

Dwight Howard / Orlando Magic

When he was 14-years-old, Dwight Howard made a goal —be selected as the no. 1 pick in the NBA draft. In the 2004, Dwight accomplished this goal when he was drafted no. 1 overall by the Orlando Magic, beginning his road to superstardom in the National Basketball Association. After becoming the youngest player ever to average a double-double in his rookie season, he's been a five-time NBA All-Star, three-time NBA Defensive Player of the Year, four-time All-NBA and All-Defensive team member and the 2008 NBA Slam Dunk Contest winner. Widely considered the best big man in the game, he is -consistently among league leaders in rebounds, blocks, field goal percentage and scoring. His play has helped lead the Magic to a franchise record five straight postseason appearances, three division titles and their first NBA Finals appearance in more than 10 years.

Howard gained national recognition while attending Southwest Atlanta Christian Academy in his hometown of Atlanta, Georgia. Over his four-year high school career, he averaged 16.6 points, 13.4 rebounds and 6.3 blocks and lead his team to a state title. He was bestowed with all major high school awards that year including McDonald's National High School Player of the Year, Gatorade National Player of the Year, Morgan Wootten High School Player of the Year and the Naismith Prep Player of the Year.

Raised as a devout Christian by parents Dwight Sr. and Sheryl Howard, Dwight Jr. views his basketball career as much more than an opportunity for money and fame. He combines his faith and talent with charisma and large sense of humor to be one of the most charitable people in the world. Dwight is an active member of the NBA's Read to Achieve program, traveling across the world to visit children in promotion of the literacy program. He is the National Ambassador of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program and has founded the Dwight Howard Fund for at-risk youth around the world. The list of his charitable work so early in his career is a clear indication that Dwight is so much more than a big guy with a lot of talent—he is a truly exceptional human being who uses his talents to express what's in his oversized heart.

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