

= Charles Barkley =

Charles Wade Barkley (born February 20 , 1963) is an American retired professional basketball player and current analyst on the television program Inside the NBA . Nicknamed " Chuck " , " Sir Charles " , and " The Round Mound of Rebound " , Barkley established himself as one of the National Basketball Association 's most dominating power forwards . He was drafted by the Philadelphia 76ers with the 5th pick of the 1984 NBA draft . He was selected to the All @-@ NBA First Team five times , the All @-@ NBA Second Team five times , and once to the All @-@ NBA Third Team . He earned eleven NBA All @-@ Star Game appearances and was named the All @-@ Star MVP in 1991 . In 1993 , he was voted the league 's Most Valuable Player and during the NBA 's 50th anniversary , named one of the 50 Greatest Players in NBA History . He competed in the 1992 and 1996 Olympic games and won two gold medals as a member of the United States ' " Dream Team " . Barkley is a two @-@ time inductee into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame , being inducted in 2006 for his individual career , and in 2010 as a member of the " Dream Team " .

Barkley was popular with the fans and media and made the NBA 's All @-@ Interview Team for his last 13 seasons in the league . He was frequently involved in on- and off @-@ court fights and sometimes stirred national controversy , as in March 1991 when he spat on a young girl while attempting to spit at a heckler , and as in 1993 when he declared that sports figures should not be considered role models . Short for a power forward , Barkley used his strength and aggressiveness to become one of the NBA 's most dominant rebounders . He was a versatile player who had the ability to score , create plays , and defend . In 2000 , he retired as the fourth player in NBA history to achieve 20 @,@ 000 points , 10 @,@ 000 rebounds and 4 @,@ 000 assists .

Since retiring as a player , Barkley has had a successful career as a television NBA analyst . He works with Turner Network Television (TNT) alongside of Shaquille O 'Neal as a studio pundit for its coverage of NBA games and is a spokesman for CDW . In addition , Barkley has written several books and has shown an interest in politics ; in October 2008 , he announced that he would run for Governor of Alabama in 2014 , but he changed his mind in 2010 .

= = Early life = =

Barkley was born and raised in Leeds , Alabama , ten miles (16 km) outside Birmingham , and attended Leeds High School . As a junior , Barkley stood 5 ' 10 " (1 @.@ 78 m) and weighed 220 pounds (99 @.@ 8 kg) . He failed to make the varsity team and was named as a reserve . However , during the summer Barkley grew to 6 ' 4 " (1 @.@ 93 m) and earned a starting position on the varsity team in his senior year . He averaged 19 @.@ 1 points and 17 @.@ 9 rebounds per game and led his team to a 26 ? 3 record en route to the state semifinals . Despite his improvement , Barkley garnered no attention from college scouts until the state high school semifinals , where he scored 26 points against Alabama 's most highly recruited player , Bobby Lee Hurt . An assistant to Auburn University 's head coach , Sonny Smith , was at the game and reported seeing , " a fat guy ... who can play like the wind " . Barkley was soon recruited by Smith and majored in business management while attending Auburn University .

= = College = =

Barkley played collegiate basketball at Auburn for three seasons . Although he struggled to control his weight , he excelled as a player and led the SEC in rebounding each year . He became a popular crowd @-@ pleaser , exciting the fans with dunks and blocked shots that belied his lack of height and overweight frame . It was not uncommon to see the hefty Barkley grab a defensive rebound and , instead of passing , dribble the entire length of the court and finish at the opposite end with a two @-@ handed dunk . His physical size and skills ultimately earned him the nickname " The Round Mound of Rebound . "

During his college career , Barkley played the center position , despite being shorter than the

average center . His height , officially listed as 6 ft 6 in (1 @. @ 98 m) , is stated as 6 ft 4 in (1 @. @ 93 m) in his book , I May Be Wrong but I Doubt It . He became a member of Auburn 's All @- @ Century team and still holds the Auburn record for career field goal percentage with 62 @. @ 6 % . He received numerous awards , including Southeastern Conference (SEC) Player of the Year (1984) , three All @- @ SEC selections and one Second Team All @- @ American selection . Later , Barkley was named the SEC Player of the Decade for the 1980s by the Birmingham Post @- @ Herald .

In Barkley 's three @- @ year college career , he averaged 14 @. @ 8 points on 68 @. @ 2 % field goal shooting , 9 @. @ 6 rebounds , 1 @. @ 6 assists and 1 @. @ 7 blocks per game . In 1984 , he made his only appearance in the NCAA Tournament and finished with 23 points on 80 % field goal shooting , 17 rebounds , 4 assists , 2 steals and 2 blocks . Auburn retired Barkley 's No. 34 jersey on March 3 , 2001 .

In 2010 , just two years removed from announcing he had a serious interest in becoming a candidate for Governor of Alabama , Barkley admitted that he asked for , and had been given , money from sports agents during his career at Auburn University . Barkley called the sums he had requested from agents as being " chump change " , and went on to say , " Why can 't an agent lend me some money and I 'll pay him back when I graduate ? " According to Barkley , he paid back all of the money he had borrowed after signing his first NBA contract .

= = NBA career = =

= = = Philadelphia 76ers = = =

Barkley left before his final year at Auburn and made himself eligible for the 1984 NBA draft . He was selected with the fifth pick in the first round by the Philadelphia 76ers , two slots after the Chicago Bulls drafted Michael Jordan . He joined a veteran team that included Julius Erving , Moses Malone and Maurice Cheeks , players who took Philadelphia to the 1983 NBA championship . Under the tutelage of Malone , Barkley was able to manage his weight and learned to prepare and condition himself properly for a game . He averaged 14 @. @ 0 points and 8 @. @ 6 rebounds per game during the regular season and earned a berth on the All @- @ Rookie Team . In the postseason , the Sixers advanced to the Eastern Conference Finals but were defeated in five games by the Boston Celtics . As a rookie in the postseason , Barkley averaged 14 @. @ 9 points and 11 @. @ 1 rebounds per game .

During his second year , Barkley became the team 's leading rebounder and number two scorer , averaging 20 @. @ 0 points and 12 @. @ 8 rebounds per game . He became the Sixers ' starting power forward and helped lead his team into the playoffs , averaging 25 @. @ 0 points on .578 shooting from the field and 15 @. @ 8 rebounds per game . Despite his efforts , Philadelphia was defeated 4 ? 3 by the Milwaukee Bucks in the Eastern Conference Semifinals . He was named to the All @- @ NBA Second Team .

Before the 1986 ? 87 season , Moses Malone was traded to the Washington Bullets and Barkley began to assume control as the team leader . He earned his first and only rebounding title , averaging 14 @. @ 6 rebounds per game and also led the league in offensive rebounds with 5 @. @ 7 per game . He averaged 23 @. @ 0 points on .594 shooting , earning his first trip to an NBA All @- @ Star game and All @- @ NBA Second Team honors for the second straight season . In the playoffs , Barkley averaged 24 @. @ 6 points and 12 @. @ 6 rebounds in a losing effort , for the second straight year , to the Bucks in a five @- @ game first round playoff series .

The following season , Julius Erving announced his retirement and Barkley became the Sixers ' franchise player . Playing in 80 games and getting 300 more minutes than his nearest teammate , Barkley had his most productive season , averaging 28 @. @ 3 points on .587 shooting and 11 @. @ 9 rebounds per game . He appeared in his second All @- @ Star Game and was named to the All @- @ NBA First Team for the first time in his career . His celebrity status as the Sixers ' franchise player led to his first appearance on the cover of Sports Illustrated . For the first time since the 1974

? 75 season , however , the 76ers failed to make the playoffs . In the 1988 ? 89 season , Barkley continued to play well , averaging 25 @. @ 8 points on .579 shooting and 12 @. @ 5 rebounds per game . He earned his third straight All @-@ Star Game appearance and was named to the All @-@ NBA First team for the second straight season . Despite Barkley contributing 27 @. @ 0 points on .644 shooting , 11 @. @ 7 rebounds and 5 @. @ 3 assists per game , the 76ers were swept in the first round of the playoffs by the New York Knicks .

During the 1989 ? 90 season , despite receiving more first @-@ place votes , Barkley finished second in MVP voting behind the Los Angeles Lakers ' Magic Johnson . He was named Player of the Year by The Sporting News and Basketball Weekly . He averaged 25 @. @ 2 points and 11 @. @ 5 rebounds per game and a career high .600 shooting . He was named to the All @-@ NBA First Team for the third consecutive year and earned his fourth All @-@ Star selection . He helped Philadelphia win 53 regular season games , only to lose to the Chicago Bulls in a five @-@ game Eastern Conference Semifinals series . Barkley averaged 24 @. @ 7 points and 15 @. @ 5 rebounds in another postseason loss . His exceptional play continued into his seventh season , where he averaged 27 @. @ 6 points on .570 shooting and 10 @. @ 1 rebounds per game . His fifth straight All @-@ Star Game appearance proved to be his best yet . He led the East to a 116 ? 114 win over the West with 17 points and 22 rebounds , the most rebounds in an All @-@ Star Game since Wilt Chamberlain recorded 22 in 1967 . Barkley was presented with Most Valuable Player honors at the All @-@ Star Game and , at the end of the season , named to the All @-@ NBA First Team for the fourth straight year . In the postseason , Philadelphia lost again to Jordan 's Chicago Bulls in the Eastern Conference Semifinals , with Barkley contributing 24 @. @ 9 points and 10 @. @ 5 rebounds per game .

The 1991 ? 92 season was Barkley 's final year in Philadelphia . In his last season , he wore number 32 instead of his 34 to honor Magic Johnson , who had announced prior to the start of the season that he was HIV @-@ positive . Although the 76ers initially retired the number 32 in honor of Billy Cunningham , it was unretired for Barkley to wear . Following Johnson 's announcement , Barkley also apologized for having made light of his condition . Responding to concerns that players may contract HIV by contact with Johnson , Barkley stated , " We 're just playing basketball . It 's not like we 're going out to have unprotected sex with Magic . "

In his final season with the Sixers , averaging 23 @. @ 1 points on .552 shooting and 11 @. @ 1 rebounds per game , Barkley earned his sixth straight All @-@ Star appearance and was named to the All @-@ NBA Second Team , his seventh straight appearance on either the first or second team . He ended his 76ers career ranked fourth in team history in total points (14 @, @ 184) , third in scoring average (23 @. @ 3 ppg) , third in rebounds (7 @, @ 079) , eighth in assists (2 @, @ 276) and second in field @-@ goal percentage (.576) . He led Philadelphia in rebounding and field @-@ goal percentage for seven consecutive seasons and in scoring for six straight years . However , Barkley demanded a trade out of Philadelphia after the Sixers failed to make the postseason with a 35 ? 47 record . Barkley was initially traded to the Los Angeles Lakers before the end of the season , but the 76ers wound up retracting their deal a few hours later . On July 17 , 1992 , he was officially traded to the Phoenix Suns in exchange for Jeff Hornacek , Tim Perry and Andrew Lang .

During Barkley 's eight seasons in Philadelphia , he became a household name and was one of the few NBA players to have a figure published by Kenner 's Starting Lineup toy line . He also had his own signature shoe line with Nike . His outspoken and aggressive play , however , also caused a few scandals ; notoriously a fight with Detroit Pistons center Bill Laimbeer in 1990 , an event which drew a record total \$ 162 @, @ 500 fine , and the infamous spitting incident .

= = = = Spitting incident = = = =

In March 1991 , during a game in New Jersey , Barkley attempted to spit on a fan that had been heckling with racial slurs ; however , his spit instead hit a young girl nearby . Rod Thorn , the NBA 's president of operations at the time , suspended Barkley without pay and fined him \$ 10 @, @ 000 for spitting and using abusive language at the fan . It became a national story and Barkley was vilified for it . Barkley , however , eventually developed a friendship with the girl and her family . He

apologized and , among other things , provided tickets to future games .

Upon retirement , Barkley was later quoted as stating , in regards to his career , " I was fairly controversial , I guess , but I regret only one thing ? the spitting incident . But you know what ? It taught me a valuable lesson . It taught me that I was getting way too intense during the game . It let me know I wanted to win way too bad . I had to calm down . I wanted to win at all costs . Instead of playing the game the right way and respecting the game , I only thought about winning . "

= = = Phoenix Suns = = =

The trade to Phoenix in the 1992 ? 93 season went well for both Barkley and the Suns . He averaged 25 @.@ 6 points on .520 shooting , 12 @.@ 2 rebounds and a career high 5 @.@ 1 assists per game , leading the Suns to an NBA best 62 ? 20 record . For his efforts , Barkley won the league 's Most Valuable Player Award , and was selected to play in his seventh straight All @.-@ Star Game . He became the third player ever to win league MVP honors in the season immediately after being traded , established multiple career highs and led Phoenix to their first NBA Finals appearance since 1976 . Despite Barkley 's proclamation to Jordan , that it was " destiny " for the Suns to win the title , they were defeated in six games by the Chicago Bulls . He averaged 26 @.@ 6 points and 13 @.@ 6 rebounds per game during the whole postseason , including 27 @.@ 3 points , 13 @.@ 0 rebounds and 5 @.@ 5 assists per game throughout the championship series . In the fourth game of the Finals , Barkley recorded a triple @.-@ double after collecting 32 points , 12 rebounds and 10 assists .

As a result of severe back pains , Barkley began to speculate his last year in Phoenix during the 1993 ? 94 season . Playing through the worst injury problems of his career , Barkley managed 21 @.@ 6 points on .495 shooting and 11 @.@ 2 rebounds per game . He was selected to his eighth consecutive All @.-@ Star Game , but did not play because of a torn right quadriceps tendon , and was named to the All @.-@ NBA Second Team . With Barkley fighting injuries , the Suns still managed a 56 ? 26 record and made it to the Western Conference Semifinals . Despite holding a 2 ? 0 lead in the series , however , the Suns lost in seven games to the eventual champions , the Houston Rockets , who were led by Hakeem Olajuwon . Despite his injuries , in Game 3 of a first @.-@ round playoff series against the Golden State Warriors , Barkley hit 23 of 31 field @.-@ goal attempts and finished with 56 points , the then @.-@ third @.-@ highest total ever in a playoff game . After contemplating retirement in the offseason , Barkley returned for his eleventh season and continued to battle injuries . He struggled during the first half of the season , but managed to gradually improve , earning his ninth consecutive appearance in the All @.-@ Star Game . He averaged 23 points on .486 shooting and 11 @.@ 1 rebounds per game , while leading the Suns to a 59 ? 23 record . In the postseason , despite having a 3 ? 1 lead in the series , the Suns once again lost to the defending and eventual two @.-@ time champion Rockets in seven games . Barkley averaged 25 @.@ 7 points on .500 shooting and 13 @.@ 4 rebounds per game in the postseason , but was limited in Game 7 of the semifinals by a leg injury .

The 1995 ? 96 season was Barkley 's last with the Phoenix Suns . He led the team in scoring , rebounds and steals , averaging 23 @.@ 3 points on .500 shooting , 11 @.@ 6 rebounds and a career high .777 free throw shooting . He earned his tenth appearance in an All @.-@ Star Game as the top vote @.-@ getter among Western Conference players and posted his 18th career triple @.-@ double on November 22 . He also became just the tenth player in NBA history to reach 20 @,@ 000 points and 10 @,@ 000 rebounds in their career . In the postseason , Barkley averaged 25 @.@ 5 points and 13 @.@ 5 rebounds per game in a four @.-@ game first round playoff loss to the San Antonio Spurs . After the Suns closed out the season with a 41 ? 41 record and a first @.-@ round playoff loss , Barkley was traded to Houston in exchange for Sam Cassell , Robert Horry , Mark Bryant and Chucky Brown .

During his career with the Suns , Barkley excelled as a player , earning All @.-@ NBA and All @.-@ Star honors in each of his four seasons . The always outspoken Barkley , however , continued to stir up controversy during the 1993 season , when he claimed that sports figures should not be role models .

== = Role model controversy == =

Throughout his career , Barkley had been arguing that athletes should not be considered role models . He stated , " A million guys can dunk a basketball in jail ; should they be role models ? " In 1993 , his argument prompted national news when he wrote the text for his " I am not a role model " Nike commercial . Dan Quayle , the former Vice President of the United States , called it a " family @-@ values message " for Barkley 's oft @-@ ignored call for parents and teachers to quit looking to him to " raise your kids " and instead be role models themselves .

Barkley 's message sparked a great public debate about the nature of role models . He argued , I think the media demands that athletes be role models because there 's some jealousy involved . It 's as if they say , this is a young black kid playing a game for a living and making all this money , so we 're going to make it tough on him . And what they 're really doing is telling kids to look up to someone they can 't become , because not many people can be like we are . Kids can 't be like Michael Jordan .

== = Houston Rockets == =

The trade to the Houston Rockets in the 1996 ? 97 season was Barkley 's last chance at capturing an NBA championship title . He joined a veteran team that included two of the NBA 's 50 Greatest Players , Hakeem Olajuwon and Clyde Drexler . To begin the season , Barkley was suspended for the season opener and fined \$ 5 @,@ 000 for fighting Charles Oakley during an October 25 , 1996 preseason game . After Oakley committed a flagrant foul on Barkley , Barkley responded by shoving Oakley . In his first game with the Houston Rockets , Charles Barkley had a career @-@ high 33 rebounds . He continued to battle injuries throughout the season and played only 53 games , missing fourteen because of a laceration and bruise on his left pelvis , eleven because of a sprained right ankle and four due to suspensions . He became the team 's second leading scorer , averaging 19 @.@ 2 points on .484 shooting ; the first time since his rookie year that he averaged below 20 points per game . With Olajuwon taking most of the shots , Barkley focused primarily on rebounding , averaging 13 @.@ 5 per game , the second best in his career . The Rockets ended the regular season with a 57 ? 25 record and advanced to the Western Conference Finals , where they were defeated in six games by the Utah Jazz . Barkley averaged 17 @.@ 9 points and 12 @.@ 0 rebounds per game in another postseason loss .

The 1997 ? 98 season was another injury @-@ plagued year for Barkley . He averaged 15 @.@ 2 points on .485 shooting and 11 @.@ 7 rebounds per game . The Rockets ended the season with a 41 ? 41 record and were eliminated in five games by the Utah Jazz in the first round of the playoffs . Limited by injuries , Barkley played four games and averaged career lows of 9 @.@ 0 points and 5 @.@ 3 rebounds in 21 @.@ 8 minutes per game . During the league @-@ lockout @-@ shortened season , Barkley played 42 regular @-@ season games and managed 16 @.@ 1 points on .478 shooting and 12 @.@ 3 rebounds per game . He became the second player in NBA history , following Wilt Chamberlain , to accumulate 23 @,@ 000 points , 12 @,@ 000 rebounds and 4 @,@ 000 assists in his career . The Rockets concluded the shortened season with a 31 ? 19 record and advanced to the playoffs . In his last postseason appearance , Barkley averaged 23 @.@ 5 points on .529 shooting and 13 @.@ 8 rebounds per game in a first @-@ round playoff loss to the Los Angeles Lakers . He concluded his postseason career averaging 23 points on .513 shooting , 12 @.@ 9 rebounds and 3 @.@ 9 assists per game in 123 games .

The 1999 ? 2000 season would be Barkley 's final year in the NBA . Initially , Barkley averaged 14 @.@ 5 points on .477 shooting and 10 @.@ 5 rebounds per game . Along with Shaquille O 'Neal , Barkley was ejected from a November 10 , 1999 game against the Los Angeles Lakers . After O 'Neal blocked a layup by Barkley , O 'Neal shoved Barkley , who then threw the ball at O 'Neal . Barkley 's season and career seemingly ended prematurely at the age of 36 after rupturing his left quadriceps tendon on December 8 , 1999 in Philadelphia , where his career began . Refusing to allow his injury to be the last image of his career , Barkley returned after four months for one final

game . On April 19 , 2000 , in a home game against the Vancouver Grizzlies , Barkley scored a memorable basket on an offensive rebound and putback , a common trademark during his career . He accomplished what he set out to do after being activated from the injured list , and walked off the court to a standing ovation . He stated , " I can 't explain what tonight meant . I did it for me . I 've won and lost a lot of games , but the last memory I had was being carried off the court . I couldn 't get over the mental block of being carried off the court . It was important psychologically to walk off the court on my own . " After the basket , Barkley immediately retired and concluded his sixteen @-@ year Hall of Fame career .

= = Olympics = =

Barkley was invited by Bobby Knight to try out for United States men 's basketball team for the 1984 Summer Olympics . He made it all the way to final cuts , but wasn 't selected for the team , despite outplaying almost all of the front @-@ court players there . According to Knight , Barkley was cut because of poor defense .

Barkley competed in the 1992 and 1996 Olympic games and won two gold medals as a member of the United States men 's basketball team . International rules which had previously prevented NBA players from playing in the Olympics were changed in 1992 , allowing Barkley and fellow NBA players to compete in the Olympics for the first time . The result was the " Dream Team " , which went 6 ? 0 in the Olympic qualifying tournament and 8 ? 0 against Olympic opponents . The team averaged an Olympic record 117 @.@ 3 points a game and won games by an average of 43 @.@ 8 points . Barkley led the team with 18 @.@ 0 points on 71 @.@ 1 % field goal shooting and set a then @-@ Olympic single game scoring record with 30 points in a 127 ? 83 victory over Brazil . He also set a U.S. Men 's Olympic record for highest three @-@ point field goal percentage with 87 @.@ 5 % and added 4 @.@ 1 rebounds and 2 @.@ 6 steals per game . Barkley was also part of an ugly moment in the 1992 Olympics when he intentionally elbowed Angola player Herlander Coimbra in the chest during a 116 ? 48 rout of that team .

At the 1996 Atlanta Summer Olympic Games , Barkley led the team in scoring , rebounds , and field goal percentage . He averaged 12 @.@ 4 points on 81 @.@ 6 % field goal shooting , setting a U.S. Men 's Olympic record . In addition , he also contributed 6 @.@ 6 rebounds per game . Under Barkley 's leadership , the team once again compiled a perfect 8 ? 0 record and captured gold medal honors .

= = Player profile = =

Barkley played the power forward position ; but on some occasions , he would play the small forward and center positions . He was known for his unusual build as a basketball player , stockier than most small forwards , yet shorter than most power forwards he faced . However , Barkley was still capable of outplaying both taller and quicker opponents because of his strength and agility .

Barkley was a prolific scorer who averaged 22 @.@ 1 points @-@ per @-@ game during the regular season for his career and 23 @.@ 0 points @-@ per @-@ game in the playoffs for his career . Barkley was an incredibly efficient offensive force , leading the NBA in 2 @-@ point field goal percentage every season from the 1986 @-@ 87 season to the 1990 @-@ 91 season . He led the league in effective field goal percentage in both the 1986 @-@ 87 and 1987 @-@ 88 seasons as well , and also led the league in offensive rating in both the 1988 @-@ 89 and 1989 @-@ 90 seasons . He was one of the NBA 's most versatile players and accurate scorers capable of scoring from anywhere on the court and established himself as one of the NBA 's premier clutch players . During his NBA career , Barkley was a constant mismatch because he possessed a set of very uncommon skills and could play in a variety of positions . He would use all facets of his game in a single play ; as a scorer , he had the ability to score from the perimeter and the post , using an array of spin moves and fadeaways , or finishing a fast break with a powerful dunk . He was one of the most efficient scorers of all @-@ time , scoring at 54 @.@ 13 % total field goal percentage for his season career and 51 @.@ 34 % total field goal shooting for his playoff career (including a career

@-@ high season average of 60 % during the 1989 ? 90 NBA season) .

Barkley is the shortest player in NBA history to lead the league in rebounding when he averaged a career high 14 @.@ 6 rebounds per game during the 1986 ? 87 season . His tenacious and aggressive form of play built into an undersized frame that fluctuated between 284 pounds (129 kg) and 252 pounds (114 kg) helped cement his legacy as one of the greatest rebounders in NBA history , averaging 11 @.@ 7 rebounds per game in the regular season for his career and 12 @.@ 9 rebounds per game in his playoff career and totaling 12 @,@ 546 rebounds for his season career . Barkley topped the NBA in offensive rebounding for three straight years and was most famous among very few power forwards who could control a defensive rebound , dribble the length of the court and finish at the rim with a powerful dunk .

Barkley also possessed considerable defensive talents led by an aggressive demeanor , foot speed and his capacity to read the floor to anticipate for steals , a reason why he established his career as the second All @-@ Time leader in steals for the power forward position and leader of the highest all @-@ time steal per game average for the power forward position . Despite being undersized for both the small forward and power forward positions , he also finished among the all @-@ time leaders in blocked shots . His speed and leaping ability made him one of the few power forwards capable of running down court to block a faster player with a chase @-@ down block .

In a SLAM magazine issue ranking NBA greats , Barkley was ranked among the top 20 players of All @-@ Time . In the magazine , NBA Hall @-@ of @-@ Famer Bill Walton commented on Barkley 's ability . Walton stated , " Barkley is like Magic [Johnson] and Larry [Bird] in that they don 't really play a position . He plays everything ; he plays basketball . There is nobody who does what Barkley does . He 's a dominant rebounder , a dominant defensive player , a three @-@ point shooter , a dribbler , a playmaker . "

= = Legacy = =

During his 16 @-@ year NBA career , Barkley was regarded as one of the most controversial , outspoken and dominating players in the history of basketball . His impact on the sport went beyond his rebounding titles , assists , scoring and physical play . His confrontational mannerisms often led to technical fouls and fines on the court , and his larger than life persona sometimes gave rise to national controversy off of it , such as when he was featured in ads that rejected pro athletes as role models and declared , " I am not a role model . " Although his words often led to controversy , according to Barkley his mouth was never the cause because it always spoke the truth . He stated , " I don 't create controversies . They 're there long before I open my mouth . I just bring them to your attention . "

Besides his on @-@ court fights with other players , he has exhibited confrontational behavior off @-@ court . He was arrested for breaking a man 's nose during a fight after a game with the Milwaukee Bucks and also for throwing a man through a plate @-@ glass window after being struck with a glass of ice . Barkley continues to be popular with the fans and media because of his sense of humor and honesty .

As a player , Barkley was a perennial All @-@ Star who earned league MVP honors in 1993 . He employed a physical style of play that earned him the nicknames " Sir Charles " and " The Round Mound of Rebound " . He was named to the All @-@ NBA team eleven times and earned two gold medals as a member of the United States Olympic Basketball team . He led both teams in scoring and was instrumental in helping the 1992 " Dream Team " and 1996 Men 's Basketball team compile a perfect 16 ? 0 record . He retired as one of only four players in NBA history to record at least 20 @,@ 000 points , 10 @,@ 000 rebounds and 4 @,@ 000 assists in their career , although a fifth player , Kevin Garnett , has since accomplished that feat .

In recognition of his collegiate and NBA achievements , Barkley 's number 34 jersey was officially retired by Auburn University on March 3 , 2001 . In the same month , the Philadelphia 76ers also officially retired Barkley 's jersey . On March 20 , 2004 , the Phoenix Suns honored Barkley as well by retiring his jersey and including him in the " Suns Ring of Honor " . In recognition of his achievements as a player , Barkley was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of

Fame in 2006 .

= = NBA career statistics = =

= = = Regular season = = =

= = = Playoffs = = =

= = = Career highs = = =

= = NBA records = =

= = = Regular season = = =

Most offensive rebounds in a half : 13 , Philadelphia 76ers vs. New York Knicks , March 4 , 1987

Most offensive rebounds in a quarter : 11 , Philadelphia 76ers vs. New York Knicks , 000000001987 @-@ 03 @-@ 04 @-@ 0000March 4 , 1987

Tied with Larry Smith (Golden State Warriors vs. Denver Nuggets , 000000001986 @-@ 03 @-@ 23 @-@ 0000March 23 , 1986)

= = = Playoffs = = =

Most free throws made in a half : 19 , Phoenix Suns vs. Seattle SuperSonics , 000000001993 @-@ 06 @-@ 05 @-@ 0000June 5 , 1993

Most free throw attempts in a 7 @-@ game series : 100 , Philadelphia 76ers vs. Milwaukee Bucks , 1986 Eastern Conference Semifinals

Most turnovers in a 7 @-@ game series : 37 , Philadelphia 76ers vs. Milwaukee Bucks , 1986 Eastern Conference Semifinals

As of 2015 , he has the 11th highest PER in NBA history .

= = Post @-@ basketball life = =

= = = Television analyst = = =

Since 2000 , Barkley has served as a studio analyst for Turner Network Television (TNT) . He appears on the network 's NBA coverage during pre @-@ game and halftime shows , in addition to special NBA events . He also occasionally works as an onsite game analyst . He is part of the crew on Inside the NBA , a post @-@ game show during which Barkley , Ernie Johnson Jr . , Kenny Smith and Shaquille O 'Neal recap and comment on NBA games that have occurred during the day and also on general NBA affairs . During the broadcast of a game , in which Barkley was courtside with Marv Albert , Barkley poked fun at NBA official Dick Bavetta 's age . Albert replied to Barkley , " I believe Dick would beat you in a footrace . " In response to that remark , Barkley went on to challenge Bavetta to a race at the 2007 NBA All @-@ Star Weekend for \$ 5 @,@ 000 . The winner was to choose a charity to which the money would be donated . The NBA agreed to pitch in an additional \$ 50 @,@ 000 , and TNT threw in \$ 25 @,@ 000 . The pair raced for three and a half lengths of the basketball court until Barkley ultimately won . After the event , the two embraced in a show of good sportsmanship .

Additionally , since 2011 , Barkley has served as a studio analyst for the joint coverage of the NCAA Men 's Division I Basketball Tournament between Turner Sports and CBS . Barkley has broadcast every Final Four since 2011 .

He also served as a guest commentator for NBC 's coverage of the NFL Wild Card playoffs on January 7 , 2012 ; the same night he hosted Saturday Night Live , which is taped next door to the Football Night in America studio in Manhattan 's GE Building . In April 2012 , Barkley won a Sports Emmy Award for " Outstanding Studio Analyst " for his work on TNT .

Barkley announced in November 2012 that he was contemplating retirement from broadcasting . " [N] ow I 'm like , ' Dude , you have been doing this for 13 years and if I make it to the end of the contract it will be 17 years . ' Seventeen years is a long time . It 's a lifetime in broadcasting . I personally have to figure out the next challenge for me , " he said .

= = = Gambling = = =

Barkley is known for his compulsive gambling . In an interview with ESPN 's Trey Wingo , Barkley revealed that he lost approximately \$ 10 million through gambling . In addition , he also admitted to losing \$ 2 @. @ 5 million , " in a six @- @ hour period " , while playing blackjack . Although Barkley openly admits to his problem , he claims it is not serious since he can afford to support the habit . When approached by fellow TNT broadcaster Ernie Johnson about the issue , Barkley replied , " It 's not a problem . If you 're a drug addict or an alcoholic , those are problems . I gamble for too much money . As long as I can continue to do it I don 't think it 's a problem . Do I think it 's a bad habit ? Yes , I think it 's a bad habit . Am I going to continue to do it ? Yes , I 'm going to continue to do it . "

Despite suffering big losses , Barkley also claims to have won on several occasions . During a trip to Las Vegas , he claims to have won \$ 700 @, @ 000 from playing blackjack and betting on the Indianapolis Colts to defeat the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI . He went on to state , however , " No matter how much I win it ain 't a lot . It 's only a lot when I lose . And you always lose . I think it 's fun , I think it 's exciting . I 'm gonna continue to do it but I have to get to a point where I don 't try to break the casino ' cause you never can . "

In May 2008 , the Wynn Las Vegas casino filed a civil complaint against Barkley , alleging that he had failed to pay a \$ 400 @, @ 000 debt stemming from October 2007 . Barkley responded by taking blame for letting time lapse on the repayment of the debt and promptly paid the casino . After repaying his debt , Barkley stated during a pregame show on TNT , " I 've got to stop gambling ... I am not going to gamble anymore . For right now , the next year or two , I 'm not going to gamble ... Just because I can afford to lose money doesn 't mean I should do it . "

= = = Politics = = =

Barkley spoke for many years of his Republican Party affiliation . In 1995 , he considered running as a Republican candidate for Alabama 's governorship in the 1998 election . However , in 2006 , he altered his political stance , stating " I was a Republican until they lost their minds . " At a July 2006 meeting of the Southern Regional Conference of the National School Boards Association in Destin , Florida , Barkley lent credence to the idea of running for Governor of Alabama , stating :

I 'm serious . I 've got to get people to realize that the government is full of it . Republicans and Democrats want to argue over stuff that 's not important , like gay marriage or the war in Iraq or illegal immigration ... When I run ? if I run ? we 're going to talk about real issues like improving our schools , cleaning up our neighborhoods of drugs and crime and making Alabama a better place for all people .

In September 2006 , Barkley once again reiterated his desire to run for Governor . He noted , " I can 't run until 2014 ... I have to live there for seven years , so I 'm looking for a house there as we speak . " In July 2007 , he made a video declaring his support for Barack Obama in the 2008 Presidential election . In September 2007 , during a broadcast on Monday Night Football , Barkley announced that he bought a house in Alabama to satisfy residency requirements for a 2014 campaign for governor . In addition , Barkley declared himself an Independent and not a Democrat

as previously reported . " The Republicans are full of it , " Barkley said , " The Democrats are a little less full of it . "

In February 2008 , Barkley announced that he would be running for Governor of Alabama in 2014 as an Independent . On October 27 , 2008 , he officially announced his candidacy for Governor of Alabama in an interview with CNN , stating that he planned to run in the 2014 election cycle , but he began to back off the idea in a November 24 , 2009 interview on The Jay Leno Show . In 2010 , he confirmed that he was not running in 2014 .

Barkley is an outspoken supporter of gay rights . In 2006 , he told Fox Sports : " I 'm a big advocate of gay marriage . If they want to get married , God bless them . " Speaking to Wolf Blitzer on CNN two years later , he said : " Every time I hear the word ' conservative , ' it makes me sick to my stomach , because they 're really just fake Christians , as I call them . That 's all they are I think they want to be judge and jury . Like , I 'm for gay marriage . It 's none of my business if gay people want to get married . I 'm pro @-@ choice . And I think these Christians , first of all , they 're not supposed to judge other people . But they 're the most hypocritical judge of people we have in the country . And it bugs the hell out of me . They act like they 're Christians . They 're not forgiving at all . " During a 2011 Martin Luther King , Jr . Day double @-@ header on TNT , Barkley responded to a statement by Dr. King 's daughter Bernice by saying , " People try to make it about black and white . [But] he talked about equality for every man , every woman . We have a thing going on now , people discriminating against homosexuality in this country . I love the homosexuality people . God bless the gay people . They are great people . "

Commenting on the 2014 Ferguson unrest Barkley called the Ferguson looters " scumbags , " and praised the police officers who work in black neighborhoods , also saying that he supports the decision made by the grand jury not to indict officer Darren Wilson in the Michael Brown shooting . In 2013 Barkley also expressed his agreement with the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting of Trayvon Martin .

== = Books == =

In 2000 , Barkley wrote the foreword for Sports Illustrated columnist Rick Reilly 's book The Life of Reilly . In it , Barkley quipped , " Of all the people in sports I 'd like to throw through a plate glass window , Reilly 's not one of them . It 's a shame though , skinny white boys look real aerodynamic . " In 2002 , Barkley released the book I May Be Wrong , But I Doubt It , which included editing and commentary by close friend Michael Wilbon . Three years later , Barkley released Who 's Afraid of a Large Black Man ? , which is a collection of interviews with leading figures in entertainment , business , sports , and government . Michael Wilbon also contributed to this book and was present at many of the interviews .

== = Acting == =

He made a brief appearance in the TV series Suits , in episode 3 of the fifth season . He also played himself in Space Jam in 1996 .

== = DUI conviction == =

On December 31 , 2008 , Barkley was pulled over in Scottsdale , Arizona , for initially running a stop sign . Officer smelled alcohol on Barkley 's breath and proceeded to administer field sobriety tests , which he failed . He was arrested on drunk driving charges and had his vehicle impounded . Barkley refused to submit a breath test and was given a blood test . He was then cited and released . Gilbert police noted Barkley was cooperative and respectful during the entire incident , adding that he was treated no differently than anyone arrested on DUI charges . The police report of the incident stated that Barkley told police he was in a hurry to receive oral sex from his female passenger when he ran through a stop sign early Wednesday . Test results released by police showed that Barkley had a blood @-@ alcohol level at .149 , nearly twice the legal limit of .08 in Arizona . Two months

after his arrest , Barkley pleaded guilty to two DUI @-@ related counts and one count of running a red light . He was sentenced to ten days in jail and fined \$ 2 @,@ 000 . The sentence was later reduced to three days after Barkley entered an alcohol treatment program .

As part of the fallout of his arrest , Barkley took a two @-@ month hiatus from his commentating duties for TNT . During his absence , T @-@ Mobile elected not to air previously scheduled ads that featured Barkley , stating , " Given the recent developments , for the time being , we 've replaced TV ads featuring Mr. Barkley with more general @-@ market advertising . " On February 19 , 2009 , Barkley returned to TNT and spent the first segment of the NBA pregame show discussing the incident and his experiences . Shortly after his return , T @-@ Mobile once again began airing ads featuring Barkley .

= = = WeightWatchers = = =

In 2011 , Barkley became a spokesman for WeightWatchers , promoting their " Lose Like a Man " program and appearing in both television and online ads .

= = Video games = =

Barkley has been featured in several video games . Barkley Shut Up and Jam ! was a basketball video game which was developed by Accolade . It was released for the Super NES and the Sega Genesis / Mega Drive in 1994 , and was followed up by a sequel for only the Genesis in 95 . An unofficial sequel to the initial game called Barkley , Shut Up and Jam : Gaiden was developed and published in 2008 . The game was developed by Tales of Game 's Studios and was a departure from the first game in that the game was a traditional style JRPG .

Barkley features in EA games starting with Lakers versus Celtics and the NBA Playoffs in 1991 , but by the late 1990s did not appear due to licensing reasons .

Barkley was featured in NBA 2K13 as part of the 1992 Olympic " Dream Team . "

= = Personal life = =

Barkley married Maureen Blumhardt in 1989 . The couple have a daughter together , Christiana , born the same year . A DNA test read by George Lopez on Lopez Tonight revealed Charles Barkley to be of 14 % Native American , 11 % European and 75 % African descent .