Articles & references

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| New York knicks | Knickerbockers,[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Knicks#cite_note-Knickerbocker-3)[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Knicks#cite_note-6) more commonly referred to as the Knicks, are an American professional [basketball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basketball) team based in the [New York City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City) [borough](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boroughs_of_New_York_City) of [Manhattan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan). The Knicks compete in the [National Basketball Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Basketball_Association) (NBA) as a member of the [Atlantic Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_Division_(NBA)) of the [Eastern Conference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Conference_(NBA)). The team plays its home games at [Madison Square Garden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madison_Square_Garden), an arena they share with the [New York Rangers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Rangers) of the [National Hockey League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Hockey_League) (NHL). They are one of two NBA teams located in New York City; the other is the [Brooklyn Nets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brooklyn_Nets). Alongside the [Boston Celtics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Celtics), the Knicks are one of two original NBA teams still located in its original city.  The team, established by [Ned Irish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ned_Irish) in 1946, was one of the founding members of the [Basketball Association of America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basketball_Association_of_America) (BAA), which became the NBA [after merging](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Basketball_Association#Creation_and_merger) with the rival [National Basketball League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Basketball_League_(United_States)) (NBL) in 1949. The Knicks were successful during their early years and were constant playoff contenders under the franchise's first head coach [Joe Lapchick](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Lapchick). Beginning in 1950, the Knicks made three consecutive appearances in the [NBA Finals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBA_Finals), all of which were losing efforts. Lapchick resigned in 1956 and the team subsequently began to falter.  It was not until the late 1960s when [Red Holzman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Holzman) became head coach that the Knicks began to regain their former dominance. Holzman successfully guided the Knicks to two NBA championships, in [1970](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1969%E2%80%9370_NBA_season) and [1973](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1972%E2%80%9373_NBA_season). The Knicks of the 1980s had mixed success that included six playoff appearances; however, they failed to participate in the NBA Finals.  The playoff-level Knicks of the 1990s were led by future Hall of Fame centre [Patrick Ewing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_Ewing); this era was marked by passionate rivalries with the [Chicago Bulls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulls-Knicks_rivalry), [Indiana Pacers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knicks-Pacers_rivalry), and [Miami Heat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heat-Knicks_rivalry). During this time, they were known for playing tough defence under head coaches [Pat Riley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pat_Riley) and [Jeff Van Gundy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeff_Van_Gundy), making two appearances in the NBA Finals, in [1994](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1994_NBA_Finals) and [1999](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1999_NBA_Finals). However, they were unable to win an NBA championship during this era.  Since 2000, the Knicks have struggled to regain their former glory, but won its first division title in 19 years in [2012–13](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012%E2%80%9313_New_York_Knicks_season), led by a core o­f [forwards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forward_(basketball_position)) [Carmelo Anthony](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carmelo_Anthony) and [Amar'e Stoudemire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amar%27e_Stoudemire" \o "Amar'e Stoudemire). They were eventually eliminated in the Eastern Conference semi-finals by the [Indiana Pacers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indiana_Pacers), and have failed to make the playoffs since.  <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_Knicks> |
| Miami Heat | The **Miami Heat** are an American professional basketball team based in [Miami, Florida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miami). The Heat compete in the [National Basketball Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Basketball_Association) (NBA) as a member of the league's [Eastern Conference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Conference_(NBA)) [Southeast Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southeast_Division_(NBA)). The Heat play their home games at [American Airlines Arena](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Airlines_Arena), and have won three [NBA championships](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_NBA_champions).  The franchise began play in 1988 as an [expansion team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expansion_team). After a period of mediocrity, the Heat would gain relevance during the 1990s following the appointment of former head coach [Pat Riley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pat_Riley) in the role of team president. Riley would construct the high-profile trades of [Alonzo Mourning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alonzo_Mourning) in 1995, and of [Tim Hardaway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_Hardaway) in 1996, which immediately propelled the team into [playoff](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBA_playoffs) contention. Mourning and Hardaway would eventually lead the Heat to four division titles, prior to their departures in 2001 and 2002, respectively. As a result, the team struggled, and entered into a rebuild in time for the 2002–03 season.  Led by [Dwyane Wade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dwyane_Wade), and following a trade for former [NBA Most Valuable Player](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBA_Most_Valuable_Player) (MVP) [Shaquille O'Neal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaquille_O%27Neal), Miami advanced to play in the [NBA Finals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBA_Finals) in [2006](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006_NBA_Finals), where they clinched their first championship, led by Riley as head coach. After the departure of O'Neal two years later, the team entered into another period of decline for the remainder of the 2000s. This saw the resignation of Riley as head coach, who returned to his position as team president, and was replaced by [Erik Spoelstra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erik_Spoelstra).  In 2010, after creating significant cap space, the Heat partnered Wade with former league MVP [LeBron James](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LeBron_James), and perennial [NBA All-Star](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBA_All-Star) [Chris Bosh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chris_Bosh), creating the "[Big Three](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Three_(Miami_Heat))". During their four-year spell together, and under the guise of Spoelstra, James, Wade, and Bosh, they would lead the Heat to the NBA Finals in every season, and won two back-to-back championships in [2012](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012_NBA_Finals) and [2013](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013_NBA_Finals). The trio would all depart by 2016, and the team entered another period of rebuilding. Wade was eventually reacquired in 2018, albeit to retire with the franchise.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miami_Heat#cite_note-7)  The Heat hold the record for the NBA's [third-longest winning streak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_National_Basketball_Association_longest_winning_streaks), 27 straight games, set during the 2012–13 season. Four Hall of Famers have played for Miami, while James has won the NBA MVP Award while playing for the team.  <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miami_Heat> |
| Los Angelese Lakers | The **Los Angeles Lakers** are an American professional [basketball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basketball) team based in [Los Angeles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles). The Lakers compete in the [National Basketball Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Basketball_Association) (NBA), as a member of the league's [Western Conference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Conference_(NBA)) in the [Pacific Division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_Division_(NBA)). The Lakers play their home games at [Staples Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Staples_Center), an arena shared with the NBA's [Los Angeles Clippers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_Clippers), the [Los Angeles Sparks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_Sparks) of the [Women's National Basketball Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_National_Basketball_Association), and the [Los Angeles Kings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_Kings) of the [National Hockey League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Hockey_League).[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_Lakers#cite_note-9) The Lakers are one of the most successful teams in the history of the NBA, and have won 16 NBA championships, the second-most behind the [Boston Celtics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Celtics).  The franchise began with the 1947 purchase of a disbanded team, the Detroit Gems of the [National Basketball League](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Basketball_League_(United_States)) (NBL). The new team began playing in [Minneapolis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minneapolis), calling themselves the **Minneapolis Lakers**.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_Lakers#cite_note-The_Nicknames-10) Initially a member of the NBL, the Lakers won the 1948 NBL championship before joining the rival [Basketball Association of America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basketball_Association_of_America), where they would win five of the next six championships, led by star [George Mikan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Mikan).[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_Lakers#cite_note-Mike-11) After struggling financially in the late 1950s following Mikan's retirement, they [relocated](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relocation_of_professional_sports_teams) to Los Angeles before the [1960–61 season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1960%E2%80%9361_NBA_season).  Led by [Hall of Famers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naismith_Memorial_Basketball_Hall_of_Fame) [Elgin Baylor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elgin_Baylor) and [Jerry West](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerry_West), Los Angeles made the [NBA Finals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBA_Finals) six times in the 1960s, but lost each series to the Celtics, beginning their [long and storied rivalry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celtics%E2%80%93Lakers_rivalry). In 1968, the Lakers acquired four-time [NBA Most Valuable Player](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBA_Most_Valuable_Player_Award) (MVP) [Wilt Chamberlain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilt_Chamberlain), and won their sixth NBA title—and first in Los Angeles—in [1972](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1971%E2%80%9372_NBA_season), led by new head coach [Bill Sharman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Sharman). After the retirement of West and Chamberlain, the team acquired [Kareem Abdul-Jabbar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kareem_Abdul-Jabbar), who also won multiple MVP awards, but was unable to make the Finals in the late 1970s.  The 1980s Lakers were nicknamed "[Showtime](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Showtime_(basketball))" due to their fast break-offense led by [Magic Johnson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magic_Johnson). The team won five championships in a nine-year span, and contained Hall of Famers Johnson, Abdul-Jabbar, and [James Worthy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Worthy), and was led by Hall of Fame coach [Pat Riley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pat_Riley). After Abdul-Jabbar and Johnson retired, the team struggled in the early 1990s, before acquiring [Shaquille O'Neal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaquille_O%27Neal) and [Kobe Bryant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kobe_Bryant) in 1996. With the duo, who were led by another Hall of Fame coach [Phil Jackson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phil_Jackson), the team won three consecutive titles between [2000](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000_NBA_Finals) to [2002](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_NBA_Finals), securing the franchise its second "[three-peat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three-peat)". The Lakers won two more championships in [2009](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_NBA_Finals) and [2010](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_NBA_Finals), but failed to regain their former glory in the following decade.  The Lakers hold the record for [NBA's longest winning streak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_National_Basketball_Association_longest_winning_streaks), 33 straight games, set during the 1971–72 season.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_Lakers#cite_note-12) 26 Hall of Famers have played for Los Angeles, while four have coached the team. Four Lakers—Abdul-Jabbar, Johnson, O'Neal, and Bryant—have won the NBA MVP Award for a total of eight awards.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_Lakers#cite_note-13) |
| Minnesota Timberwolves |  |
| Oklahoma City Thunder |  |
| Houston Rockets |  |
| Golden State Warriors |  |
| Cleveland Cavaliers |  |
| Chicago Bulls |  |
| Indiana Pacers |  |
| Toronto Raptors |  |
| Utah Jazz |  |