

# Life and basketball career of michael jordan

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## **Michael Jordan**

\n\nIn this paper , it will be proven that Michael Jordan is the best basketball player that ever played the game .\n

### **The Road to Greatness**

\nMichael Jeffrey Jordan was born on February 17 , 1963. He was born in Brooklyn , New York . He was the fourth of five children , the most active but also laziest . “ Michael was probably the laziest kid I had” said his father ( “ 100% JORDAN” ,. 20). At the age of 5 he moved to Wilmington , North Carolina , where he spent the rest of his scholastic career .\n\nAs a teenager , he became very athletic . Maybe the best learning experiences for young Michael were the backyard games against his brother, Larry . On the court that his father built , Michael suffered some of the worst beatings in basketball that he ever received . The way Michael remembers , “ It was like we were opponents . We never thought of brotherhood at all . Sometimes it would end in fighting.” (Krugel , 11). When Michael speaks of Larry now , it is with all respect that an older brother should receive . “ Hes got the dunks and some 360s and most all the same stuff I got . And hes 5-foot-7 . Larry is my inspiration .”(11) . All the games against his brother gave him the better sense of competitiveness , persistence , and responsibility that he has today.\n\nHe attended Laney High School where he first started playing organized basketball . As a freshmen , he started on Junior Varsity , where he averaged 25 points per game . He did not make the Varsity team as a sophomore , even though he averaged 28 points per game on Junior Varsity. When junior year came , he grew up to 6-foot-3 inches and made people notice him . He made varsity that season and averaged 20 points a game .

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That summer he attended the well known Five-Star Basketball Camp where he started to attract the attention of college coaches . " His is one of the strange , great stories" says Sonny Vaccaro (" 100% JORDAN, . 22). " He was a nobody , he wasnt all that highly-touted"(22).\n\nBy the time his senior year began , he didnt have to worry , for he was already being scouted by the North Carolina Tar-Heels . He had a strong senior season , averaging 23 points a game and helping Laney to 19 victories . But they lost in the conference tournament to a New Hanover team that included future NBA player, Kenny Gattison and future NFL defensive end, Clyde Simmons . Even though Patrick Ewing was rated number one high school player, North Carolina still picked Michael . " What set him apart from the rest was his burning desire for the game" Gibbons, coach of North Carolina, said . " Ive watched many, many players that rise above the pack because of some special characteristic that others dont have-the heart of a champion. If anybody has that , its Michael Jordan" (. 22). Jordan took part in the McDonalds All-star Game , and scored 30 points ; that made people realize how good he really was .\n\nThe next year he started to play at North Carolina . In North Carolina , he played for coach Smith , who is known for his great tactics in the game of basketball , and for his winning career . He became the eighth freshman player to start on a Smith-coached team and proved to be a fine outside weapon, balancing the inside play of veterans Sam Perkins and James Worthy . He really started to make heads turn by showing up some of the best college players . Like Hakeem Olajuwon , and Patrick Ewing .\n\nHis first day of practice , we noticed he was trying to do what we said, even though maybe it wasnt natural from a defensive

standpoint," Smith said . " But within three or four days , he would have it down pat . He has good savvy about the game , learning it.(“ 100% JORDAN”, . 24).\n\nJordan finished third on the team in points (13. 5) and rebounds (4. 4) in a fine freshman season , although he definitely deferred to Worthy and Perkins . Against Georgetown in the 82 NCAA title game , he really took over the court . With 31 seconds seconds to play and the Georgetown Hoyas holding a 62-61 lead , Smith designed a play that would get the ball inside to Perkins or Worthy . But as the huddle broke , Smith went in another direction . He told Jordan, " Do it , Michael . Just knock it in ." (. 24). Fourteen seconds later , there was Jordan , wide open on the left wing , launching the 16-foot jumper that gave Smith his first-ever national championship . It was the first of so many clutch shots for Jordan , and it shot him onto the road to stardom .\n\nJordan was a first-team all-American as a sophomore , averaging 20 points a game and showing the first signs of defensive greatness that would later make him the NBAs suffocating stopper. He then led the U. S. to victory in the Pan-American Games . His great accomplishments in his junior put a cap on his collegiate career , starting him on the road to greatness . Even though UNC crumbled in the NCAA tournament , he was named national player of the year , and it earned him a spot on the 84 Olympic team , which won the gold against Spain .\n\nJordan left college in 1984 to play with the Bulls. He finished his first season (1984-85) as one of the top scorers in the league , with an average of 28. 2 points per game . He also was named rookie of the year and made the first of his ten All-Star game appearances (1985 , 1987-1993 , 1996 , 1997).\n\nJordan finished the 1986-87 season as the second player , after Wilt Chamberlain ,

to score more than 3,000 points in a single season. He led the NBA in scoring for seven consecutive seasons (1987-1993), trying Chamberlain's record, and averaged more than 30 points per game in each season. He also became the Bulls all-time leading scorer and set numerous scoring records, including the most points in a playoff game (63 points against the Boston Celtics in 1986); and highest scoring average for an NBA championship series (41 points per game in the 1993 NBA finals).

He led the Chicago Bulls to their first NBA championship title in 1991; with Jordan, the Bulls won again in 1992, 1993, 1996, and 1997. In addition to his four league Most Valuable Player (MVP) awards (1988, 1991, 1992, 1996), he won the All-Star game MVP award twice (1988, 1996) and has won the NBA championship series MVP in every Finals in which he has played.

Michael was also a member of the United States Olympic basketball team, known as the dream team, that captured the gold medal at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, and the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia.

Before the 1993-1994 season a tragedy occurred in Jordan's life, his father was killed. Stating that he had lost his desire to play professional basketball, Michael announced his retirement prior to the 1993-94 season. Initially noted for his scoring, his tenacious defensive play made him one of the best all-around basketball players in NBA history. He had also become a world-wide celebrity due to his success in the NBA and in the Olympics, and in his numerous commercial endorsements.

Early in 1994 Jordan returned to professional sports, this time as a professional baseball player. He signed a minor league contract with the Chicago White Sox of the American League (AL), reported to spring training, and was assigned to the team's minor

league system . That summer he batted . 202 with the Birmingham Barons , a class AA affiliate of the White Sox . Later in the year he batted . 252 with the Scottsdale Scorpions of the Arizona Fall League .\n\nJordan decided to end his retirement from professional basketball by rejoining the Bulls near the end of the 1994-95 NBA regular season . In the 1995-96 season he enjoyed another great year , leading , leading the NBA in scoring with 30. 4 points per game and being named league MVP . The Bulls also became the first NBA team to win 70 games in a single season , finishing with 72 victories , and they went on to win the NBA championship title . He was named MVP of the NBA finals , becoming the first player to earn the honor four times .\n\nFinally, he again led the league in scoring during the 1996-97 season with 29. 6 points per game . Chicago beat the Utah Jazz , 4 games to 2 , in the 1997 NBA Finals and Jordan received his fifth NBA finals MVP award .