

Injury last chapter in Barkley's storied, sometimes rocky career

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Charles Barkley said he grew up during his 16 years in the NBA. And in many ways, he did. The bad boy became an elder statesman, railing against the behavior of young players — behavior he perfected himself.

In the end, Barkley was still out-guessed when he wanted to be, still did what was on his mind. There was a lot.

All the pounding finally caused a left knee to give out Wednesday night, ending his career in the city where it began. Still, Barkley was able to smile. As always, he had something outlandish to say.

"Just what America needs," Barkley said as he rode off in a golf cart with his knee in a brace. "One unemployed black man."

Right up to the last lap on this amazing, incorrigible ride, he was 100 percent Barkley.

Barkley finished his career with the Houston Rockets, but he did it the worst way imaginable for an athlete as proud and cocky as he is. Less than eight minutes into his farewell game in Philadelphia, where his career began with the Rockets in 1984, Barkley fell horribly on the court.

A tendon was wrenched from his left kneecap, which sat awkwardly on his leg.

The grim diagnosis followed, and it was confirmed yesterday by MRI and X-rays. A ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in his knee ended the season Barkley said would be his last.

He went out with an 83-73 loss to his former team, failing to score a point. The last shot of his career was blocked, a few seconds after he pulled down the last of his 4,259 assists. He spent his final moments on the court sitting down, staring in disbelief at his deflated knee.

He left the court for the last time standing ovation, hopping on one good leg, hunched over like an old man he has admitted so often — almost gleefully — that he has become.

His accomplishments, as he likes to say, speak for themselves. At only

Barkley's farewell

Houston Rockets forward Charles Barkley ruptured a tendon in his left knee Wednesday night in the first quarter of what was to be his final regular-season game in Philadelphia. It ended up being the final game of his remarkable career.

Career highs

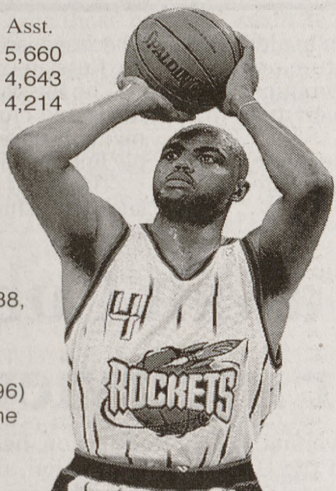
- ▶ Points 47 (1988 at Atl.)
- ▶ Blocks 7 (1986 vs. Port.)
- ▶ Rebounds 33 (1996 at Phi.)
- ▶ Minutes 58* (1996 vs. L.A. Lakers)
- ▶ Assists 14 (1986 at Ind.)
- *double overtime

Players with 20,000 points, 10,000 rebounds and 4,000 assists in NBA history

	Points	Reb.	Asst.
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar	38,387	17,440	5,660
Wilt Chamberlain	31,419	23,924	4,643
Charles Barkley	23,755	12,545	4,214

Highlights

- 1992-93 NBA Most Valuable Player
- Member of gold medal winning U.S. Olympic team (1992)
- Nine-time NBA All-Star (1987-1997)
- All-Star Game MVP (1991)
- Named NBA first team five times (1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1993)
- Named NBA second team four times (1986, 1987, 1992, 1994)
- Named NBA third team one time (1996)
- Led NBA with 14.6 rebounds per game average (1987)
- Named NBA All-Rookie team (1985)



Source: National Basketball League; compiled from AP wire reports

6-foot-4 and seven-eighths inches, he was one of the most ferocious inside players ever. He won two Olympic gold medals and was the NBA's MVP with Phoenix in 1993.

Barkley, Wilt Chamberlain and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar are the only players in history to amass 20,000 points, 10,000 rebounds and 4,000 assists.

He never won a championship but said he does not need that to fulfill his career.

"I don't begrudge people two things: I don't begrudge championships, and I don't begrudge guys that make a lot of money," Barkley said.

Despite his talent — pro scouts pegged him as Wes Unseld who could dribble — Barkley never got the same recognition as contemporaries Larry Bird, Magic Johnson or

Michael Jordan. That is because he was known more for his mouth than for his game.

"He wasn't as outspoken at Auburn, but that's only because he didn't get interviewed that much," Sonny Smith, his college coach, said.

Barkley arrived in Philadelphia Tuesday night, reveling in the idea of saying good-bye to the city where it all began.

"I've done some good things, some bad things, some stupid things, some funny things, but so has everybody else," Barkley said. "Mine have just been in the limelight."

Barkley hobbled through the lobby of the Rockets' hotel yesterday afternoon, headed for Boston and a celebration planned by the Celtics. Barkley put off surgery on his knee so he could be there.

Cowboys sign PK Murray

IRVING (AP) — Eddie Murray, 43-year-old kicker who hasn't played in the NFL since 1997, came out of retirement Thursday to begin his second stint with the Dallas Cowboys.

Murray has 17 seasons of NFL experience, just one with the Cowboys. That was in 1993 for a Super Bowl championship.

The signing of Murray came two days after the Cowboys waived first-year kicker Richie Cunningham, who was just 12-of-22 on field goals this season after missing nine of 72 attempts his first two seasons.

Earlier this year, Murray signed with the Detroit Lions for the sole purpose of retiring as a member of original team.

Murray played 12 seasons in Detroit (1980-91), followed by stints at Kansas City, Tampa Bay, Dallas, Philadelphia, Washington and Minnesota in his first NFL action in 1997.

"I said at my press conference in when I retired that football was a roller-coaster ride and I decided to get off of it," Murray said. "I've decided to get back on and see what happens."

After he was signed with the Lions, he was placed on the retired-serve list. Because of that, he had clear waivers before he could be claimed by the Cowboys on Thursday.

Instead of working as a sideline reporter on the Lions radio broadcast, as he has been doing this season, this Sunday Murray will kick when the Cowboys (6-6), just a game behind NFC East-leading Washington, are host to Philadelphia.

In his career, Murray has made 137 of 445 field goals (76 percent) and 521 of 527 extra points (99 percent) for 1,532 points.

He was a Pro Bowl kicker in 1980 and 1989 and scored more than 100 points in a season four times, the last in 1988.

"Hopefully, I can bring some stability," Murray said.

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recipe for...HOLIDAY CHEER

Ingredients:

- 1 sprig of mall shopping
- 1 gathering of family and friends
- 1 dash of common sense
- 1 mug under the mistletoe
- 0 drinks are needed if you are a minor, pregnant, intending to drive, or an alcoholic
- 3 cups holiday spirit (optional)
- 3 cups of water (more to taste)

Directions:

Assemble your ingredients
(Before going out to celebrate, make a plan about your drinking behavior and how to get home safely)

Guarantee the quality of your ingredients
(Never leave your drink unattended and always know what you are drinking)

Recipe is best prepared on a full stomach
(Eat a high protein meal before drinking to slow absorption of alcohol)

Add 1 cup holiday spirit, alternating with as much water to taste CAUTION: More than 3 cups holiday spirit per recipe may spoil your holiday cheer
(Drinking no more than 1 drink per hour while alternating alcohol free drinks, like water, and setting a limit at 3 drinks, will maintain a lower blood alcohol concentration)

For the best Holiday Cheer: use ingredients in moderation

Alcohol and Drug Education Programs
Ph: 845-0280
e-mail: adep@stulife2.tamu.edu
<http://www.stulife.tamu.edu/adep>

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday!!!

Loose Diamonds

Round Cut			
Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.77	G	SI3	\$5750 ⁰⁰
1.08	I	VS2	\$3750 ⁰⁰
1.03	H	I1	\$1995 ⁰⁰
.89	F	SI2	\$3100 ⁰⁰
.76	G	SI2	\$2700 ⁰⁰
.70	H	SI2	\$1850 ⁰⁰
.57	I	SI2	\$1175 ⁰⁰
.52	E	VS2	\$1250 ⁰⁰
.50	G	VS1	\$1450 ⁰⁰
.33	H	VVS2	\$790 ⁰⁰
.31	H	VVS2	\$790 ⁰⁰
.26	G	SI1	\$275 ⁰⁰

Pear Shape			
Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
.92	K	VS2	\$2550 ⁰⁰
.79	K	SI1	\$1850 ⁰⁰

Oval			
Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
.66	K	VVS2	\$1439 ⁰⁰
.54	H	SI2	\$1050 ⁰⁰
.32	H	SI1	\$ 550 ⁰⁰

Marquise Cut			
Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.21	K	SI2	\$3950 ⁰⁰
.94	K	SI1	\$3150 ⁰⁰
.70	G	SI1	\$2650 ⁰⁰
.49	F	SI1	\$1736 ⁰⁰

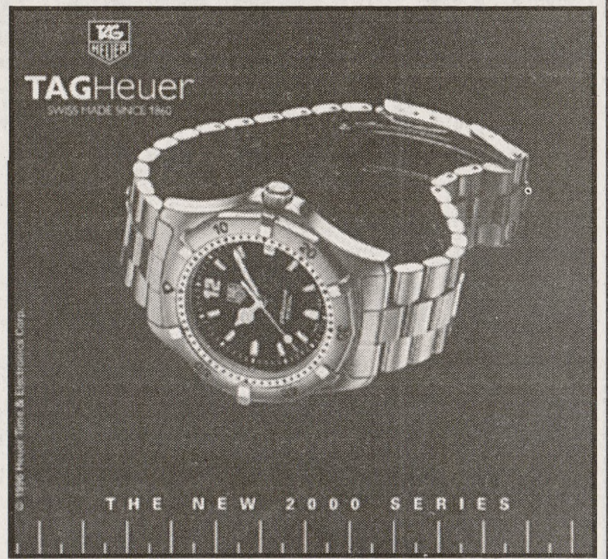
Princess Cut			
Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
.73	F	SI1/VS2	\$2875 ⁰⁰
.72	E	VS2	\$3700 ⁰⁰ EGL CERT
.27	G	SI2	\$275 ⁰⁰

Emerald Cut			
Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.53	I	VS2	\$6900 ⁰⁰
.71	F	SI1	\$2150 ⁰⁰

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