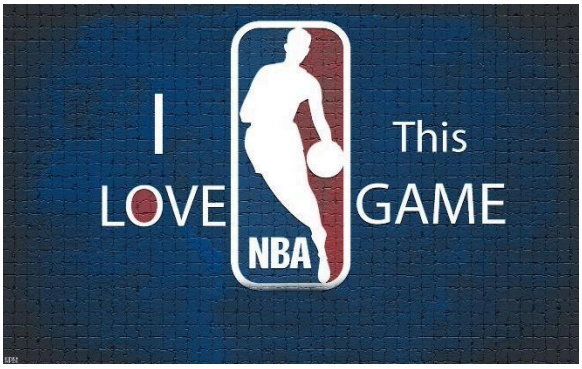
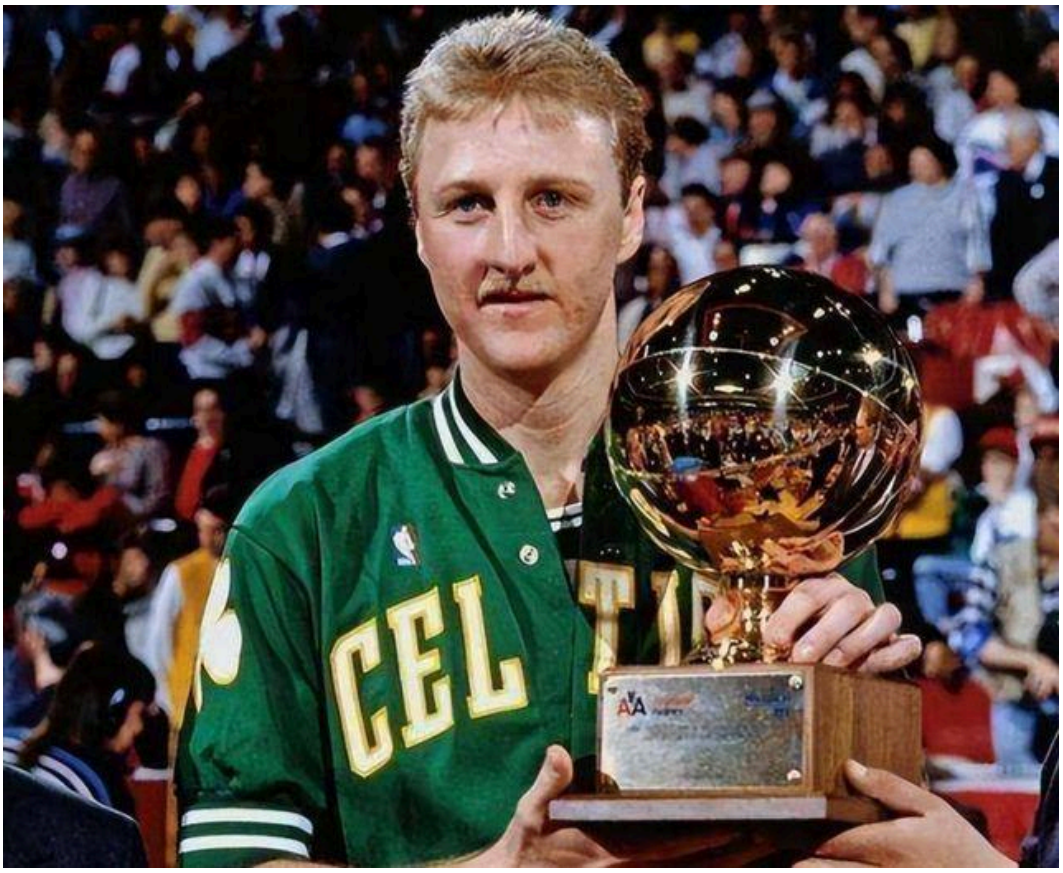


"I Love This Game" History

1985X: "NBA, I Love This Game" Awards



MVP – Larry Bird (Atlanta Hawks)
Defensive POY – Larry Bird (Atlanta Hawks)
6th Man – Bill Laimbeer (Boston Celtics)
Rookie of the Year – Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
All-Star MVP – Magic Johnson (New York Knicks)
Finals MVP – Larry Bird (Atlanta Hawks)

ALL-NBA Team (MVP Points)
PG Magic Johnson (New York Knicks)
SG Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
SF Larry Bird (Atlanta Hawks)
PF Calvin Natt (New York Knicks)
C Hakeem Olajuwon (Miami Heat)

ALL-Defensive Team (DOY Points)
PG Micheal Ray Richardson (Cleveland Cavaliers)
SG Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
SF Larry Bird (Atlanta Hawks)
PF Buck Williams (Indiana Pacers)
C Hakeem Olajuwon (Miami Heat)

ALL – Rookie Team
PG John Stockton (Los Angeles Lakers)
SG Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
SF Jerome Kersey (Dallas Mavericks)
PF Charles Barkley (Milwaukee Bucks)
C Hakeem Olajuwon (Miami Heat)

Division Winners
Atlantic Division Champs – Miami Heat
Central Division Champs – Charlotte Hornets
Midwest Division Champs – Kansas City-Omaha Kings
Pacific Division Champs – Seattle SuperSonics

Conference Winners
Eastern Conference Champs – Atlanta Hawks
Western Conference Champs – Kansas City-Omaha Kings

1985X: “NBA, I Love This Game” Champions – Atlanta Hawks



1985X: "NBA, I Love This Game" Draft

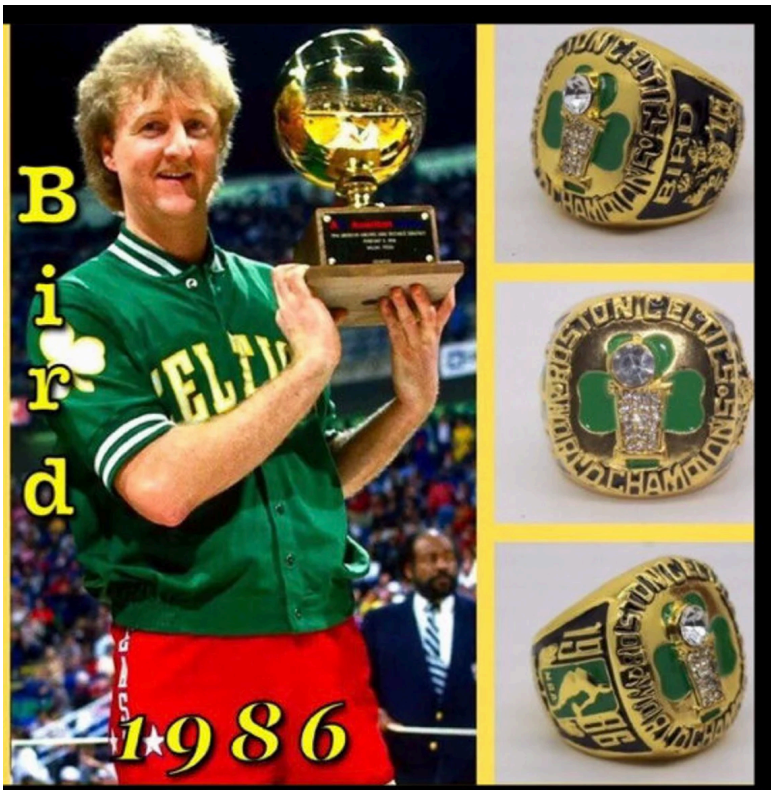
The 1985 NBA draft took place on June 18, 1985. It was also the first NBA draft of the "lottery" era. It was also around this time where the league decreased the amount of rounds the draft spent, with the previous few years lasting up to 10 rounds total. A total of 162 players were selected over seven rounds by the league's 23 teams.

The New York Knicks were awarded the first overall pick by winning the first-ever NBA draft lottery, which was held in May of that year. The Knicks used it on Georgetown's Patrick Ewing. In addition to Ewing, this draft also resulted in several Hall of Famers, including Karl Malone taken by the Utah Jazz at pick 13.



The Houston Rockets were awarded the first overall pick by winning the 1985X: “NBA, I Love This Game” draft lottery. The Rockets used it on PF Karl Malone. The Los Angeles Lakers secured the 2nd overall pick and selected C Patrick Ewing.

1986X: "NBA, I Love This Game"



MVP – Larry Bird (Atlanta Hawks)
Defensive POY – Larry Bird (Atlanta Hawks)
6th Man – Dominique Wilkins (Orlando Magic)
Rookie of the Year – Benoit Benjamin (Los Angeles Clippers)
All-Star MVP – Alvin Robertson (New Jersey Nets)
Finals MVP – Alex English (Toronto Raptors)

ALL-NBA Team (MVP Points)
PG Magic Johnson (New York Knicks)
SG Reggie Theus (Denver Nuggets)
SF Larry Bird (Atlanta Hawks)
PF Kevin McHale (Cleveland Cavaliers)
C Hakeem Olajuwon (Miami Heat)

ALL-Defensive Team (DOY Points)
PG Fat Lever (Kansas City-Omaha Kings)
SG Alvin Robertson (New Jersey Nets)
SF Larry Bird (Atlanta Hawks)
PF Ralph Sampson (Toronto Raptors)
C Hakeem Olajuwon (Miami Heat)

ALL – Rookie Team
PG Danny Young (Denver Nuggets)
SG Chris Mullin (Orlando Magic)
SF Xavier McDaniel (Golden State Warriors)
PF Karl Malone (Houston Rockets)
C Benoit Benjamin (Los Angeles Clippers)

Division Winners
Atlantic Division Champs – New York Knicks
Central Division Champs – Atlanta Hawks
Midwest Division Champs – Denver Nuggets
Pacific Division Champs – Portland Trail Blazers

Conference Winners
Eastern Conference Champs – Toronto Raptors
Western Conference Champs – Denver Nuggets

1986X: “NBA, I Love This Game” Champions – Toronto Raptors

1986X: "NBA, I Love This Game" Draft

The 1986 NBA draft took place on June 17, 1986. The 1986 Draft holds the record for the most players (out of prospects chosen) who later debuted in the NBA, with 66. There were various drug-related problems that plagued players in the 1986 NBA draft. Most notable was the death of highly touted Len Bias. Bias died less than two days after being selected second overall by the defending champion Boston Celtics. His death was ruled an overdose that resulted from taking the drug cocaine. Other problems involving drugs hampered the careers of Chris Washburn, Roy Tarpley, and William Bedford.

While a number of first-round selections were unable to make an impact in the league, this draft did feature several talented second-round selections. Dennis Rodman, who became one of the leading defenders and rebounders in NBA history, was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in August 2011. Mark Price, Kevin Duckworth, and Jeff Hornacek also went on to have successful careers, and each made the NBA All-Star Game. Three others – Johnny Newman, Nate McMillan, and David Wingate – had long,

productive careers as role players. This draft contained two exceptional international players, both of whom had shortened careers for unusual reasons. Third-round selection Dražen Petrović was coming off an All-Star caliber fourth season when he was killed in an automobile accident in 1993. He has since been elected to both the Naismith Hall of Fame and the FIBA Hall of Fame. The other, Arvydas Sabonis, was not permitted to play in the United States because of the dangerous political climate in the Soviet Union. He won two Olympic medals before his arrival in the NBA—a gold in 1988 with the USSR, and a bronze in 1992 with Lithuania.





The Phoenix Suns were awarded the first overall pick by winning the 1986X: “NBA, I Love This Game” draft lottery and selected SG Jeff Hornacek. The Milwaukee Bucks secured the 2nd overall pick and selected C Brad Daugherty.

1987X: "NBA, I Love This Game"



MVP – Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
Defensive POY – Larry Bird (Atlanta Hawks)
6th Man – Bill Laimbeer (Boston Celtics)
Rookie of the Year – Ron Harper (Houston Rockets)
All-Star MVP – Hakeem Olajuwon (Miami Heat)
Finals MVP – Fat Lever (Kansas City-Omaha Kings)

ALL-NBA Team (MVP Points)
PG Magic Johnson (New York Knicks)
SG Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
SF Larry Bird (Atlanta Hawks)
PF Kevin McHale (Cleveland Cavaliers)
C Hakeem Olajuwon (Miami Heat)

ALL-Defensive Team (DOY Points)
PG Fat Lever (Kansas City-Omaha Kings)
SG Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
SF Larry Bird (Atlanta Hawks)
PF Terry Cummings (Denver Nuggets)
C Hakeem Olajuwon (Miami Heat)

ALL – Rookie Team
PG Nate McMillan (Cleveland Cavaliers)
SG Ron Harper (Houston Rockets)
SF Walter Berry (Phoenix Suns)
PF Hot Rod Williams (New Jersey Nets)
C Brad Daugherty (Milwaukee Bucks)

Division Winners
Atlantic Division Champs – Miami Heat
Central Division Champs – Charlotte Hornets
Midwest Division Champs – Kansas City – Omaha Kings
Pacific Division Champs – Los Angeles Clippers

Conference Winners
Eastern Conference Champs – Charlotte Hornets
Western Conference Champs – Kansas City – Omaha Kings

1987X: “NBA, I Love This Game” Champions – Kansas City – Omaha Kings

1987X: "NBA, I Love This Game" Draft

The 1987 NBA draft was held on June 22, 1987, in New York City. This draft included two future members of the NBA 50 Greatest Players list, David Robinson and Scottie Pippen, as well as fellow Hall of Famer Reggie Miller, who was named to the NBA 75th Anniversary Team. Other notable selections include Kevin Johnson, Kenny Smith, Horace Grant, Reggie Lewis, Muggsy Bogues, Mark Jackson, and Šarūnas Marčiulionis. Also in this draft was former Florida Gators men's basketball head coach Billy Donovan (drafted 68th by the Utah Jazz), who led that program to NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championships in 2006 and in 2007.

David Robinson did not join the NBA until the 1989–90 season due to his service commitment with the United States Navy. This was the last NBA draft to go over three rounds, as it was reduced to three next year and later to two since 1989.



The Philadelphia 76ers were awarded the first overall pick by winning the 1987X: “NBA, I Love This Game” draft lottery and selected SF Scottie Pippen. The Los Angeles Lakers secured the 2nd overall pick and selected SG Reggie Miller.

1988X: "NBA, I Love This Game"



MVP – Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
Defensive POY – Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
6th Man – Danny Ainge (Boston Celtics)
Rookie of the Year – Mark Jackson (Milwaukee Bucks)
All-Star MVP – Magic Johnson (New York Knicks)
Finals MVP – Clyde Drexler (Kansas City-Omaha Kings)

ALL-NBA Team (MVP Points)
PG John Stockton (Los Angeles Lakers)
SG Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
SF Larry Bird (Atlanta Hawks)
PF Charles Barkley (Milwaukee Bucks)
C Patrick Ewing (Los Angeles Lakers)

ALL-Defensive Team (DOY Points)
PG John Stockton (Los Angeles Lakers)
SG Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
SF Thurl Bailey (Charlotte Hornets)
PF Karl Malone (Houston Rockets)
C Hakeem Olajuwon (Miami Heat)

ALL – Rookie Team
PG Mark Jackson (Milwaukee Bucks)
SG Reggie Miller (Los Angeles Lakers)
SF Derrick McKey (Cleveland Cavaliers)
PF Armen Gilliam (Orlando Magic)
C Petur Gudmundsson (Milwaukee Bucks)

Division Winners
Atlantic Division Champs – New Jersey Nets
Central Division Champs – Charlotte Hornets
Midwest Division Champs – Kansas City – Omaha Kings
Pacific Division Champs – Los Angeles Lakers

Conference Winners
Eastern Conference Champs – Orlando Magic
Western Conference Champs – Kansas City – Omaha Kings

1988X: “NBA, I Love This Game” Champions – Kansas City – Omaha Kings

1988X: "NBA, I Love This Game" Draft

The 1988 NBA draft took place on June 28, 1988, in New York City, New York. The length was reduced from seven rounds in the previous year to three rounds. This was also the first draft for the Charlotte Hornets and Miami Heat, prior to their inaugural season.

Danny Manning was picked first overall by the Los Angeles Clippers and later became a two-time All-Star and a Sixth Man of the Year winner. However, injuries prevented him from fulfilling his potential, despite playing 15 seasons. Mitch Richmond, the fifth pick, went on to earn six All-Star and five All-NBA team selections, while also winning Rookie of the Year. Other notable selections include All-Stars Rik Smits, Hersey Hawkins and Dan Majerle, as well as nine-time NBA champion Steve Kerr, who achieved championship success as a player (five championships) and as a coach (four championships).



The Atlanta Hawks were awarded the first overall pick by winning the 1988X: “NBA, I Love This Game” draft lottery and selected SG Mitch Richmond. The Philadelphia 76ers secured the 2nd overall pick and selected PG Rod Strickland.

1989X: "NBA, I Love This Game"



MVP – Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
Defensive POY – Hakeem Olajuwon (Miami Heat)
6th Man – Dominique Wilkins (Orlando Magic)
Rookie of the Year – Mitch Richmond (Atlanta Hawks)
All-Star MVP – Clyde Drexler (Kansas City-Omaha Kings)
Finals MVP – John Stockton (Los Angeles Lakers)

ALL-NBA Team (MVP Points)
PG John Stockton (Los Angeles Lakers)
SG Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
SF Chris Mullin (Orlando Magic)
PF Karl Malone (Houston Rockets)
C Hakeem Olajuwon (Miami Heat)

ALL-Defensive Team (DOY Points)
PG John Stockton (Los Angeles Lakers)
SG Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
SF Chris Mullin (Orlando Magic)
PF Karl Malone (Houston Rockets)
C Hakeem Olajuwon (Miami Heat)

ALL – Rookie Team
PG Rod Strickland (Philadelphia 76ers)
SG Mitch Richmond (Atlanta Hawks)
SF Willie Anderson (Portland Trail Blazers)
PF Danny Manning (Phoenix Suns)
C Rik Smits (Cleveland Cavaliers)

Division Winners
Atlantic Division Champs – Boston Celtics
Central Division Champs – Charlotte Hornets
Midwest Division Champs – Houston Rockets
Pacific Division Champs – Los Angeles Lakers

Conference Winners
Eastern Conference Champs – Boston Celtics
Western Conference Champs – Los Angeles Lakers

1989X: “NBA, I Love This Game” Champions – Los Angeles Lakers

1989X: "NBA, I Love This Game" Draft

The 1989 NBA draft took place on June 27, 1989, in New York City. Despite eight of the top ten picks being considered busts, including the first two picks Pervis Ellison and Danny Ferry, the draft produced many talented players such as Shawn Kemp, Glen Rice, Sean Elliott, Nick Anderson, Dana Barros, Tim Hardaway, Vlade Divac, Clifford Robinson, B. J. Armstrong and Mookie Blaylock.

The draft was reduced from three rounds in the previous year to the two-round format that is still in use to the present day. As a result, NBA drafts from this season until 1995 produced the lowest number of total draft picks selected at 54 overall selections. This was the first draft for the Minnesota Timberwolves and Orlando Magic, prior to their inaugural season. This was also the first draft televised prime time on U.S. national television.



David Robinson was selected as the first overall pick in the 1988 NBA Draft by the San Antonio Spurs. However, he did not join the team immediately due to a two-year commitment to the United States Navy. After completing his service, he made his NBA debut in the 1989-1990 season, significantly impacting the Spurs and the league thereafter.



The Cleveland Cavaliers were awarded the first overall pick by winning the 1989X: “NBA, I Love This Game” draft lottery and selected C David Robinson. The Indiana Pacers secured the 2nd overall pick and selected PF Shawn Kemp.

1990X: "NBA, I Love This Game"



MVP – Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
Defensive POY – Hakeem Olajuwon (Miami Heat)
6th Man – Kevin McHale (Boston Celtics)
Rookie of the Year – David Robinson (Cleveland Cavaliers)
All-Star MVP – Patrick Ewing (Los Angeles Lakers)
Finals MVP – Patrick Ewing (Los Angeles Lakers)

ALL-NBA Team (MVP Points)
PG Magic Johnson (Boston Celtics)
SG Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
SF Charles Barkley (Milwaukee Bucks)
PF Karl Malone (Houston Rockets)
C David Robinson (Cleveland Cavaliers)

ALL-Defensive Team (DOY Points)
PG Derek Harper (San Antonio Spurs)
SG Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
SF Scottie Pippen (Philadelphia 76ers)
PF Karl Malone (Houston Rockets)
C Hakeem Olajuwon (Miami Heat)

ALL – Rookie Team
PG Pooh Richardson (Orlando Magic)
SG Nick Anderson (Portland Trail Blazers)
SF Glen Rice (Toronto Raptors)
PF Sam Mitchell (Dallas Mavericks)
C David Robinson (Cleveland Cavaliers)

Division Winners
Atlantic Division Champs – Miami Heat
Central Division Champs – Charlotte Hornets
Midwest Division Champs – Kansas City-Omaha Kings
Pacific Division Champs – Los Angeles Lakers

Conference Winners
Eastern Conference Champs – Miami Heat
Western Conference Champs – Los Angeles Lakers

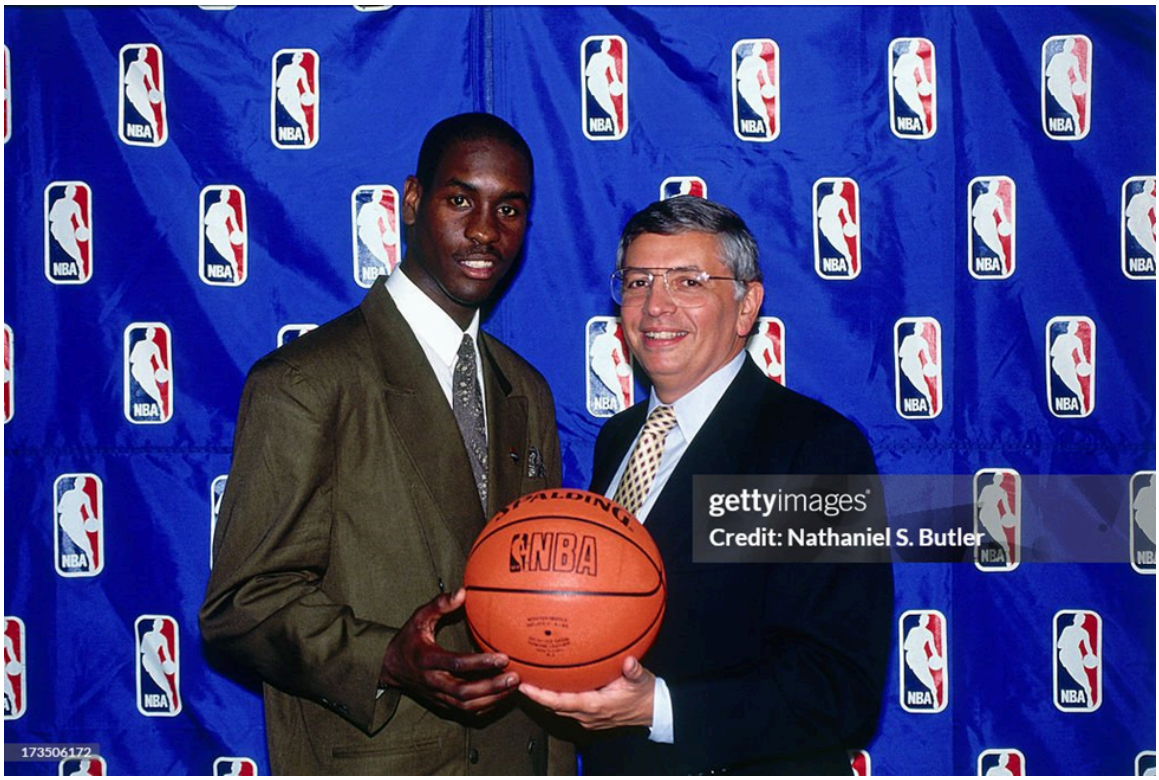
1990X: “NBA, I Love This Game” Champions – Los Angeles Lakers

1990X: "NBA, I Love This Game" Draft

The 1990 NBA draft took place on June 27, 1990, in New York City, New York. One of the standouts of this draft is Basketball Hall of Famer Gary Payton. He became a nine-time All-Star, achieved the NBA Defensive Player of the Year award in 1996, won an NBA Championship with the Miami Heat in 2006, holds many statistical records during his tenure with the since rebranded and relocated Seattle SuperSonics, and was inducted in the Hall of Fame in 2013.

The top pick of the draft was Syracuse's Derrick Coleman who was selected by the New Jersey Nets. In total, 52 of the 54 players selected went on to play at least one competitive game in the NBA, and six players were at some point of their career selected to play in the NBA All-Star Game. One player who had been projected to be a lottery pick as well as possibly the number one by media outlets and draft analysts was Loyola Marymount's Hank Gathers, who died of a heart condition in March 1990 after collapsing during a game.





The San Antonio Spurs were awarded the first overall pick by winning the 1990X: “NBA, I Love This Game” draft lottery and selected PG Gary Payton. The Portland Trail Blazers secured the 2nd overall pick and selected PF Derrick Coleman.

1991X: "NBA, I Love This Game"



MVP – Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
Defensive POY – Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
6th Man – Dominique Wilkins (Orlando Magic)
Rookie of the Year – Derrick Coleman (Portland Trail Blazers)
All-Star MVP – Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
Finals MVP – John Stockton (Los Angeles Lakers)

ALL-NBA Team (MVP Points)
PG Kevin Johnson (Utah Jazz)
SG Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
SF Charles Barkley (Milwaukee Bucks)
PF Karl Malone (Houston Rockets)
C David Robinson (Cleveland Cavaliers)

ALL-Defensive Team (DOY Points)
PG John Stockton (Los Angeles Lakers)
SG Michael Jordan (Charlotte Hornets)
SF Dennis Rodman (Utah Jazz)
PF Karl Malone (Houston Rockets)
C David Robinson (Cleveland Cavaliers)

ALL – Rookie Team
PG Dee Brown (Cleveland Cavaliers)
SG Dennis Scott (Indiana Pacers)
SF Lionel Simmons (Golden State Warriors)
PF Derrick Coleman (Portland Trail Blazers)
C Pervis Ellison (Seattle SuperSonics)

Division Winners
Atlantic Division Champs – Philadelphia 76ers
Central Division Champs – Milwaukee Bucks
Midwest Division Champs – Utah Jazz
Pacific Division Champs – Los Angeles Lakers

Conference Winners
Eastern Conference Champs – Milwaukee Bucks
Western Conference Champs – Los Angeles Lakers

1991X: “NBA, I Love This Game” Champions – Los Angeles Lakers

1991X: "NBA, I Love This Game" Draft

The 1991 NBA draft took place on June 26, 1991, in New York City, New York. Larry Johnson was selected first overall; he won the 1992 NBA Rookie of the Year award and as a two-time All-Star, was the first player to represent the Charlotte Hornets franchise at an All-Star game. Dikembe Mutombo was selected fourth overall, and became one of the greatest defensive centers in the history of the league. He was a four-time NBA Defensive Player of the Year award winner and an eight-time All-Star, and played in the league for 18 seasons. Other notable picks include Kenny Anderson, Steve Smith, Terrell Brandon, Dale Davis and Chris Gatling, who all made All-Star appearances, but with the exception of Brandon at two, each only appeared once.

The remaining picks in the first round failed to make an impact. Billy Owens was selected by the Sacramento Kings but refused to sign with them. He was traded to the Golden State Warriors in exchange for high-scoring guard Mitch Richmond. Owens was solid but unspectacular in his career, while Richmond was a six-time All-Star and was the 1989 NBA Rookie of the Year. Luc Longley was a three-time NBA Championship winner with the Chicago Bulls and held the record for playing the most NBA games by an Australian (broken by Andrew Bogut during the 2015–16 season). This was the last draft held in New York City until 2001.





The Toronto Raptors were awarded the first overall pick by winning the 1991X: “NBA, I Love This Game” draft lottery and selected C Dikembe Mutombo. The New York Knicks secured the 2nd overall pick and selected PF Dale Davis.

1992X: "NBA, I Love This Game"



MVP – Michael Jordan (Indiana Pacers)
Defensive POY – Michael Jordan (Indiana Pacers)
6th Man – Larry Bird (Boston Celtics)
Rookie of the Year – Kendall Gill (New York Knicks)
All-Star MVP – Tim Hardaway (Philadelphia 76ers)
Finals MVP – Clyde Drexler (Milwaukee Bucks)

ALL-NBA Team (MVP Points)
PG John Stockton (Los Angeles Lakers)
SG Michael Jordan (Indiana Pacers)
SF Charles Barkley (Milwaukee Bucks)
PF Karl Malone (Houston Rockets)
C David Robinson (Cleveland Cavaliers)

ALL-Defensive Team (DOY Points)
PG John Stockton (Los Angeles Lakers)
SG Michael Jordan (Indiana Pacers)
SF Scottie Pippen (Philadelphia 76ers)
PF Danny Manning (Phoenix Suns)
C David Robinson (Cleveland Cavaliers)

ALL – Rookie Team
PG Mookie Blaylock (Phoenix Suns)
SG Kendall Gill (New York Knicks)
SF Gerald Glass (Kansas City – Omaha Kings)
PF Larry Johnson (Kansas City – Omaha Kings)
C Dikembe Mutombo (Toronto Raptors)

Division Winners
Atlantic Division Champs – New Jersey Nets
Central Division Champs – Milwaukee Bucks
Midwest Division Champs – Utah Jazz
Pacific Division Champs – Los Angeles Lakers

Conference Winners
Eastern Conference Champs – Milwaukee Bucks
Western Conference Champs – Phoenix Suns

1992X: “NBA, I Love This Game” Champions – Milwaukee Bucks

1992X: "NBA, I Love This Game" Draft

The 1992 NBA draft took place on June 24, 1992, at Memorial Coliseum in Portland, Oregon. This was the first time the NBA draft was held outside of New York. It is the only draft where the first three picks were centers.

The 1992 NBA draft is one of the deepest in NBA history. The top three picks (Shaquille O'Neal, Alonzo Mourning, Christian Laettner) were considered can't-miss prospects. All three are Hall of Famers (Naismith & FIBA); O'Neal and Mourning are (individual) player-inducted, whereas Laettner is team-inducted. Laettner made one All-Star game in his career and was an Olympic Gold Medalist on the 1992 Dream Team but did not live up to the lofty expectations set for him.

The trio would end up playing together on the 2005 Miami Heat. Two other players went on to become All-Stars (Tom Gugliotta once, Latrell Sprewell four times) and several others had solid careers (Jimmy Jackson, Robert Horry, Doug Christie, P.J. Brown, LaPhonso Ellis, Jon Barry, Walt Williams, Anthony Peeler, and Clarence Weatherspoon). Harold Miner, who was given the nickname "Baby Jordan" because of his similarities to Michael Jordan, slipped to number 12 and, other than winning two slam dunk contests, only had a brief, uneventful, and injury prone four-year career.





The San Antonio Spurs were awarded the first overall pick by winning the 1992X: “NBA, I Love This Game” draft lottery and selected C Shaquille O’Neal. The Boston Celtics secured the 2nd overall pick and selected C Alonzo Mourning.

1993X: "NBA, I Love This Game"



MVP – Michael Jordan (Indiana Pacers)
Defensive POY – Hakeem Olajuwon (Toronto Raptors)
6th Man – Reggie Lewis (Boston Celtics)
Rookie of the Year – Shaquille O'Neal (San Antonio Spurs)
All-Star MVP – Michael Jordan (Indiana Pacers)
Finals MVP – John Starks (Milwaukee Bucks)

ALL-NBA Team (MVP Points)
PG John Stockton (Los Angeles Lakers)
SG Michael Jordan (Indiana Pacers)
SF Dominique Wilkins (San Antonio Spurs)
PF Karl Malone (Houston Rockets)
C David Robinson (Cleveland Cavaliers)

ALL-Defensive Team (DOY Points)
PG John Stockton (Los Angeles Lakers)
SG Michael Jordan (Indiana Pacers)
SF Scottie Pippen (Philadelphia 76ers)
PF Dennis Rodman (Utah Jazz)
C Hakeem Olajuwon (Toronto Raptors)

ALL – Rookie Team
PG Eric Murdock (Cleveland Cavaliers)
SG Latrell Sprewell (Toronto Raptors
SF Walt Williams (Seattle SuperSonics)
PF Christian Laettner (Charlotte Hornets
C Shaquille O'Neal (San Antonio Spurs)

Division Winners
Atlantic Division Champion – Philadelphia 76ers
Central Division Champion – Milwaukee Bucks
Midwest Division Champion – San Antonio Spurs
Pacific Division Champion – Los Angeles Lakers

Conference Winners
Eastern Conference Champion – Milwaukee Bucks
Western Conference Champion – Los Angeles Lakers

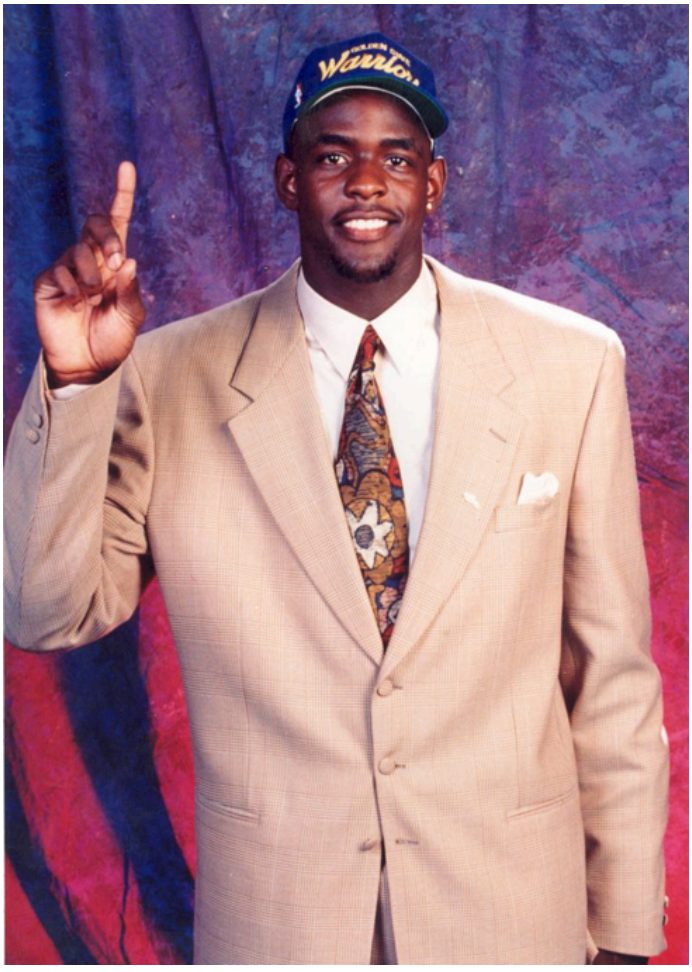
1993X: “NBA, I Love This Game” Champions – Milwaukee Bucks

1993X: "NBA, I Love This Game" Draft

The 1993 NBA draft took place on June 30, 1993, at The Palace of Auburn Hills in Auburn Hills, Michigan. The draft had some talented players at the top, but injuries and personal problems hurt many of them. Chris Webber, Penny Hardaway, Allan Houston, and Jamal Mashburn were All-Stars whose careers were cut short by injuries. Isaiah Rider and Vin Baker showed great potential but were plagued by personal problems. Bobby Hurley's career was derailed by a car wreck in December of his rookie year. The mid-to-late first round (starting with pick 13) was littered with players that failed to make any significant impact, except for three-time NBA champion Sam Cassell. One of the NBA best all-time wing defensive players, three-time champion Bruce Bowen, went undrafted.

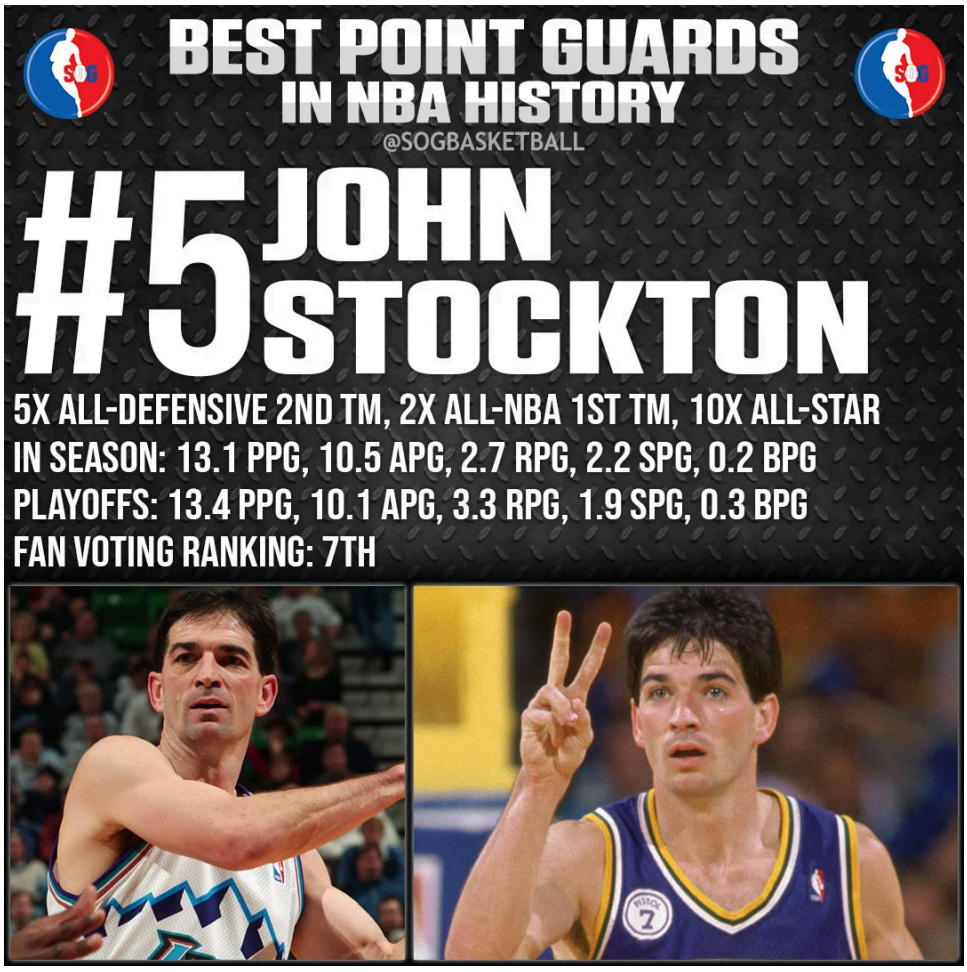
Despite having the lowest odds, the Orlando Magic won the first pick in the 1993 NBA draft lottery. It was the second year in a row the Magic won the draft lottery. The Magic drafted Chris Webber with the number one overall pick, but only minutes later, executed a blockbuster trade. The Magic traded Webber to the Golden State Warriors for their first-round pick (#3 overall) Penny Hardaway and three of Golden State's future first-round draft selections.





The Seattle SuperSonics secured the first overall pick by winning the 1993X: “NBA, I Love This Game” draft lottery and selected C Chris Webber. The Miami Heat had the 2nd overall pick and selected PG Sam Cassell.

1994X: "NBA, I Love This Game"



MVP – John Stockton (Los Angeles Lakers)
Defensive POY – Hakeem Olajuwon (Toronto Raptors)
6th Man – Dino Radja (Los Angeles Lakers)
Rookie of the Year – Anfernee Hardaway (Orlando Magic)
All-Star MVP – Patrick Ewing (Sacramento Kings)
Finals MVP – John Stockton (Los Angeles Lakers)

ALL-NBA Team (MVP Points)
PG John Stockton (Los Angeles Lakers)
SG Latrell Sprewell (Toronto Raptors)
SF Scottie Pippen (Philadelphia 76ers)
PF A.C. Green (Dallas Mavericks)
C David Robinson (Cleveland Cavaliers)

ALL-Defensive Team (DOY Points)
PG John Stockton (Los Angeles Lakers)
SG Latrell Sprewell (Toronto Raptors)
SF Scottie Pippen (Philadelphia 76ers)
PF Karl Malone (San Antonio Spurs)
C Hakeem Olajuwon (Toronto Raptors)

ALL – Rookie Team
PG Anfernee Hardaway (Orlando Magic)
SG Hubert Davis (Cleveland Cavaliers)
SF Jamal Mashburn (Phoenix Suns)
PF Dino Radja (Los Angeles Lakers)
C Chris Webber (Seattle SuperSonics)

Division Winners
Atlantic Division Champion – Philadelphia 76ers
Central Division Champion – Toronto Raptors
Midwest Division Champion – San Antonio Spurs
Pacific Division Champion – Los Angeles Lakers

Conference Winners
Eastern Conference Champion – Toronto Raptors
Western Conference Champion – Los Angeles Lakers

1994X: “NBA, I Love This Game” Champions – Los Angeles Lakers

1994X: "NBA, I Love This Game" Draft

The 1993 NBA draft took place on June 30, 1993, at The Palace of Auburn Hills in Auburn Hills, Michigan. The 1994 NBA draft took place on June 29, 1994, at Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis. Two NBA rookies of the year were picked in the first round, as Jason Kidd and Grant Hill were co-winners of the award for the 1994–95 NBA season. Kidd and Hill would end up as perennial All-Stars (10 and 7-time selections, respectively), though Hill's career was marred by severe injuries.

The first overall pick, Glenn Robinson, was involved in a contract holdout shortly after being selected, reportedly seeking a 13-year, $100 million contract. Both Robinson and the Milwaukee Bucks eventually agreed on a 10-year, $68 million contract, which once stood as the richest contract ever signed by a rookie in professional sports. A fixed salary cap for rookies was implemented by the NBA the following season.

Robinson himself had a productive NBA career, becoming a two-time NBA All-Star and winning an NBA Championship in 2005 in his final year with the San Antonio Spurs.





The New York Knicks secured the first overall pick by winning the 1994X: “NBA, I Love This Game” draft lottery and selected PG Jason Kidd. The Indiana Pacers had the 2nd overall pick and selected SF Grant Hill.

1995X: "NBA, I Love This Game"



MVP – Dana Barros (Boston Celtics)
Defensive POY – Scottie Pippen (Philadelphia 76ers)
6th Man – Dana Barros (Boston Celtics)
Rookie of the Year – Grant Hill (Indiana Pacers)
All-Star MVP – Shaquille O'Neal (San Antonio Spurs)
Finals MVP – Karl Malone (San Antonio Spurs)

ALL-NBA Team (MVP Points)
PG Dana Barros (Boston Celtics)
SG Mitch Richmond (Atlanta Hawks)
SF Scottie Pippen (Philadelphia 76ers)
PF Karl Malone (San Antonio Spurs)
C David Robinson (Cleveland Cavaliers)

ALL-Defensive Team (DOY Points)
PG Mookie Blaylock (Phoenix Suns)
SG Clyde Drexler (Milwaukee Bucks)
SF Scottie Pippen (Philadelphia 76ers)
PF Karl Malone (San Antonio Spurs)
C David Robinson (Cleveland Cavaliers)

ALL – Rookie Team
PG Jason Kidd (New York Knicks)
SG Eddie Jones (Denver Nuggets)
SF Grant Hill (Indiana Pacers)
PF Juwan Howard (Houston Rockets)
C Eric Montross (Philadelphia 76ers)

Division Winners
Atlantic Division Champion – Philadelphia 76ers
Central Division Champion – Toronto Raptors
Midwest Division Champion – San Antonio Spurs
Pacific Division Champion – Los Angeles Lakers

Conference Winners
Eastern Conference Champion – Milwaukee Bucks
Western Conference Champion – San Antonio Spurs

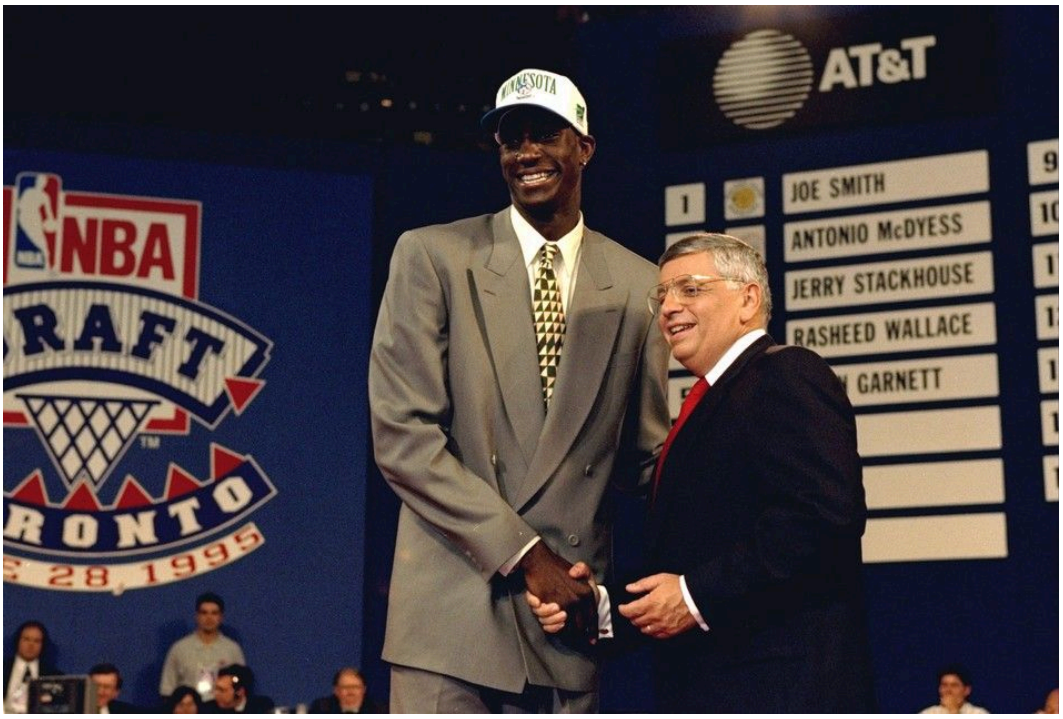
1995X: “NBA, I Love This Game” Champions – San Antonio Spurs

1995X: "NBA, I Love This Game" Draft

The 1995 NBA draft took place on June 28, 1995, at the Sky Dome in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. It marked the first NBA draft to be held outside the United States and was the first draft for the two Canadian expansion teams, Toronto Raptors and Vancouver Grizzlies. Kevin Garnett, who was taken fifth in this draft, is notable for being the first player in two decades to be selected straight out of high school. Garnett ultimately gathered fifteen All Star selections, nine All-NBA selections (four of those being First Teams), one NBA MVP award, and multiple other accolades. Rasheed Wallace and Jerry Stackhouse also had successful careers, being four-time and two-time All-Stars respectively. Wallace won an NBA championship in 2004 with the Detroit Pistons, while Stackhouse scored the most total points in the league in 2000, also with the Pistons.

The other remaining top selections had relatively productive careers but were considered to never have reached their full potential. Joe Smith put up solid, but unspectacular numbers throughout his career and is generally considered a disappointment for a first overall selection. He was also involved in a salary cap scandal with the Minnesota Timberwolves. Antonio McDyess was a one-time All-Star, but serious and continuing knee injuries decreased much of his effectiveness in the prime of his career. Damon Stoudamire was the 1995–96 NBA Rookie of the Year and had a solid career although he was arrested, suspended and

fined several times for marijuana possession. Bryant Reeves was impressive early in his career but one season after being granted a six-year, $61.8 million contract extension, his numbers went down due to weight and back problems and he retired after only playing six NBA seasons, all with the Vancouver Grizzlies.



The Phoenix Suns (Via Indiana Pacers) secured the first overall pick by winning the 1995X: “NBA, I Love This Game” draft lottery and selected X. The Kansas City-Omaha Kings had the 2nd overall pick and selected Y.

1996X: "NBA, I Love This Game"

1996X: "NBA, I Love This Game" Draft