

michael jordan on practice

michael jordan on practice stands as a powerful testament to dedication, discipline, and the relentless pursuit of greatness. Throughout his legendary NBA career, Michael Jordan became synonymous not only with winning but with an unwavering commitment to practice. This article explores how Jordan's approach to practice shaped his success, delves into his philosophies, and examines the impact on teammates and the wider basketball community. Readers will discover famous anecdotes, practical lessons, and the lasting legacy that Jordan's practice habits have left on sports culture. Whether you're an athlete, coach, or simply a fan, understanding Michael Jordan's mindset on practice offers valuable insights into achieving excellence. The following sections provide an in-depth look at his methods, philosophies, and the influential role of practice in his journey.

- Michael Jordan's Philosophy on Practice
- The Importance of Practice in Jordan's Career
- Famous Anecdotes About Jordan's Practice Habits
- Impact on Teammates and Team Culture
- Lessons Athletes Can Learn From Jordan's Practice Ethic
- The Lasting Legacy of Michael Jordan's Practice Mindset

Michael Jordan's Philosophy on Practice

Michael Jordan's approach to practice was deeply rooted in his belief that preparation leads to success. He often emphasized that games are won and lost in practice, not just on the court during competition. Jordan saw every practice as an opportunity to improve, pushing himself and those around him to higher standards. His philosophy was guided by the idea that talent alone is not enough; it must be refined and sharpened through consistent, focused effort. This mindset helped him remain at the top of his game throughout his career and inspired countless athletes to adopt similar attitudes toward training. His relentless pursuit of perfection in practice became a cornerstone of his legendary status.

Commitment to Consistency

For Michael Jordan, consistency in practice was paramount. He believed that showing up every day and giving maximum effort was the key to progress. Jordan's dedication to maintaining a high level of intensity during every session set him apart from his peers. By treating each practice like a championship game, he cultivated habits that translated directly to performance under pressure. His commitment inspired others to prioritize regular, purposeful practice, regardless of circumstances.

Mental Toughness and Preparation

Jordan's practice philosophy extended beyond physical skills to mental preparation. He used practice as a space to develop resilience, focus, and confidence. Facing challenges head-on during training allowed him to stay composed during critical moments in games. By simulating high-pressure scenarios and demanding excellence from himself, Jordan built the mental toughness that became his trademark. This holistic approach to practice laid the foundation for his storied career.

The Importance of Practice in Jordan's Career

Practice was not just a routine for Michael Jordan; it was the engine that powered his legendary achievements. From his early days in high school and college to his six NBA championships with the Chicago Bulls, Jordan credited his success to the work he put in behind the scenes. Coaches and teammates noted that his intensity in practice often exceeded what he showed in games. This unwavering focus drove Jordan to master fundamentals, expand his skillset, and stay ahead of the competition.

Early Years and Development

Jordan's commitment to practice began in his formative years. After being famously cut from his high school varsity team, he used the setback as motivation to improve. Hours spent practicing jump shots, footwork, and defense contributed to his rapid development. His time at the University of North Carolina further honed his skills, as he embraced demanding training sessions and sought constant feedback from coaches.

NBA Success and Championships

During his NBA career, Michael Jordan's approach to practice became legendary. He arrived early, stayed

late, and sought out extra work to perfect his craft. Teammates recalled that Jordan's competitive drive was most apparent during team practices, where he pushed himself and others to their limits. His meticulous preparation was a key factor in the Bulls' dynasty, leading to repeated playoff success and multiple championship rings.

Famous Anecdotes About Jordan's Practice Habits

Stories about Michael Jordan's legendary practice habits have become part of basketball folklore. These anecdotes highlight his extraordinary drive, leadership, and commitment to excellence. They provide insight into how his approach to practice set him apart from other athletes.

- Jordan frequently challenged teammates during scrimmages, turning ordinary drills into fiercely competitive battles.
- He was known to practice even after team sessions had ended, often requesting additional shooting or conditioning drills.
- Coaches often remarked that Jordan set the tone for the entire team by treating practice with the same seriousness as actual games.
- During the 1990s, Jordan would sometimes recreate game-winning shots in practice, emphasizing the importance of preparation for clutch moments.
- He used practice as an opportunity to test new moves, refine strategies, and build chemistry with teammates.

Iconic Practice Moments

One of the most cited stories is Jordan's intensity during the Bulls' practices, particularly in the lead-up to the playoffs. He was known to demand accountability, pushing teammates to elevate their performance. His competitive spirit often led to memorable practice confrontations, which, while intense, ultimately forged stronger bonds and improved team resilience. These moments underscored how Jordan's attitude toward practice influenced not just his own success but the success of the entire organization.

Impact on Teammates and Team Culture

Michael Jordan's approach to practice had a profound impact on those around him. His leadership style was direct and demanding, often inspiring teammates to reach new heights. The culture he established within the Chicago Bulls organization was built on hard work, discipline, and a relentless pursuit of improvement. Jordan's influence extended beyond the court, shaping the mindset of generations of athletes.

Elevating Standards

Jordan's presence raised the standards for practice within the team. Teammates understood that lack of effort or focus was unacceptable. His expectation for excellence created an environment where everyone was pushed to perform their best. This culture of accountability became a defining feature of the Bulls during their championship runs.

Leading by Example

While Jordan's leadership could be intense, he always led by example. His work ethic and commitment were evident in every practice, setting a benchmark for others to follow. Younger players benefited from his guidance, learning the importance of preparation and discipline. His influence helped foster unity, resilience, and a winning mentality throughout the roster.

Lessons Athletes Can Learn From Jordan's Practice Ethic

Michael Jordan's practice habits offer valuable lessons for athletes at every level. His approach demonstrates that greatness is not solely the result of natural talent but is cultivated through dedication and hard work. Athletes seeking to emulate his success can draw inspiration from his methods and mindset.

1. Embrace Consistency: Show up every day and commit to improvement, regardless of circumstances.
2. Focus on Fundamentals: Master basic skills before advancing to complex techniques.
3. Simulate Game Scenarios: Use practice to prepare for real-life situations and high-pressure moments.
4. Maintain Mental Toughness: Treat practice as an opportunity to build confidence and resilience.

5. Lead by Example: Set the standard for teammates through hard work and discipline.

Applying Jordan's Principles in Modern Training

Coaches and athletes today can incorporate Jordan's principles into their own practice routines. By emphasizing preparation, intensity, and accountability, teams can create a culture of excellence. His legacy serves as a blueprint for those seeking to maximize their potential and achieve long-term success.

The Lasting Legacy of Michael Jordan's Practice Mindset

Michael Jordan's approach to practice has left a lasting mark on sports culture. His dedication and philosophy continue to inspire athletes across disciplines, influencing the way teams train and prepare for competition. Beyond basketball, Jordan's example is often cited as a model for success in business, education, and personal development. The lessons derived from his practice habits remain relevant, reminding individuals that true greatness is forged in the hours spent preparing away from the spotlight.

Influence On Future Generations

Jordan's legacy lives on through the countless athletes who have adopted his approach to practice. His impact can be seen in the training methods of modern basketball stars and in the attitudes of sports professionals around the world. The emphasis on preparation, consistency, and mental fortitude continues to shape the landscape of competitive athletics.

Enduring Relevance

The principles Michael Jordan championed in practice have enduring relevance. As sports evolve and new challenges arise, his mindset provides a timeless framework for achieving excellence. Whether on the court, in the classroom, or in the workplace, the lessons of Michael Jordan on practice remain a guiding force for those seeking to reach their full potential.

Trending Questions and Answers About Michael Jordan on Practice

Q: What was Michael Jordan's attitude toward practice during his NBA career?

A: Michael Jordan approached practice with unmatched intensity and focus, treating every session as crucial preparation for game success. He believed that consistent, high-effort practice was essential for achieving excellence.

Q: How did Michael Jordan's practice habits influence his teammates?

A: Jordan's demanding standards in practice elevated team performance. He inspired teammates to work harder, fostered a culture of accountability, and contributed to the Chicago Bulls' championship mentality.

Q: Are there any famous stories about Michael Jordan's practice sessions?

A: Yes, Jordan was known for making practices highly competitive, challenging teammates, and recreating clutch moments. His legendary intensity often resulted in memorable confrontations that ultimately strengthened the team.

Q: What lessons can young athletes learn from Michael Jordan's approach to practice?

A: Young athletes can learn the importance of consistency, mastering fundamentals, mental toughness, and leading by example. Jordan's habits show that preparation and discipline are key to long-term success.

Q: Did Michael Jordan ever skip practices?

A: Jordan was renowned for rarely missing practices. His commitment to preparation was evident throughout his career, as he prioritized training even during challenging times.

Q: How did Michael Jordan use practice to prepare for high-pressure moments?

A: Jordan simulated game scenarios during practice, including recreating last-second shots and critical plays.

This helped him build confidence and perform under pressure in real games.

Q: What role did mental preparation play in Michael Jordan's practice routine?

A: Mental preparation was a central part of Jordan's routine. He used practice to build resilience, sharpen focus, and develop the confidence needed for peak performance.

Q: How has Michael Jordan's practice philosophy influenced modern basketball?

A: Jordan's philosophy has become a benchmark for modern athletes, shaping training methods and attitudes toward preparation in professional basketball and other sports.

Q: Did coaches and teammates notice a difference in Jordan's practice intensity compared to others?

A: Yes, coaches and teammates frequently remarked that Jordan's intensity in practice was exceptional and often set the tone for the entire team's work ethic.

Q: What is the lasting legacy of Michael Jordan's approach to practice?

A: Jordan's legacy endures through the emphasis on preparation, discipline, and excellence. His approach continues to inspire athletes, coaches, and professionals worldwide to pursue greatness through dedicated practice.

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Michael Jordan on Practice: The relentless pursuit of

perfection

The name Michael Jordan conjures images of soaring dunks, game-winning shots, and unparalleled dominance on the basketball court. But behind the legendary performances lies a relentless work ethic, a dedication to practice that separated him from the pack and cemented his place as one of the greatest athletes of all time. This post delves into Michael Jordan's philosophy on practice, revealing the secrets behind his success and offering valuable lessons applicable far beyond the basketball court. We'll explore his unwavering commitment, his meticulous approach, and the key takeaways that can fuel your own pursuit of excellence, whatever your field.

The Unwavering Commitment: More Than Just Showing Up

Michael Jordan wasn't just known for his talent; he was infamous for his dedication to practice. He wasn't simply putting in the hours; he was mastering them. Countless anecdotes paint a picture of a man obsessed with improvement, relentlessly pushing his physical and mental limits. This wasn't about fulfilling a contractual obligation; it was a personal crusade for perfection.

The "Last One" Mentality:

Jordan famously embraced a "last one" mentality during practice. Whether it was free throws, jump shots, or defensive drills, he wouldn't stop until he'd achieved his personal standard of excellence. This wasn't about beating a teammate; it was about conquering his own limitations. This relentless drive instilled a discipline and focus that translated directly to game-day performance.

Beyond the Physical: Mental Fortitude in Practice

Jordan's commitment extended beyond the physical aspects of practice. He understood the importance of mental preparation and visualization. He mentally rehearsed plays, anticipating scenarios and strategizing his responses. This mental rehearsal built confidence and allowed him to react instinctively during high-pressure game situations.

The Meticulous Approach: Precision and Purpose

Jordan's practices weren't haphazard affairs. They were meticulously planned, focused, and driven by a specific goal: improvement. He didn't simply run drills; he analyzed his performance, identifying weaknesses and focusing on specific areas for development.

Detailed Analysis and Self-Improvement:

Unlike many athletes who might focus solely on their strengths, Jordan diligently worked on his weaknesses. He meticulously reviewed game footage, identifying areas where he could improve his technique, decision-making, and overall game. This analytical approach, combined with his tireless

practice, allowed him to continuously refine his skills.

The Power of Repetition: Mastering the Fundamentals

While innovation is crucial, Jordan understood the power of mastering the fundamentals. He repeatedly practiced the basic skills – shooting, dribbling, passing – until they became second nature. This unwavering focus on the fundamentals provided a solid foundation for his advanced maneuvers and enabled him to perform consistently under pressure.

Lessons from the Legend: Applying Jordan's Practice Ethic

Michael Jordan's approach to practice offers invaluable lessons applicable to any field. His unwavering commitment, meticulous approach, and relentless pursuit of perfection can serve as a blueprint for achieving success in your own endeavors.

Discipline and Perseverance:

Jordan's story highlights the importance of discipline and perseverance. Success rarely comes easy; it requires consistent effort, dedication, and the willingness to push beyond your comfort zone.

Focus and Goal Setting:

His meticulous approach underscores the importance of focused practice and clear goal setting. Identify your weaknesses, set specific goals, and design your practice sessions to address those weaknesses and achieve those goals.

Continuous Improvement:

Jordan's dedication to continuous improvement serves as a constant reminder that even at the highest level, there's always room for growth. Embrace feedback, analyze your performance, and consistently seek ways to improve your skills and knowledge.

Conclusion

Michael Jordan's legacy extends far beyond his incredible on-court achievements. His unwavering commitment to practice, his meticulous approach, and his relentless pursuit of perfection offer a timeless lesson in the importance of hard work and dedication. By embracing his philosophy, we can all strive for excellence in our own lives, whatever our chosen field. His story serves as an inspiration, demonstrating that success is not merely a matter of talent, but a testament to unwavering dedication and a relentless pursuit of improvement.

FAQs

1. Did Michael Jordan ever take days off from practice? While he was known for his intense work ethic, even Jordan needed rest. However, his "days off" often involved lighter workouts or focused recovery activities, not complete inactivity.
2. What specific drills did Michael Jordan focus on during practice? His practice routine varied, but consistently included free throw shooting, jump shots from various distances and angles, and defensive drills focusing on footwork and agility.
3. Did Jordan's practice habits change over his career? While the intensity remained consistent, his focus likely shifted slightly as his career progressed. He may have emphasized different aspects of his game depending on his age and the team's needs.
4. How did Jordan's coaches influence his practice regimen? While Jordan had a strong independent work ethic, his coaches played a crucial role in structuring his training and providing feedback. They helped him refine his skills and develop his strategic approach.
5. Can the average person benefit from applying Jordan's practice philosophy? Absolutely! While we may not all aspire to be NBA stars, Jordan's principles of dedication, focus, and continuous improvement are applicable to any area of life where we strive for excellence. The key is to adapt the principles to your own goals and abilities.

michael jordan on practice: *The Jordan Rules* Sam Smith, 2012-07-26 The New York Times Bestseller, updated With a New Introduction This is the 20th anniversary of the explosive bestseller that changed the way the world viewed one of the greatest athletes in history, revealing for the first time Michael Jordan's relentless drive to win anything and everything, at any cost. NBA Hall of Fame columnist Sam Smith had unlimited access to the team and its players during their championship 1991-92 season, which he details in the new introduction, along with candid revelations about his sources, and the reaction from Michael, his teammates, the media, and the fans when the book blasted onto the bestseller lists in 1992 (where it stayed for three months). With more than a million copies in print, *The Jordan Rules* remains the ultimate inside look at one of the most legendary teams in sports history.

michael jordan on practice: Showboat Roland Lazenby, 2016-10-25 The definitive portrait of Kobe Bryant, from the author of *Michael Jordan*. Lazenby's detailed research and fantastic writing paint a complex, engaging picture of one of the NBA's greats (Kurt Helin, NBC Sports). Eighteen-time All-Star, scorer of 81 points in a single game, MVP, and one of the best shooting guards in NBA league history: Kobe Bryant is among basketball's absolute greatest players, and his importance to the sport is undeniable. Third on the NBA career scoring list and owner of five championship rings, he is an undisputed all-time great, one deserving of this deep and definitive biography. Even within the flashiest franchise in all of sports -- the Los Angeles Lakers, where he played his entire career -- Bryant always took center stage, and his final game captivated the basketball world, indeed the country. Roland Lazenby delves deep to look behind this public image, using classic basketball reporting and dozens of new interviews to reveal the whole picture, from Bryant's childhood through his playing years. *Showboat* is filled with large personalities and provocative stories, including details of Bryant's complicated personal life and explosive relationships on the court, and is a riveting and essential read for every hoops fan.

michael jordan on practice: *When Nothing Else Matters* Michael Leahy, 2012-12-11 As one of

the greatest, most celebrated athletes in history, Michael Jordan conquered professional basketball as no one before. Powered by a potent mix of charisma, near superhuman abilities and a ferocious drive to dominate the game, he achieved every award and accolade conceivable before retiring from the Chicago Bulls and taking an executive post with the Washington Wizards. But retirement didn't suit the man who was once king, and at the advanced age of thirty-eight Michael Jordan decided it was time to reclaim the court that was once his. *WHEN NOTHING ELSE MATTERS* is the definitive account of Jordan's equally spectacular and disastrous return to basketball. Having closely followed Jordan's final two seasons, Michael Leahy draws a fascinating portrait of an intensely complex man hampered by injuries and assaulted by younger players eager to usurp his throne. In this enthralling book Jordan emerges as an ambitious, at times deeply unattractive character with, unsurprisingly, a monstrous ego. *WHEN NOTHING ELSE MATTERS* is an absorbing portrait not only of one athlete's overriding ambition, but also of a society so in thrall to its sports stars that it is blind to all their faults.

michael jordan on practice: Unguarded Scottie Pippen, 2022-10-04 An unflinching memoir from the six-time NBA Champion, two-time Olympic gold medalist, and Hall of Famer, revealing how Scottie Pippen, the youngest of twelve, overcame two family tragedies and universal disregard by college scouts to become an essential component of the greatest basketball dynasty of the last fifty years.

michael jordan on practice: Driven from Within Michael Jordan, 2012-12-25 'A part of all those people who helped me along the way can be found in everything I have done and continue to do. I had some great teachers - and I listened to what they had to say.' - Michael Jordan A global icon in sports, style and business, Michael Jordan is famous for his unrivalled athletic ability, his fierce determination, and his grace under pressure. In *DRIVEN FROM WITHIN*, he makes it clear that his phenomenal success is thanks in large part to the teachers, mentors and friends who have guided him throughout his life. Here is a book about the power of collaboration and teamwork, the energy that is released when people share their gifts and hard-won knowledge. With almost two million copies of his three previous books in print, Michael Jordan has proven himself to be as strong a performer in bookstores as he is on the court. Lavishly illustrated and beautifully designed, this is Michael Jordan's most intimate book to date. Organized around the qualities that Jordan demonstrates in his own life and that he looks for in others - qualities like authenticity, integrity, passion and commitment - *DRIVEN FROM WITHIN* is an inspiring record of an extraordinary life.

michael jordan on practice: Sporting Blackness Samantha N. Sheppard, 2020-06-16 *Sporting Blackness* examines issues of race and representation in sports films, exploring what it means to embody, perform, play out, and contest blackness by representations of Black athletes on screen. By presenting new critical terms, Sheppard analyzes not only "skin in the game," or how racial representation shapes the genre's imagery, but also "skin in the genre," or the formal consequences of blackness on the sport film genre's modes, codes, and conventions. Through a rich interdisciplinary approach, Sheppard argues that representations of Black sporting bodies contain "critical muscle memories": embodied, kinesthetic, and cinematic histories that go beyond a film's plot to index, circulate, and reproduce broader narratives about Black sporting and non-sporting experiences in American society.

michael jordan on practice: I Can't Accept Not Trying Michael Jordan, Mark Vancil, 1994 The former basketball player shares his views on achieving excellence, including goals, fears, commitment, teamwork, learning the fundamentals, and leadership

michael jordan on practice: Michael Jordan Speaks Janet Lowe, 2001-01-22 Words and wisdom from Chicago Bulls #23: Mega-superstar, His Airness He is the most successful player to ever wear a basketball uniform. On the court and off the court, Michael has entertained the world as a pitchman, movie star, spokesperson, and an extraordinary athlete-although not the greatest baseball player. For the first time ever, bestselling author Janet Lowe has compiled a portrait from Michael's own words. *Michael Jordan Speaks* touches upon everything about the sport, his mega-superstar status, and his life, culled from articles, newscasts, and interviews.

michael jordan on practice: *How to Be Like Mike* Pat Williams, 2010-01-01 Michael Jordan is the greatest basketball player of all time. But his pre-eminence is more than just extraordinary athletic ability: the lessons of his life—such as focus, passion, hard work, perseverance and accountability—have shaped him into one of the most revered celebrities of the 20th century. In this inspiring book Pat Williams, motivational speaker and senior vice president of the NBA's Orlando Magic, reveals Jordan's method for living a life of greatness that we can all incorporate into our lives. Fascinating anecdotes and quotes from those who know Michael best provide a glimpse into a persona as sweeping and immense as any generation has ever witnessed. Peppered with examples from Williams's life and those of other star athletes and celebrities, this uplifting book shows that we are, indeed, all capable of fulfilling our full potential. Readers from all walks of life can appreciate and aspire to living life like a champion.

michael jordan on practice: There Is No Next Sam Smith, 2014-10-28 Thirty years after Michael Jordan's first NBA game comes an oral history of his legendary career, told by the men who played with him and against him, coached him, and witnessed first-hand the iconic greatness of the most dominant athlete sports has ever seen. Featuring interviews with: Larry Bird • Magic Johnson • Phil Jackson • Reggie Miller • Isiah Thomas • Reggie Theus • Chris Mullin • Doug Collins • Dominique Wilkins • Steve Kerr • John Paxson • David Stern • Gregg Popovich • Derek Harper • Bill Walton • Karl Malone • Horace Grant • Joe Dumars • Danny Ainge • B.J. Armstrong • Marv Albert • Grant Hill • Jerry Colangelo • Bill Cartwright • Jerry Reinsdorf • Johnny Bach • Rod Thorn • Rick Barry • Kevin Loughery • David Axelrod • President Barack Obama • and many more! Written by Sam Smith—author of the New York Times bestseller *THE JORDAN RULES* and recent inductee into the NBA Hall of Fame—*THERE IS NO NEXT* assembles a cast of Hall-of-Famers, teammates, opponents, coaches, and others who experienced the ferocious drive and unparalleled greatness that defined Jordan's career. Packed with previously untold stories and stunning insight into Jordan and his six championships, *THERE IS NO NEXT* is the last word on why there has never been, and will never be, another Michael Jordan.

michael jordan on practice: Michael Jordan Roland Lazenby, 2014-05-06 The definitive biography of a legendary athlete. The Shrug. The Shot. The Flu Game. Michael Jordan is responsible for sublime moments so ingrained in sports history that they have their own names. When most people think of him, they think of his beautiful shots with the game on the line, his body totally in sync with the ball -- hitting nothing but net. But for all his greatness, this scion of a complex family from North Carolina's Coastal Plain has a darker side: he's a ruthless competitor and a lover of high stakes. There's never been a biography that encompassed the dual nature of his character and looked so deeply at Jordan on and off the court -- until now. Basketball journalist Roland Lazenby spent almost thirty years covering Michael Jordan's career in college and the pros. He witnessed Jordan's growth from a skinny rookie to the instantly recognizable global ambassador for basketball whose business savvy and success have millions of kids still wanting to be just like Mike. Yet Lazenby also witnessed the Michael Jordan whose drive and appetite are more fearsome and more insatiable than any of his fans could begin to know. *Michael Jordan: The Life* explores both sides of his personality to reveal the fullest, most compelling story of the man who is Michael Jordan. Lazenby draws on his personal relationships with Jordan's coaches; countless interviews with Jordan's friends, teammates, and family members; and interviews with Jordan himself to provide the first truly definitive study of Michael Jordan: the player, the icon, and the man.

michael jordan on practice: Jump Attack Tim S. Grover, 2014-06-03 Legendary trainer Tim Grover's internationally acclaimed training program used by the pros, including Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant—now completely revised, updated, and expanded, with 100 new photos. Since 1989 when Tim Grover began training Michael Jordan, hundreds of elite competitors have turned to Grover to become stronger, faster, and more powerful, both physically and mentally. From Jordan to Kobe Bryant to Dwyane Wade and countless other superstars, Grover's revolutionary methods have made the best even better, year after year. In *Jump Attack*, Grover shares the revolutionary program he uses to train the pros. A fitness bible for athletes around the world, this three-phase, twelve-week

program has been completely updated with new exercises and workouts as well as cutting-edge information on training, nutrition, longevity, injury prevention, and more. Devised for explosive power, quickness, endurance, and agility, this intensely challenging workout pushes athletes out of their comfort zones, tests their capacity to go harder, and turns “I can’t” into “Just try and stop me.” You don’t have to be an elite athlete to benefit from Grover’s program—but you can attain the mindset of a champion through the physical program outlined in this complete plan. Says Grover: “This is how my pros do it. If you want to become more explosive, stronger, and faster, if you want to jump higher and improve your overall athletic performance in any sport, this is exactly how we do it today: This program is the difference between jumping and taking flight.”

michael jordan on practice: *Practice Perfect* Doug Lemov, Erica Woolway, Katie Yezzi, 2012-09-19 Rules for developing talent with disciplined, deliberate, intelligent practice We live in a competition loving culture. We love the performance, the big win, the ticking seconds of the clock as the game comes down to the wire. We watch games and cheer, sometimes to the point of obsession, but if we really wanted to see greatness—wanted to cheer for it, see it happen, understand what made it happen—we’d spend our time watching, obsessing on, and maybe even cheering the practices instead. This book puts practice on the front burner of all who seek to instill talent and achievement in others as well as in themselves. This is a journey to understand that practice, not games, makes champions. In this book, the authors engage the dream of better, both in fields and endeavors where participants know they should practice and also in those where many do not yet recognize the transformative power of practice. And it’s not just whether you practice. How you practice may be a true competitive advantage. Deliberately engineered and designed practice can revolutionize our most important endeavors. The clear set of rules presented in *Practice Perfect* will make us better in virtually every performance of life. The “how-to” rules of practice cover such topics as rethinking practice, modeling excellent practice, using feedback, creating a culture of practice, making new skills stick, and hiring for practice. Discover new ways to think about practice. Learn how to design successful practice. Apply practice across a wide range of realms, both personal and professional The authors include specific activities to jump-start practice Doug Lemov is the best-selling author of *Teach Like a Champion* A hands-on resource to practice, the rules within will help to create positive outliers and world-changing reservoirs of talent.

michael jordan on practice: *The Legend of Michael Jordan* Adam Motin, 2020-09-01 Not every flying hero has a cape. —Michael Jordan Essential facts and stories all young basketball fans should know, plus inspiring quotes and brilliant photos Michael Jordan left his mark on the game as a larger-than-life competitor who dazzled the world, pushed the boundaries of his sport, and never settled for anything less than the best. The Chicago Bulls legend is known as the greatest basketball player of all time, but he is so much more than just an athlete. The man who made fans want to Be Like Mike revolutionized the world of sports, is an ambassador for the game around the world, and serves as a role model to millions.? In *The Legend of Michael Jordan*, readers will learn about MJ’s early days growing up in North Carolina, his six championships with the Chicago Bulls, the impact he had on fashion and pop culture, and his burning desire to win.? This must-own book is a great way to introduce young ballers to basketball’s Greatest of All Time. Other titles in this series: *The Legend of Kobe Bryant*

michael jordan on practice: *Michael’s Golden Rules* Deloris Jordan, Roslyn M. Jordan, 2007-01-23 I’ve learned it takes heart to come out a winner every time, whether you win or lose. -- Michael Jordan Jonathan wants to win more than anything. But the Badgers haven’t seen much of that lately. For Jonathan, the only good thing about the baseball season is being on the same team as his best friend, Michael. Jonathan wants to believe in himself and his team, but it’s getting harder to do. Then when Michael’s uncle Jack tells the boys about his golden rules of baseball, Jonathan is confused. What could Uncle Jack mean -- there is more to a good game than winning or losing? Deloris and Roslyn M. Jordan, mother and sister of basketball superstar Michael Jordan, tell a family story of personal best, friendship, and teamwork that will inspire. Kadir Nelson’s radiant illustrations illuminate this story of what it really means to be a champion.

michael jordan on practice: *Playing for Keeps* David Halberstam, 2012-12-18 The Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist looks at the life and times of the Chicago Bulls superstar— “The best Jordan book so far” (The Washington Post). One of sport’s biggest superstars, Michael Jordan is more than an internationally renowned athlete. As illuminated through David Halberstam’s trademark balance of impeccable research and fascinating storytelling, Jordan symbolizes the apex of the National Basketball Association’s coming of age. Long before multimillion-dollar signings and lucrative endorsements, NBA players worked in relative obscurity, with most games woefully unattended and rarely broadcast on television. Then came Larry Bird and Magic Johnson, Jordan’s two great predecessors, and the game’s status changed. The new era capitalized on Jordan’s talent, will power, and unrivaled competitiveness. In *Playing for Keeps*, Halberstam is at his investigative best, delving into Jordan’s expansive world of teammates and coaches. The result is a gripping story of the athlete and media powerhouse who changed a game forever. This ebook features an extended biography of David Halberstam.

michael jordan on practice: *Relentless* Tim S. Grover, Shari Wenk, 2014-03-11 An award-winning trainer draws on experience with such top athletes as Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant and Ken Griffey, Jr. to explain how to tap dark competitive reflexes in order to succeed regardless of circumstances, explaining the importance of finding internal resources and harnessing the power of personal fears and instincts.

michael jordan on practice: *Salt in His Shoes* Deloris Jordan, Roslyn M. Jordan, 2003-11 This heartwarming picture book, written by the superstar's mother and sister, teaches that hard work and determination are much more important in becoming a champion.

michael jordan on practice: *Marshmallow & Jordan* Alina Chau, 2021-10-05 A middle-grade graphic novel about wheelchair-bound, sports-loving Jordan, and the magical elephant named Marshmallow who she befriends. Jordan was the star of her elementary school's basketball team until a car accident permanently disabled her. Now she's in a wheelchair and isn't sure what's next for her. Enter Marshmallow, a baby elephant Jordan comes across on her way home from school. Soon Jordan becomes fast friends with the magical little elephant. And, with Marshmallow's help, she discovers that although basketball is lost to her forever, she may have a future in water polo.

michael jordan on practice: *Eleven Rings* Phil Jackson, Hugh Delehanty, 2013-05-21 Through candor and comprehensiveness, Jackson writes a convincing revisionist take, in which he emerges as an excellent coach . . . highly readable . . . reflects Jackson’s polymathy. —The New York Times Book Review Part sports memoir, part New Age spirit quest, part pseudo-management tract . . . But the primary thing with Jackson—as with all the old bards, who were also known for repeating themselves—is the voice. —Sam Anderson, The New York Times Magazine A New York Times Bestseller The inside story of one of basketball's most legendary and game-changing figures During his storied career as head coach of the Chicago Bulls and Los Angeles Lakers, Phil Jackson won more championships than any coach in the history of professional sports. Even more important, he succeeded in never wavering from coaching his way, from a place of deep values. Jackson was tagged as the “Zen master” half in jest by sportswriters, but the nickname speaks to an important truth: this is a coach who inspired, not goaded; who led by awakening and challenging the better angels of his players’ nature, not their egos, fear, or greed. This is the story of a preacher’s kid from North Dakota who grew up to be one of the most innovative leaders of our time. In his quest to reinvent himself, Jackson explored everything from humanistic psychology and Native American philosophy to Zen meditation. In the process, he developed a new approach to leadership based on freedom, authenticity, and selfless teamwork that turned the hypercompetitive world of professional sports on its head. In *Eleven Rings*, Jackson candidly describes how he: • Learned the secrets of mindfulness and team chemistry while playing for the champion New York Knicks in the 1970s • Managed Michael Jordan, the greatest player in the world, and got him to embrace selflessness, even if it meant losing a scoring title • Forged successful teams out of players of varying abilities by getting them to trust one another and perform in sync • Inspired Dennis Rodman and other “uncoachable” personalities to devote themselves to something larger than themselves •

Transformed Kobe Bryant from a rebellious teenager into a mature leader of a championship team. Eleven times, Jackson led his teams to the ultimate goal: the NBA championship—six times with the Chicago Bulls and five times with the Los Angeles Lakers. We all know the legendary stars on those teams, or think we do. What Eleven Rings shows us, however, is that when it comes to the most important lessons, we don't know very much at all. This book is full of revelations: about fascinating personalities and their drive to win; about the wellsprings of motivation and competition at the highest levels; and about what it takes to bring out the best in ourselves and others.

michael jordan on practice: Rahul Dravid , 2012 Rahul Dravid was probably one of the last classical Test match batsmen. Combining technical virtuosity with a legendary work ethic and near-yogic powers of concentration, he epitomised an old-school guts-before glory approach in an age increasingly defined by flashy strokeplay and low attention spans.

michael jordan on practice: The Champion's Mind Jim Afremow, 2015-05-15 Even among the most elite performers, certain athletes stand out as a cut above the rest, able to outperform in clutch, game-deciding moments. These athletes prove that raw athletic ability doesn't necessarily translate to a superior on-field experience—its the mental game that matters most. Sports participation—from the recreational to the collegiate Division I level—is at an all-time high. While the caliber of their games may differ, athletes at every level have one thing in common: the desire to excel. In *The Champion's Mind*, sports psychologist Jim Afremow, PhD, offers the same advice he uses with Olympians, Heisman Trophy winners, and professional athletes, including: • How to get in a zone, thrive on a team, and stay humble • How to progress within a sport and sustain long-term excellence • Customizable pre-performance routines to hit full power when the gun goes off or the puck is dropped With hundreds of useful tips, breakthrough science, and cutting-edge workouts from the world's top trainers, *The Champion's Mind* will help you shape your body to ensure a longer, healthier, happier lifetime.

michael jordan on practice: Michael Jordan Steve James, 2017-07-04 Always turn a negative situation into a positive situation - His Airness, Michael Jordan The path to success in life is often hard-and when it comes to transforming that hardship into enduring success, it's all too easy for many people to give up. For Michael Jordan, however, obstacles were simply a key to better innovation and reaching a new solution. In this Michael Jordan biography, you'll discover about the life and times of one of basketball's most famous players and ambassadors and how you can take his secrets for success and apply them to your own life. The muscular powerhouse dominated basketball courts in the 1980s and 1990s - and in this book, you'll discover the training regime that built his intimidating physique while giving him the nimble gracefulness to leave opponents in the dust. Outside the court, you'll discover his successes and rare failures, and the mind-set he used to turn even the worst situations into something better - by applying these tips to your own life, you'll discover the silver lining in every cloud that enables you to brush off failures as a simple roadblock to what you truly want. With a comprehensive biography following MJ's career from high school to the NBA - and achievements outside of Hollywood and Air Jordan deals with Nike - you'll learn all about the creation of the Michael Jordan legend-and how YOU can become your own. While there are many Michael Jordan books out there, only a few talk about the secrets of his success and what it takes to make it to the top. Readers will benefit from this book by learning: * All about Michael Jordan: his life, career, playing style, and beyond... * His key to success both on the court and off the court * Lifetime achievements * What workouts he uses * His training regimen, habits, and how he deals with failures * Plenty of hidden gems about MJ! This comprehensive biography of Michael Jordan is the Inside Story - it's everything you want to know about this outstanding athlete, how he became legendary, and how he maintains his status as a legend even decades after his career began. Where so many other players crash and burn after only a few years, he has remained as one of the top players. This book will inspire you to be the best and it will give you the steps to actually get there. As a BONUS, you'll also receive tips for being like Mike, for developing his mindset. This book also includes: * MJ's rituals, superstitions, and biggest fears * The story behind the number 23 * Famous people that have taken their inspiration from Michael Jordan * His basketball philosophy

and techniques Jordan uses in field * His biggest failures and how he overcame them * Top motivational lessons that can be learned from this inspiring athlete * And more! Discover how you can apply a world-famous basketball player's approach to life to your own in order to break through your own barriers and get a slam dunk you desire Would You Like To Know More? Download now to start reading about the legendary life and approach of Jordan and how you can forge your own path to the top in sport, business and your personal life. Scroll to the top of the page and select the buy button.

michael jordan on practice: Who Is Michael Jordan? Kirsten Anderson, Who HQ, 2019-02-05 Grab your Js and hit the court with this Who Was? biography about NBA superstar Michael Jordan. Meet the man who changed the game forever. Michael Jordan has always been competitive--even as a young boy, he fought for attention. His need to be the best made him a star player on his college basketball team and helped him become an NBA legend, both for his skills and his endorsements. His Nike contract for Air Jordan basketball shoes set an unmatched precedent for professional athletes. Author Kirsten Anderson takes readers through each exciting moment, detailing the iconic reverse lay-ups and jump shots of Michael Jordan's storied career. Look for more Who HQ titles: Who Is LeBron James? Who Was Kobe Bryant? Who Is Shaquille O'Neal? Who Is the Man in the Air?: Michael Jordan

michael jordan on practice: Blood on the Horns Roland Lazenby, 2013-02-13 "A must read!" —USA TODAY How big was the pressure? How deep was the division? Those were the questions that would beg answering long after the Chicago Bulls had completed their strife-ridden 1997-98 season in the National Basketball Association. BLOOD ON THE HORNS details the infighting & conflict between Jordan, coach Phil Jackson, teammate Scottie Pippen and the team's general manager, Jerry Krause, and managing partner, Jerry Reinsdorf. Through exclusive interviews with the team and staff, Lazenby expertly recreates the drama of 1997-98 and the Bulls' struggle to remain a team.

michael jordan on practice: The Book of Basketball Bill Simmons, 2010-12-07 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • The NBA according to The Sports Guy—now updated with fresh takes on LeBron, the Celtics, and more! Foreword by Malcom Gladwell • "The work of a true fan . . . it might just represent the next phase of sports commentary."—The Atlantic Bill Simmons, the wildly opinionated and thoroughly entertaining basketball addict known to millions as ESPN's The Sports Guy, has written the definitive book on the past, present, and future of the NBA. From the age-old question of who actually won the rivalry between Bill Russell and Wilt Chamberlain to the one about which team was truly the best of all time, Simmons opens—and then closes, once and for all—every major pro basketball debate. Then he takes it further by completely reevaluating not only how NBA Hall of Fame inductees should be chosen but how the institution must be reshaped from the ground up, the result being the Pyramid: Simmons's one-of-a-kind five-level shrine to the ninety-six greatest players in the history of pro basketball. And ultimately he takes fans to the heart of it all, as he uses a conversation with one NBA great to uncover that coveted thing: The Secret of Basketball. Comprehensive, authoritative, controversial, hilarious, and impossible to put down (even for Celtic-haters), The Book of Basketball offers every hardwood fan a courtside seat beside the game's finest, funniest, and fiercest chronicler.

michael jordan on practice: *Dream Big* Deloris Jordan, 2014-05-06 From the age of nine, Michael dreams of playing basketball for the United States in the Olympics, and with hard work and his mother's encouragement, he realizes his dream. Full color.

michael jordan on practice: **Dream Team** Jack McCallum, 2012-07-10 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER Acclaimed sports journalist Jack McCallum delivers the untold story of the greatest team ever assembled: the 1992 U.S. Olympic Men's Basketball Team. As a writer for Sports Illustrated, McCallum enjoyed a courtside seat for the most exciting basketball spectacle on earth, covering the Dream Team from its inception to the gold medal ceremony in Barcelona. Drawing on fresh interviews with the players, McCallum provides the definitive account of the Dream Team phenomenon. He offers a behind-the-scenes look at the controversial selection process. He takes us inside the team's Olympic suites for late-night card games and bull sessions where superstars like

Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, and Larry Bird debated the finer points of basketball. And he narrates a riveting account of the legendary intrasquad scrimmage that pitted the Dream Teamers against one another in what may have been the greatest pickup game in history. In the twenty years since the Dream Team first captivated the world, its mystique has only grown. Dream Team vividly re-creates the moment when a once-in-a-millennium group of athletes came together and changed the future of sports—one perfectly executed fast break at a time. With a new Afterword by the author. “The absolute definitive work on the subject, a perfectly wonderful once-you-pick-it-up-you-won’t-be-able-to-put-it-down book.”—The Boston Globe “An Olympic hoops dream.”—Newsday “What makes this volume a must-read for nostalgic hoopsters are the robust portraits of the outsize personalities of the participants, all of whom were remarkably open with McCallum, both then and now.”—Booklist (starred review)

michael jordan on practice: For the Love of the Game Mark Vancil, 1998 Photographs combine with Jordan's personal anecdotes and reminiscences to chronicle the life and times of the great basketball player, detailing his college and professional career, the murder of his father, and the business of basketball

michael jordan on practice: The Rise: Kobe Bryant and the Pursuit of Immortality Mike Sielski, 2022-01-11 A compelling origin story of a time that really wasn't so long ago but through the lens of tragedy feels like forever. Kobe-ologists will devour this book, reveling in the anecdotes about his intensity & the engaging game recaps. —Associated Press “Every superhero needs an origin story.” —Jeff Pearlman The inside look at one of the most captivating and consequential figures in our culture—with never-before-heard interviews. Kobe Bryant's death in January 2020 did more than rattle the worlds of sports and celebrity. The tragedy of that helicopter crash, which also took the life of his daughter Gianna, unveiled the full breadth and depth of his influence on our culture, and by tracing and telling the oft-forgotten and lesser-known story of his early life, *The Rise* promises to provide an insight into Kobe that no other analysis has. In *The Rise*, readers will travel from the neighborhood streets of Southwest Philadelphia—where Kobe's father, Joe, became a local basketball standout—to the Bryant family's isolation in Italy, where Kobe spent his formative years, to the leafy suburbs of Lower Merion, where Kobe's legend was born. The story will trace his career and life at Lower Merion—he led the Aces to the 1995-96 Pennsylvania state championship, a dramatic underdog run for a team with just one star player—and the run-up to the 1996 NBA draft, where Kobe's dream of playing pro basketball culminated in his acquisition by the Los Angeles Lakers. In researching and writing *The Rise*, Mike Sielski had a terrific advantage over other writers who have attempted to chronicle Kobe's life: access to a series of never-before-released interviews with him during his senior season and early days in the NBA. For a quarter century, these tapes and transcripts preserved Kobe's thoughts, dreams, and goals from his teenage years, and they contained insights into and told stories about him that have never been revealed before. This is more than a basketball book. This is an exploration of the identity and making of an icon and the effect of his development on those around him—the essence of the man before he truly became a man.

michael jordan on practice: Jonathan Livingston Seagull Richard Bach, 2014-10-21 Includes the rediscovered part four--Cover.

michael jordan on practice: The Mindful Athlete George Mumford, 2016-03-15 “George helped me understand the art of mindfulness. To be neither distracted or focused, rigid or flexible, passive or aggressive. I learned just to be. —Kobe Bryant Michael Jordan credits George Mumford with transforming his on-court leadership of the Bulls, helping Jordan lead the team to six NBA championships. Mumford also helped Kobe Bryant, Andrew Bynum, and Lamar Odom and countless other NBA players turn around their games. A widely respected public speaker and coach, Mumford is sharing his own story and the strategies that have made these athletes into stars in *The Mindful Athlete: The Secret to Pure Performance*. His proven, gentle but groundbreaking mindfulness techniques can transform the performance of anyone with a goal, be they an Olympian, weekend warrior, executive, hacker, or artist. When Michael Jordan left the Chicago Bulls to play baseball in 1993, the team was in crisis. Coach Phil Jackson, a long-time mindfulness practitioner, contacted Dr.

Kabat-Zinn to find someone who could teach mindfulness techniques to the struggling team—someone who would have credibility and could speak the language of his players. Kabat-Zinn led Jackson to Mumford and their partnership began. Mumford has worked with Jackson and each of the eleven teams he coached to become NBA champions. His roster of champion clients has since blossomed way beyond basketball to include corporate executives, Olympians, and athletes in many different sports. With a charismatic teaching style that combines techniques of engaged mindfulness with lessons from popular culture icons such as Yoda, Indiana Jones, and Bruce Lee, Mumford tells illuminating stories about his larger than life clients. His writing is down-to-earth and easy to understand and apply. *The Mindful Athlete* is an engrossing story and an invaluable resource for anyone looking to elevate their game, no matter what the pursuit, and includes a foreword by Phil Jackson. Self-consciousness is when you're focused on how you're doing instead of what you're doing. We have to learn how to push and challenge ourselves, but not in an insensitive way. Honing your performance really comes down to being comfortable with being uncomfortable.—George Mumford

michael jordan on practice: Thinking Basketball Ben Taylor, 2016-06-29 Are top scorers really the most valuable players? Are games decided in the final few minutes? Does the team with the best player usually win? *Thinking Basketball* challenges a number of common beliefs about the game by taking a deep dive into the patterns and history of the NBA. Explore how certain myths arose while using our own cognition as a window into the game's popular narratives. New basketball concepts are introduced, such as power plays, portability and why the best player shouldn't always shoot. Discover how the box score can be misleading, why closers are overrated and how the outcome of a game fundamentally alters our memory. Behavioral economics, traffic paradoxes and other metaphors highlight this thought-provoking insight into the NBA and our own thinking. A must-read for any basketball fan -- you'll never view the sport, and maybe the world, the same again.

michael jordan on practice: Quotable Michael Jordan Pat Williams, 2004-05-19 Jordan's quotability is incredible, as are the dozens of compelling anecdotes contained in this special keepsake.

michael jordan on practice: Glory Days L. Jon Wertheim, 2021 A rollicking guided tour of one extraordinary summer, when some of the most pivotal and freakishly coincidental stories all collided and changed the way we think about modern sports The summer of 1984 was a watershed moment in the birth of modern sports when the nation watched Michael Jordan grow from college basketball player to professional athlete and star. That summer also saw ESPN's rise to media dominance as the country's premier sports network and the first modern, commercialized, profitable Olympics. Magic Johnson and Larry Bird's rivalry raged, Martina Navratilova and John McEnroe reigned in tennis, and Hulk Hogan and Vince McMahon made pro wrestling a business, while Donald Trump pierced the national consciousness as a pro football team owner. It was an awakening in the sports world, a moment when sports began to morph into the market-savvy, sensationalized, moneyed, controversial, and wildly popular arena we know today. In the tradition of Bill Bryson's *One Summer: America, 1927*, L. Jon Wertheim captures these 90 seminal days against the backdrop of the nostalgia-soaked 1980s, to show that this was the year we collectively traded in our ratty Converse for a pair of sleek, heavily branded, ingeniously marketed Nikes. This was the year that sports went big-time.

michael jordan on practice: 12 Rules for Life Jordan B. Peterson, 2018-01-23 #1 NATIONAL BESTSELLER #1 INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER What does everyone in the modern world need to know? Renowned psychologist Jordan B. Peterson's answer to this most difficult of questions uniquely combines the hard-won truths of ancient tradition with the stunning revelations of cutting-edge scientific research. Humorous, surprising and informative, Dr. Peterson tells us why skateboarding boys and girls must be left alone, what terrible fate awaits those who criticize too easily, and why you should always pet a cat when you meet one on the street. What does the nervous system of the lowly lobster have to tell us about standing up straight (with our shoulders back) and about success in life? Why did ancient Egyptians worship the capacity to pay careful attention as the

highest of gods? What dreadful paths do people tread when they become resentful, arrogant and vengeful? Dr. Peterson journeys broadly, discussing discipline, freedom, adventure and responsibility, distilling the world's wisdom into 12 practical and profound rules for life. *12 Rules for Life* shatters the modern commonplaces of science, faith and human nature, while transforming and ennobling the mind and spirit of its readers.

michael jordan on practice: Rare Air Michael Jordan, Mark Vancil, 1993 Complete before his resignation from basketball, Jordan discusses his love of the game, his family, and his competitiveness

michael jordan on practice: Golf is Not a Game of Perfect Dr. Bob Rotella, 2012-12-11 Dr Bob Rotella is one of the hottest golfing performance consultants in the world today. Unlike other performance consultants, Rotella goes beyond the usual mental aspects of the game and the reliance on specific techniques. In this extraordinary book, and with his clients, he creates an attitude and a mindset about all aspects of the golfer's game, from mental preparation to competition. And, as some of the world's greatest golfers will attest, the results are spectacular. Filled with charming and insightful stories about golf and the golfers Rotella works with, *GOLF IS NOT A GAME OF PERFECT* will improve the game of even the most casual weekend player.

michael jordan on practice: The Handmaid's Tale Margaret Atwood, 2011-09-06 An instant classic and eerily prescient cultural phenomenon, from "the patron saint of feminist dystopian fiction" (New York Times). Now an award-winning Hulu series starring Elizabeth Moss. In this multi-award-winning, bestselling novel, Margaret Atwood has created a stunning Orwellian vision of the near future. This is the story of Offred, one of the unfortunate "Handmaids" under the new social order who have only one purpose: to breed. In Gilead, where women are prohibited from holding jobs, reading, and forming friendships, Offred's persistent memories of life in the "time before" and her will to survive are acts of rebellion. Provocative, startling, prophetic, and with Margaret Atwood's devastating irony, wit, and acute perceptive powers in full force, *The Handmaid's Tale* is at once a mordant satire and a dire warning.

michael jordan on practice: The Cost of These Dreams Wright Thompson, 2019-04-02 The instant New York Times bestseller! From one of America's most beloved sportswriters and the bestselling author of *Pappyland*, a collection of true stories about the dream of greatness and its cost in the world of sports. Wright Thompson's stories are so full of rich characters, bad actors, heroes, drama, suffering, courage, conflict, and vivid detail that I sometimes thinks he's working my side of the street - the world of fiction. - John Grisham There is only one Wright Thompson. He is, as they say, famous if you know who he is: his work includes the most read articles in the history of ESPN (and it's not even close) and has been anthologized in the *Best American Sports Writing* series ten times, and he counts John Grisham and Richard Ford among his ardent admirers (see back of book). But to say his pieces are about sports, while true as far as it goes, is like saying Larry McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove* is a book about a cattle drive. Wright Thompson figures people out. He jimmies the lock to the furnaces inside the people he profiles and does an analysis of the fuel that fires their ambition. Whether it be Michael Jordan or Tiger Woods or Pat Riley or Urban Meyer, he strips the away the self-serving myths and fantasies to reveal his characters in full. There are fascinating common denominators: it may not be the case that every single great performer or coach had a complex relationship with his father, but it can sure seem that way. And there is much marvelous local knowledge: about specific sports, and times and places, and people. Ludicrously entertaining and often powerfully moving, *The Cost of These Dreams* is an ode to the reporter's art, and a celebration of true greatness and the high price that it exacts.

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