



JAMES WORTHY

A BIOGRAPHY

James Worthy defines the term “**most valuable player**” – not just in his career as a superstar athlete but as an entrepreneur, sports broadcast analyst, and commercial spokesman. James believes that the most admirable trait in a person is, “**That one takes responsibility for honoring his commitments**” and that philosophy guides his role as a devoted father to two young daughters, Sable and Sierra.

James Ager Worthy (born February 27, 1961 in Gastonia, North Carolina), is a former college and professional basketball player, who was enshrined in **2003 into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame**.

Under the tutelage of famed coach, Dean Smith, Worthy teamed with dream teammate, Michael Jordan and was named to virtually every All American team following his junior year as a Tar Heel. After being named MVP of the Final Four in 1982, he was the #1 overall pick in the 1982 draft, joining the reigning NBA Champion, Los Angeles Lakers while continuing his college education and finally graduating with a BA degree from U.N.C. at Chapel Hill.

While with the Lakers for 12 consecutive years, Worthy earned the name, “**Big Game James**”, for his dazzling performance in championship playoffs. On December 10, 1995, James Worthy became only the sixth player in Laker history to have his jersey retired. His #42 joined the jerseys of teammates, Gail Goodrich, Jerry West, Elgin Baylor, Wilt Chamberlin, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Magic Johnson.

Topping a long list of noteworthy statistics:

- **Seven-time NBA All Star**
 - **Member of three NBA Championship teams NBA Finals**
 - **NBA Finals Most Valuable Player; 1988**
 - **Rated by NBA, one of the 50 all-time best pro players**
 - **College Player of the Year; 1982**
 - **MVP OF NCAA Championships; 1982**
 - **Gaston Gazette “2010 Person of the Year”**
 - **North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame; 1997** – other alumni, Michael Jordan, Bobby Jones, and Bob McAdoo
 - **Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame** – other alumni, Denzel Washington, General Wesley Clark, and Shaquille O’Neal
 - **North Carolina “Order of the Longleaf Pine”** – other alumni, Maya Angelou, Rev William Franklin "Billy" Graham, Jr., and Coretta Scott King
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Worthy's trademark goggles, along with a championship uniform, were inducted into the Smithsonian Institute in early 1996. In addition, Worthy launched the Smithsonian's National Sports Oral History Project, a career retrospective providing insight into historical changes in the sport.



Since retiring from the game on November 10, 1994, Worthy commenced a second career as owner and President of Worthy Enterprise. Worthy's schedule is now devoted to appearances on the corporate and collegiate lecture circuits, commercial and animation voiceovers, and most notably, sports broadcasting with K-CBS LA and K-CAL 9.



Worthy has also maintained his commitment to helping youngsters achieve their greatest potential, most notably through his active involvement with the Boys and Girls Club of America and the establishment of the James Worthy Foundation. The James Worthy Foundation has an explicit purpose: to help "at risk" youth, military veterans, and their communities build an "Earned Pathway to Success".



When asked, "**What do you want your legacy to be?**" Mr. Worthy's response is very simple,

- I want to be remembered as a man who realized that he was placed on this earth to help his fellow human beings;
 - I want to be remembered for being a committed and never tiring humanitarian;
 - I want to be remembered as someone dedicated to supporting "at risk" youth, military veteran and homeless women veterans, with their "***Earned Pathway to Success***";
 - I want to be remembered as someone that reached backed to give a helping hand;
 - I want to be remembers by my two lovely daughters as a loving and caring father;
 - And, only if I accomplish all of these things, then I won't mine being remembered as "***Big Game James***".
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