

Gonzaga Prep and Gonzaga University in his hometown. He was a relative unknown when he moved into the professional ranks, picked by the Jazz in the middle of the first round of the 1984 draft and initially relegated to a reserve role on the team. But after three seasons he became the full-time starter at the point guard position and went on to have one of the most prolific careers in basketball history.

Over the course of his career, he accumulated numerous honors. He was selected to play in the NBA All Star game 10 times. He played on the 1992 and 1996 Olympic teams—the first two Olympic squads to include professional players winning Gold Medals in both years. He was selected to the All-NBA First Team twice, the All-NBA Second Team six times, the All-NBA Third Team three times, and the NBA All-Defensive Second Team five times. In 1996, the NBA celebrated its 50th anniversary by selecting the 50 Greatest Players in NBA History. Of course, John Stockton was honored on this list as well.

Though the accomplishment of winning an NBA championship eluded him, Stockton did lead the Jazz to two consecutive NBA Finals appearances in 1997 and 1998. John Stockton was immortalized in the first of those seasons when, in Game 6 of the Western Conference finals, he scored the last 9 points for the Jazz, including a last-second 3 pointer to send the Jazz to the Finals for the first time. This was probably the most memorable moment of Stockton's career and the history of the Jazz franchise and it is still replayed in montages of great sports moments.

It is impossible to talk about John Stockton without mentioning Karl Malone. Together, these two formed one of the game's legendary one-two punches. Together, they became the league's models of consistency, commitment, and success. The two played 18 seasons and an NBA record 1,412 regular-season games together as teammates. Due to their collaborative efforts, Malone finished his career as the second highest scorer in NBA history and Stockton holds the all time career assist record.

Let's talk about that assist record for a moment. In the 63-year history of the NBA, only 4 players have career assist totals of over 10,000. Stockton finished his career with 15,806 assists. Mark Jackson, No. 2 on the list, collected 10,334 assists—5,483 fewer than Stockton.

But, the raw numbers don't do this record justice. To put it in perspective, only 37 players have dished out 5,483 or more assists in their entire careers. Indeed, just getting that many assists over a whole career would put you in pretty elite company—and that is the difference between John Stockton's total and that of the guy who is next in line.

This record is among the truly unbreakable records in all of sports—and it isn't the only one held by John

Stockton. He also holds the career record in steals, also by a considerable margin. He holds the NBA record for the most seasons and consecutive games played with one team and is third in total games played.

John Stockton's success on the floor was matched only by his consistency. He missed only 22 games during his career, 18 of them came in 1 season. In 17 of his 19 seasons in the NBA, he played in every single game. Overall, he played in 1,504 of 1,526 possible games. These are Lou Gehrig or Cal Ripken-type numbers.

Stockton will always be remembered for his no-nonsense approach to the game, his hard-nosed defense, his matchless work ethic, and his quiet, unassuming personality. His unflashy, fundamentally sound style of play earned him the respect of John Wooden, the legendary UCLA basketball coach, who once said that John Stockton was the only NBA player he would pay money to see.

Stockton retired in 2003 and returned home to Spokane. While other NBA greats have sought careers in broadcasting and coaching after their careers were over, so far, John has been content to stay at home with his family. This comes as no surprise to those who know him.

Guiding John through most of his NBA career, was coach Jerry Sloan, who, once again, is also being inducted into the Hall of Fame. Sloan's careers as both a player and a coach have been characterized by his unyielding toughness and an unmatched drive to compete.

Jerry was born and raised in McLeansboro, IL, and played his college career at the University of Evansville. He played one season in the NBA for the Baltimore Bullets before being selected by the Chicago Bulls in the expansion draft. In fact, he was the team's first player, earning him the nickname "The Original Bull." Sloan quickly became known for his tenacity on defense, and he led the expansion team to the playoffs in its first season.

He had an exceptional career as a player. He played in two All-Star Games, was named to the NBA All-Defensive First Team four times and the All-Defensive Second Team twice. He also led the Bulls to the playoffs on various occasions and helped them to win the franchise's only division title prior to the Michael Jordan era. After his playing career was cut short by knee injuries, the Bulls retired Sloan's No. 4 jersey, the first jersey retirement in the team's history.

Immediately after his retirement, he became part of the Bull's coaching staff, starting out as a scout, eventually working his way up to head coach, a position he held for three seasons. A few years later, he joined the Jazz coaching staff as an assistant to another Utah sports icon, Frank Layden. In 1988, when Layden's health forced him to retire, Jerry was named head coach of the Jazz, a position he has held ever since.

Coach Sloan just finished his 20th season as coach of the Jazz, a milestone that, in today's sports world, is almost unthinkable. Over the course of his Jazz tenure, literally hundreds of coaching changes have taken place throughout the NBA. In a league that has had a number of great coaches in its history, none have coached for the same team as long as Jerry Sloan.

This extends to other sports as well. Currently, Sloan is the longest-tenured coach in any major professional sport.

There are a number of reasons to explain his longevity. The most obvious is that he has been successful. He is currently fourth on the list for alltime coaching wins—though he holds the record for most wins with one team. In 17 out of the 20 seasons he's been in Utah, the Jazz have been in the playoffs, the only absences coming in transitional years after the departures of John Stockton and Karl Malone.

Another reason Sloan has been able to stick around is his consistent, no-nonsense approach to the game. Over time, teams have changed strategies to become flashier in order to cater to younger fans and the new era of players, many of whom have been self-centered prima donnas. Throughout that time, Coach Sloan has been a model of consistency, placing premiums on discipline and hard work among his players. The result has been a franchise that, for over two decades, has competed at a high level.

In many ways, Stockton and Sloan were alike, and their strengths complemented each other. Neither one will claim to have been able to be successful without the other.

Currently, there is a huge statue of John Stockton in front of the Energy Solutions arena alongside a statue of Karl Malone. Chances are, in 20 or 30 years when Jerry Sloan finally decides to hang it up, they will want to build a monument to him as well. Neither of these gentlemen would actively seek such limelight, but few are as deserving.

Once again, I would like to extend my congratulations to both John Stockton and Jerry Sloan for this great honor and to thank them for their contributions to the Utah community.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### COMMENDING DICK RUSH

• Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, on behalf of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, I would like to congratulate Richard P. Rush on his retirement from the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce.

Dick will be leaving the State chamber next spring after serving as its president and chief executive officer for 24 years. Dick has made a positive contribution to the State of Oklahoma and has been characterized as "the State's leading pro-business advocate."

Dick's success is evident in both his internal administration of the State chamber and his work leading key probusiness campaigns which have made a positive impact on Oklahoma creating jobs and increasing business development.

Due to Dick's work, the State chamber now operates debt free. During his tenure, Dick has built the State chamber to over 2,000 members. He has been named Executive of the Year by the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Executives and is already a member of the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame.

Through leading key campaigns advocating new business opportunities and job creation such as Right-to-Work and tort reform, Dick has been credited with saving the business community in Oklahoma over \$2 billion. In fact, the State chamber recently earned the Nation's highest honor from the American Tort Reform Association and the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Legal Reform. Just this year, the State chamber was awarded the "The State Legislative Achievement Award" by the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Legal Reform and the first annual "Gold Medal for the Best State Civil Justice Legislation" by the American Tort Reform Association. Dick has also led international outreach serving as Executive in Charge of sister chamber work between the Oklahoma State Chamber and both the Gansu, China Provincial Chamber and the Liaoning, China Provincial Chamber. Dick was a presenter at the VI Hemispheric Sister Cities Forum in Iquique, Chile, and he is the recipient of the "The George Nigh Global Trade Award." Dick's involvement in Oklahoma business development has been extensive.

Dick's success is due in part to his long history in chamber management. Before coming to Oklahoma, Dick worked in chambers throughout the country from California to Texas before coming to Oklahoma in 1986. His experience also extends internationally as Dick worked as a project adviser for the U.S. Chamber's Center for International Private Enterprise serving as a consultant to the National Chamber of Commerce of Zimbabwe, Africa.

Oklahomans can appreciate Dick's service to the Oklahoma State Chamber and the entire State of Oklahoma, and we wish him the very best in his retirement and all future endeavors.●

#### COMMENDING C. VIVIAN STRINGER

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise to extend my congratulations to C. Vivian Stringer for her induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. It is a proper tribute for such a distinguished and celebrated career. This is certainly an incredible honor which stands tall, even amongst her other considerable accolades.

The success that Vivian Stringer has achieved in her 38-year coaching career, including the last 14 at Rutgers

University, speaks for itself: 825 victories; 30 seasons of 20 or more wins; 22 NCAA Tournament appearances; 4 Final Fours with 3 different programs; Olympic Gold as an assistant coach with the 2004 U.S. Women's Basketball team. Her commitment to excellence is unsurpassed and lauded by peers and supporters alike.

Most importantly, Vivian Stringer has served, above all else, as a teacher to each of her players. Her dedication to education beyond the court is clear, as her players traditionally graduate on par with their nonathlete classmates. The students who have walked into her program walk out of it as strong and dignified women, each ready to continue the legacy of achievement that Vivian Stringer has set before them, whatever the arena. Two years ago, Vivian Stringer's leadership was on display as the Lady Scarlet Knights, in the face of adversity and slander, served as shining examples of exceptional poise and grace.

This 2009 Hall of Fame Class is indeed one of the most distinguished in memory, and it is fitting that Vivian Stringer enters alongside other luminaries that share her caliber of achievement. I applaud Vivian Stringer's service to Rutgers University, the entire basketball community, and the great State of New Jersey. I wish her luck as she continues her career and in all of her other future endeavors.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 599. A bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty (Rept. No. 111-75).

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2871. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of the authorization of (4) officers to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2872. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Employer Comparable Contributions under 4980G, and Requirement of Return for Filing of the Excise Tax under Section 4980B, 4980D, 4980E or 4980G" ((RIN1545-BG71)(TD9457)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2873. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reasonable Good Faith Interpretation of Required Minimum Distribution Rules by Governmental Plans" ((RIN1545-BH53)(TD9459)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2874. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification to Consolidated Return Regulation Permitting an Election to Treat a Liquidation of a Target, Followed by a Reorganization to a New Target, as a Cross-Chain Reorganization" ((RIN1545-BI72)(TD9458)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2875. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Single Insured—Reinsurance" (Rev. Rul. 2009-26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2876. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Insurance E&P Project" (Rev. Rul. 2009-25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2877. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Automatic Contribution Increases under Automatic Contribution Arrangements" (Revenue Ruling 2009-30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2878. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Paid Time Off Contributions" (Revenue Ruling 2009-31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2879. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Paid Time Off Contributions at Termination of Employment" (Revenue Ruling 2009-32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2880. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the