**Introduction**

// https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kobe\_Bryant

**Kobe Bean Bryant** ([/ˈkoʊbi/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/English) [*KOH-bee*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Pronunciation_respelling_key); August 23, 1978 – January 26, 2020) was an American professional [basketball](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basketball) player. A [shooting guard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shooting_guard), he [spent his entire 20-year career](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_NBA_players_who_have_spent_their_entire_career_with_one_franchise) with the [Los Angeles Lakers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_Lakers) in the [National Basketball Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Basketball_Association) (NBA). Widely regarded as one of the greatest basketball players of all time, Bryant won five [NBA championships](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBA_Finals), was an 18-time [All-Star](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBA_All-Star), a 15-time member of the [All-NBA Team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All-NBA_Team), a 12-time member of the [All-Defensive Team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBA_All-Defensive_Team), the 2008 [NBA Most Valuable Player](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBA_Most_Valuable_Player) (MVP), and a two-time [NBA Finals MVP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Russell_NBA_Finals_Most_Valuable_Player_Award). Bryant also [led the NBA in scoring](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_National_Basketball_Association_annual_scoring_leaders) twice, and ranks fourth in [league all-time regular season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_National_Basketball_Association_career_scoring_leaders) and [postseason scoring](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_National_Basketball_Association_career_playoff_scoring_leaders). He was posthumously voted into the [Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naismith_Memorial_Basketball_Hall_of_Fame) in 2020 and named to the [NBA 75th Anniversary Team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NBA_75th_Anniversary_Team) in 2021.

## **National Team Career**

// <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kobe_Bryant#National_team_career>

Bryant declined to play in the [2000 Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000_United_States_men%27s_Olympic_basketball_team) because he was getting married in the off-season.[[316]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kobe_Bryant#cite_note-322) He also decided not to play in the [2002 FIBA World Championship](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_FIBA_World_Championship).[[317]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kobe_Bryant#cite_note-323) Bryant was originally selected for the FIBA Americas Championship in 2003 but withdrew after undergoing arthroscopic shoulder and knee surgeries.[[318]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kobe_Bryant#cite_note-324) In the following summer, he had to withdraw from the Olympic team because of his sexual assault case.[[319]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kobe_Bryant#cite_note-325) Along with [LeBron James](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LeBron_James), he was one of the first two players to be publicly named to the 2006–2008 U.S. preliminary roster in 2006 by [Jerry Colangelo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerry_Colangelo).[[320]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kobe_Bryant#cite_note-326) However, he was once again sidelined after knee surgery and did not participate in the [2006 FIBA World Championship](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006_FIBA_World_Championship).[[321]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kobe_Bryant#cite_note-327)

**Career Statistics**

// https://www.statmuse.com/nba/player/kobe-bryant-480

Kobe Bryant played 20 seasons for the [Lakers](https://www.statmuse.com/nba/team/los-angeles-lakers-franchise-15/history). He averaged 25.0 points, 5.2 rebounds and 4.7 assists in 1,346 regular-season games. He was selected to play in 18 All-Star games. He won 1 MVP award, 2 Finals MVP awards and 5 NBA championships. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2020.

**Stats**

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## **RETIREMENT**

//https://lakersnation.com/kobe-bryant-biography-life-lakers-career-and-legacy/

After a 20-year career spent entirely with the Lakers, Kobe Bryant retired as the franchise career leader in points, games, minutes, and steals as well as total field goals, three-pointers, and free throws made.

On December 18, 2017 the Los Angeles Lakers retired both Kobe Bryant’s no. 8 and 24 jerseys in a ceremony at Staples Center.