

7th Grade
Informational

Michael Jordan

Michael Jordan is one of the most recognizable professional athletes ever, but many people do not know much about him. Michael Jordan is the most decorated NBA player ever, he played baseball, and had two Olympic gold medals. Michael Jordan had many nicknames, "Air Jordan," "MJ," and "His Airness." (Michael). Jordan deserves every bit of attention he gets.

Michael Jordan was born in Brooklyn, New York, on February 17, 1963. His parents were James and Deloris Jordan and he had four siblings. When Jordan was young, his family moved to Wilmington, North Carolina. Jordan was a fan of sports from a young age and was very competitive, but his sophomore year, he did not make the high school basketball team. He would make the team the year after. He then went to the University of North Carolina on a basketball scholarship. He was a very big part of the team. Jordan won the NCAA Division I championship in 1982, and scored the game-winning shot. Jordan left college to play in the NBA after his junior year (Michael).

Before going into the NBA, Jordan played in the 1984 Summer Olympics. His team won the gold. He played again in the Olympics in 1992, where he won the gold again. Jordan averaged sixteen points per game in sixteen Olympic basketball games (SR).

Michael Jordan is considered the best basketball player ever. His points per game average for his whole NBA career is higher than anyone else at 30.1. Jordan ranks third in all-time points scored with 32,292 points (ESPN). He also has the highest points per game average in the postseason with 33.5. Jordan won many awards; he was a six-time NBA champion (1991-1993), (1996-1998); five-time NBA MVP (1988, 1991, 1992, 1996, 1998); 14-time All-Star; and Rookie of the year (1985). Jordan led the Chicago Bulls to six championships over fourteen years. He retired a total of three times. He returned to basketball after two of them. Once to join back with the Chicago Bulls and once to join the Washington Wizards (NBA).

After Jordan's first retirement, he went to play baseball. Jordan said, "I want to play baseball. It's my father's dream that I become a baseball player." His father had been murdered a couple years earlier. Jordan played baseball in 1994 and 1995 for the Birmingham Barons. He went 0-3 in professional debut, a loss to the Chattanooga Lookouts. He totaled 436 at-bats and struck out 114 of those times (ESPN).

Michael Jordan is known all over the world, and this is mostly because of the big endorsements he has. He signed with Wheaties, McDonald, Gatorade and Nike. Nike was his biggest endorsement, but he said in an interview that he preferred Adidas, but Nike offered so much money he couldn't refuse. Nike made the Air Jordan shoe line, but then gave it to Jordan as its own brand. Jordan's name was so popular it generated \$10 billion in revenue for the game of basketball over the course of his career. Michael Jordan is not away from basketball even though he is done playing; he is part owner of the Wizards, part owner of the Charlotte Bobcats, and lets a superbike racing team use his name (ESPN).

Michael Jordan is very popular, but he deserves every bit of it. He is the best player in basketball history. He also played baseball. Jordan is a player that looks like he is defying physics.