

Famous Basketball Quotes

I am a huge believer in giving back and helping out in the community and the world. Think globally, act locally I suppose. I believe that the measure of a person's life is the affect they have on others.

- Steve Nash

Everybody pulls for David, nobody roots for Goliath.

-- Wilt Chamberlain

One man can be a crucial ingredient on a team, but one man cannot make a team.

-- Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Be strong in body, clean in mind, lofty in ideals.

-- James Naismith

Boards, Boards, Boards.

-- Knute Rockne

Be true to the game, because the game will be true to you. If you try to shortcut the game, then the game will shortcut you. If you put forth the effort, good things will be bestowed upon you. That's truly about the game, and in some ways that's about life too.

--Michael Jordan

Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better.

--Pat Riley

When I was young, I never wanted to leave the court until I got things exactly correct. My dream was to become a pro.

-- Larry Bird

Talent wins games, but team work and intelligence wins championships.

-- *Michael Jordan*

I tell kids to pursue their basketball dreams, but I tell them to not let that be their only dream.

-- *Kareem Abdul-Jabbar*

If you are going to take it to the bank, then you better cash it in.

-- Shannon Fish

My responsibility is getting all my players playing for the name on the front of the jersey, not the one on the back.

-- Source Unknown

Good, better, best. Never let it rest. Until your good is better and your better is best.
-- Tim Duncan

Basketball doesn't build character it reveals it.
-- Author Unknown

Basketball is like photography, if you don't focus, all you have is the negative.
-- Dan Frisby

The invention of basketball was not an accident. It was developed to meet a need. Those boys simply would not play "Drop the Handkerchief."
-- James Naismith

There are really only two plays: Romeo and Juliet, and put the darn ball in the basket.
-- Abe Lemons

Any American boy can be a basketball star if he grows up, up, up.
-- Bill Vaughn

If you meet the Buddha in the lane, feed him the ball.
-- Phil Jackson

We have a great bunch of outside shooters. Unfortunately, all our games are played indoors.
-- Weldon Drew

Sometimes a player's greatest challenge is coming to grips with his role on the team.
-- Scottie Pippen

Don't do more than you can do, but don't do less either.
-- Jeff Fletcher

You don't play against opponents, you play against the game of basketball.
-- Bobby Knight

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.
-- Henry Ford

Champions don't complain, they're too busy getting better.
-Author Unknown

Everyone can't be a professional player at sports, but everyone can be a professional sport as a player.

-- Upward Basketball

Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.

- John Wooden

On a player passing up an open shot: "You miss 100% of the shots that you don't take.

-- Joe Ledbetter, HS coach

It's not the hours you put in, it's what you put in the hours.

-- Unknown

It doesn't matter who scores the points, it's who can get the ball to the scorer.

-- Larry Bird

The only important shot you take is the next one. Because no matter how hard you try, that is the only one you can still have an effect on!

-- Jason Bumblis

If all I'm remembered for is being a good basketball player, then I've done a bad job with the rest of my life.

-- Isiah Thomas

Great defense consists of 3 R's: read, react, and rotate.

-- P. Carr

The idea is not to block every shot. The idea is to make your opponent believe that you might block every shot.

-- Bill Russell

If you pay attention to the grandstands...it won't be long before you join them.

-- Anonymous

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-- John Wooden

I believe that good things come to those who work.

- Wilt Chamberlain

..it (coaching basketball) is kind of like wrestling a gorilla, you don't quit when you're tired, you quit when the gorilla is tired.

-- Mike McDowell

It's what you learn, after you know it all, that counts.

-- John Wooden

It's not how big you are; it's how big you play.

- Author Unknown

The best teams have chemistry. They communicate with each other and they sacrifice personal glory for the common goal.

-- Dave DeBusschere

First master the fundamentals.

-- Larry Bird

Teamwork: The fuel that produces uncommon results in common people.

-- Anonymous

Those who have invested the most are the last to surrender.

-- Author Unknown

In life you are given two ends, one to think with the other to sit on. You success in life depends on which end you use the most. Head you win, tails you lose.

-- Conrad Burns

Basketball is a game that gives you every chance to be great, and puts every pressure on you to prove that you haven't got what it takes. It never takes away the chance, and it never eases up on the pressure.

-- Coach Bob Sundvold

The difference between an extraordinary player and an ordinary player is that little extra.

-- Michael Burks

If you think the small things don't matter; think of the last game you lost by one point.

- Author Unknown

The key is not the “will to win”...Everybody has that. It is the will to prepare to win that is important .

- Bobby Knight

The smaller the detail, the greater the value.

- Doug Johnson

If you accept the expectations of others, especially negative ones, then you never will change the outcome.

- Michael Jordan

You can't get much done in life if you only work on the days you feel good.

- Jerry West

If you are afraid of failure, you don't deserve to be successful.

- Charles Barkley

Never underestimate the heart of a champion.

- Rudy Tomjanovich

What to do with a mistake—recognize it, admit it, learn from it, forget it.

- Dean Smith

Remember this, the choices you make in life, make you.

- John Wooden

Leadership starts at the top.

- Morgan Wooten

Great effort springs naturally from great attitude.

- Pat Riley

Excellence is the unlimited ability to improve the quality of what you have to offer.

- Rick Pitino

I've always believed that if you put in the work, the results will come. I don't do things half-heartedly. Because I know if I do, I can expect half-hearted results

- Michael Jordan

Wisdom is always an overmatch for strength.

-Phil Jackson

Shout praise and whisper criticism.

- Don Meyer

Players don't care how much I know until they know how much I care.

- Frosty Westering

Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.

-John Wooden

The only difference in a good shot and a bad shot is if it goes in or not.

- Charles Barkley

To me, teamwork is the beauty of our sport, where you have five acting as one. You become selfless.

- Mike Krzyzewski

The idea is not to block every shot. The idea is to make your opponent believe that you might block every shot.

- Bill Russell

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-Dave DeBusschere

So much of becoming a good athlete involves bringing other things to the table, other than physical skills. It involves intelligence, it involves many of the things you learn during the process of being educated. How to analyze, how to assess, how to equate, how to reason.

-Julius Erving

I have taken over 9000 shots in my career. I have lost almost 300 games. On 26 occasions I have been entrusted to take the game winning shot... and missed. And I have failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why...I succeed.

-Michael Jordan