

# Oscar Robertson

## Quotes

*Basketball, Thinking, Player, Games, Team, School, Motivational, Play, Stars, Real, People, Today, Sports, College, Fundamentals, Teaching, Kids, Success, Clothes, Way*

This is where young players today want to land. They want to be NBA players because of the money.

~Oscar Robertson

When you play against different people from all walks of life you can't do the same thing against every player defensively or offensively. You have to change up the way you go at a player.

~Oscar Robertson

I'd like to think that the nature of the two teams - Boston being a championship team over the years and the Lakers, same thing - was a lot bigger than Larry Bird or Magic Johnson.

~Oscar Robertson

It's a sad commentary when I have to say that sometimes in our country we are real sensitive to race.

~Oscar Robertson

Some players are more physical than others, some play with more finesse. Some are just really great all-around players. So you have to change your game.

~Oscar Robertson

You have to teach now - tell a kid how to box out, tell him how to pass, teach him footwork. Players don't understand that anymore.

~Oscar Robertson

I played when I played, and played, I think, against the greatest players in the greatest time in the history of basketball.

~Oscar Robertson

I think that everyone should be able to dribble. Everyone should be able to pass. Otherwise, why are you out there?

~Oscar Robertson

We're all Americans trying to compete. Magic was competing for his team and Larry for his team.

~Oscar Robertson

But I think the image that's thrown out on television is a bad image. Because you see players who want to imitate hip-hop stars. And the NBA is taking advantage of the situation.

~Oscar Robertson

You need a teaching coach who understands the game of basketball, not just some guy coming on the court talking about Xs and Os.

~Oscar Robertson

Actually, Magic and the Lakers beat Philadelphia for Magic's first NBA Championship.

~Oscar Robertson

But after that you don't see a lot of real good fundamental play. You see a showboat-type basketball which is almost parallel to street basketball.

~Oscar Robertson

I don't think that players learn how to play any other aspect of the game in high school or college.

~Oscar Robertson

The thing about it is almost everyone could pass that way, but we were kept from doing it by our coaches.

~Oscar Robertson

I don't blame David Stern because a player gets on the court and he doesn't put out competitively. No one can make you play if you don't want to play.

~Oscar Robertson

I think that teaching coaches are the norm now.

~Oscar Robertson

But I like to think an athlete is an athlete.

~Oscar Robertson

If you're a basketball player, you've got to shoot.

~Oscar Robertson

The players have no real self-esteem when it comes to putting the best image out there in a real competitive fashion.

~Oscar Robertson

When I came into the league, once a team drafted you, they owned you forever. If they didn't like the clothes you wore, or the car you drove, they could blackball you.

~Oscar Robertson

When you play guard, you're not going to block a lot of shots. Inside, you're going to block shots.

~Oscar Robertson

I think that basketball players should get the job done no matter how it looks on the screen.

~Oscar Robertson

You don't cut anywhere, don't pick down anywhere, don't double screen, no weak side picking. All these things that should happen in a game of basketball don't happen anymore.

~Oscar Robertson

Basketball is basketball.

~Oscar Robertson

The Olympics were great, because you had to make the team, and then go to the games. Now, I don't know, these guys today don't want to do anything like that.

~Oscar Robertson

There's so many young people who start to play basketball and never learn the fundamentals.

~Oscar Robertson

I was taught to play that way when I was in high school and even before I got to high school.

~Oscar Robertson

You see what happens in college and high school games today - a three-point shot or a dunk. I think that's the reason that you see a lot of that in the pros today.

~Oscar Robertson

People will think there are no other great ballplayers. Look at Garnett. Look at Duncan, Shaq, Kobe. Look at the players with Sacramento. They have a really good basketball team.

~Oscar Robertson

People say that, but I think the NBA was bigger than Larry Bird and Magic Johnson.

~Oscar Robertson

Look, I think you should promote the game, but I think you should make it what it ought to be. Not some kind of a side-show.

~Oscar Robertson

I think no one has written a history of the great coaches who were around 30 to 40 years ago who taught the fundamentals.

~Oscar Robertson

But if people are buying the products, naturally they're gonna use them.

~Oscar Robertson

I'm sorry that the young athletes in basketball will not get the chance to play (in the Olympics) anymore, and live that dream.

~Oscar Robertson

I don't know hardly any of the players who have the in-between game like me, who can go to any position on the court.

~Oscar Robertson

Just because it is an All-Star Game doesn't mean that you are playing as efficiently as you should.

~Oscar Robertson

Just fundamental things - I played guard and I played forward, so you get into a position where you are pivoting out on the court.

~Oscar Robertson

College coaches want to power the ball inside, they want (their post players) to power the ball up, but no one can shoot from that 15-foot area anymore.

~Oscar Robertson

You look at today, it's a different situation. You have a game that has been transformed into a game where almost every shot is either an outside shot - a three-point shot - or a dunk.

~Oscar Robertson

Now, I guess, people want stars. People are trying to invent stars.

~Oscar Robertson

I played on an all-black high school team and we didn't want people

saying that we were clowns.

~Oscar Robertson

The triple-double is just a stat. It's a test of your strength and stamina and playing ability, really.

~Oscar Robertson

When I started playing, I wasn't fast, I was gangly, my jumpshot was terrible.

~Oscar Robertson

But when I did it (the triple-double), I didn't even know it until someone told me.

~Oscar Robertson

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