

CHICAGO BULLS



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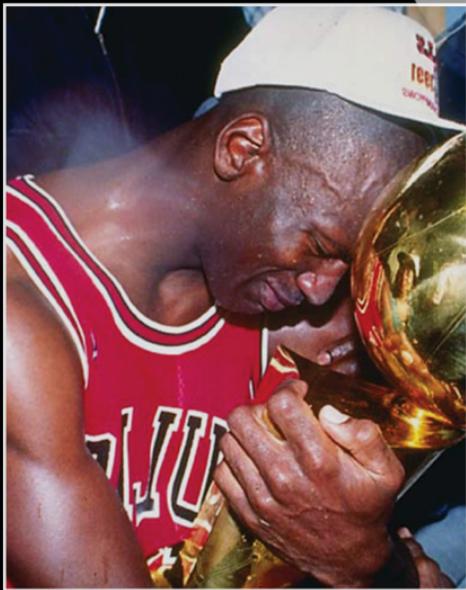
HISTORY

The Chicago Bulls joined the NBA for the 1966-67 season. The franchise struggled for the better part of a quarter century, occasionally putting excellent teams on the court, such as the tough units of the mid-1970s that featured Bob Love, Norm Van Lier, Jerry Sloan, and Tom Boerwinkle. More often, however, the Bulls worked hard for mediocre results. That all changed in the mid-1980s with the drafting of Michael Jordan, the dominant player of his era and possibly the greatest player of all time.

Jordan won seven straight scoring **titles** with a combination of breathtaking slam dunks and a bag of thrilling shot-making tricks. He put up some of the biggest numbers in NBA history and wrote some of the most memorable chapters in the annals of the league. The addition of Scottie Pippen, another Hall of Famer, in 1987 would set the stage for one of sport's great dynasties.

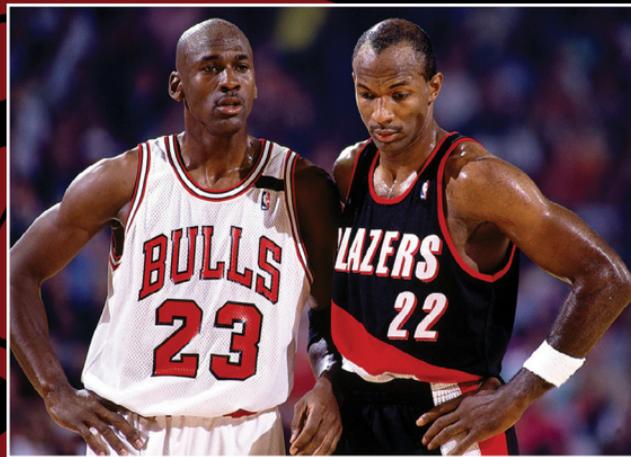
Ten years later, Chicago beat overwhelming odds to win the NBA Draft Lottery, meaning the Bulls had the top pick in the 2008 NBA Draft. Point guard Derrick Rose was the team's choice, and he has since led the Bulls to the playoffs in each of his professional campaigns, including a trip to the 2011 Eastern Conference Finals. In Rose's third season, he became the youngest player in NBA history to earn **MVP** honors.

In 1990-91 some of the less obvious aspects of Phil Jackson's coaching philosophy began to draw attention-and began to produce unprecedented results. Although the Bulls had the most creative offensive force in the history of the game in Jordan, they also stressed defense and teamwork. The 1991 NBA Finals matchup between the Bulls



and the Los Angeles Lakers was billed as a confrontation between two of the game's most charismatic figures, Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson; however, the drama never unfolded. Jordan scored 30 points and handed out 10 assists in a 108-101 Game 5 victory, which clinched the first NBA championship in the Bulls' 25-year **history**.

In 1991-92 the Bulls came roaring back. They dominated throughout the year and threatened the league record for victories in a season before ending up at 67-15, the best mark in franchise history. Chicago faced a high-powered Portland team in the 1992 NBA Finals. The Bulls won the game, 97-93, and took home their second **consecutive** championship, becoming only the fourth NBA franchise to win back-to-back **titles**.



The Bulls finished the 1992-93 regular season at 57-25, the team's fourth straight 50-win campaign. For the second consecutive year Chicago never lost more than two games in a row. On January 16 against the Orlando Magic, Jordan scored 64 points, his second-highest total ever. He won his seventh straight scoring title at season's end

Michael Jordan averaged 41.0 points against the Suns to break Rick Barry's previous record for the highest scoring average in a Finals series. He was named Finals MVP for the third straight year. With the victory the Bulls became the first NBA team in 27 seasons to win **three** consecutive championships.



After hearing for an entire offseason that he wasn't quite the same player as he had been when he abruptly retired in 1993, Michael Jordan was driven to lead the Bulls to the NBA championship for the fourth time in six years. His supporting cast included Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman, acquired in a preseason trade. Though a talented collection of players, no one could have predicted what the team would **accomplish**.

In the playoffs, the Bulls kept rolling, finishing with a postseason record of 15-3, and an overall record of 87-13, the best in NBA history. Jordan was named the Finals MVP for the fourth time as he cemented his legend in the Windy City and in NBA annals.



Coming off of a record-breaking 1995-96 season, what could the Chicago Bulls do for an encore? How about 69 wins and a second consecutive NBA title, the fifth for the Bulls in seven years? That's exactly what the Bulls accomplished in 1996-97, posting a 69-13 record and **winning** the championship with a memorable six-game triumph over the Utah Jazz in the NBA Finals.

In the Finals, Jordan took center stage once again. For the fifth time in five championship seasons, Jordan was named the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player. At season's end, Jordan and coach Phil Jackson signed new one-year contracts, providing the Bulls an opportunity to '**three-peat**' for the second time in the decade.



It wasn't easy for the 1997-98 Bulls. Unlike many of Chicago's prior title runs, this one never seemed like a mere formality. From the very beginning of the season, the Bulls were challenged both mentally and physically.

After the Bulls wrapped up their season with another celebration in Chicago's Grant Park, speculation began as to what might happen next. Would the most celebrated sports dynasty be back for another **title** shot? If so, it wouldn't be under Jackson. After leading the Bulls to **six championships**, the Bulls' head coach announced he would not return. Meanwhile, Bulls fans were forced to wait out the summer for word as to whether **Jordan**, **Pippen** and **Rodman** would return.

LEGACY

During the decade of the 90s the Chicago Bulls ruled over their competitors, winning 6 championships during the decade. There are also questions to ask if Michael Jordan didn't retire for the first time would they have an 8 peat? That answer remains unknown, but the legacy the Chicago Bulls left during that decade made a name for Michael Jordan. Calling him the greatest player to ever play the game with **6 NBA** championships and 6 finals **MVP**.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1991..... **61**wins/Nba Championship
- 1992..... **67**wins/Nba Championship
- 1993..... **57**wins/Nba Championship
- 1996..... **72**wins/Nba Championship
- 1997..... **69**wins/Nba Championship
- 1998..... **62**wins/Nba Championship