

REVIEW

SB halftime show a hip-hop triumph

Melissa Ruggieri
USA TODAY

It wasn't a clash of the hip-hop titans, but a formidable alliance storming the Super Bowl 56 halftime stage.

From Mary J. Blige's confirmation as one of music's undisputed queens ("Family Affair") to Eminem's loquacious rumblyngs ("Lose Yourself"), rap arrived at Inglewood's SoFi Stadium in potent fashion Sunday night.

The rest of this all-star cast — California natives Snoop Dogg, Kendrick Lamar and the emperor among them, Dr. Dre — rolled through liquid rhymes ("California Love," "Still D.R.E.," complete with controversial "still not lovin' the police" lyric) with cool precision.

Snoop, 50, who last week was sued by a former backup dancer alleging sexual assault, kicked it off in typical languid style with a black-clad Dr. Dre for "The Next Episode." The duo stood atop a set of white rooms, an array of kinetic dancers sprawled below on the field and a row of cars.

Former N.W.A. member Dre, who turns 57 on Feb. 18, returned later to play a white piano, the quiet maestro driving this production.

This already-loaded lineup didn't need any guests, so the surprise inclusion of 50 Cent to drop "In Da Club" was cool, but unnecessary, and diminished the momentum.

While it was a bit disconcerting seeing the halftime show performed in daylight, this team of pros still brought the drama — notably Blige, 51, on her own "No More Drama," which included a fe-



Mary J. Blige performed "No More Drama" during the halftime show for Super Bowl 56 at SoFi Stadium. MARK J. REBILAS/USA TODAY SPORTS

ral scream as she strode in her thigh-high white boots and ended the song flat on her back.

Lamar, who received the least amount of time in the 13-minute presentation, spat "Alright" alongside a cadre of dancers wearing Dre sashes, while

Eminem, 49, scurried back and forth during "Lose Yourself," hoodie pulled up, alongside a live band — including Anderson .Paak on drums — as Blige and 50 Cent nodded to the music from a nearby couch.

Eminem also kneeled at the end of

his performance in symbolic solidarity with former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick.

The quick performance by Lamar, 34, and the single full song performed by Eminem indicated the problem with trying to stuff too much into extremely limited time (no wonder the rumored Tupac hologram appearance never materialized).

But while these rhyme-hurlers aren't the first major hip-hop names involved in a Super Bowl halftime show, they are undeniably the most potent cluster to share the marquee in one setting.

Throughout halftime history, a parade of rap stars including Queen Latifah, Nelly, Big Boi, Missy Elliott, Travis Scott and Nicki Minaj have popped up onstage with assorted pop and rock performers. But this is the first time that rap is the centerpiece of the halftime spectacle, which typically reaches — or exceeds — 100 million viewers.

As rap continues its chart dominance, this surely won't be the last time the genre is granted the halftime spotlight. Between young superstars such as Lil Nas X and Kodak Black and still-vital veterans Ye (imagine the drama!) and Jay-Z, whose Roc Nation helps produce the halftime shows, the bench is deep.

Sunday's headliners boast a collective 44 Grammys (15 for Eminem, 13 for Lamar, nine for Blige and seven for Dr. Dre; Snoop Dogg has been nominated more than a dozen times but has never won).

Their legacy is immense and their stage was well deserved.

Contributing: Bryan Alexander

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Gonzaga keeps hold of No. 1 spot

Eddie Timanus
USA TODAY

Upsets were plentiful in men's college basketball this past week. But Gonzaga avoided any potential traps and strengthened its hold on the No. 1 ranking in the Ferris Mowers Men's Basketball Coaches Poll released Monday.

The Bulldogs ran their winning streak to 14 games with Saturday night's victory against then-No. 22 Saint Mary's. The Zags claim 30 of the 32 first-place votes this week.

Auburn dropped its first SEC game loss of the season during the week, an overtime decision at Arkansas, but retains the No. 2 ranking. The Tigers also keep the remaining pair of first-place nods, helping them ahead of surging Kentucky by three poll points. UK is fol-



Drew Timme leads Gonzaga past Saint Mary's and Kyle Bowen.

JAMES SNOOK/USA TODAY

lowed at No. 4 by another set of Wildcats, Arizona.

It was a week of mixed results for several other notable powers. Duke moves up a spot to round out the top five despite a loss to Virginia. No. 6 Kansas also gains a couple of positions but also

dropped a midweek Big 12 contest to Texas. Purdue slips four places to No. 7 after narrowly avoiding a two-loss week Sunday. Baylor is back up to No. 8, and Big East leaders Providence and Villanova complete the top 10.

Tennessee equals Villanova for the biggest jump of the week, climbing five positions to No. 13 thanks to a four-game winning streak. Houston plunges eight places to No. 15 following a pair of losses in the American Athletic Conference.

Murray State rises to No. 21, its highest position since reaching No. 7 during the 2011-12 campaign. Mountain West leader Wyoming joins the poll at No. 22, its first appearance since January 2013. Arkansas also enters, tied for 24th with Connecticut.

Saint Mary's and Wake Forest are this week's dropouts.

FERRIS MOWERS COACHES POLL

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	W-L	Pts	LW
1 Gonzaga (30)	21-2	798	1
2 Auburn (2)	23-2	734	2
3 Kentucky	21-4	731	4
4 Arizona	22-2	725	5
5 Duke	21-4	631	6
6 Kansas	20-4	603	8
7 Purdue	22-4	596	3
8 Baylor	21-4	583	10
9 Providence	21-2	577	11
10 Villanova	19-6	475	15
11 Texas Tech	19-6	451	9
12 Illinois	18-6	441	13
13 Tennessee	18-6	360	18
14 UCLA	17-5	358	12
15 Houston	20-4	351	7
16 Wisconsin	19-5	328	14
17 Southern California	21-4	288	21
18 Ohio State	15-6	278	16
19 Michigan State	18-6	244	17
20 Texas	18-7	170	20
21 Murray State	24-2	105	24
22 Wyoming	21-3	94	26
23 Marquette	16-9	87	19
24 Arkansas	19-6	68	30
24 Connecticut	17-7	68	23

Dropped out: No. 22 Saint Mary's 20-6, No. 25 Wake Forest 20-6. Others receiving votes: Alabama 16-9 55; Saint Mary's 20-6 45; Colorado St. 20-3 33; Xavier 17-7 20; Notre Dame 18-7 18; Wake Forest 20-6 16; Miami (Florida) 18-7 14; LSU 18-7 8; Loyola-Chicago 19-5 7; Southern Methodist 18-5 7; Rutgers 15-9 6; Boise State 19-6 6; Seton Hall 15-8 6; Davidson 20-4 4; San Francisco 21-6 3; Iowa State 16-9 2; North Carolina 18-7 2; Iowa 17-7 2; Missouri St. 19-8 1; Texas Christian 16-6 1. The Ferris Mowers board of coaches is made up of 32 head coaches at Division I institutions. All are members of the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

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- Glass #07-22
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To request a copy of specifications, please visit NCPA's website www.ncca.us.

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Sourcewell Participating Entities include thousands of governmental, higher education, K-12 education, nonprofit, tribal government, and other public agencies located in the United States and Canada.

A full copy of the Request for Proposals can be found on the Sourcewell Procurement Portal <https://portal.sourcewell-mn.gov>.

Only proposals submitted through the Sourcewell Procurement Portal will be considered.

Proposals are due no later than April 5, 2022, at 4:30pm Central Time, and late proposals will not be considered.

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- PEPPM 2022 Supplemental Catalog Bid.

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