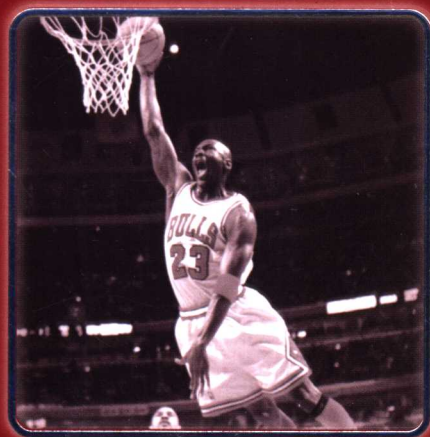


—— 世界名人 ——

英文传记

ENGLISH BIOGRAPHIES
OF WORLD'S
CELEBRITIES

迈克·麦戈文/著



MICHAEL
JORDAN

迈克尔·乔丹

美国 N B A 超级巨星永远的
“篮球飞人”

中国书籍出版社

—世界名人英文传记—

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THE FACE OF PROFESSIONAL^① BASKETBALL

Even if you are not an **avid**^② basketball fan, or much of a sports fan at all, chances are you know something about Michael Jordan. You might know him as the player with the **gleaming**^③ **bald**^④ head who **defies**^⑤ gravity and makes the impossible look **routine**^⑥ on the court. You might know him as a spokesperson for Nike, Hanes underwear, Ball Park Franks, Gatorade, and McDonald's.

① professional [prə'feʃənəl] *a.* 职业(上)的; 从事特定专业的

② avid ['ævid] *a.* 渴望的; 贪心的

③ gleam [gli:m] *n.* 微光; 闪光
vi. 发微光; 闪烁

④ bald [bɔ:ld] *a.* 秃头的, 秃顶的

⑤ defy [di'fai] *vt.* 公然反抗, 蔑视

⑥ routine [ru:'ti:n] *n.* 例行公事; 日常工作
adj. 一般的; 平凡的; 平淡的

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Or you might know him as a movie star: His 1996 film, *Space jam*, costarring Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck, was a box office smash.

Michael Jordan is one of those rare athletes who **transcends**¹ his sport, because he was so very good at it. Many people believe he was the best player ever to play the game. And Jordan always played with **flair**², passion, and a will to win that was unsurpassed by any athlete in any sport.

He set an example for his teammates—and was a role model to kids—with his tireless work **ethic**³, his **diligence**⁴ at practice, and his refusal to let his success go to his head. Jordan never went half speed and never played the game with anything but a singular **focus**⁵. So when the best player in the game was always trying to improve, it figured that the rest of his teammates would do what was necessary to keep up.

It is no surprise then that Jordan, in spite of his many individual accomplishments, was regarded as a true team player: someone who made his teammates better. It is

1 transcend [ˈtrænzənd] *vt.* 超越, 优于

2 flair [fleɪ] *n.* 天资; (特别的) 才能

3 ethic [ˈeθɪk] *a.* 伦理(学)的; 道德的
n. 伦理, 标准

4 diligence [ˈdɪlɪdʒəns] *n.* 勤勉, 勤奋

5 focus [ˈfəʊkəs] *n.* 焦点, 焦距; 聚光点; 集中点; 重点

also no surprise that Jordan led the Chicago Bulls to six National Basketball Association (NBA) championships in an eight-year span.

For many people, Jordan was the face of professional basketball. If his team was on television, people would tune in, because there was always the chance—a good chance—that they'd see something unforgettable: a thunderous **slam** ① dunk, an improvised drive to the basket, or a last-second, beat-the-buzzer game-winning shot. He was a one-man highlight film.

But Jordan would not have been nearly so **popular** ② on the court had he not been such a model citizen off the court. He understood the **responsibility** ③ he had as the most visible player in his sport, and he **conducted** ④ himself accordingly, with class and dignity.

But for all his accomplishments, and for as easy as he made things look as a pro, Jordan initially **struggled** ⑤ with the game, believe it or not. But even as a child, he was driven by his determination to excel. He would accept

① **slam** [slæm] *vt.* 猛地关上; slam duck 强力灌篮

② **popular** ['pɒpjulə] *a.* 得人心的, 受欢迎的

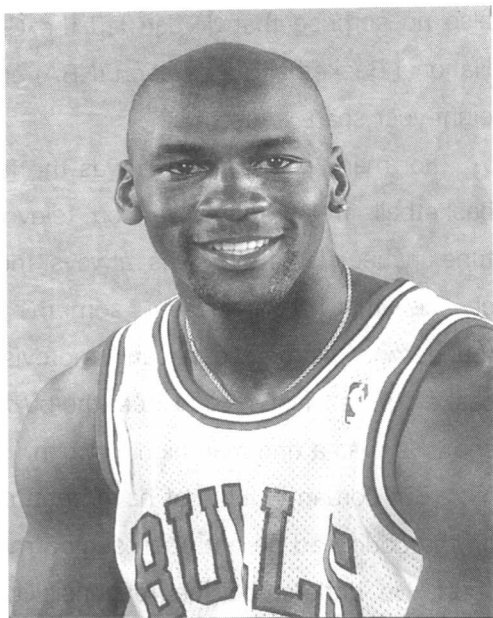
③ **responsibility** [rɪˈspɒnsəˈbɪlɪti] *n.* 责任

④ **conduct** [kənˈdʌkt] *vt.* 引导, 带领; 为人; 表现

⑤ **struggle** ['strʌgl] *vi.* 努力; 使劲; 挣扎

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nothing less
than success—
a characteristic
that would be
the keystone^①
of his career.



Throughout his famous career, Michael Jordan became the face of professional basketball for millions of fans. (Photofest)

① keystone [ˈkiːstəʊn] *n.* 基础

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Michael Jordan's strong work ethic is in his genes. His father, James, and his mother, Deloris, both the children of Southern farmers, worked hard to ensure that their five children had what they needed.

Michael was born on February 17, 1963, in Brooklyn, New York, where his father was **enrolled** ① in a training program at General Electric. The family returned to North Carolina after the training program was complete and settled in Wilmington.

In addition to his job with General Electric and building the family a new house, James still found

① enroll [inˈrɔːl] *vt.* 把……记入名册, 登记

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time to be involved^① with his children. He encouraged their participation in all sports. In fact, Michael's first love was Little League baseball. But soon basketball became his favorite sport.

James built a makeshift^② basketball court in the backyard. It was nothing fancy^③, just backboards and baskets. It was not long before "the Rack," as the court came to be known, was the second home for Michael and



Michael and his parents, Deloris and James Jordan, celebrate Michael's 26th birthday. (Associated Press)

① involve [in'vɒlv] *vt.* 使卷入, 连累; 牵涉

② makeshift ['meɪkɪfɪt] *n.* 临时代用品; 权宜之计

③ fancy ['fænsi] *n.* 爱好; 迷恋

his older brother, Larry. They played against each other for hours at a time, and Larry took no pity on his little brother. But who won or lost was not as important as the fun they had together. Their fun depended on Larry and Michael keeping up with their schoolwork, though; Michael and his **siblings** ^① learned at an early age the importance of education.

The All-Around Athlete

By the time Michael was a **sophomore** ^② at Laney High School, he had grown to 5' 10", much taller than anyone else in his family. He had become an all-round athlete, playing football and running track. He also expected to be a member of the **varsity** ^③ basketball team, but Coach Clifton Herring cut Jordan from the team. The best he could do was the junior varsity.

Michael was so disappointed that he actually considered giving up basketball. But that decision would have gone against all his parents' **preaching** ^④ about the value of hard work and determination. So instead of quitting, he worked even harder. At the end of the

① sibling ['siblɪŋ] *n.* 兄弟姐妹

② sophomore ['sɒfəmə:] *n.* (大学, 高中的)二年级学生

③ varsity ['vɑ:zɪti] *n.* 【美】大学代表队

④ preach [pri:tʃ] *adj.* 有装饰的; 不寻常的; 精致的

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season, Michael led the junior varsity team by averaging 28 points a game.

“Whenever I was working out and got tired and **figured**^① I ought to stop,” Jordan told Larry Schwartz of ESPN.com, “I’d close my eyes and see that list in the locker room without my name on it, and that usually got me going again.”

That is exactly what happened. During his junior and senior seasons at Laney, Jordan developed into one of the best players in North Carolina. He played so well that he earned an invitation to the **prestigious**^② Five Star Basketball Camp in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the summer following his **junior**^③ year. The Five Star Camp played host to many of the finest high school basketball players in the United States and was attended by college basketball coaches interested in evaluating potential **recruits**^④.

Jordan, who was surprised to receive an invitation, arrived at the camp without any of the college coaches knowing who he was. But before long he got their attention and began making a name for himself. He won

① figure [ˈfɪɡə] *vt.* 认为

② prestigious [presˈtɪdʒəs] *a.* 有名望的

③ junior [ˈdʒuːnjə] *a.* 年纪较轻的

n. 三年级

④ recruit [rɪˈkruːt] *n.* 新成员

five trophies^① during the first week of camp and four more during the second. By the time the camp was over, he was one of the best players there.

Jordan began receiving calls and letters from college coaches, wanting him to play for their school. After seriously considering a scholarship offer from North Carolina State, where his favorite player, David Thompson, had gone to school, Jordan announced he would attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he would play for the Tar Heels under legendary coach Dean Smith.

Smith, who went on to become the winningest basketball coach in the history of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), emphasized^② fundamentals, team play, discipline, and the importance of education. Jordan credits Smith with his development as a basketball player and as a person.

The Legend Begins

Just a year earlier at the Five Star Camp, Michael Jordan was virtually^③ unknown as a basketball player. But

① trophy [ˈtrəʊfi] *n.* 战利品; 胜利纪念品; 奖品

② emphasize [ˈemfəsaɪz] *vt.* 强调, 着重

③ virtually [ˈvɜːtʃuəli] *ad.* 实际上, 事实上, 差不多

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his improvement since that time had been **dramatic**^①.

After averaging just under 28 points a game for Laney High School during his senior season, Jordan came to Chapel Hill and made an immediate impact. He became just the fourth freshman at North Carolina to start his first game. (In basketball, *to start* means to be part of the first group of players on the court.) And although Jordan later became famous for his offensive skills—his ability to **soar**^② through the air, his acrobatic dunks, his **slashes**^③ to the basket—he became one of the few freshmen ever to start in his first game at North Carolina because of his defense.

Jordan averaged 13.5 points a game as a freshman and was named to the *Basketball Weekly* All-Freshman Team. The Tar Heels won the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) championship that season and made it to the 1982 NCAA Basketball Championship Tournament. They advanced to the title game against the Georgetown Hoyas in the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans.

The game was one of the most memorable championship games ever played. It was very close from start to finish. Neither team was able to build a comfortable **margin**^④.

① dramatic [drə'mætik] *a.* 引人注目的

② soar [sɔ:] *vi.* 往上飞舞, 升腾

③ slash [slæʃ] *n.* 扣篮

④ margin ['mɑ:dʒin] *n.* 空白; (胜方在时空、票数等方面的领先) 幅度; 差距

With 32 seconds to play and Georgetown leading 62-61, Coach Smith called a timeout. He **instructed**^① the players to look for the first good shot and to get in good **rebounding**^② position. Just before the timeout ended, Smith **tapped**^③ Jordan on the knee and said, "Knock it in, Michael."

Before 61,612 roaring fans, Michael—a freshman—had been asked to take the most important shot of the season. The inbounds pass went to point guard Jimmy Black, who passed to forward Matt Doherty, who passed the ball back to Black. Black spotted Jordan on his left, about 17 feet from the basket, midway between the foul line and the sideline.

Jordan did not **hesitate**^④. He gathered the pass, took aim, released the ball perfectly, and never saw the result.

"I actually closed my eyes," he said. "Something I'd never done before. I honestly did not know that the shot had gone in until Georgetown took the ball out of bounds."

"Several seconds later, after a Georgetown turnover, the Tar Heels were 63-62 winners. Michael Jordan's

① instruct [in'strʌkt] *vt.* 告知

② rebound [ri'baʊnd] *n.* 篮板球

③ tap [tæp] *vt.* 轻拍

④ hesitate ['heziteit] *vi.* 踌躇; 犹豫

pressure-packed shot had given Dean Smith his first national championship. ”

“The kid doesn’t even realize it yet, but he’s part of history now,” Eddie Fogler, an assistant coach at North Carolina, said after the game. “People will remember that shot 25 years from now.”

Jordan recalled the 1982 national championship game in his book, *For the Love of the Game*. “I knew the magnitude of the game, but I didn’t fully **comprehend** ① what it meant.... I remember **riding** ② to the **arena** ③. There I was about to fall asleep on the bus and I’m daydreaming about hitting a winning shot.

“I remember feeling so calm, so relaxed. I wasn’t completely awake and I wasn’t completely asleep. I was in a comfortable place somewhere in between. I **envisioned** ④ being the hero in a game. I saw myself hitting the game-winning shot.... The dream wasn’t specific; I didn’t know whether it would be against Georgetown in a few hours or against another team in another year.

“But after we beat Georgetown for the championship, I told my father about the dream. He

① comprehend [ˌkɒmpriˈhend] *vt.* 理解, 了解, 领会

② ride [raɪd] *vi.* 骑马

③ arena [əˈri:nə] *n.* 比赛场, 竞技场

④ envision [ɪnˈvɪʒən] *vt.* 想像, 展望