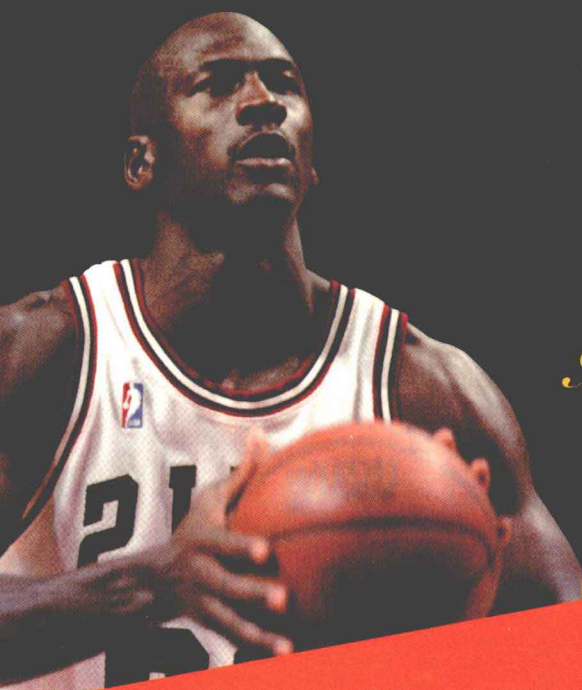




英汉对照名人传记系列



新华传媒
XINHUA MEDIA



Michael Jordan

迈克尔·乔丹

【美】迈克·麦戈文◎著

陈静 曹燕 胡开宝◎译

胡开宝◎译校

R8



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内 容 提 要

本书是“英汉对照名人传记系列”之一。迈克尔·乔丹在芝加哥公牛队和华盛顿奇才队效力期间创下了诸多记录,他成了职业篮球的形象代言人。他带领北卡罗来纳大学校队夺得了1982年NCAA冠军,全国首次将目光投向了这位当时还在读大二的学生。接着,他又5次获得NBA最有价值球员奖。他是奥运会上的英雄,也是全世界电视、电影和广告中人们最为熟悉的明星之一。乔丹在职业生涯中一直表现出优秀的体育道德和坚定的意志,很多人认为他是最伟大的篮球运动员。

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1 THE FACE OF PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL

Even if you are not an avid 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 bald head who defies gravity and makes the impossible look routine on the court. You might know him as a spokesperson for Nike, Hanes underwear, Ball Park Franks, Gatorade, and McDonald's. 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 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, 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, his diligence 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. 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.

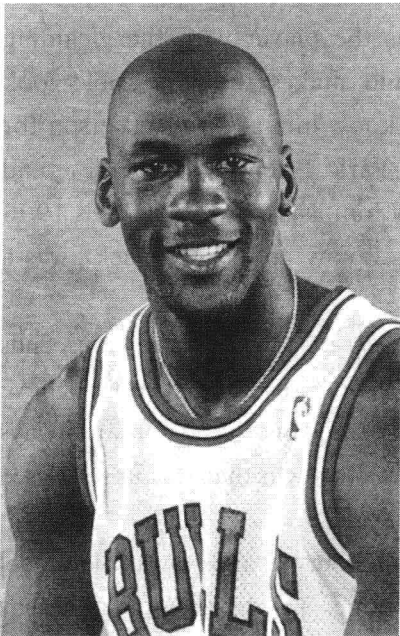
It is no surprise then that Jordan, in spite of his many individual accomplishments, was regarded as a true team player: someone who made his teammates better. It is also no surprise that Jordan led the Chicago Bulls to six National Basketball Association (NBA) championships in an eight-year span.

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 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 on the court had he not been such a model citizen off the court. He understood the responsibility he had as the most visible player in his sport, and he conducted 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 with the



Throughout his famous career, Michael Jordan became the face of professional basketball for millions of fans. (Photofest)
在其声名卓著的职业生涯中,乔丹成了职业篮球的表率,球迷以百万计。(图库)

game, believe it or not. But even as a child, he was driven by his determination to excel. He would accept nothing less than success — a characteristic that would be the keystone of his career.

第 1 章 职业篮球的表率

就算你不是狂热的篮球粉丝，甚至对任何体育运动都不感冒，你也一定听说过迈克尔·乔丹。你或是目睹这位光头闪闪的运动员在球场上对抗地心引力，频繁创造奇迹；或是了解他是耐克、恒适内衣、波·普·弗兰克食品、佳得乐饮料及麦当劳的代言人；或是知道他还是一名电影明星：1996年，他携手邦尼兔及达菲鸭出演的电影《空中大灌篮》，票房成绩相当不俗。

凭借高超的技术，迈克尔·乔丹将自己所从事的运动推上了新的高度，只有少数几名运动员能做到这一点。因而，很多人认为，乔丹是有史以来最棒的篮球运动员。场上的他总是直觉敏锐，激情四射，他那股强烈的求胜欲望是其他任何运动员所难以望其项背的。

乔丹是队友的榜样，更是孩子们的偶像。他工作不知疲惫，训练勤勤恳恳，从来不会被成绩冲昏头脑。赛场上，他总是摒除杂念，全力以赴，全心投入。作为最好的球员，乔丹在比赛中总是不断提升自我，队友们自然也得不遗余力，紧紧跟随。

尽管个人成就不俗，乔丹仍被认为是最具团队精神的球员，他的存在提高了整支球队的水平。如此看来，乔丹率领的芝加哥公牛队能在8年中6次问鼎美国职业篮球联赛(NBA)总冠军也就不足为奇了。

在很多人眼里，乔丹是职业篮球的表率。电视上只要播放乔丹的比赛，总是能吸引人们观看，因为这是目睹精彩的好机会：雷霆万钧的扣篮、极富创造力的投射，或是最后一秒决定胜负的压哨球，乔

丹总是整场演出的最亮点。

赛场上的乔丹备受推崇的另一原因则是，赛场外，他是一位标准的模范公民。作为篮球界最受瞩目的球星，乔丹清楚地知道自己肩负的责任：时刻要求自己举止高雅，行为庄重，与公众人物形象相吻合。

不管你相信与否，那个取得了赫赫成就的乔丹，那个仿佛不费多大力气就能出类拔萃的乔丹，在篮球生涯的初始，也曾经历了犹豫和彷徨。但是，自孩提时代起，乔丹就拥有坚定的毅力，并一步一步迈向非凡，他拒绝任何失败，这种素质正是他丰功伟绩的奠基石。

2 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 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 time to be involved 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 basketball court in the backyard. It was nothing fancy, 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 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 parents, Deloris and James Jordan, celebrate Michael's 26th birthday.
(Associated Press)

乔丹和父母一起,庆祝自己26岁生日(美联社)

Michael and his siblings learned at an early age the importance of education.

The All-Around Athlete

By the time Michael was a sophomore 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 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 about the value of hard work and determination. So instead of quitting, he worked even harder. At the end of the season, Michael led the junior varsity team by averaging 28 points a game.

“Whenever I was working out and got tired and figured 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 Five Star Basketball Camp in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the summer following his junior 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.

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 five trophies 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 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 unknown as a basketball player. But his improvement since that time had been dramatic.

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 through the air, his acrobatic dunks, his slashes 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.

With 32 seconds to play and Georgetown leading 62 – 61, Coach Smith called a timeout. He instructed the players to look for the first good shot and to get in good rebounding position. Just before the timeout ended, Smith tapped 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. 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 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 what it meant. . . I remember riding to the arena. 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 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 paused for a moment and said: 'Your life will never be the same after that shot. Your life is going to change, son.'

"I thought, 'Well that's just my father talking. Of course, he's going to think that about his son.' And besides, no one really knows one way or another."

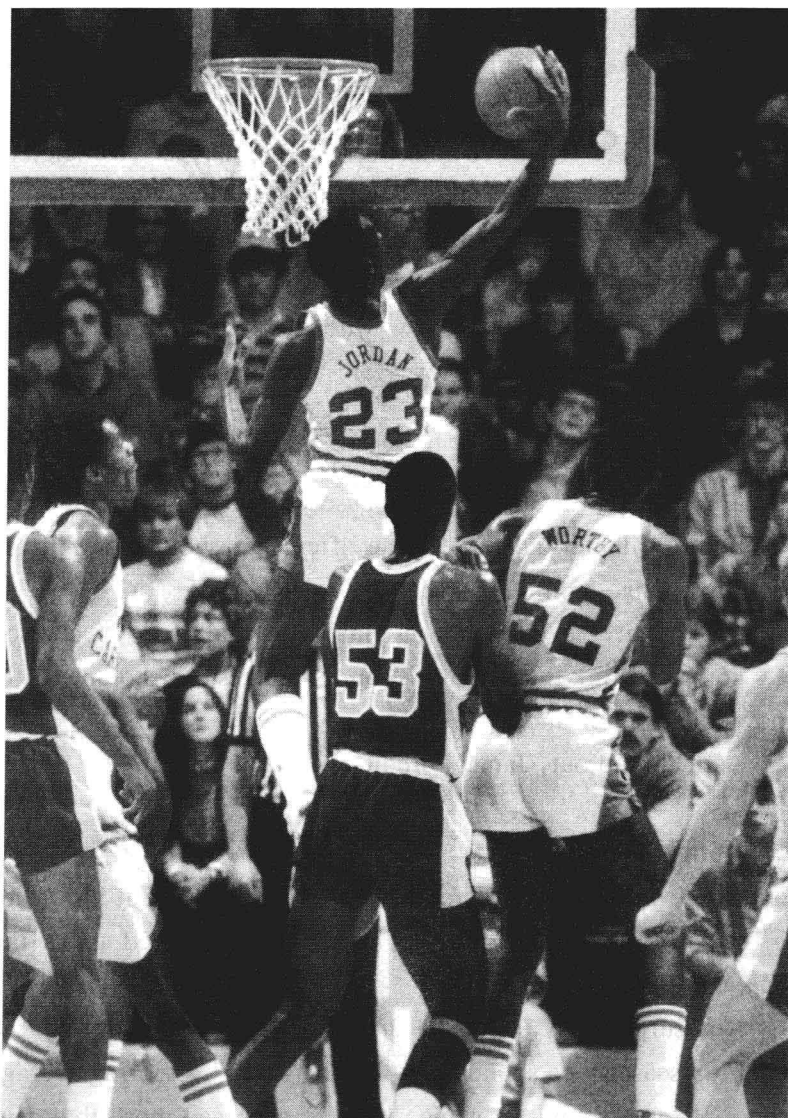
As it turned out, James Jordan was exactly right.

What Sophomore Jinx?

An athlete who starts as a freshman often fails to repeat his or her performance as a sophomore. This is often referred to as the *sophomore jinx*.

Not surprisingly, Michael Jordan did just fine during the 1982 - 83 season as a sophomore. He increased his scoring average from 13.5 to 20 points a game. He also averaged more than five rebounds and two steals a game.

One of his most important steals came in a game against an



Michael first made a name for himself playing for the University of North Carolina Tar Heels. (Landov)

乔丹代表北卡队出征，一战成名。(兰道夫摄)