GENERAL

michael jordan nba career stats

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Michael Jordan NBA Career Stats: A Legendary Legacy Unveiled

When the name **Michael Jordan** echoes through the halls of the NBA, it is not merely a reference to a player but to an entire era of basketball history. His **NBA career stats**are the quantitative reflection of a player who redefined the game, yet the story behind the numbers is far richer. This article explores every facet of Jordan's statistical journey—from rookie nights to championship finals—while contextualizing his achievements within the broader tapestry of the sport.

Early Years and Draft

College Performance

Before the hardwood of the NBA, Jordan sharpened his skills at the University of North Carolina. In the 1981-82 season, he averaged 17.7 points per game, and in his senior year, he posted a career-high 27.9 points per game. Those numbers earned him the 1982 Naismith College Player of the Year and set the stage for a professional career that would eclipse every college record.

Draft Night and Rookie Season

On June 19, 1984, the Chicago Bulls selected Jordan with the third overall pick. In his rookie campaign (1984-85), he averaged 28.2 points, 6.5 rebounds, and 5.9 assists per game, instantly earning the NBA Rookie of the Year award. His first season stats—particularly the 28.2 points per game—placed him among the league's elite scorers, a trend that would continue for the next decade.

Statistical Highlights

Scoring Prowess

Jordan's career points total of 32,292 places him third on the all-time scoring list, behind Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and LeBron James. His career scoring average of 30.12 points per game is the highest in NBA history, surpassing the legendary 27.5 points per game of Kareem and the 27.2 points per game of LeBron. Jordan's 10 consecutive scoring titles (1986-1996) showcase an era where he dominated the offensive landscape.

Rebounds and Assists

While Jordan is primarily celebrated for scoring, his rebounding and playmaking numbers reveal a more complete athlete. Over his 15 seasons, he averaged 6.2 rebounds and 5.3 assists per game. His 6.2 rebounds per game rank him 20th in NBA history for a guard, while his 5.3 assists per game highlight his versatility in orchestrating the Bulls' offense.

Shooting Efficiency

Jordan's shooting efficiency is a testament to his skill. He finished his career with a field goal percentage of 49.7% and a three point percentage of 32.7%. Notably, his free throw percentage of 83.5% earned him a reputation as a clutch shooter. In the 1990-91 season, he posted a remarkable 52.6% field goal percentage, a career high that underscored his precision from mid range and beyond the arc.

Defensive Contributions

Defensively, Jordan's impact is captured by his 2.1 steals per game and 0.6 blocks per game. He was named to the NBA All Defensive First Team nine times and won the Defensive Player of the Year award in 1988. His defensive prowess helped the Bulls secure a 12 game winning streak in the 1995 playoffs, a critical factor in their championship run.

Career Milestones and Records

- 32,292 total points (3rd all time)
- 30.12 points per game (highest ever)
- 10 consecutive scoring titles
- 6 NBA championships
- 6 Finals MVP awards
- 14 All Star selections (including 10 consecutive from 1985-1994)
- 2 Olympic gold medals (1984, 1992)

Championships and Finals Performance

Six Championships, Six Finals MVPs

Jordan's championship record is intertwined with his statistical dominance. In the 1991 NBA Finals, he averaged 31.2 points, 11.4 rebounds, and 6.6 assists per game, leading the Bulls to a 4-1 series victory. The 1996 Finals saw him post 31.2 points per game once again, guiding Chicago to its third consecutive title.

Key Games and Clutch Moments

Jordan's ability to elevate his play in high stakes situations is evident in moments like the 1988 Eastern Conference Finals Game 5, where he scored 43 points to force a Game 6. In the 1992 Finals, he famously hit the game winning shot in the final seconds of Game 6, a play that cemented his legacy as a clutch performer.

Comparisons to Other Greats

All Time Points Scored

When comparing Jordan's 32,292 points to other legends, he sits behind Kareem Abdul Jabbar (38,387) and LeBron James (currently over 37,000). While Kareem's longevity contributed to his higher total, Jordan's scoring average remains unmatched, illustrating his efficiency and consistency.

All Time Scoring Averages

Jordan's 30.12 points per game average is a benchmark that few have approached. Even in the modern era, where pace and pace offenses inflate numbers, no player has surpassed this mark in a regular season. It underscores Jordan's ability to score from any position on the floor.

Legacy in the Modern Era

Jordan's statistical footprint continues to influence contemporary players. The emphasis on three point shooting and defensive versatility—areas where Jordan excelled—has become a hallmark of the modern NBA. Players like LeBron James and Kevin Durant often cite Jordan's work ethic and competitive drive as a blueprint for their own careers.

Retirement, Comeback, and Final Seasons

First Retirement 1993

After winning three consecutive titles, Jordan retired in 1993 to pursue a baseball career. He returned to the NBA in 1995, re joining the Bulls and immediately regaining his scoring form.

Comeback 1995-1998

During this second stint, Jordan captured three more championships. His 1996 season saw him average 30.4 points per game, while his 1997 and 1998 seasons maintained an average above 28 points per game, illustrating his sustained elite performance.

Second Retirement 1999

Jordan announced his second retirement in 1999, citing the desire to spend more time with family. However, the Bulls' roster changes and the NBA's evolving landscape kept him in the public eye.

Final Season 2001-2002

In 2001, Jordan returned for a brief stint with the Washington Wizards, playing 18 games before retiring for good. During that season, he averaged 7.5 points per game, a stark contrast to his prime numbers but a testament to his enduring love for the game.

Statistical Breakdown by Season

Below is a concise summary of Jordan's key seasonal statistics, highlighting the peaks and consistency throughout his career.

- 1984-85 – 28.2 PPG, 6.5 RPG, 5.9 APG
- 1985-86 – 37.1 PPG (scoring title)
- 1986-87 – 35.0 PPG (scoring title)
- 1987-88 – 35.0 PPG (scoring title)
- 1988-89 – 32.5 PPG (scoring title)
- 1989-90 – 33.6 PPG (scoring title)
- 1990-91 – 31.5 PPG (scoring title)
- 1991-92 – 30.1 PPG (scoring title)
- 1992-93 – 32.6 PPG (scoring title)
- 1994-95 – 27.3 PPG (scoring title)
- 1995-96 – 30.4 PPG (scoring title)
- 1996-97 – 28.2 PPG
- 1997-98 – 28.7 PPG
- 1998-99 – 22.9 PPG
- 2001-02 – 7.5 PPG

Key Numbers and Records

- 10 consecutive scoring titles (1986-1996)
- Six NBA championships (1991, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 1998)
- Six Finals MVP awards
- 14 All Star selections
- All Defensive First Team (9 times)
- Defensive Player of the Year (1988)
- Career 32,292 points (3rd all time)
- Career 30.12 points per game (highest ever)
- Career 49.7% field goal percentage

- Career 32.7% three point percentage

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