

SNES/Mega Drive

- **Sports ■ Acclaim**
- **£Unconfirmed ■ Out March**
- No other versions available
- No other versions planned

Has Acclaim done an EA and given us more of the same, or do we really have something different? Well it looks to us like they've done the business...

A long time ago, when NBA Jam was a new phenomenon, Acclaim held a big party to celebrate the launch of the 16-bit conversions. One of our friends, Osmond Browne who works for Mean Machines Sega, spent the entire night wandering over to complete strangers and saying: "Don't put butter on your bread, put some Jam on it." Unsurprisingly, this utterly failed to catch on and was promptly forgotten by most people. But now Oz, if he tries really hard, has a second chance for advertising glory.

MEGA DRIVE



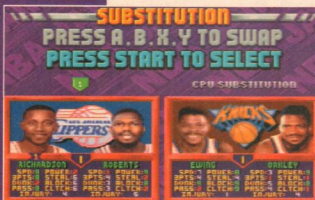
nba jam

tournament edition

Or not, as the case may be. It's highly doubtful Acclaim would let our friend Oz anywhere near this, its second biggest title next to the mighty morphin' Mortal Kombat. This, the Tournament Edition, features more teams and options than the original, but retains the same fast-moving, high-scoring, net-combusting action of the original. Fans of the coin-op will know what to expect, and if you've never heard of it before, expect something ace. And remember – don't put butter on your bread... aah, forget it.

MULTICOLOURED SWAP SECTION

They say there's no substitute for the real thing. Well, thanks to NBA Jam we'd just like to refute that allegation. You see NBA Jam, being an official licence, features a number of real-life actual players – along with a substitution option accessible during the quarterly breaks. Each player is rated across a number of categories, from speed to 3-point throw accuracy along with an injury rating which rises as your player gets knocked about the court (some players are more susceptible to injury than others, as in real life). If you think you need more coverage in a certain area of the court, or your star player is shot to pieces you can now bring on a third player to replace them. Yeehaw.



▲ Those wacky superdunks are back in a big way.

Yes he shoots such hot baskets he is literally on fire, much like he was in the last game. ▼



SNES

MEGA DRIVE



SNES

◀ The appeal of this game has to be the two player option.

The half-time stats highlight the top record performers.





WHAT'S A HOT SPOT NOT?

NBA Jam Tournament Edition features something quite revolutionary in the sports game field (oh ho ho) - power-up icons. Each flashing bean bestows special powers upon the lucky recipient. Super turbo, extra good stealing abilities, all are present for your pleasure. And just like the Hot Spots, special randomly appearing instant-score zones, also not featured in the original, are in this version. Don't be soft, of course there's not.

Crap gamesplayers - fud up with being derided in the street? Can't take any more sand being kicked in your face? Well have we got news for you. NBA Jam Tourney features a practice option, so you can learn the ropes of team work and basket-scoring without having to confront those oh-so-tricky computer opponents. In no time you'll be a joypad master and loads of ladies will love you.



Hit the hot spot. ▶

Grab the power-up for extra powering up abilities. ▼

SNES



It's one of those cutesy little Hot Spots. Awww. ▼

SNES



Pick from your favourite smiley players from out of real life. ▲

MEGA DRIVE



SECOND OPINION

Now, I'm no great fan of American sports sims meself, gldiron being my least fave in the videogaming stakes. But I do have a real penchant for a bit of NBA Jamming. The first game had real playability, especially in the two player mode. The Tournament Edition has all the fun of the first version of the game, but with the added delights of power-ups and other gameplay enhancing tweaks. A four player option would've been a good idea though.

GARY LORD

SNES

ATLANTA CHARLOTTE BOSTON CHICAGO CLEVELAND DETROIT INDIANA MILWAUKEE NEW JERSEY NEW YORK OKLAHOMA PHILADELPHIA PITTSBURGH PORTLAND SEATTLE SACRAMENTO UTAH VANCUVER WASHINGTON

OTHER VERSIONS

It may not be the Tournament Edition, but it's still the best basketball game on handholds. Top fun.

GAME GEAR

● ISSUE 148 ● 82%

MEGA DRIVE



VERDICT

SNES

NBA Jam Tournament Edition resists the usual formula of updating the teams and leaving the gameplay untouched. The addition of hot spots, power-ups and the player selectable juice mode adds variety, and a note of uncertainty to the game. As nice as it is to have all these extras, plus the noticeably faster gameplay, if you've already got the first NBA Jam you'd have to be a pretty big fan to shell out for this. All in all, though, this is an excellent piece of software, and certainly better than the original.

RAD AUTOMATIC

- GRAPHICS 88
- SOUND 84
- PLAYABILITY 94
- VALUE 91

OVERALL ■

91

SNES



MEGA DRIVE



VERDICT

MEGA DRIVE

I loved NBA Jam first time around, but I just can't get used to the hot spots and icons in this version. They make the game, well, rather silly, and the whole thing's a lot more like Speedball than basketball. But they can be turned off, which leaves with a slightly improved version of the first game, and the excuse for me to say - if you got it first time around, don't bother with this version. If you didn't well, this is bigger, faster and slicker, plus it's got that Mortal Kombat team in there somewhere, if only I could find it...

MARK PATTERSON

- GRAPHICS 85
- SOUND 82
- PLAYABILITY 93
- VALUE 90

OVERALL ■

90