**Sentences - Basketball**

**Basketball Facts**

* [James Naismith,](https://www.factmonster.com/encyclopedia/people/sports/athletes/naismith-james) a teacher at a YMCA in Springfield, Massachusetts, is credited with inventing basketball in 1891.
* The first hoops were actually just peach baskets and the first backboards were made of wire.
* The game became an [official Olympic event](https://www.factmonster.com/sports/event-event/basketball) at the Summer Games in Berlin, Germany in 1936.
* Two leagues called the National Basketball League (NBL) and the Basketball Association of America (BAA) merged after the 1948-49 season to become today's National Basketball Association (NBA).
* The Boston Celtics have won the most [NBA championships](https://www.factmonster.com/sports/basketball/national-basketball-association-champions) (17), including seven straight from 1960 to 1966.
* [Kareem Abdul-Jabbar](https://www.factmonster.com/biographies/sports/kareem-abdul-jabbar), who played 20 seasons in the NBA, holds the record for[most points scored in a career](https://www.factmonster.com/sports/basketball/nba-lifetime-leaders) with 38,387.
* On March 2, 1962, Philadelphia center [Wilt Chamberlain](https://www.factmonster.com/biographies/sports/wilt-chamberlain) scored 100 points in one game against New York. That is the [most one player has ever scored in one game](https://www.factmonster.com/sports/basketball/nba-individual-records-game).
* Current Atlanta Hawks coach [Lenny Wilkens](https://www.factmonster.com/biographies/sports/lenny-wilkens) has won more basketball games than any other coach.
* The American Basketball Association (ABA) was a 10-team rival league to the NBA that began play in the 1967-68 season and folded nine years later after the 1975-76 season.
  + Four current NBA teams Indiana, Denver, New York, and San Antonio originated in the ABA.
* The NBA instituted the three-pointer before the 1979-80 season, an idea it borrowed from the ABA.
* The [Chicago Bulls](https://www.factmonster.com/sports/basketball/national-basketball-association-champions) have won all six NBA Finals in which they've appeared.
* [Michael Jordan,](https://www.factmonster.com/biographies/sports/michael-jordan) who retired in January 1999 but returned to the league in 2001, has scored more points (5,987) in the playoffs than any other player.
* The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame is located in Springfield, Mass.

Source: https://www.factmonster.com/sports/basketball/basketball-facts

**91 Interesting Basketball Facts**

* Canadian James Naismith (1861–1939)—a physical [education](https://www.factretriever.com/education-and-literacy-facts) teacher from Springfield, MA—invented the game of basketball in 1891 when he was looking for ways to keep his gym class busy on a rainy day.
* In the early 1900s, basketball players played in cages of chicken wire and mesh to keep players from falling into spectator seats.

Players would often get injured during the intense games.

* Originally, two teams of 9 players made up a basketball game, a number that was based on the standard number of players on a [baseball](https://www.factretriever.com/baseball-facts) team.
  + Later, the teams were reduced to 5 players on the court.
* During a 1977 court fight between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Houston Rockets, forward Kermit Washington nearly fatally punched forward Rudy Tomjanovich.
  + “The Punch,” as it has been called, dislocated Tomjanovich’s jaw and caused spinal fluid to leak from his brain.
  + He recalled tasting the fluid in his mouth.
* Known as the most infamous brawl in NBA history, the Pacers-Piston altercation (also known as “Malice in the Palace”) on November 19, 2004, was a massive fight that involved both players and spectators.
  + The NBA suspended 9 players, for a total of $11 million in lost salaries.
  + Five fans also received criminal charges and were banned from Piston home games for life.
* The first basketball hoops were peach baskets with the bottom intact
* The first basketball hoops were peach baskets with the bottom intact.
  + Officials had to get the ball out after each basket.
  + The first string nets were used in the early 1900s.
* After basketball player Latrell Sprewell attacked and choked coach P.J. Carlesimo in 1997, he received a 68-game suspension, the second longest in the history of the NBA.
  + Sprewell choked Carlesimo for about 15 seconds before other players pulled him off.
* Early basketball hoops were nailed to the mezzanine balcony of the court. After spectators in the balcony continually interfered with shots, the backboard was invented.
* Basketball incorporated rules from a children’s game called “Duck on a Rock,” in which a stone was placed on an elevated object, such as a tree stump, with a player guarding it. Other players would try to knock the stone off by throwing “ducks” or rocks.
* Early basketball games used [soccer](https://www.factretriever.com/soccer-facts) balls (1891–1950s).
* The Basketball Association of America and the National Basketball League merged on August 5, 1976, creating the National Basketball Association (NBA).
* A warm basketball is bouncier than a cold one because the molecules in the warm ball hit its inside surface at a higher speed.
* In the 2010–2011 season, the Cleveland Cavaliers set a league record by losing 26 basketball games in a row.
* The basketball record for the biggest margin of a win goes to the Cleveland Cavaliers over the Miami Heat on December 17, 1991, when they demolished the Heat 148–80.
* The Sacramento Kings retired the number 6 to honor their basketball fans, “the Sixth Man.”
* Founded in 1923, the Sacramento Kings are the oldest franchise in the NBA. The second oldest is the Detroit Pistons, founded in 1941.
* FIBA (Fédération Internationale de Basket-ball Amateur) is the organization that governs basketball’s international competition.
* The NBA All-Star Game at Cowboys Stadium set a record for the most-attended basketball game ever, with a spectator audience of 108,713 people.
* Karl Malone of the [Utah](https://www.factretriever.com/utah-facts) Jazz holds the record for the most free throws at 9,787 in his career.
* NBA player Tom Meschery spent six years as a child in a Japanese concentration camp near Tokyo during [World War II](https://www.factretriever.com/world-war-ii).
* Before 1923, basketball teams could choose which player would shoot a free throw after a foul rather than the player who was fouled.
* Before the NBA, pro basketball was dominated by three independent teams: the Buffalo Germans during the 1910s, the original Celtics (of [New York](https://www.factretriever.com/new-york-facts)) during the 1920s, and the Harlem Renaissance Big Fives (Rens) during the 1930s.
* Adidas manufactures all the NBA uniforms.
* The smallest city that has an NBA franchise is Salt Lake City.
* The average NBA player weighs 220 pounds and uses about 760 calories during a 48-minute game.
* After Michael Jordon scored 63 points in a playoff game against Larry Bird’s Celtics in his second pro year, Bird described Jordan as “[God](https://www.factretriever.com/god-facts) disguised as Michael Jordan.”
* The average height of all NBA players is just under 67 inches for the [men](https://www.factretriever.com/men-facts) and just over 57 inches for [women](https://www.factretriever.com/women-facts).
* Kobe Bryant was the youngest player to start an NBA game at just 18.5 years old.
* In the 1970s the International Olympic Committee added [women](https://www.factretriever.com/women-facts)’s basketball as a medal sport, and it was quite popular at the 1976 Olympics.
* NBA players run as much as four miles during a game.

Source: <https://www.factretriever.com/basketball-facts>