

= Anthony Parker =

Anthony Michael Parker ( born June 19 , 1975 ) is an American retired professional basketball player who played in the National Basketball Association ( NBA ) , as well as in Italy and Israel .

After graduating from Bradley University with a major in liberal arts , he entered the 1997 NBA Draft and played briefly in the NBA before plying his trade in Europe . There , Parker spent five seasons with the Israeli Super League basketball club Maccabi Tel Aviv and one season with the Italian Serie A club Lottomatica Roma . With Maccabi he won five Israeli Super League national championships , five Israeli National Cups , three European titles ( two Euroleague Basketball titles and the FIBA SuproLeague title in 2001 ) , and was voted two consecutive times Euroleague MVP .

After returning to the NBA as a free agent in 2006 , Parker was the Toronto Raptors ' starting shooting guard . In his first season with the Raptors , Parker helped the team clinch their first ever division title , first NBA Playoffs berth in five years , and best regular season record in franchise history . He helped the Raptors reach the playoffs again in the 2007 ? 08 season , before becoming a free agent in 2009 .

On June 27 , 2012 , Anthony Parker retired after 9 seasons in the NBA and 6 seasons in Israel . He is currently a scout for the Orlando Magic .

= = Biography = =

= = = Family life = = =

Parker was born in Naperville , Illinois . His father played college basketball at the University of Iowa , while his mother was a cheerleader . Parker 's younger siblings also played basketball ; his brother Marcus played basketball in high school , while his sister Candace plays in the WNBA and was the number one pick of the 2008 draft . Early in his professional basketball career , Parker married Tamy , and they had their first child in 2002 . Parker is Christian .

Candace Parkers Brother

= = = Early basketball career = = =

Parker started out playing high school basketball at Naperville Central High School . He then played college basketball at Bradley University where he established himself as a top player , averaging 18 @. @ 9 points per game ( ppg ) and shooting 42 % from the three @-@ point line in his third season , earning the Missouri Valley Conference ( MVC ) Most Valuable Player and All @-@ MVC first team honors in the same season . His outstanding performances for the Braves ensured that he became one of 15 players honored in Bradley 's All @-@ Century basketball team named in 2003 . Academically , Parker also excelled . He majored in chemistry before switching to liberal arts and sciences in his senior year , and earned two Major Robert H. Lawrence Jr . Scholarships while at Bradley .

Parker entered the 1997 NBA Draft after four years at Bradley and was selected 21st overall by the New Jersey Nets , but he was immediately traded to the Philadelphia 76ers in a multi @-@ player trade . In his two seasons with the 76ers , Parker was largely plagued by injury and played in only 39 regular season games , averaging just over five minutes a game and totaling 74 points and 26 rebounds . He was subsequently traded together with Harvey Grant to the Orlando Magic for Billy Owens before the 1999 ? 2000 season began . Parker again struggled at Orlando , playing only 16 games with modest averages of 3 @. @ 6 ppg and 1 @. @ 7 rebounds per game ( rpg ) before being released in January 2000 . He finished the remainder of the season with the Quad City Thunder of the Continental Basketball Association where he averaged 11 @. @ 5 points in 26 games .

= = = European career = = =

Disappointed in his failure to make a breakthrough in the NBA , Parker turned to Europe to resurrect his basketball career , intending to return to the NBA after a good season with a European club . Eventually he moved to Israel in the 2000 ? 01 season , where he was signed by the Israeli Euroleague powerhouse Maccabi Tel Aviv . Initially , Parker and his wife were intimidated by the occasional bomb attacks in the city , but they soon settled in and Parker was able to focus on his basketball career . Within his first season with his new club , he became one of their most pivotal players . Parker was signed to fill the void left by Doron Sheffer 's retirement at the shooting guard position , but ended up featuring as a both scorer and playmaker for Maccabi . He immediately brought to the team his ability to score , rebound , block shots , and even entertain the crowds with slam dunks . In Parker 's inaugural season , Maccabi won the Israeli domestic championship and the Israeli National Cup , as well as the FIBA SuproLeague Cup . He continued his fine form for the club in the 2001 ? 02 season , averaging 16 @.@ 4 points per game and 5 @.@ 2 rebounds per game as Maccabi again won both domestic titles , and even reached the Euroleague 2001 ? 02 Final Four .

Parker left Israel in 2002 , and in January 2003 moved to Italy , where he signed with Virtus Roma , playing in 27 Italian Serie A league games and averaging 14 @.@ 5 points per game and 5 @.@ 6 rebounds per game . However , half a year later Parker longed a return to Israel , a country he had grown to love . Back with Maccabi , he helped his team accomplish two more Triple Crowns by winning the Israeli domestic championship , the Israeli National Cup , and the Euroleague championship in both 2004 and 2005 . In the process , he was named the Israeli Basketball Super League MVP and the Euroleague Final Four MVP of the Euroleague 2003 ? 04 season , as well as the Euroleague MVP and first team All @.@ Euroleague in the Euroleague 2004 ? 05 season . The 2004 ? 05 season also proved to be a watershed season for Parker , as he averaged career @.@ highs of 18 @.@ 0 points per game , 5 @.@ 3 rebounds per game and 3 @.@ 6 assists per game . In his final season with Maccabi , he led Maccabi to another domestic double , but in the Euroleague 2005 ? 06 season 's championship game , Maccabi was defeated 73 ? 69 by CSKA Moscow . For his efforts , Parker was named Euroleague MVP and first team All @.@ Euroleague for the second consecutive time . After six years of success in Europe however , Parker dreamed of returning to the NBA . Overall , he averaged 13 @.@ 6 points per game , 4 @.@ 8 rebounds per game and 1 @.@ 8 steals per game in his Israeli league career , while averaging 15 @.@ 8 points per game , 5 @.@ 7 rebounds per game and 1 @.@ 6 steals per game in the Euroleague . He made the 50 Greatest Euroleague Contributors list in 2008 , and the Euroleague 2001 ? 10 All @.@ Decade Team in 2010 .

Parker 's experience playing in Israel left a positive impression upon him . He went on to wear jersey number 18 for both Toronto and Cleveland , explaining that : " I played in Israel before I came back to the NBA , and I had such a great time ... two of my sons were born while I was playing overseas and one was actually born in Israel . And I just had such a great experience that I wanted to take something from that experience . The number 18 , in Judaism , it means ' chai ' ... and it 's the symbol for life and good fortune in Judaism . And I thought that was something to take away from Israel and let them know I 'm still representing them . "

== Return to the NBA ==

=== Toronto Raptors ===

In October 2005 , during a pre @.@ season friendly representing Maccabi against the Toronto Raptors organized by then Israeli Consul @.@ General Cobie Brosh , Parker hit the game @.@ winning shot with less than a second remaining to lead Maccabi to a 105 ? 103 win at the Air Canada Centre . This gave the Raptors fans and management a glimpse of his abilities and in July 2006 , Parker was officially signed by Raptors General Manager Bryan Colangelo as a free agent as part of a massive revamp of the 2006 ? 07 Toronto team . He was signed for approximately \$ 12 million ( USD ) over three years , joining recent European veteran acquisitions Jorge Garbajosa and

José Calderón on the team . Adopting a # 18 jersey , Parker quickly established himself as the starting shooting guard for Toronto and a well @-@ respected three @-@ point shooter in the NBA , ranking fourth in the league for three point field goal percentage by the end of the regular season . Overall , in his first season with Toronto , he averaged 12 @.@ 4 ppg , 3 @.@ 9 rpg , and 2 @.@ 1 apg , leading his team in three @-@ point field goal percentage and free throw percentage . Parker 's defensive and offensive versatility were credited as instrumental in helping the Raptors clinch their first @-@ ever division title , first NBA Playoffs berth in five years , as well as best regular season record in franchise history .

In the first round of the 2007 NBA Playoffs , Parker was chosen to defend New Jersey Nets ' and former Toronto favorite Vince Carter . Parker was effective in shutting down Carter , restricting him to 13 @-@ for @-@ 43 shooting in the first two games . However , the Raptors were eliminated by the Nets after Game 6 . On April 4 , 2007 , the NBA also announced that Parker had been selected by a five @-@ member panel of former players as the divisional winner of the 2006 ? 07 NBA Sportsmanship Award . The annual award reflects the ideals of sportsmanship in amateur and professional basketball .

In the 2007 ? 08 season , Parker remained ? despite the signing of Miami 's Jason Kapon ? the starting shooting guard for the Raptors , with rookie Jamarion Moon completing the wing positions . In a season that was fraught with lengthy injuries to a number of his team mates ( such as T.J. Ford and Chris Bosh ) , he managed to play in all 82 regular season games and ensured that Toronto made the 2008 NBA Playoffs , albeit as the sixth seed . However , the Raptors were eliminated in the first round by the Orlando Magic in five games . Parker was later named by ESPN as one of the best Euroleague players to have graced the NBA .

At the end of the 2007 ? 08 season , he ranked 7th in NBA 's all @-@ time leaders in three @-@ point field goal percentage .

Parker played a variety of roles in the following season . First , Kapon ? was temporarily moved to the starting shooting guard spot after the Raptors fired head coach Sam Mitchell . When Calderón was injured , Parker had to fill in as the starting point guard . After struggling in December , he hit good form in January and helped the Raptors inch towards a better record after the team went 16 ? 28 . Although Parker eventually regained his starting spot , Toronto fell further behind the playoff race as a result of changing rosters and inconsistent performances , dropping to 21 ? 34 just before the All @-@ Star break . The shooting guard 's offensive output was also erratic throughout the season , and the Raptors all but fell out of the playoffs picture by March . The Raptors eventually concluded the regular season with only 33 wins , with Parker suffering a significant drop in his numbers ( shooting percentage and points per game ) . His future remained uncertain as he was due to become a free agent , but he expressed a desire to return to Toronto for the next season . With Toronto selecting shooting guard DeMar DeRozan in the 2009 NBA Draft , that uncertainty was compounded .

= = = = Cleveland Cavaliers = = = =

On July 13 , 2009 , Parker signed a two @-@ year , \$ 6 million deal with the LeBron James @-@ led Cleveland Cavaliers , a team that had reached the 2007 NBA Finals and 2009 Conference Finals . Cleveland General Manager Danny Ferry said of Parker : " Anthony will be a solid addition to our roster . He is a very good , intelligent all @-@ around basketball player . Our coaching staff will especially appreciate the good shooting and solid defense that Anthony brings to our team . " In a bid to ensure that James had his best shot of winning a title before he could potentially become a free agent after the season , Cleveland also acquired Shaquille O 'Neal and subsequently , Antawn Jamison , both of whom were veteran superstars . The new @-@ look Cleveland concluded the regular season with a league @-@ high 61 wins , with Parker starting all 81 games that he played in . In the first round of the playoffs , they defeated Chicago in five games . Cleveland faced the 2008 champions Boston in the next round , and despite expectations to prevail over the aging Celtics , Cleveland lost the series 4 ? 2 . Parker started all 11 of Cleveland 's playoff games .

During the 2010 NBA offseason , LeBron James and Zydrunas Ilgauskas left Cleveland for the

Miami Heat , which led several other veterans to also leave the team . The departures would thrust Parker , Antawn Jamison and Anderson Varejão into the spotlight as the veteran leaders for the young team . While Cleveland only managed a conference @-@ worst 19 ? 63 season , they were able to upset LeBron James ' heavily favored Miami Heat on March 29 , 2011 in a game where Parker grabbed eight rebounds and scored 20 points .

On June 27 , 2012 , Parker announced his retirement .

= = = International career = = =

Parker had a brief stint with the junior United States men 's national basketball team as a college player . He was a member of the Under @-@ 22 team alongside future NBA All @-@ Stars Tim Duncan and Paul Pierce . The team defeated host and co @-@ favorite Puerto Rico twice in the COPABA 22 @-@ and @-@ under tournament and captured the gold medal in 1996 , en route to qualifying for the 1997 FIBA Under @-@ 21 World Championship . In the gold medal game , Parker scored a game @-@ high 19 points in a win against Canada .

= = Career statistics = =

Note : The Euroleague is not the only competition in which the player participated for the team during the season . He also played in domestic competition , and regional competition if applicable .

= = = NBA = = =

= = = = Regular season = = = =

= = = = Playoffs = = = =

= = = = Career highs = = = =

Points : 27 vs. Chicago 04 / 08 / 07

Rebounds : 11 @ Indiana 02 / 25 / 08

Assists : 9 3 times

Steals : 4 8 times

Blocks : 2 11 times

= = = FIBA SuproLeague = = =

= = = Euroleague = = =