



Julius Erving

Biography

A great **philanthropist**, Julius Erving has served as the national chairman of the Hemophilia Foundation; a coach of the Special Olympics basketball program; an adviser to The March of Dimes; spokesman for the Lupus Foundation, American Dental Association and Philadelphia Police Athletic League; and is involved in the Sports Philanthropy Project.

In 1993, He was **inducted** into the Basketball Hall of Fame and two years later the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame. That same year he was named to the NBA's 50th Anniversary All-Time Team. Some of his past awards include the Walter Kennedy Citizenship Award, the Whitney M. Young Award from the Urban League and the Father Flanagan Award from Boys Town, the American Express Man of the Year Award, and the Big Brothers New York City Sports Award.

Erving grew up with his family in a public housing project in Roosevelt, NY. Known as Dr. J because of the way he “operated” on the court, Erving won three championships, four Most Valuable Player Awards, and three scoring titles while playing with the American Basketball Association. He is the fifth-highest scorer in professional basketball history, with 30,026 points (NBA and ABA combined.) His distinctive playing style revolutionized the game, emphasizing individual expression. Since then, he continues to address civic issues through community involvement and philanthropy.

Vocabulary

- **Inducted (Past Tense of Induct) -** To admit as a member; receive.
- **ABA–** American Basketball Association. Formed in 1967 and merged with NBA in 1976.
- **NBA–** National Basketball Association
- **Philanthropist–** a person who makes an effort to promote human welfare through giving; usually by providing financial support (gifts.)

Activity I

How many points did Julius Erving score total in his career as an ABA and NBA player?

1. 20,003
2. 20,903
3. 40,298
4. 30,026

2009 Freedom Award
Recipient
Julius Erving



National Civil Rights Museum
450 Mulberry St.
Memphis, TN 38103

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Activity II

Here are some websites where you can search for the answers:

http://www.nba.com/history/players/erving_bio.html

<http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/erv0bio-1>

Why is Julius Irving called “Dr. J”?

Name three teams Julius Erving played for?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Explain how the images below are connected with Julius Erving.



1.



2.



3.

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Julius Erving

Answer Sheet

Activity I

Correct Answer: #4

Activity II

Why is Julius Irving called “Dr. J?”

Answer: A high school friend began calling Erving “Doctor” because he called him “professor.” The name stuck because it reflected the way he “operated” on the court.

Name three teams Julius Erving played for?

Possible Answers: Milwaukee Bucks, Virginia Squires, New York Nets, Philadelphia 76ers

Explain how the images below are connected with Julius Erving.

- 1. Is and advisor to the March of Dimes Foundation, an organization concerned with the welfare of premature children and childhood illnesses**
- 2. Attended and played ball for University of Massachusetts**
- 3. Coaches for the Special Olympics**

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