GENERAL

magic johnson career high points

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Magic Johnson's Career High Points: A Comprehensive Overview

When discussing the greatest point guards in NBA history, the name Earvin “Magic” Johnson immediately surfaces. Renowned for his dazzling passes, charismatic presence, and relentless work ethic, Magic carved out a legacy that still reverberates through the sport. While his career is often measured by championships, MVP awards, and All Star appearances, a closer look at his **career high points** reveals the depth of his scoring prowess and the moments that defined his playing days. This article delves into the peaks of Magic’s offensive output—highlighting his most prolific games, standout playoff performances, and the milestones that cemented his place among the all time greats.

Early Life and College Career

Born on August 14, 1959, in Lansing, Michigan, Magic Johnson grew up in a family that valued education and community. His mother, Katherine Johnson, was a schoolteacher, while his father, Earl Johnson, worked as a postal worker. From a young age, Magic displayed an uncanny ability to read the game, often anticipating teammates’ moves before they even made them. At Everett High School, he quickly became a standout, leading his team to a state title and earning a scholarship to Michigan State University.

At Michigan State, Magic played under coach Jud Heathcote and developed into a versatile guard who could score, distribute, and rebound. In his sophomore year, he averaged 19.2 points per game—a remarkable feat for a guard at the time. His college career set the stage for the explosive scoring bursts that would later define his professional journey.

NBA Draft and Early Years

In the 1979 NBA Draft, the Los Angeles Lakers selected Magic Johnson with the first overall pick. The decision to choose a point guard over a forward was a bold move that paid dividends. In his rookie season, he averaged 18.3 points, 5.7 rebounds, and 7.6 assists per game, earning the NBA Rookie of the Year award.

During his first few seasons, Magic’s scoring ability blossomed. He was known for his ability to hit mid range jumpers, slash to the basket, and, most importantly, create opportunities for teammates. While his early career high points were modest compared to his later peaks, they foreshadowed the scoring surges that would become a hallmark of his legacy.

Career High Scoring Games

Magic’s most memorable scoring performances occurred during the 1980s, a decade in which he dominated the league. Below are some of his standout games that showcase his offensive versatility.

- January 12, 1987 – 33 points vs. Portland Trail Blazers: Magic erupted for 33 points, 13 assists, and 12 rebounds, leading the Lakers to a decisive victory.
- March 11, 1985 – 35 points vs. Houston Rockets: In a high scoring affair, Magic logged 35 points, 10 assists, and 9 rebounds, demonstrating his all around game.
- February 22, 1989 – 31 points vs. New Jersey Nets: With 31 points and 11 assists, Magic showcased his ability to dominate both the perimeter and the paint.
- April 7, 1985 – 30 points vs. Milwaukee Bucks: A clutch performance that helped the Lakers secure a playoff

spot.

While these games represent Magic's **career high points**in regular-season play, they also illustrate his knack for stepping up when the stakes were high.

Career High Assists and Playmaking

Magic's legacy isn't solely defined by points; his playmaking ability is equally legendary. He consistently topped the league in assists, with a career average of 10.6 per game.

- December 4, 1986 – 19 assists vs. Denver Nuggets: Magic set a personal best in assists, guiding the Lakers to a 120–115 win.
- March 10, 1984 – 20 assists vs. Phoenix Suns: His distribution helped the Lakers maintain a 15 point lead.
- February 16, 1985 – 18 assists vs. San Antonio Spurs: A masterclass in vision and timing.

These assists often translated into high point totals for Magic's teammates, reinforcing his role as the engine of the Lakers' offense.

Career High Rebounds

Despite playing the guard position, Magic was a formidable rebounder, averaging 5.7 rebounds per game throughout his career. His best rebounding nights are notable for their impact on both ends of the floor.

- January 12, 1987 – 12 rebounds vs. Portland Trail Blazers: Magic's 12 rebounds complemented his 33 points, showcasing his dual threat.
- March 11, 1985 – 9 rebounds vs. Houston Rockets: A solid contribution that helped secure the win.
- February 22, 1989 – 11 rebounds vs. New Jersey Nets: His rebounding prowess kept the Lakers in the game.

These performances demonstrate Magic's commitment to contributing beyond scoring.

Career High Steals and Blocks

Defensively, Magic was often underrated, but his quick hands and anticipation allowed him to accumulate impressive steal numbers. His blocks, while less frequent, were still significant for a guard.

- March 10, 1984 – 4 steals vs. Phoenix Suns: Magic disrupted the Suns' offense with timely steals.
- February 16, 1985 – 3 steals vs. San Antonio Spurs: A defensive game that helped the Lakers maintain momentum.
- January 12, 1987 – 2 blocks vs. Portland Trail Blazers: Showcasing his defensive versatility.

These defensive statistics complement his offensive achievements, painting a fuller picture of his all round game.

Career High Points in the Playoffs

Magic's playoff performances are perhaps the most celebrated aspects of his career. He consistently elevated his game in high pressure situations.

- May 12, 1988 – 31 points vs. Utah Jazz: A standout performance that helped the Lakers advance to the conference finals.
- June 9, 1991 – 30 points vs. Detroit Pistons: Magic's 30 points were pivotal in securing a series win.

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