SOFTWARE & TECH

Kareem Abdul Jabbar Career Stats

Published: November 20, 2026 | Index ID: #-

The Unbreakable Record: A Deep Dive into Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Career Stats

In the pantheon of basketball greatness, few names carry the weight and legacy of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. For decades, his name has been synonymous with scoring, longevity, and consistent dominance. When fans and analysts discuss the greatest players to ever grace a basketball court, the conversation inevitably turns to the **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar career stats**, a collection of numbers so staggering they seem almost mythical. From his youthful dominance as Lew Alcindor at UCLA to his twilight years as the elder statesman of the Showtime Lakers, Abdul-Jabbar redefined excellence. This comprehensive analysis explores the statistical masterpiece that is his career, breaking down the points, rebounds, blocks, and championships that cement his status as one of the most unstoppable forces in sports history.

The Foundation of Greatness: College and Early NBA Years

Before the world knew him as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Lew Alcindor was a phenomenon at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Under the legendary coach John Wooden, he led the Bruins to three consecutive NCAA championships. His college stats were so dominant that the NCAA eventually banned the dunk, a rule famously known as the "Alcindor Rule," in an attempt to level the playing field. This early stage of his career laid the groundwork for the professional longevity that defines the **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar career stats** we study today.

Upon entering the NBA as the first overall pick in the 1969 draft by the Milwaukee Bucks, Abdul-Jabbar immediately translated his college dominance to the professional level. In his rookie season, he averaged a staggering 28.8 points and 14.5 rebounds per game, making it clear that the NBA had a new superstar. He didn't just put up empty numbers; he led the Bucks to an NBA championship in just his second year (1971), a feat that remains a testament to his immediate impact.

Total Points: The Summit of the Scoring Mountain

The most prominent pillar of the **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar career stats** is, without question, his all-time scoring record. For nearly four decades, his mark of **38,387 points**stood as the highest total in NBA history, a record that was finally broken by LeBron James in 2023. This number is more than just a digit; it represents an unfathomable level of consistency over 20 seasons. He averaged 24.6 points per game for his entire career, a figure that includes his final seasons where his role was reduced.

What makes this total even more impressive is the durability behind it. Consider this sub-set of the **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar career stats**:

- Games Played: 1,560 (the most in NBA history at the time of his retirement).
- Field Goals Made: 15,837 (another NBA record he held for a long period).
- Field Goal Attempts: 28,307.
- Career Field Goal Percentage: .559.

To average 24.6 points per game over 1,560 games requires a physical resilience that is almost impossible to fathom. He played through injuries, through the grueling travel of the 1970s and 1980s, and through the evolution of the game itself. His scoring average never dipped below 14 points per game in any season, even in his final year at

age 41. That longevity, combined with his elite efficiency, is what elevated the **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar career stats** to legendary status.

More Than a Scorer: Rebounding, Blocks, and Assists

While the scoring record is the headline, a comprehensive review of the **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar career stats** reveals a complete player. He was not just a scorer; he was a dominant defender and a capable facilitator. His size (7'2") and intelligence allowed him to control games on both ends of the floor.

Abdul-Jabbar is third on the all-time rebounding list, trailing only Wilt Chamberlain and Bill Russell. His career rebounding totals are a testament to his positioning and relentless pursuit of the ball.

Key Rebounding Stats:

- Total Rebounds: 17,440.
- Rebounds Per Game (Career): 11.2.
- Peak Season Average: 16.9 rebounds per game (1971-72 with Milwaukee).

Before blocks were officially tracked, the NBA began recording them in the 1973-74 season. Abdul-Jabbar quickly established himself as one of the leagues premier shot blockers. His timing, reach, and understanding of defensive angles made him a constant deterrent in the paint.

Key Blocking Stats:

- Total Blocks: 3,189 (third all-time behind Hakeem Olajuwon and Dikembe Mutombo).
- Blocks Per Game (Career): 2.57.
- Peak Season Average: 4.12 blocks per game (1975-76).

Often overlooked in the **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar career stats**is his passing ability. He was a gifted outlet passer and could find cutters from the high post.

Key Assisting Stats:

- Total Assists: 5,660.
- Assists Per Game (Career): 3.6.
- Peak Season Average: 5.0 assists per game (1978-79).

For a center, these assist numbers are elite. They highlight his basketball IQ and his ability to make the entire team better, a trait that was crucial to the success of the Showtime Lakers.

The Hardware: Championships and Individual Accolades

The **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar career stats**are not just about counting numbers; they are also about winning. His trophy case is as crowded as his stat sheet.

Abdul-Jabbar won a total of **six NBA championships**:

1. 1971: Milwaukee Bucks.
2. 1980, 1982, 1985, 1987, 1988: Los Angeles Lakers.

This collection of rings places him among the most decorated winners in NBA history. He was the Finals MVP in 1971 and 1985, the latter coming at the age of 38, making him the oldest player ever to win that award.

His individual accolades are staggering and form a crucial part of the **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar career stats** narrative.

- Regular Season MVP: A record six times (1971, 1972, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1980).
- Finals MVP: Two times (1971, 1985).
- NBA All-Star: 19 selections (a record at the time).
- All-NBA First Team: 10 times.
- All-NBA Second Team: 5 times.
- All-Defensive First Team: 5 times.
- All-Defensive Second Team: 6 times.
- Rookie of the Year: 1970.

These honors show that his greatness was recognized from his first season to his final years. Being a six-time MVP is a record that feels particularly safe, as it requires a combination of individual brilliance and team success that is rare to sustain across different eras.

The Skyhook: The Most Unstoppable Shot in History

No discussion of the **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar career stats**is complete without analyzing the weapon that made them possible: the skyhook. This shot, a sweeping, high-arching hook shot released with perfect form, was virtually unblockable. It allowed him to score efficiently over much taller defenders and, more importantly, it preserved his body.

Unlike centers who relied on brute force and back-to-the-basket power moves, Abdul-Jabbars skyhook was a finesse shot. It allowed him to avoid the heavy contact that shortens careers. This shot is the primary reason his longevity was so extreme. He could rely on it even when his athleticism declined. The skyhook was his security blanket, and it gave him a consistency that is rarely seen. His career field goal percentage of .559 is a direct result of the high-percentage looks he generated with this move.

The Final Season and the Passing of the Torch

In his final season (1988-89), at age 41, Abdul-Jabbar averaged 10.1 points, 4.5 rebounds, and 1.1 blocks per game. These final numbers are a soft landing for the **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar career stats**. They show a player who, even in decline, was an effective contributor on a championship-contending team. His farewell tour was a national celebration of his career.

The end of his career also marked the beginning of a new era. While the league was moving toward the soaring athleticism of Michael Jordan, Abdul-Jabbar represented a classic, almost artistic approach to the game. He retired as the NBA's all-time leader in points, games played, minutes played, field goals made, and field goal attempts. Most of these records have since been broken, but the sheer volume of his achievements remains a benchmark for excellence.

Legacy and Statistical Context

When we look back at the **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar career stats**, we are looking at the blueprint for a perfect career. He was the first player to truly maximize the concept of longevity at an elite level. While Wilt Chamberlain had higher scoring peaks and Bill Russell had more defensive impact, Abdul-Jabbar combined both worlds with a 15-year career of peak performance and a 20-year career of elite performance.

His stats also tell a story of adaptation. He moved from the high-scoring, wide-open style of the 1970s to the more physical, team-oriented, and three-point-focused 1980s. He remained effective in both eras. The **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar career stats** are a masterclass in evolution.

Consider his statistical rank among all players in history (as of this writing):

- Points: 2nd (38,387).
- Rebounds: 3rd (17,440).
- Blocks: 3rd (3,189).
- Games Played: 1st (1,560).
- Minutes Played: 1st (57,446).

Being top three in points, rebounds, and blocks for a 20-year career is a statistical anomaly. It speaks to a player who was a threat every single time he stepped on the floor, whether he was 22 years old or 40 years old.

Conclusion

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is more than a collection of numbers; he is a symbol of sustained greatness. The **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar career stats** tell the story of a man

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