

Jordan was out of the gates quick. Scoring forty points in multiple games, Jordan breezed through the season and gave The University of North Carolina(UNC) their first championship victory. Despite not winning the next two seasons(1983 and 84), Jordan made “NCAA All-American First Team” and even took home the “Wooden College Player of the Year Award” his junior season. After the stellar seasons he’d had, he declared for the 1984 NBA Draft, even though it was a year before his scheduled graduation from the university.

Michael Jordan went number 3 overall to the Chicago Bulls in the 1984 draft. Jordan quickly became a fan favorite, even whenever he played in an opponent’s arena the fans would scream for him. Jordan’s awe-inspiring performance had put him in the spotlight, which made some of his teammates upset. They felt that Jordan had been getting all of the attention. It even bothered players from the other teams. When the all-star game came around, all the other stars got together and decided that none of them would pass the ball to Jordan throughout the game. Though he only got 7 points that day, he seemed rather unaffected by the event, as he went back to his awe-inspiring play to close the regular season.

The next two seasons seemed to be too easy for Jordan. He scored at will, stole the ball nearly every time he got the opportunity. After winning his third title in a row, Jordan expressed a feeling of boredom for the game. He explained that he didn’t feel challenged anymore and confessed that the mounting toll of his celebrity status was getting to be too much for him. He then retired after his third season in the NBA at the age of thirty.

Jordan was out of the league for a total of 21 months(636 days) before returning to the hardwood. He’d played in an exhibition game before the season had started, and once he realized that the new talent that had entered the league posed the challenge that Jordan desired. Jordan didn’t announce his return until the night before his first game. A day that many fans had anticipated for just under 2 years had finally come. His first game back was a regular-season game against the Indiana Pacers. Though he was playing incredibly, the fans couldn’t help but notice that the player that they saw on the court wasn’t the one that had left the league two years prior. Jordan was still great when compared to the players around him, but he wasn’t himself and he knew it.

The Bulls fell to the Orlando Magic in the second round of the playoffs. Fans and players alike noted that Jordan was rusty and that it was very apparent in the last game against the Magic. After being sent home for the year, Jordan had a temporary practice facility built, called the Jordan Dome, for the sole purpose of preparing him for the next season. He’d practice with anyone who came in but to enter the dome you had to either be invited or approved.

It seemed Michael Jordan’s work in the Jordan dome had paid off. He led the league in scoring for the ninth time in his career, averaging 29.6 points per game. That season, Jordan had started in all 82 regular-season games while also passing Dominique Wilkins, Alex English, John Havlicek, and Oscar Robertson for the fifth spot on the all-time scoring list with 26,920 career points. He’d reportedly been sick and would miss a game in the finals against the Utah Jazz. As the start of the game came, Jordan came out of the locker room and played in the game despite having flu-like symptoms. He scored 38 points that game as well as playing 44 minutes even though the crowd could tell that Jordan was physically ill.

Jordan retired for a second time in January of 1999. He returned to the league on January 19, 2000, this time as a part-time owner and president of basketball operations for the Washington Wizards. He had the final say in all personnel matters. He kicked players Juwan Howard and Rod Strickland from the team. He saw them as “Highly paid and unpopular players”. There were mixed feelings as to whether or not he was a good fit for his new off-court position. The fans appreciated that he had gotten rid of players that were unnecessarily overpaid, saving the team money and raising their cap, but on the other hand, he had wasted the first pick in the 2001 NBA draft on Kwame Brown, who would turn out to be nothing near what the team needed at the time.

Jordan decided to do something that most, if not all, fans expected by stepping back in the role of a player on September 25, 2001. Jordan let it be known that he would be donating his paychecks to relief efforts for the victims of the September 11 attacks. The 2001-02 season was not a good one for Jordan. Torn cartilage in his right knee limited his season to only 60 games, this being the second smallest