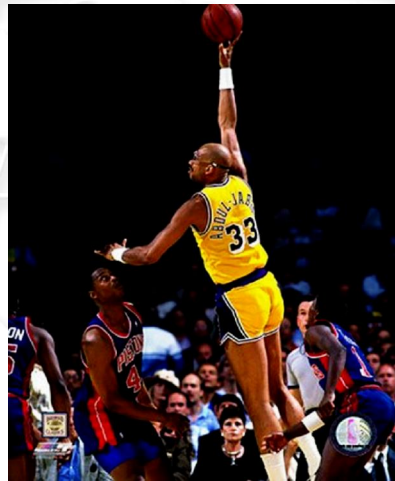


SPORTING LEGENDS: KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR

SPORT: BASKETBALL

COMPETITIVE ERA: 1965 - 1989

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (born April 16, 1947 in New York City, New York) is a successful former high school, collegiate, and professional NBA basketball player. He is the NBA's all-time leading scorer with 38,387 points. Today, he is a successful coach, author, and part-time actor.



Born Ferdinand Lewis Alcindor Jr. (usually known as Lew Alcindor), to Cora and Ferdinand Lewis Alcindor in Harlem, New York City, he was a center who grew to 2.18 m (7 ft 2 in) tall.

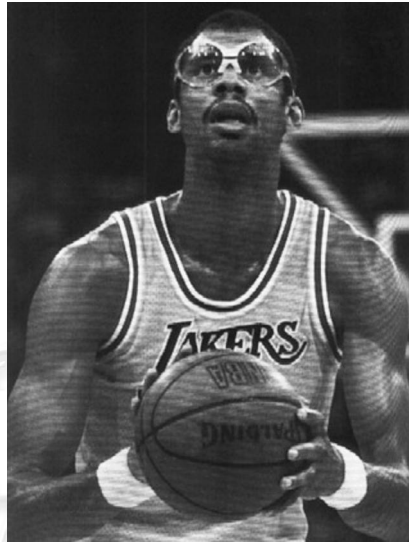
He led Power Memorial Academy to three straight New York City Catholic championships, a 71-game winning streak, and a 96.6 overall record.

He played for the UCLA Bruins from 1965 to 1969 under coach John Wooden. During his time on the team, UCLA had 88 wins and only two losses. Alcindor graduated with a B.A. from UCLA. At UCLA, he suffered a scratched left cornea; from then on, he mostly played wearing goggles.

The Harlem Globetrotters offered him \$1 million to play for them, but he declined.

On a coin-flip with the Phoenix Suns, he would be the number one pick in the 1969 NBA Draft pick. The winner of the coin-flip was the Milwaukee Bucks, where he would play five seasons.

SPORTING LEGENDS: KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR



Jabbar's technical ability was one of the strongest attributes of his game.

While at UCLA Abdul-Jabbar converted to Islam. He took his Arabic name in 1971, publicly announcing it on May 1 of that year, one day after the Bucks completed a four-game sweep of the Baltimore Bullets (known today as the Washington Wizards) in the NBA Finals.

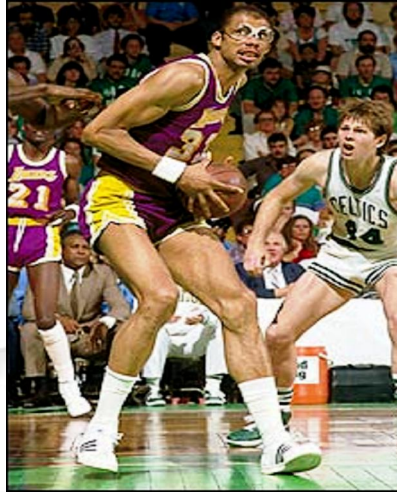
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was also notable for his physical fitness regimen. While in LA, he started doing yoga in 1976 to improve his flexibility. He was also a pupil of the kung fu master Bruce Lee, studying Lee's Jeet Kune Do style.

Abdul-Jabbar was famous for his "Skyhook" shot, against which it was notoriously difficult to defend. He averaged over 24 points and 10 rebounds over his career, and maintained a solid level of play well into his late 30s. He was named to the All-Star team even in his final season. After a then-record 20 pro seasons, Abdul-Jabbar retired from the game in 1989, leaving a legacy of professionalism, class, and success.

After the former Lew Alcindor changed his name and a couple seasons in Milwaukee under the new name, Kareem felt that the city didn't fit his cultural needs so he requested a trade to either the New York Knicks or the Los Angeles Lakers,

In 1975, the Bucks traded him and reserve center Walt Wesley to the Los Angeles Lakers, for center Elmore Smith, guard Brian Winters and rookie blue chippers Dave Myers and Junior Bridgeman. The trade paved the way for a second Abdul-Jabbar dynasty as the Lakers went on to become one of the most dominant teams of the next decade.

SPORTING LEGENDS: KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR



The term **Long Levers** could've been created for Kareem Abdul-Jabbar!

NBA Statistics:

Jersey Number - 33

Games Played - 1560 (2nd highest in NBA history)

Field Goal % - 55.9 (8th highest)

Free Throw % - 75.1

3-Point % - 5.6

Rebounds - 17,440 (3rd highest)

Rebounds per Game - 11.2 (25th highest)

Assists - 5660 (29th highest)

Assist per Game - 3.6

Steals - 1160

Steals per Game - .74

Points - 38,387 (highest)

Points per Game - 24.6 (12th highest)

SPORTING LEGENDS: KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR



Scott Burton's Final Thought

When Kareem Abdul-Jabbar left the game in 1989 at age 42, no NBA player had ever scored more points, blocked more shots, won more Most Valuable Player Awards, played in more All-Star Games or logged more seasons.

His list of personal and team accomplishments is perhaps the most awesome in league history. No player ever achieved as much individual and team success as him.

Players 10 years his junior couldn't keep up with Abdul-Jabbar, whose strict physical-fitness regimen was years ahead of its time in the NBA. But if others have since emulated his fitness regimen, no player has ever duplicated his trademark "sky-hook." Although labelled "unsexy" by Abdul-Jabbar himself, the shot became one of the most effective weapons in all of sports.

An all-around player, Abdul-Jabbar brought grace, agility, and versatility to the center position, which had previously been characterized solely by power and size.

Despite his incredible success on the court, it wasn't until the twilight of his career that Abdul-Jabbar finally won the universal affection of basketball fans. He was a private man who avoided the press and at times seemed aloof.

But late in his playing days Abdul-Jabbar began to open up, and as his career wound to a close, fans, players and coaches alike expressed their admiration for what he had accomplished in basketball. During the 1988-89 season, his last, Abdul-Jabbar was honoured in every arena in the league.



The Skyhook Shot was Jabbar's most dangerous weapon!