



Jerry West

During his 14-year playing career with the Los Angeles Lakers, Jerry West became synonymous with brilliant basketball and one of the greatest guards in NBA history. He was the third player in league history to reach 25,000 points (after Wilt Chamberlain and Oscar Robertson). He was an All-Star every year of his career and led Los Angeles to the NBA Finals nine times. He left the game holding records for career postseason scoring and the highest average in a playoff series.

In 1974, the 36-year-old West left the game as the NBA's third-leading career scorer, with 25,192 points in 932 games. After two years away from basketball, West became the Lakers' head coach for the 1976-77 season. In three campaigns with West at the helm the Lakers went 145-101 and returned to the playoffs after missing the postseason during West's absence from the team.

He stayed on as a scout for three years and became general manager in 1982, helping to build the Lakers' dynasty of the 1980s. West was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1979. West was named the NBA Executive of the Year for 1995 after the Lakers posted their best record in four seasons.

After being employed by the Lakers for over 40 years, West became the President, Basketball Operations of the Memphis Grizzlies from 2002-2007. He was again named NBA Executive of the Year in 2004 after the Grizzlies reached the NBA play-offs for the first time in their history.

West is currently retired. He is married to his wife, Karen, and they reside in Bel Air, California. West has five boys - David, Michael, Mark, Ryan and Jonnie. He also has two grandchildren - Andrew and Keely. West is an alumnus of WVU and his son, Jonnie, currently attends and plays basketball at the University.