

F01

Combat-Prowess
Evaluation System v6.0

Lu Bu

Overall
Combat-Prowess Score

98.7 /100

LEGENDARY



⚠ SYSTEM WARNING

Data Anomaly Detected
Conclusion May Be
Overestimated

Historical Conclusion

Greatest
Under Heaven

79%

Latest Evaluation Result

Conclusion Reversing...

RE-EVALUATING

67%

NO. 1

The
Myth
Is
Shattering—
The
Truth
Will
Be
Judged
Anew!

Is Lu Bu Really the Strongest Warrior in Romance of the Three Kingdoms?

Debunking a 600-Year-Old Myth
of the No. 1 Warrior

By **Shinian**
Shinian Studio

**Romance of the Three Kingdoms Combat Prowess
Encyclopedia
Free Research Series**

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Note |

This book is part of the Romance of the Three Kingdoms Combat Prowess Encyclopedia Free Research Series and serves as an introductory research guide and topic gateway. For the complete study, please see the full edition of Romance of the Three Kingdoms Combat Prowess Encyclopedia.

The conclusions in this booklet are derived from **Romance of the Three Kingdoms Combat Prowess Encyclopedia** (hereafter abbreviated as **ROTK-CPE**).

FREE RESEARCH EBOOK · F01

Publication & Research Notes

Source Lock

All research conclusions, character rankings, Battle Case numbers, edition judgments, combat prowess values, and twelve-dimension data in this booklet use the Traditional Chinese edition of Romance of the Three Kingdoms Combat Prowess Encyclopedia as the sole research source. If older drafts, chat summaries, or other versions conflict with it, ROTK-CPE takes precedence.

This is a “free research booklet,” not a condensed reproduction of the full edition. It focuses on one question only: is Lu Bu truly the strongest warrior in Romance of the Three Kingdoms? To make the argument complete, this booklet extracts only the necessary edition differences, Battle Cases, and comparison chains. The remaining 541 warriors, 547 Battle Cases, twenty-two sections of foundational combat-prowess theory, and the complete twelve-dimension model remain in the full ROTK-CPE.

This booklet discusses only the fictional combat-prowess system of Romance of the Three Kingdoms. It does not mix personal valor from the historical Records of the Three Kingdoms into the novel's ranking. These two questions, bodies of evidence, and systems of evaluation must remain separate.

SERIES NOTE

Free Research Series: Why Begin with Lu Bu?

Ask one hundred Three Kingdoms fans, “Who is the strongest warrior in Romance of the Three Kingdoms?” and the answer most likely to come out first is Lu Bu. At Hulao Pass, he first fought Zhang Fei alone, then faced Guan Yu and Liu Bei as they joined the battle. Red Hare, the Fangtian Painted Halberd, and the cultural image behind “Lu Bu among men, Red Hare among horses” make the answer feel almost self-evident.

That is precisely why F01 does not begin with an obscure figure. It begins with the strongest myth. If “Lu Bu is No. 1 under Heaven” is really true, it should survive cross-checking across editions, bout counts, common opponents, character condition, and complete combat records. If it cannot, then “impression” must be separated from “textual evidence.”

We do not compare outcomes first. We calibrate conditions first, then compare ability.

Core method of the Romance of the Three Kingdoms Combat Prowess Encyclopedia
Free Research Series

The purpose of this booklet is not to reduce Lu Bu to an ordinary warrior. Quite the opposite: only after stripping away the myth can we see what is truly terrifying about him. ROTK-CPE still places Lu Bu in the core Super-Elite tier, with a base combat prowess of 99, among the very few strongest figures in the entire novel. But “Super-Elite” and “the one and only strongest warrior under Heaven” are two completely different claims.

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30-SECOND VERDICT

Lu Bu Is Extremely Strong, but He Is Not No. 1

F01 Final Verdict

Under the edition selection, 547-Battle-Case system, common-opponent comparisons, combat-prowess fluctuation, and twelve-dimension model used by ROTK-CPE, Lu Bu does not have an evidence chain sufficient to establish him as the sole strongest warrior in Romance of the Three Kingdoms. The full edition ranks Zhao Yun No. 1 overall; Lu Bu remains in the core Super-Elite group, officially ranked sixth, with a base combat prowess of 99.

This conclusion can feel uncomfortable because the popular memory of “Lu Bu as No. 1” is not built on one combat result. It is a whole cultural package: the Three Heroes battling Lu Bu, Red Hare, the Fangtian Painted Halberd, the fame of the Flying General, game statistics across generations, and later editions rewriting combat details. Layered together over time, they begin to feel like common sense.

But if combat-prowess ranking is to become research, it cannot end with “everyone says so.” The real questions are these: in the most important one-on-one fights, does Lu Bu consistently overpower Zhang Fei? Is he clearly above Xu Chu? Is Guan Yu's textual position really lower than his? Did Mao Zonggang's revised Romance of the Three Kingdoms actually move Lu Bu to No. 1? If none of these four propositions holds, the claim “strongest under Heaven” loses its supports.

This booklet will dismantle those four evidence chains one by one. At the end, you will see an answer more accurate than “Lu Bu is weak”: Lu Bu is one of the most dangerous, best-equipped, and most convincing early-game boss-level warriors in the entire novel. But Luo Guanzhong's martial world does not place every other strong warrior beneath Lu Bu's shadow.