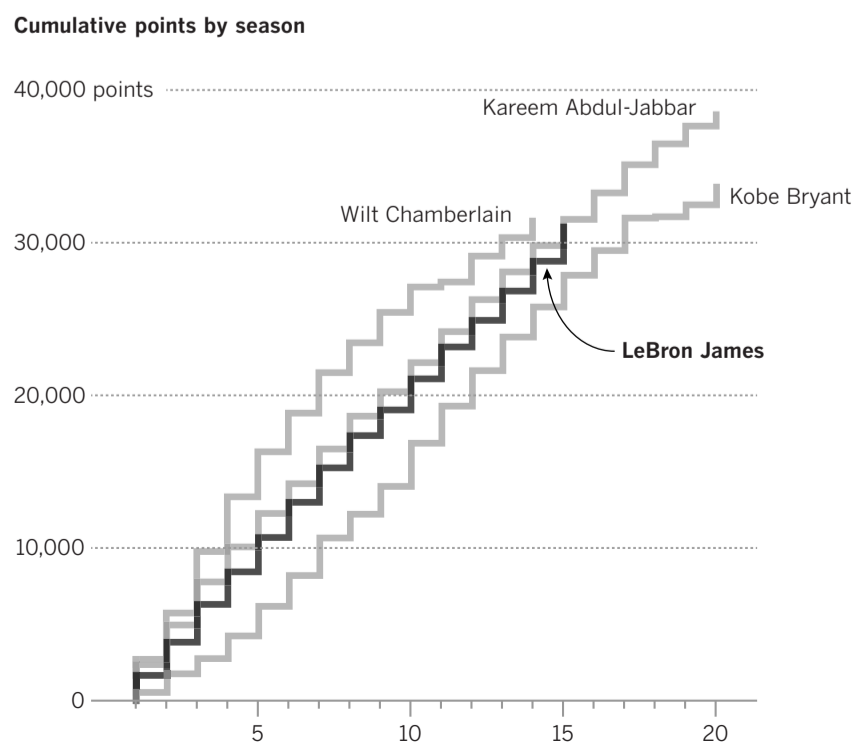
## THEY DID IT DIFFERENTLY

Not only do the total points scored by each of the nine players differ vastly, the pace at which they scored over the arcs of their careers differed. In this cumulative plot, a steeper trajectory corresponds to a faster scoring pace. James is on a similar scoring pace as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. In contrast, Wilt Chamberlain was on a faster scoring trajectory early, but his scoring pace slowed later in his career when he played for the Lakers. Kobe Bryant spent his entire career with the Lakers and holds the record for most Lakers points. George Mikan and Magic Johnson each came out of retirement for one season.



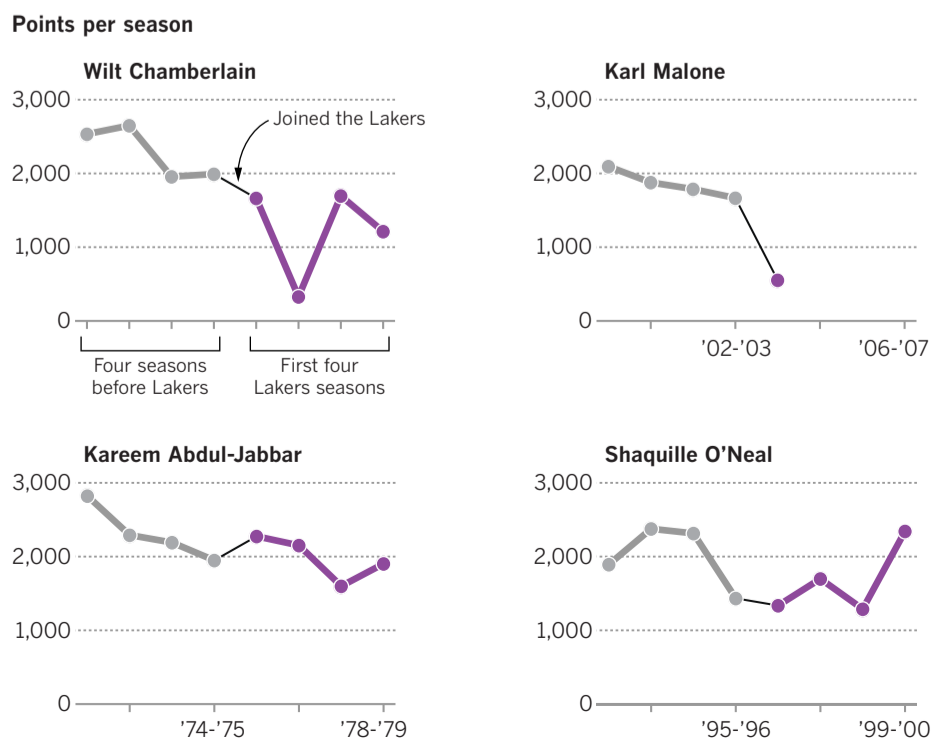
## CHASING KAREEM

The trajectory of LeBron James' scoring is similar to that of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's. Much of the difference was in his first five seasons. Since then, James has been closing the scoring gap. Comparatively, Wilt Chamberlain was a more prolific scorer for his first 10 seasons. Kobe Bryant scored at a slower pace.



## CAN LeBRON KEEP IT UP?

Among the NBA greats who have played for the Lakers, four joined the team after having played elsewhere. Whereas Wilt Chamberlain's and Karl Malone's scoring declined dramatically after joining the Lakers, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's and Shaquille O'Neal's did not. How will LeBron James fare after joining the Lakers?



Sources: Basketball Reference, The Noun Project