

I am not robot!

Has anyone ever died while playing basketball

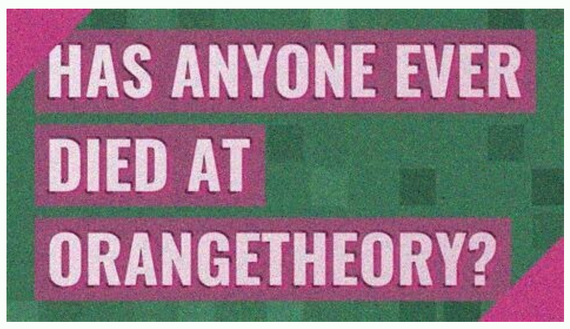
David SternLongtime NBA commissioner died on January 1 at age 77 Robert ArchibaldArchibald, who played two seasons in the NBA and had a solid career overseas, died on January 23 at age 39 Kobe BryantOne of the GOATs, Bryant died on January 26 at age 41 in a helicopter crash that also killed his daughter Gianna (13) and seven other people Curly NealThe longtime Harlem Globetrotter died on March 26 at age 77 Mike StorenStoren, who was commissioner of both the ABA and the CBA, died on May 7 at age 84 Jerry SloanOne of the winningest NBA head coaches ever, Sloan died on May 22 at age 78 Wes UnseldUnseld was one of only two players to be named MVP as a rookie. He died on June 2 at age 74 Dick GarmakerThe four-time All-Star with the Lakers died on June 13 at age 87 Stanley RobinsonA second-round pick in 2010, Robinson died on June 21 at age 32 Lute OlsonThe Hall of Fame college basketball coach died on August 27 at age 85 Cliff RobinsonUncle Cliff was one of the original stretch fours. He died on August 29 at age 53 John ThompsonWon two NBA titles as a player and an NCAA title as a coach. He died on August 30 at age 78 Brent 'BJ' JohnsonThe Rockets scout, a widely beloved figure in the NBA, died on October 17 in a bicycle accident at age 65. Sid HartmanLegendary Minnesotan journalist died on October 18 at age 100 "Fast" Eddie JohnsonJohnson, a two-time All-Star, died on October 26 at age 65 Tom HeinsohnA six-time All-Star and eight-time NBA champion, Heinsohn had a long career calling Celtics games on TV. He died on November 9 at age 86 KC JonesThe Hall of Famer won 12 NBA titles as player, assistant coach or head coach. Died on December 25 at age 88 Sadly, no one is exempt from death; not even our favorite stars. They're all just as human as the rest of us, despite their many seemingly impossible feats. Former players pass away all the time, and as much as it's hard to take, we must admit that it's sort of expected. But when they leave us while still deeply embroiled in various disciplines, it's something totally different; and my does it sting. Many athletes have shockingly kicked the bucket while still playing, and the NBA is certainly no exception. Here are 10 such players who may be gone, but will never be forgotten. • Malik Sealy Malik Sealy was a small forward who represented the Indiana Pacers, Los Angeles Clippers, the Detroit Pistons and Minnesota Timberwolves. Drafted by the Pacers as the 14th overall pick of the 1992 NBA Draft, Sealy’s career only lasted eight years. The player’s life was unfortunately cut short while he was driving home in his SUV after attending the birthday party of his teammate and best friend Kevin Garnett, who had just turned 24. His vehicle was struck by a drunk truck driver who was driving on the wrong side of the road. The truck driver survived the ordeal as his airbag deployed, but as fate would have it, Sealy’s SUV wasn’t equipped with such a device. Sealy, who was 30 at the time of his death, had only played one season with the 15-time All-Star, but they shared a great relationship.



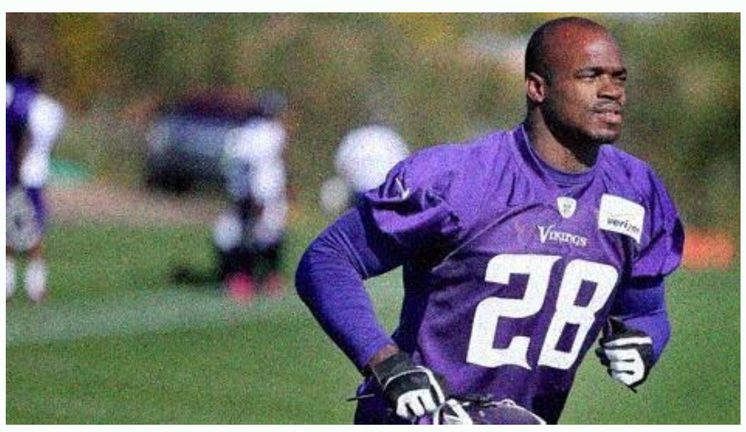
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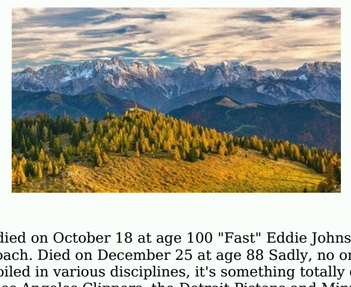
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Garnett got a tattoo of his former teammate’s name on his right arm following his death and chose his No.2 when he moved to the Brooklyn Nets in honor of his fallen friend. The Timberwolves retired the number #2 after Sealy’s death. #11 Reggie Lewis Reggie Lewis (Image courtesy: celticsblog.com) Reggie Lewis spent all of his six years playing for the famed franchise of the Boston Celtics. Unfortunately, those were the only seasons he played in the league. Drafted in 1987 by the Celtics, Lewis lost his life in the offseason of 1993 when he suffered a sudden cardiac death on the court during practice on July 27th. Over the course of his six years at Boston, L averaged 17.6 points, 4.3 rebounds and 2.6 assists while shooting 48.8% from the field. At 6-foot 7, he was a combo guard, who could play both the 2 and 3 spot. In his final three seasons with the team, he took over the starting role from Larry Bird and averaged close to 19 points per game. #10 Fernando Martin Fernando Martin (via elespanol.com) Fernando Martin was the first Spanish national to join the NBA, doing so in 1986. He was also just the second European to play in the league and was one of the biggest basketball talents in his country during his time as a player. Best known for his stint at Real Madrid, Martin won four Spanish league titles, three Copa del Rey trophies, two Saporta Cups, a Korac Cup and a Club World Cup with the side. After moving to the United States, the 6ft 9in forward joined the Portland Trailblazers, but due to various injuries only made a meager 24 appearances. He moved back to his country at the end of that season, and in a shocking turn of events, perished in a car accident at the age of 27 in December of 1989, leaving the sports world in complete shock. #9 Len Bias Len Bias (via tidesports.com) The former college star never got to play a single NBA game before his untimely passing. Bias was selected by the Boston Celtics as the second pick in the 1986 draft after a remarkable spell at the University of Maryland. He had loads of promise and was thought to be nearly on par with Michael Jordan, even completing talks with sportswear giants Reebok over a $1.6 million dollar endorsement upon his arrival in the league. But despite all of the grand developments in his life, Bias joined friends for the last party he would ever have, on a fateful morning in June of the aforementioned year, passing out through cocaine use. He was pronounced dead nearly three hours later, as a result of cardiac arrhythmia from a cocaine overdose. The Celtics proceeded to hang his jersey from their rafters, with then-coach Red Auerbach claiming that the city of Boston hadn’t been this taken aback since the assassination of U.S President John F. Kennedy.
#8 Robert Traylor Robert Traylor Tractor Traylor, as he was known, suited up for a few NBA teams including the Milwaukee Bucks, Cleveland Cavaliers Cavaliers and New Orleans/Charlotte Hornets. But he battled weight issues all through his career. Drafted by the Dallas Mavericks in the 1998 lottery, Traylor emerged as the sixth overall pick. The Mavs, though, would immediately trade him to Milwaukee for Pat Garrity and Dirk Nowitzki, and it’s certainly not a move they’ll ever regret. The Michigan native last played in the NBA with the Cavs, leaving in 2005 to play in Spain and various other countries as well like Mexico, Italy, Turkey and finally Puerto Rico.



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He had been on a phone call with his wife when he suffered a heart attack, and she alerted the authorities when the call suddenly dropped. Unfortunately, they would not get there in time to be of any help. Traylor was 34 at the time of his death. #7 Jason Collier The first active NBA player to die since Malik Sealy, Jason Collier met his end as the

result of a "sudden heart rhythm disturbance caused by an abnormally enlarged heart". The former center was playing for the Hawks at the time of his death, having spent time with the Houston Rockets and D-League side Fayetteville Patriots. Collier was drafted by the Bucks in 2000 but was sent to Houston in exchange for Joel Przybilla. Five years into his metier, at 28 years of age, the 7ft big man suddenly passed away, with his autopsy revealing the aforementioned.
The doctor who conducted the autopsy said that Collier's heart was one and a half times the size it should have been, even for a man of his stature. #6 Conrad McRae Conrad McRae (#15) - via syracruse.com Conrad McRae was drafted by the Washington Bullets in the second round of the 1993 NBA draft, but would eventually move to Europe following his failure to cut it on the team.
He made a name for himself on the continent, prompting the Denver Nuggets to bring him back to the States on a 10-day contract in 1999. That too was cut short after the player collapsed in training. However, the Orlando Magic would take him up on a deal as well the following year. McRae collapsed and passed away whilst playing for the Magic's Summer League team, at the age of 29. Last year, Syracuse University had their gym named after him, with McRae having starred for the school from 1989 to 1993.
#5 Lorenzen Wright Lorenzen Wright #42 The former forward's death is still an unsolved mystery. Lorenzen Wright played for five NBA teams before his death in 2010, with the last being the Cavs. He went missing on July 18 of that year after leaving his ex-wife's residence, and his family reported his absence four days later. Wright's body was found six days after the report was filled, and reports state that a 9-1-1 call was made from his number on the morning of July 19. The caller was having a conversation with the dispatcher when several gunshots were heard, but the case remains unsolved due to the call not being traced as it should have. #4 Drazen Petrovic Drazen Petrovic (Image courtesy: nba.com) Drazen Petrovic had four noteworthy seasons in the league from 1989 to 1993, playing for the Portland Trail Blazers and the New Jersey Nets (now Brooklyn). Obviously his most successful season was his last, where he averaged 22.3 points per game while shooting 51.8% from the field. That year, he was voted in as a selection for the All-NBA. But he earned his place in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame for more than just his NBA accomplishments. He represented Yugoslavia for most of his career, however, he played for Croatia in his final tournament, with whom he won the silver medal in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. He lost his life as part of a tragic traffic accident in the summer of the 1993, just a few months before his 29th birthday. #3 Bobby Phills Bobby Phills (via sportingnews.com) The Louisiana native was quite the talent and would average 11.0 points during his nine-year career. Having built a reputation as a defensive menace, as well as a great perimeter shooter, there's no telling where Bobby Phills could have ended up. A former shooting guard, Phills last played for the Charlotte Hornets, where he spent three years before his life was cut short by a tragic vehicular accident in January of 2000. Phills and teammate David Wesley were said to be driving at high speeds when he lost control of his Porsche and hit two oncoming vehicles. The other drivers survived, but the player was pronounced dead at the scene.
His jersey (#13) was later retired by the Hornets, an act that made him the first-ever player to have their jersey in the rafters for by the franchise. #2 Ricky Berry Ricky Berry - sbnation.com Ricky Berry was the 18th overall pick in the 1988 draft and was tipped to have a very successful NBA career. He had a decent first season in the league, recording averages of 11.0 points, 3.1 rebounds and 1.3 assists for the Sacramento Kings.
Rather shockingly, though, Berry was found dead in his California home during the offseason with a self-inflicted gunshot wound following an argument with his wife.
A suicide note was found at the scene, but many questioned the legitimacy of the document due to the fact that the player was living a seemingly good life, making good money and had no history with drugs. Berry would have turned 25 in a few weeks. #1 Eddie Griffin Eddie Griffin - (via sportingnews.com) Although he was one of the brightest talents of his class, Eddie Griffin struggled with alcoholism and missed an entire season in rehab after re-joining the New Jersey Nets. Griffin, the 7th overall pick in 2001, would have been higher in the draft if not for his attitude, and the Nets traded him to the Rockets after drafting him. He returned to New Jersey in 2004 after being released by the Rockets for missing practice sessions and a team flight.
And he would later wind up in Minnesota with the Timberwolves, where he would also get released. In 2006, a 25-year-old Griffin met his death after ignoring a railroad warning and driving through a barrier. He was killed when a train drove right into his SUV and his body was so badly burned, it took dental records to identify him. He was also reported to have three times the legal amount of alcohol in his system. Quick Links This is a list of all notable basketball players who died while still on a team roster or as a free agent. A majority of them died in accidents such as cars or plane crashes. Some suffered sudden cardiac death, which has a higher incidence in basketball among young athletes.[1][2] Some suffered from the heart condition hypertrophic cardiomyopathy,[3] which is more common in African Americans. Basketball has a considerably higher ratio of African-Americans than other sports.[4] Other deaths were caused by drug abuse.[5] Included are players in the NBA, college, and other leagues.
Players who died following the conclusion of their career should not be included. Players are listed with the team for which they last played before death, rather than the team with which the player spent most of their playing career. Basketball teams may honor active players who died by bestowing upon them a posthumous honor of a retired number.
Deaths of active players with individually notable careers This is a dynamic list and may never be able to satisfy particular standards for completeness. You can help by adding missing items with reliable sources. Name Age Position Team League Cause of Death Year Ref.
Davide Ancilotto 23 Shooting guard Virtus Roma Lega Basket Serie A brain ischemia 1997 [6] Nilay Aydoğan 30 Forward Çankaya Üniversitesi Women's Basketball Super League earthquake 2023 [7] Ricky Berry 24 Small forward Sacramento Kings NBA suicide by gunshot 1989 [8] Len Bias 22 Small forward Boston Celtics NBA heart attack (drug induced) 1986 [9] Haris Brkić 26 Small forward Partizan YUBA homicide by gunshot 2000 [10] Gilbert Bulawan 29 Power forward / center Blackwater Elite PBA heart enlargement (collapsed during practice) 2016 [11] Terrence Clarke 19 Shooting guard Kentucky Wildcats NCAA car crash 2021 [12] Jason Collier 28 Center Atlanta Hawks NBA heart enlargement 2005 [13] Bryce Dejean-Jones 23 Shooting guard New Orleans Pelicans NBA gunshot 2016 [14] Patrick Dennehy 21 Center Baylor Bears NCAA homicide by gunshot 2003 [15] Kenny Ejim 27 Power forward Al-Najma Bahraini Premier League unknown 2022 [16] Wayne Estes 21 Forward Utah State Aggies NCAA accidental electrocution 1965 [17] Lavelle Felton 29 Shooting guard Paderborn Baskets ProA homicide by gunshot 2009 [18] Scott Fenton 24 Shooting guard Perth Wildcats NBL car crash 1989 [19] Ryan Francis 19 Point guard USC Trojans NCAA homicide by gunshot 2006 [20] Oscar Frayer 23 Forward Grand Canyon Antelopes NCAA car crash 2021 [21] Terry Furlow 25 Small forward / shooting guard Utah Jazz NBA car crash 1980 [22] Hank Gathers 23 Forward Loyola Marymount Lions NCAA heart condition (collapsed during game) 1990 [23] Eddie Griffin 25 Power forward / center Minnesota Timberwolves NBA car crash 2007 [24] Huck Hartman 25 Center Youngstown Bears NBL pneumonia 1946 [25] Lauren Hill 19 Forward Mount St. Joseph Lions NCAA brain cancer 2015 [26] Tyler Honeycutt 27 Small forward BC Khimki EuroLeague suicide by gunshot 2018 [27] Stevan Jelovac 32 Power forward / center AEK Athens Greek Basket League stroke (collapsed during practice) 2021 [28] Chuck Karmarkovich 24 Forward / center Johnstown Clippers AABL car crash 1951 [29] Radivoj Korać 30 Power forward Petrarca Padova Serie A car crash 1969 [30] Connie Kunzmann 24 Forward Nebraska Wranglers WPBL homicide by stabbing 1981 [31] Wendell Ladner 26 Forward New York Nets ABA plane crash 1975 [32] Reggie Lewis 27 Small forward Boston Celtics NBA cardiac arrest secondary to hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (collapsed during practice) 1993 [33] Fernando Martín Espina 27 Power forward / center Real Madrid Baloncesto Liga ACB car crash 1989 [34] Jovan Manović 29 Point guard AS Prishtina KBS homicide by gunshot 2007 [35] Conrad McRae 29 Power forward / center Orlando Magic NBA heart enlargement (collapsed during practice) 2000 [36][37] Fab Melo 26 Center Brasília NBB heart attack (died in sleep) 2017 [38] Michael Ojo 27 Center Crvena zvezda ABA heart attack (collapsed during practice) 2020 [39] Ruslan Otverchenko 33 Shooting guard Budivelnyk European North Basketball League heart complications 2023 [40] Adreian Payne 31 Center / power forward Juventus Utena LKL homicide by gunshot 2022 [41] Kim Perrot 32 Point guard Houston Comets WNBA lung cancer 1999 [42] Dražen Petrović 28 Shooting guard New Jersey Nets NBA car crash 1993 [43] Mark Petteway 27 Small forward / power forward Apollon Patras Greek Basket League suicide by gunshot 1989 [44] Bobby Phills 30 Shooting guard Charlotte Hornets NBA car crash 2000 [45] Slobodan Popović 24 Forward Crvena zvezda Yugoslav League groin injury complication 1968 [46] John Postley 30 Forward / center Wilkes-Barre Barons EPBL heart attack 1970 [47] Katrina Price 23 Shooting guard Philadelphia Rage ABL suicide by gunshot 1999 [48] Bill Robinzine 29 Power forward Utah Jazz NBA suicide by carbon monoxide poisoning 1982 [49] Danny Rumph 19 Point guard Western Kentucky NCAA Cardiac arrest due to hypertrophic cardiomyopathy 2005 [50][51] Malik Sealy 30 Small forward / shooting guard Minnesota Timberwolves NBA car crash 2000 [52] Abraham Sie 22 Point guard DUC Nationale 1 unknown 2022 [53] Marvin Stone 26 Center Al-Ittihad SPL heart attack (collapsed during halftime) 2008 [54] Chris Street 20 Power forward Iowa Hawkeyes NCAA car crash 1993 [55] Tauras Stumbrys 34 Point guard Atletas Kaunas LKL heart attack (collapsed during game) 2004 [56] Örlygur Aron Sturluson 18 Point guard Njarðvík Úrvalsdeild karla accidental fall 2000 [57] Robert Traylor 34 Power forward / center Vaqueros de Bayamón BSN heart attack 2011 [58] Zeke Upshaw 26 Small forward Grand Rapids Drive G League cardiac arrest (collapsed during game) 2018 [59] Nick Vanos 24 Center Phoenix Suns NBA plane crash 1987 [60] Alexandros Varitimiadis 28 Power forward Raiffeisen Dornbirn Lions Basketball Zweite Liga cancer 2023 [61] Ludovic Vaty 34 Power forward / center TOAC Basket [fr] Nationale masculine 2 heart attack 2023 [62] Luciano Vendemini 24 Center ChinaMartini Torino Lega Basket Serie A heart failure (undiagnosed Marfan's syndrome) 1977 [63] Michael Wright 35 Power forward Cholet LNB Pro A homicide 2015 [64]
Evansville Purple Aces plane crash Fourteen members of the 1977–78 Evansville Purple Aces men's basketball team died in a plane crash on December 13, 1977, along with fifteen others including head coach Bobby Watson. The players killed were: Seniors: Kevin Kingston, John Ed Washington, and Marion Anthony "Tony" Windburn Juniors: Stephen Miller and Bryan Taylor Sophomores: Keith Moon Freshmen: Warren Alston, Ray Comandella, Mike Duff, Kraig Heckendorn, Michael Joyner, Barney Lewis, Greg Smith, and Mark Siegel Freshman David Furr, the lone member of the team who did not board Air Indiana Flight 216, died two weeks later in a car crash, meaning all the members of the team died during the 1977–78 season.[65] See also Sudden cardiac death of athletes Pete Maravich, who died aged 40 at a pickup game of basketball several years after his retirement References ^ Lakkireddy, Dhanunjaya; Gunda, Sampath; Gopinathannair, Rakesh; Murtaza, Ghulam; Gunasekaran, Prasad; Bickel, Trenton (December 2019). "Sudden Cardiac Death in Famous Athletes, Lessons Learned, Heterogeneity in Expert Recommendations and Pitfalls of Contemporary Screening Strategies". Journal of Atrial Fibrillation. 12 (4): 2193. doi:10.4022/jafib.2193. PMC 7237076. PMID 32435342. ^ Smith, Sam (October 16, 2005). "Collier's death raises NBA heart issue". Chicago Tribune. Retrieved June 24, 2021. ^ Baird, Nathan (March 4, 2014).
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