GENERAL

kareem abdul jabbar career stats

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Introduction

When you think of basketball legends, one name that immediately surfaces is Kareem Abdul Jabbar. A towering figure both literally and figuratively, Abdul Jabbar's impact on the court is measured not only by the championships he won but also by the staggering statistical milestones he achieved over a 20 year NBA career. In this comprehensive guide, we'll dive deep into **kareem abdul jabbar career stats**, exploring his regular season averages, playoff performances, defensive prowess, and the record setting moments that cemented his legacy as the greatest scorer in NBA history.

Early Life and College Career

Born Ferdinand Lewis Alcindor Jr. on April 16, 1947, in New York City, Abdul Jabbar grew up in the Bronx and discovered basketball in the city's public parks. He attended the Bronx High School of Science, where he dominated the varsity squad and earned All City honors. In 1965, he enrolled at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), a program that had already begun its dynasty under legendary coach John Wooden.

During his three seasons with the Bruins (1965 66 to 1967 68), Abdul Jabbar—then known as Lew Alcindor—averaged 24.7 points per game, 13.1 rebounds, and 2.9 blocks per game. He was a unanimous first team All American each year and helped UCLA win three consecutive NCAA championships. His college statistics laid the groundwork for a professional career that would redefine the center position.

NBA Draft and Chicago Bulls

In the 1969 NBA Draft, Abdul Jabbar was selected first overall by the **Chicago Bulls**. He made an immediate impact, averaging 24.3 points, 13.0 rebounds, and 3.1 blocks in his rookie season. However, his time in Chicago was short-lived; after the 1969 70 season, the Bulls traded him to the Milwaukee Bucks in exchange for a package of players and draft picks.

Milwaukee Bucks Tenure

Abdul Jabbar's move to Milwaukee proved transformative for both him and the franchise. In his first season with the Bucks (1970 71), he averaged 29.7 points per game and helped the team reach the NBA Finals, where they fell to the Baltimore Bullets. The following season, he elevated his game to new heights, averaging 34.8 points per game —an NBA record for a rookie season at the time—and leading the Bucks to their first NBA championship in 1971. His 1970 71 season remains one of the most prolific scoring campaigns in league history.

Los Angeles Lakers Era

In 1975, Abdul Jabbar was traded to the Los Angeles Lakers, where he would spend the majority of his career. With the Lakers, he formed a formidable partnership with Magic Johnson, a dynamic duo that dominated the NBA in the 1980s. During his 15 seasons with Los Angeles, Abdul Jabbar won five additional NBA titles (1980, 1982, 1985, 1987, 1988) and earned six MVP awards, making him one of the most decorated players in basketball history.

Career Stats Breakdown

Regular Season

- Games Played: 1,560
- Games Started: 1,560
- Minutes per Game: 36.3
- Points per Game: 24.6
- Rebounds per Game: 11.2
- Assists per Game: 3.5
- Field Goal %: 58.9%
- Free Throw %: 74.4%
- Blocks per Game: 2.6

Playoffs

- Games Played: 210
- Points per Game: 26.2
- Rebounds per Game: 13.5
- Assists per Game: 4.0
- Field Goal %: 62.5%
- Blocks per Game: 2.6

All Star Games

- All Star Appearances: 19
- Points per Game: 20.7
- Rebounds per Game: 7.9
- Assists per Game: 3.3
- Field Goal %: 57.0%

International Play

Abdul Jabbar represented the United States in international competitions, winning a gold medal at the 1972 Munich Olympics and a bronze at the 1976 Montreal Olympics. His international stats include an average of 19.5 points per game in the 1972 tournament.

Statistical Highlights

Scoring Records

Abdul Jabbar's most iconic contribution to basketball is his status as the NBA's all time leading scorer. He accumulated **38,387 points**over his career, surpassing the previous record held by Wilt Chamberlain. His scoring streak includes 2,000 points in 64 consecutive seasons and a single season average of 34.8 points per game during the 1970 71 campaign.

Rebounding Prowess

Beyond scoring, Abdul Jabbar was a dominant rebounder. He finished his career with 17,440 rebounds, ranking third in NBA history. His average of 11.2 rebounds per game reflects a blend of offensive rebounding and defensive presence, particularly in the paint.

Blocks and Defense

Abdul Jabbar's defensive impact is highlighted by his 5,639 blocks, placing him fourth on the all time list. His

signature skyhook shot was not only a scoring weapon but also a deterrent for opponents, forcing them to alter their shots and creating opportunities for teammates.

Efficiency Ratings

While his raw statistics are impressive, efficiency metrics further underscore his value. Abdul Jabbar's career Player Efficiency Rating (PER) stands at 23.5, well above the league average of 15. His True Shooting Percentage (TS%) of .625 and Defensive Rating of 104.9 demonstrate his balanced contribution on both ends of the floor.

Comparison with Hall of Fame Peers

To fully appreciate Abdul Jabbar's statistical legacy, it helps to compare him with contemporaries and subsequent stars:

1. Wilt Chamberlain – 30,283 points, 23,292 rebounds. While Chamberlain's raw totals are higher, Abdul Jabbar's longevity and consistency over 20 seasons give him the edge in per game averages.
2. LeBron James – 38,000+ points, 10,000 rebounds. LeBron's career is still ongoing, but Abdul Jabbar remains the all time leader in points and blocks.
3. Bill Russell – 21,530 points, 22,560 rebounds. Russell's defensive dominance is unparalleled, yet Abdul Jabbar's offensive output dwarfs Russell's scoring.
4. Hakeem Olajuwon – 26,946 points, 13,748 rebounds, 3,830 blocks. Abdul Jabbar surpasses Olajuwon in all three categories.

Legacy and Impact Beyond Numbers

Statistics tell only part of the story. Abdul Jabbar's influence on the game extends to:

- Skyhook Innovation – The skyhook remains one of the most iconic and virtually unblockable shots in basketball history.
- Leadership – As a veteran, he mentored younger players, most notably Magic Johnson, fostering a culture of teamwork and excellence.
- Social Activism – Outside the arena, Abdul Jabbar has been a vocal advocate for civil rights, education, and social justice.
- Post Career Contributions – He has authored several books, served as a commentator, and worked on various philanthropic initiatives.

Conclusion

The **kareem abdul jabbar career stats**reflect a career of unparalleled achievement: a record breaking scorer, a dominant rebounder, a defensive stalwart, and a player whose influence transcended the hardwood. His 38,387 points, 17,440 rebounds, and 5,639 blocks stand as a testament to his skill, work ethic, and longevity. Yet, it is his ability to inspire teammates, champion social causes, and innovate the game that truly solidifies his place as one of basketball's all time greats. Whether you're a statistics aficionado or a casual fan, Abdul Jabbar's numbers offer a window into a career that reshaped the NBA and left an indelible mark on sports history.

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