

## Michael Jordan

Michael Jordan is believed by many to be the best player ever to play the game of basketball. The 6-foot-6, 212-pound Jordan was born in Brooklyn, New York, on February 17, 1963. He had a successful college basketball career at the University of North Carolina, where he was named National Collegiate Athletic Association Player of the Year in 1983 and 1984.

After college, Jordan went on to play in the NBA. A first-round draft pick by the Chicago Bulls in 1984, Jordan always wore his University of North Carolina shorts under his Bulls uniform for good luck. In 1985, he was named NBA Rookie of the Year. Other honors included being named the NBA's Most Valuable Player five times, in 1988, 1991, 1992, 1996, and 1998.

According to Jordan, the NBA evolved quite a bit while he was a player. Young players are under a lot more pressure today to perform than when he first started out. "Rather than being allowed to be themselves, they have to live up to certain expectations already predetermined," Jordan said. Defense is also much more the focus of the game than it was, and he thinks that is an improvement. "Today, defensive athletes are a lot better, and when you have them on both teams, you're going to have scores in the 80s."

The game also has many more young, undeveloped players today than it did when he was a rookie. "Young players who skip part of their college years haven't fully developed their game. A lot of them aren't ready mentally. Others may have the capability, but they aren't ready physically," Jordan says.

## Unit 15

- Even those who aren't basketball fans respect Michael Jordan. What qualities does he possess that are admirable?
  
- Is Michael Jordan a phenomenon? Explain.
  
- Does Michael Jordan have charisma? Explain.