



## **North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame Inducted Michael Jordan on Dec. 14**

Former University of North Carolina basketball All-American Michael Jordan was inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame at halftime of the Toronto Raptors-Charlotte Bobcats game on Dec. 14 at Time Warner Cable Arena.

Jordan was elected by the Board of Directors in 1993 to enter the Hall at its annual May induction banquet. But after leading the Chicago Bulls to three consecutive NBA titles, he had retired from pro basketball and was playing minor-league baseball in Birmingham at the time. Jordan subsequently returned to the Bulls and sparked them to three additional NBA championships.

A late-bloomer at Laney High School – Jordan only played two years of varsity basketball – Jordan flourished during his three seasons in Chapel Hill. As a freshman, he hit the game-winning jump shot to beat Georgetown and win Hall of Fame coach Dean Smith his first NCAA title. He was a first-team All-American both as a sophomore and a junior and won the Naismith and Wooden national Player of the Year awards as a junior. Jordan was selected by the Bulls with the third pick in the 1984 NBA draft and went on to enjoy a pro career that established him by many estimates as the greatest player ever.

“North Carolinians have long taken pride in Michael Jordan’s outstanding athletic career and have wanted to pay proper tribute to him,” says Nat Walker, President of the N.C. Sports Hall of Fame. “That time is now here and we’re delighted that Michael is joining the other 273 inductees who have helped shape the remarkable sports heritage that North Carolina has enjoyed.”

A video tribute to Jordan, who is now the Bobcats’ majority owner, was a highlight of the halftime ceremony. The Hall’s newest member was inducted by Walker and presented his North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame ring. Executive Director Don Fish presented Jordan’s hall of fame plaque.

Many current members of the hall of fame along with members of the organization's board of directors and advisory board were on the court to witness Jordan's induction.

Memorabilia representing Jordan's basketball career will become part of the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame exhibition on the third floor of the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh, which is open to the public at no charge.

"This is obviously a tremendous honor and I am proud to be an inductee of the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame," said Jordan. "When I think about all the great athletes from North Carolina that inspired me to become the best I could be, it's humbling to know that now I stand with them as members of a very special fraternity".