

= Chris Paul =

Christopher Emmanuel Paul ( born May 6 , 1985 ) is an American professional basketball player for the Los Angeles Clippers of the National Basketball Association ( NBA ) . The point guard has won the NBA Rookie of the Year Award , two Olympic gold medals , and led the NBA in assists four times and steals six times . He has also been selected to nine NBA All @-@ Star teams , eight All @-@ NBA teams , and eight All @-@ Defensive teams .

Paul was a McDonald 's All @-@ American in high school . He attended Wake Forest University for two years of college basketball where he helped the Demon Deacons achieve their first ever number one ranking . He was selected fourth overall in the 2005 NBA draft by the New Orleans Hornets and traded to the Clippers in 2011 .

Off the court , Paul has served as the National Basketball Players Association president since August 2013 . One of the highest @-@ paid athletes in the world , he holds endorsement deals with companies such as Nike and State Farm .

= = Early life = =

Paul was born on May 6 , 1985 in Winston @-@ Salem , North Carolina to Charles Edward Paul and Robin Jones . He has an older brother named Charles " C.J. " Paul . A former athlete himself , Charles , Sr. taught his sons basketball and football and coached them in various youth leagues throughout their childhoods . Growing up , the Paul brothers spent their summers working at a service station owned by their grandfather Nathaniel Jones , to whom Paul attributes many life lessons , and describes as his " best friend " . On the opening speech of 2016 ESPY 's , Paul revealed that one of his uncles is a police officer .

= = High school career = =

Paul attended West Forsyth High School in Clemmons , North Carolina . During his freshman and sophomore seasons , he played on the junior varsity team . For his junior year , he averaged 25 points , 5 @.@ 3 assists , and 4 @.@ 4 steals per game , helping West Forsyth reach the state semifinals . Over the ensuing summer , he led the Winston @-@ Salem @-@ based Kappa Magic to the National U @-@ 17 AAU title , earning tournament MVP honors in the process . During his senior season , Paul received national attention for scoring 61 points in a game ; his 61 @-@ year @-@ old grandfather was slain earlier in the year and Paul honored him by scoring one point for each year of his life . Paul finished the season with averages of 30 @.@ 8 points , 5 @.@ 9 rebounds , 9 @.@ 5 assists , and 6 steals per game , leading West Forsyth to a 27 ? 3 record and the Class 4A Eastern Regional finals . He was then named a McDonald 's All @-@ American , first @-@ team Parade All @-@ American , and North Carolina 's Mr. Basketball by The Charlotte Observer .

= = College career = =

As a freshman , Paul averaged 14 @.@ 8 points , 5 @.@ 9 assists , and 2 @.@ 7 steals per game for Wake Forest University , setting school freshman records for three @-@ point percentage , free throws , free throw percentage , assists , and steals . Behind his play , the Demon Deacons qualified for the NCAA Tournament , losing in the Sweet Sixteen to St. Joseph 's . At the conclusion of the season , Paul was named ACC Rookie of the Year and Third Team All @-@ ACC .

For two weeks early in Paul 's sophomore season , Wake Forest was ranked number one in the nation for the first time in school history . In the final game of the year , Paul punched NC State guard Julius Hodge in the groin and received a one @-@ game suspension for the ACC Tournament , an incident that marred Paul 's image for a short time . The Demon Deacons again qualified for the NCAA Tournament but suffered a second round upset at the hands of West Virginia . With final averages of 15 @.@ 3 points , 4 @.@ 5 rebounds , 6 @.@ 6 assists , and 2 @.@ 4

steals per game , Paul was eventually named First Team Consensus All @-@ America , and with a 3 @.@ 21 grade point average ( GPA ) , he was also named to ESPN 's Academic All @-@ America Team . On April 15 , 2005 , he announced he would be hiring an agent and turning professional . On March 2 , 2011 , Wake Forest retired his jersey .

= = = College career statistics = = =

Cited from Sports Reference .

= = Professional career = =

= = = New Orleans Hornets ( 2005 ? 2011 ) = = =

= = = = Early seasons ( 2005 ? 07 ) = = = =

Paul was selected fourth overall in the 2005 NBA draft by the New Orleans Hornets . Due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina , the Hornets played most of their games in Oklahoma City that year . Paul finished the season leading all rookies in points , assists , steals , and double @-@ doubles , and became only the second rookie in NBA history to lead the league in total steals . With final averages of 16 @.@ 1 points , 5 @.@ 1 rebounds , 7 @.@ 8 assists , and 2 @.@ 2 steals per game , he was named Rookie of the Year , falling just one vote shy of winning the award unanimously . The only other rookie to receive a first place vote was Deron Williams , with whom Paul enjoyed a brief rivalry early in their careers .

At the 2007 All @-@ Star Weekend , Paul set new Rookie Challenge records with 17 assists and 9 steals . For his sophomore season , he increased his scoring and passing averages to 17 @.@ 3 points and 8 @.@ 9 assists per game , but played in only 64 games due to injury .

= = = = Rise to stardom ( 2007 ? 11 ) = = = =

Paul was selected to his first NBA All @-@ Star Game in the 2007 ? 08 , playing in front of his home fans in New Orleans . Behind his leadership , the Hornets were near the top of the Western Conference standings all year , temporarily occupying first place on March 17 following a win against the Chicago Bulls . New Orleans finished the season with a franchise @-@ record 56 wins and the second seed in the West . Paul led the NBA with 11 @.@ 6 assists and 2 @.@ 7 steals per game to go along with 21 @.@ 1 points per game , finishing second in NBA Most Valuable Player Award voting and being named to his first All @-@ NBA and All @-@ Defensive teams . In his playoff debut , he scored 35 points against the Dallas Mavericks . In Game 2 , he set a franchise playoff @-@ record 17 assists . The Hornets defeated the Mavericks in five games , with Paul registering 24 points , 11 rebounds , and 15 assists in the final game . New Orleans were eliminated in the next round by the San Antonio Spurs .

Prior to the start of the 2008 ? 09 season , Paul signed a contract extension with the Hornets worth \$ 68 million . On December 17 , he set the NBA record for consecutive games with a steal at 106 . On several occasions he came within a few steals of recording a quadruple @-@ double , including a 27 @-@ point , 10 rebound , 15 assist , and 7 steal game against the Philadelphia 76ers on January 26 . His final averages were 22 @.@ 8 points , 5 @.@ 5 rebounds , 11 assists , and 2 @.@ 8 steals per game . Despite Paul 's individual accomplishments , New Orleans ' record fell from the year before and they were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs by the Denver Nuggets .

After a slow start to the 2009 ? 10 season , the Hornets fired coach Byron Scott . Paul stirred up controversy when he announced his displeasure with the move , commenting that team management should have " consulted with me and asked how I felt before it happened . " In early February , Paul tore cartilage in his left knee and was sidelined for over a month by surgery , forcing

him to miss the All @-@ Star Game . In total , he played in only 45 games and his averages dropped to 18 @.@ 7 points , 3 @.@ 8 rebounds , 10 @.@ 7 assists , and 2 @.@ 1 steals per game . Without Paul , the Hornets struggled , missing the playoffs .

Paul had another injury scare on March 6 of the 2010 ? 11 season , suffering a concussion after colliding with Cavalier guard Ramon Sessions and being carried off the court in a stretcher . He returned two games later , registering 33 points and 15 assists against the Sacramento Kings . With Paul playing a full season , the Hornets qualified for the playoffs and were matched up with the defending champion Los Angeles Lakers in the first round . Paul had a " historically great " performance in the series , contributing 33 points , 14 assists , and 4 steals in Game 1 and 27 points , 13 rebounds , and 15 assists in Game 4 . His final averages were 22 points , 6 @.@ 7 rebounds , 11 @.@ 5 assists , and 1 @.@ 8 steals per game on 54 @.@ 5 percent shooting . New Orleans were eliminated in six games , and ownership , fearing that Paul would leave the franchise via free agency , began actively pursuing a trade that would provide the team equitable compensation in return for his services .

= = = Los Angeles Clippers ( 2011 ? present ) = = =

= = = Trade to Los Angeles ( 2011 ) = = =

On December 8 , 2011 , the Hornets agreed to a three @-@ team trade sending Paul to the Los Angeles Lakers . The NBA , who owned the team at the time , nullified the deal , with commissioner David Stern claiming New Orleans would be better off keeping Paul . The teams involved in the trade attempted to lobby the league to reverse its ruling and reconstruct the deal to no avail . On December 12 , the Hornets agreed to a trade sending Paul to the Los Angeles Clippers , but the deal broke down after the NBA added additional demands to the original terms . Two days later , the teams finally made the trade , sending Paul and two future second round draft picks to the Clippers for Eric Gordon , Chris Kaman , Al @-@ Farouq Aminu , and the Minnesota Timberwolves ' unprotected first round pick in the 2012 draft . Upon the deal 's completion , Paul announced that he would opt into the final year of his contract and remain in Los Angeles for at least two more seasons .

= = = Playoff contention ( 2011 ? present ) = = =

Paul 's arrival to Los Angeles rejuvenated the Clippers franchise , with teammate Blake Griffin later commenting , " It put us on the map . " Early in Paul 's debut season , the team developed a reputation for their fast paced offense and spectacular alley @-@ oop dunks , usually from Paul to Griffin or DeAndre Jordan , earning them the nickname " Lob City " . Paul finished the year averaging 19 @.@ 8 points , 9 @.@ 1 assists , and 2 @.@ 5 steals per game , becoming the first Clipper to be named to the All @-@ NBA First Team since the franchise moved to Los Angeles in the 1980s . Behind his play and the emergence of Griffin as an All @-@ NBA performer , Los Angeles qualified for the playoffs , losing to the San Antonio Spurs in the Conference Semifinals .

At the 2013 All @-@ Star Game , Paul led the West to victory with a 20 @-@ point and 15 assist performance , earning his first All @-@ Star Game MVP Award . He finished the season averaging 16 @.@ 9 points , 9 @.@ 7 assists , and 2 @.@ 4 steals per game , helping the Clippers to a franchise @-@ record 56 wins . Seeded fourth in the West entering the playoffs , Los Angeles were defeated in the first round by the Memphis Grizzlies . Shortly after their early postseason exit , the Clippers announced they would not renew coach Vinny Del Negro 's contract and rumors arose of Paul forcing Del Negro out . Los Angeles later denied any player involvement in the coaching decision .

Prior to the start of the 2013 ? 14 season , Paul re @-@ signed with the Clippers for five years on a contract worth approximately \$ 107 million . Despite a shoulder injury that sidelined him for over a month , Los Angeles set another new franchise record for wins with 57 . His final averages were 19

@. @ 1 points , 10 @. @ 7 assists , and 2 @. @ 5 steals per game . In Game 1 of the second round of the playoffs , he hit a career postseason @- @ high eight three @- @ pointers to help the Clippers take an early series lead over the Oklahoma City Thunder . In Game 5 and with the series tied 2 ? 2 , he made a string of late mistakes leading to an eventual Thunder victory , later commenting , " It 's me ... Everything that happened at the end is on me . " Oklahoma City eventually eliminated Los Angeles in six games .

In 2014 @- @ 15 , Paul played in all 82 games for the first time in his career , averaging 19 @. @ 1 points and a league @- @ high 10 @. @ 2 assists per game . In Game 7 of the first round of the playoffs , he hit a go @- @ ahead shot with a second left to lift the Clippers over the Spurs despite a hamstring injury . The injury forced him to miss the first two games of the next series versus the Houston Rockets , and Los Angeles eventually lost in seven games despite holding a 3 ? 1 series lead . The defeat marked ten consecutive seasons and seven consecutive playoff appearances without a Conference Finals appearance for Paul .

= = National team career = =

Paul made his debut for the United States national team at the 2006 FIBA World Championship in Japan . He finished the competition with a tournament @- @ high 44 assists , helping Team USA win the bronze medal . At the 2008 Olympics in Beijing , he played a key role off the bench , scoring 13 points in a gold medal game victory against Spain . Team USA finished the competition with a perfect 8 ? 0 record . Paul was promoted to the starting point guard position for the 2012 Olympics in London , averaging 8 @. @ 2 points , 5 @. @ 1 assists , and 1 @. @ 6 steals per game en route to another gold medal and undefeated tournament .

= = Player profile = =

Standing at 6 feet tall ( 1 @. @ 83 m ) and weighing 175 pounds ( 79 kg ) , Paul plays point guard exclusively . In his 2014 NBA preview , ESPN 's Kevin Pelton called Paul the league 's best point guard , adding , " a title he 's held throughout his career when healthy " . His career averages are 18 @. @ 7 points , 4 @. @ 4 rebounds , 9 @. @ 9 assists , and 2 @. @ 3 steals per game . He has earned All @- @ NBA honors seven times ( 2008 ? 09 , 2011 ? 15 ) , All @- @ Defensive honors seven times ( 2008 ? 09 , 2011 ? 15 ) , and led the NBA in steals six times ( 2008 ? 09 , 2011 ? 14 ) and in assists four times ( 2008 ? 09 , 2014 ? 2015 ) . In 2013 , he was ranked the third best player in the league by ESPN and Sports Illustrated .

Paul prefers playing in the half court versus playing up @- @ tempo . He creates scoring opportunities by constantly changing speeds ; upon beating his defender one @- @ on @- @ one or shedding him in the pick @- @ and @- @ roll , he will often slow down and box him out , denying him from regaining front side position and forcing the defense to help at all times . His ability to penetrate deep into the paint leads to easy shots for his teammates , and in 2013 he was second in the league in assisted three pointers . A deft midrange shooter , he is especially proficient from the right elbow , leading the league in shooting percentage from that area in 2015 . On defense , he aggravates opponents with active hands and high effort , and has been ranked as one of the best perimeter defenders in the NBA .

= = Off the court = =

Paul married his college sweetheart Jada Crawley on September 10 , 2011 . Together they have two children , Christopher Emmanuel Paul , Jr . ( born May 23 , 2009 ) and Camryn Alexis Paul ( born August 16 , 2012 ) . The family resides in a Mediterranean @- @ style mansion in Bel Air , which Paul bought from Avril Lavigne for \$ 8 @. @ 5 million in 2012 . On November 11 , 2011 , Paul appeared with his family on Family Feud .

Paul is a Christian and attends church every Sunday whenever possible . In one interview , Paul commented , " I am so thankful that my parents raised me and C.J. to depend on God 's guidance

and our faith in Him , and to always be thankful for what we receive . " He enjoys bowling and owns a franchise in the Professional Bowlers Association ( PBA ) League called L.A.X. He has hosted and participated in numerous celebrity and youth bowling events as the head of the CP3 Foundation , which benefits programs in Louisiana affected by Hurricane Katrina , as well as charities in Winston @-@ Salem .

Paul 's brother C.J. played college basketball at Hampton University and University of South Carolina Upstate . In 2004 , they played against each other when Wake Forest had a preseason exhibition with USC @-@ Upstate . C.J. now works as Chris 's personal manager . Paul is close friends with footballer Reggie Bush ; the two lived in the One River Place complex in the New Orleans Central Business District while Bush was playing for the Saints . They also shared a personal chef .

In 2014 , Forbes ranked Paul as one of the highest @-@ paid athletes in the world with \$ 24 @.@ 2 million in earnings including \$ 5 @.@ 5 million in endorsements . Some of the companies he does business with are Nike and State Farm . He was the cover athlete for the video game NBA 2K8 .

Paul was selected president of the National Basketball Players Association on August 21 , 2013 after having served on the executive committee for four years . He was a key figure in the banning of Clippers owner Donald Sterling from the NBA following racist remarks Sterling made in 2014 ; in one interview , Paul mentioned a possible boycott if Sterling continued to own the team . Paul played a significant role in the election of Michele Roberts as the Executive Director of the Players Association , giving a strong recommendation to the executive committee responsible for filling the position .

= = NBA career statistics = =

= = = Regular season = = =

= = = Playoffs = = =

= = Awards and honors = =

= = = NBA = = =

9 x NBA All @-@ Star : 2008 , 2009 , 2010 , 2011 , 2012 , 2013 , 2014 , 2015 , 2016

8 x All @-@ NBA Team :

First Team : 2008 , 2012 , 2013 , 2014

Second Team : 2009 , 2015 , 2016

Third Team : 2011

8 x NBA All @-@ Defensive Team :

First Team : 2009 , 2012 , 2013 , 2014 , 2015 , 2016

Second Team : 2008 , 2011

NBA All @-@ Star Game Most Valuable Player Award : 2013

NBA Rookie of the Year : 2006

NBA All @-@ Rookie First Team : 2006

= = = College = = =

First team consensus All @-@ American : 2005

No. 3 retired by Wake Forest

2x All @-@ ACC Team

All @-@ ACC First Team : 2005  
All @-@ ACC Third Team : 2004  
All @-@ ACC Defensive Team : 2004  
All @-@ ACC Freshman Team : 2004  
ACC Rookie of the Year : 2004  
All @-@ ACC Tournament Second Team : 2004

= = = United States National Team = = =

2x Olympic gold medalist : 2008 , 2012  
FIBA World Championship bronze medalist : 2006  
USA Basketball Male Athlete of the Year : 2004