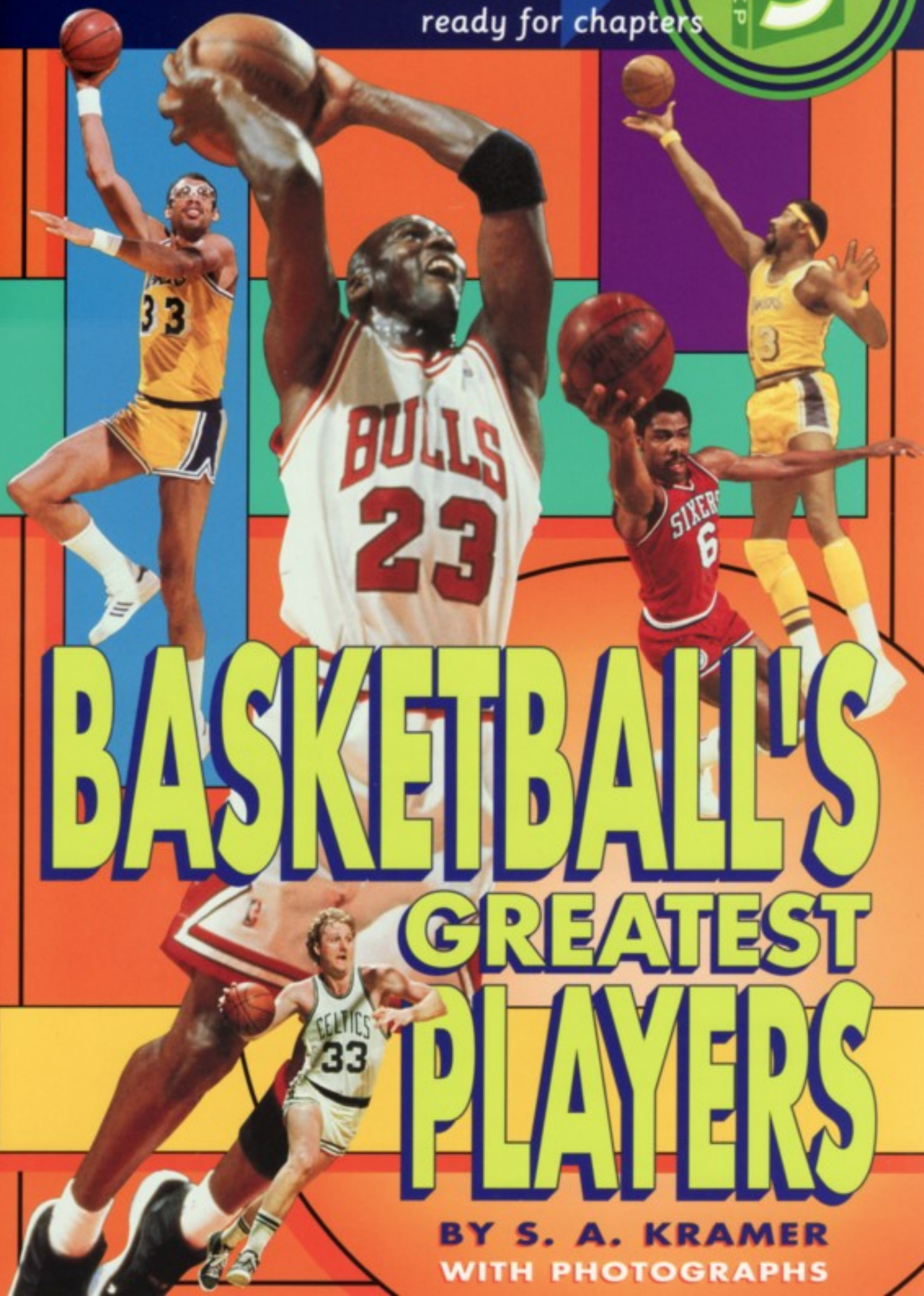


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5



# BASKETBALL'S GREATEST PLAYERS

BY S. A. KRAMER  
WITH PHOTOGRAPHS

## Introduction

What's the hottest sport around? Basketball. It's 48 minutes of non-stop action. Take your eyes off the court for an instant and you'll miss a slam dunk, a behind-the-back pass, or a sneaky steal.

Basketball is the only sport completely developed in America. A Massachusetts teacher, Dr. James Naismith, invented the game with his wife's help in 1891.

Today, people shoot hoops all over the world. From college campuses to NBA (National Basketball Association) arenas, basketball keeps fans on the edge of their seats.

And nobody plays it better than the men of the NBA. Fans love to argue about who's the greatest. This book tells you all you want to know about the best players ever.



# WILTON NORMAN CHAMBERLAIN

(WILT THE STILT, THE BIG DIPPER)

Born 8/21/36

7'1", 270 lbs.

Played center for the Philadelphia (later Golden State) Warriors, Philadelphia 76ers, and Los Angeles Lakers, 1959–73

Most Valuable Player 4 times

Hall of Fame



- First in career rebounds: 23,924
- Most rebounds in a single game: 55
- Most rebounds in a single season: 2,149
- Most points scored in a single game: 100
- Most points scored in a single season: 4,029
- Most complete games in a single season: 79
- Highest career rebound average: 22.9 per game
- Highest scoring average in a single season: 50.4
- Highest field goal percentage in a single season: .727



- Fourth in career points: 31,419
- Second in career scoring average: 30.1
- Third in minutes played: 47,859
- Most points in a rookie season: 2,707
- Most assists by a center in a single game: 21
- League's leading scorer most times: 7
- Most baskets without a miss in a single game: 18
- Most baskets in a row without a miss: 35

• Scored 70 or more points in a game 6 times (two other players have scored 70 or more points in a game—but each of them did it only once)



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This book is **just right** for you!

## Basketball's Greatest Players

Five legends who changed the game.

Whose hands were so big he held the basketball "like a grapefruit"? What center single-handedly changed the way defense was played? Which guard, during the course of his career, broke his nose eight times, his hand three times, and his thumb once?

Here are the true stories of five slam-dunking, behind-the-back-passing, hoop-hanging superstars!



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ISBN 0-679-88112-3



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