

1990-91 Chicago Bulls

coach: Phil Jackson

Atlantic

Boston 56-26
Philadelphia 58-24
New York 39-43
Washington 30-52
New Jersey 26-56
Miami 24-58

Central

Chicago 61-21
Detroit 50-32
Milwaukee 48-34
Atlanta 43-49
Indiana 41-41
Cleveland 33-49
Charlotte 26-56

Midwest

San Antonio 55-27
Utah 54-28
Houston 52-30
Orlando 31-51
Minnesota 29-54
Dallas 28-54
Denver 20-62

Pacific

Portland 63-19
LA Lakers 58-24
Phoenix 55-27
Golden State 44-38
Seattle 41-41
LA Clippers 31-51
Sacramento 25-57

Offense: 110.0 (7th)

Denver 119.9

Defense: 101.0 (4th)

Detroit 96.8

Home: 35-6

Best: Portland & Utah (36-5) Worst: Charlotte & Denver (17-24)

Away: 26-15

Best: Portland (27-14) Worst: Sacramento 1-40

Best: 5-0 vs. Charlotte & Cleveland; 4-0 vs. Miami & New York; 4-1 vs. Atlanta, Indiana, and Milwaukee, 2-0 vs. Sacramento

Worst: 1-3 vs. Philadelphia; San Antonio, Houston, and Portland each took 2-game series vs. Bulls.

Club:

- Attendance: 757,745 (18,482/game).
- Club began 0-3. Bulls' 61 wins were club record that lasted 5 years.
Streaks: +11, +9, +7 (twice), and +5. Lone losing streak was at beginning of season.
Seven of the Bulls wins were by 30+ points. Ten of Bulls' 21 losses were by 5 points or less.
- Pippen signed extension to contract (\$20.8M/8 years) that would later cause contention with management.
- Jordan was on 5 covers of *Sports Illustrated* – 3 in succession plus "Man of the Year."

Draft: 1st: no choice was made.

2nd: F **Tony Kukoc**. 6'11" European star from Croatia was playing for Benetton.

Kukoc's term with the Bulls began in 1993 and was later traded to Philadelphia during in 1999-2000 season.

Free agent **Scott Williams** (UNC) spent 4 years with club. Played in NBA through 2004-05 season.

Add/trade/lost: Dennis Hopson (from New Jersey); **Cliff Levingston** (from Atlanta) for 2 years.

Hopson was NJ Nets' 1st pick (3rd overall) in the 1987 draft.

Injuries: Dennis Hopson (foot)

Season:

11/2: **Lost to Philadelphia** 124-116 (Jordan 34; Levingston 6). 76ers' Charles Barkley: 37/10.

11/6: **Lost to Boston** 110-108 (Jordan 33/8/12). Pippen scored 23. Bulls were out-scored 31-18 in 4th Q.

Larry Bird: 24/11 for Boston.

11/13: **Beat Utah** 84-82 (Jordan 24/11; Grant 8/11). Karl Malone: 28/19 for the Jazz.

11/15: **Lost to Golden State** 103-93 (Jordan 14/8; Grant 18/18). Chris Mullen scored 30 for the Warriors.

11/24: **Beat Denver** 151-145 (Jordan 38/12 assists; Cartwright 15/8). Bulls led 76-75 at the half.

Former Bulls Orlando Woolridge: 29/10.

11/28: **Beat Washington** 118-94 (Jordan 24; Cartwright 8). Purvis Short scored 17 for the Wizards.

11/30: **Beat Indiana** 124-95 (Jordan 37; Grant 9). Pippen: 19 points and 15 assists.

12/4: **Beat Phoenix** 155-127 (Jordan 27; Grant 25/12). Bulls scored 86 points in 1 half and handed out 27 assists in 2nd half.

The 155 points and 67 baskets were **club records**. Pippen: 16 points & 11 assists. Suns' Kevin Johnson scored 25.

12/7: **Beat NY Knicks** 108-98 at home (Jordan 33/7/9 and 8 steals; Grant 14/13). NY Knicks' Patrick Ewing: 23/12.

12/8: **Lost to Portland** 109-101 (Jordan 35; Pippen 20/14). Clyde Drexler scored 19 for Portland.

12/14: **Beat LA Clippers** 128-88 (Jordan 20/8/8; Perdue 9). Pippen added 22 points.

12/15: **Beat Cleveland** 116-98 (Jordan 24/9). Hopson added 14. Bulls scored 26 straight points. Cleveland scored 5 points in 1Q.

12/18: **Beat Miami** 112-103 (Jordan 39/9). Pippen and Jordan each had 6 steals.

12/19: **Lost to Detroit** 105-84 (Jordan 33). Bulls' 12th loss in 13G at Auburn Hills.

12/29: **Beat Seattle** 116-91 (Jordan 31/10; Cartwright 15/13).

- 1/3: **Lost to Houston** 114-92 (Jordan 32; Grant 12/12). *Season's greatest margin of defeat (-22)*.
Rockets were led by Otis Thorpe: 23/11.
- 1/9: **Beat Philadelphia** 107-99 (Jordan 40/9 assists; Grant 10) Cartwright added 19 points.
Charles Barkley: 29/10 for Philadelphia.
- 1/12: **Beat Charlotte** 106-95 (Jordan 33; Grant 16/11). Pippen scored 18 points and handed out 12 assists.
- 1/14: **Beat Milwaukee** 110-97 (Jordan 34/10/9; Grant 13/12). Ricky Pierce scored 26 for Milwaukee.
- 1/18: **Lost to Atlanta** 114-105 (Jordan 30; Grant 16/10). Hawks' Dominique Wilkins scored 34 points.
- 1/23: **Lost to NJ Nets** 99-95 (Jordan 35; Grant 13/11). Pippen scored 18. Former Bulls G Reggie Theus scored 25 for the Nets.
- 1/25: **Beat Miami** 108-87 (Jordan 37; Levingston 10).
- 2/1: **Beat Dallas** 101-90 (Jordan 21; Pippen 20/14). Grant scored 19 points.
- 2/3: **Lost to LA Lakers** 99-86 (Jordan 23/9 assists; Perdue 11). Pippen added 24. Byron Scott led LA with 18 points.
- 2/7: **Beat Detroit** 95-93 (Jordan 30). Armstrong scored 12 crucial points off the bench.
Pistons were led by Bill Laimbeer (25 points) & Dennis Rodman (14 rebounds).
- 2/19: **Beat Washington** 118-113 (Jordan 40/12; Pippen 16/13). Bernard King scored 29 for Washington.
- 2/22: **Beat Sacramento** 129-82 (Jordan 34 & 6 steals; Pippen 13/13). *Season's greatest margin of victory (+47)*.
- 2/23: **Beat Charlotte** 129-108 (Pippen 43, Jordan 29; Grant 20/17). Pippen: 16-17 from field. Nets' Kendall Gill scored 20 points.
- 3/2: **Lost to Indiana** 135-114 (Jordan 22; Perdue 14/13). Reggie Miller scored 40 for the Pacers.
- 3/10: **Beat Atlanta** 122-87 (Jordan 25/9/9; Levingston 10). Armstrong & Pippen each scored 19.
Spud Webb scored 18 for the Hawks.
- 3/12: **Beat Minnesota** 131-99 (Jordan 20/10 assists; Grant 20/12). Armstrong added 19.
- 3/16: **Beat Cleveland** 102-95 (Jordan 37; Grant 17/9).
- 3/28: **Beat NJ Nets** 128-94 (Jordan 42; Pippen 14 & 14 assists; Grant 13/13 and King 10/9).
- 3/31: **Lost to Boston** 135-132 in 2 OT (Jordan 37, Paxson 28; Grant 15/18. Pippen added 35/10.
Celtics: Larry Bird 34/15, Reggie Lewis 25 points, and Dee Brown 21 points.
- 4/2: **Beat Orlando** 106-102 (Jordan 44; Grant 12/7). Scott Skiles led Orlando with 25/12.
- 4/4: **Beat NY Knicks** 101-91 (Jordan 34/8). Pippen: 20/10/12.
- 4/5: **Lost to San Antonio** 110-107 (Jordan 39/9 assists; Grant 16/10). Bulls were behind 83-66 after 3rd Q.
Spurs' David Robinson: 24/13.
- 4/9: **Beat NY Knicks** 108-106 (Jordan 28; Grant 10/14). Patrick Ewing 21/13 for Knicks.
- 4/12: **Lost to Detroit** 95-91 (Jordan 40/8; Pippen 13/11). Isiah Thomas scored 26 for Pistons.
- 4/15: **Beat Milwaukee** 103-94 (Jordan 46; Grant 19/11).
All-Star Game: East beat West 116-114. MVP: Charles Barkley (Philadelphia). Bulls' Michael Jordan scored 26 points.
Craig Hodges won the 3-Point Contest.

Player	Games	Scoring	Rebounds	Assists	
Michael Jordan	82	31.5	6.0	5.5	1 st in Scoring, 3 rd in Steals (2.7)
Scottie Pippen	82	17.8	7.3	6.2	5 th in Steals (2.4)
Horace Grant	78	12.8	8.4	2.3	
Bill Cartwright	79	9.6	6.2	1.6	
BJ Armstrong	82	8.8		3.7	
John Paxson	82	8.7	1.0	3.6	3 rd in 3-pt % (43.8%), 10 th in FG% (54.8%)
Stacey King	76	5.5	2.7	1.0	
Craig Hodges	73	5.0		1.3	
Dennis Hopson	61	4.3	1.8	1.1	
Will Perdue	74	4.1	4.5		
Cliff Levingston	78	4.0	2.9		
Scott Williams	51	2.5	1.9		

NBA Defensive Team: Jordan (1st Team), Pippen (2nd Team). **All NBA 1st Team** (Jordan).

Playoffs: Bulls went 15-2 in the playoffs; both losses were by 2 points.

NY Knicks employed intimidation – Patrick Ewing, Xavier McDaniel, Charles Oakley and John Starks tried to stir physical play toward Scottie Pippen and the Bulls.

- 4/25: **Won** 126-85 at home (Jordan 28, Pippen 25; Grant 13/8). *Largest margin of victory in Bulls' playoff history.*
- 4/28: **Won** 89-79 at home (Jordan 26; Pippen 13/8). Knicks: Patrick Ewing 24/10.
- 4/30: **Won** 103-94 away (Jordan 33; Pippen 22/11; Perdue 16/10).
Bull's Will Perdue & NY's Patrick Ewing almost came to blows, as did Jordan and Knicks' John Starks.

Philadelphia 76ers featured Charles Barkley, Hersey Hawkins, Johnny Dawkins, Armon Gilliam, and Ron Anderson.

- 5/4: **Won** 105-92 at home (Jordan 29; Grant 12/9). Bulls shot 54%. 76ers' Charles Barkley scored 34 points.
- 5/6: **Won** 112-100 at home (Jordan 29/8/9; Pippen 23/11/6). Hersey Hawkins scored 30 for 76ers.
- 5/10: **Lost** 99-97 away (Jordan 46; Pippen 12/13). Hawkins scored 29 for Philadelphia.
- 5/12: **Won** 101-85 away (Jordan 25/12 assists; Grant 22/11). Pippen added 20/9. Barkley: 25/14 for 76ers.
- 5/14: **Won** 100-95 at home (Jordan 38/19, Pippen 28). Charles Barkley scored 30 for Philadelphia.

Eastern Finals:

Detroit Pistons included familiar names/faces: Bill Laimbeer, Isiah Thomas, Dennis Rodman, Mark Aguirre, and Joe Dumars. Bulls sought revenge for 2 previous playoff exits. Many Pistons chose to walk off the court before the final game ended.

- 5/19: **Won** 94-83 at home (Jordan 22). Aguirre scored 25 for Detroit.
- 5/21: **Won** 105-97 at home (Jordan 35). Pippen added 21/10. Pistons were led by Vinnie Johnson (29) and Joe Dumars (24).
- 5/25: **Won** 113-107 away (Jordan 33/7/7) Pippen 26/10. Jordan blocked 5 shots.
- 5/27: **Won** 115-94 away (Jordan 29/8/8; Grant 9). Pistons' Rodman pushed Pippen (23/10 assists) hard into a chair – causing a gash requiring 7 stitches. Many Pistons (with exception of Joe Dumars, Vinnie Johnson and John Salley) walked off the court with several seconds remaining without exchanging handshakes or acknowledging the winners. Isiah Thomas scored 16 points for Detroit.

NBA Finals: Bulls faced a **LA Lakers** squad that included Magic Johnson, James Worthy, Byron Scott, Sam Perkins and Vlade Divac. Lakers' legend Kareem Abdul Jabbar retired the previous season. Bulls were 1-1 vs. LA during the season.

- 6/2: **Lost** 93-91 at home (Jordan 36/12 assists, Pippen 19; Grant 10 rebounds). Laker Sam Perkins hit crucial 3-point shot with 0:09 left. Jordan's final shot, a 17-footer, rimmed out. James Worthy & Sam Perkins each scored 22; Vlade Divac added 14.
- 6/5: **Won** 107-86 at home (Jordan 33/7/13 assists). Pippen and Grant each scored 20 points. Game included Jordan's oft-seen, highlight reel, mid-air acrobatic layup in 4th Q. Bulls starters hit 73% from floor (Paxson 8-8, Jordan 15-18, Grant 10-13, and Cartwright 6-9). Team shot 61.7% (50-81), including 17-20 from field in 3rd Q. Bulls out-scored LA 59-43 in 2nd half. James Worthy led LA with 24 points. Magic Johnson, guarded closely by Pippen, shot 4-13 from floor. Lakers went 21-22 from FT line.
- 6/7: **Won** 104-96 in OT away (Jordan 29/9/9; Pippen 19/13, Grant 22/11). Jordan's basket with 03.4 left sent game into OT. Sam Perkins led LA with 25; Vlade Divac scored 24.
- 6/9: **Won** 97-82 away (Jordan 28/13 assists; Pippen 19/13, Grant 22/11). Lakers shot 37%; their 82 points was the lowest point total for a Finals game since 1955. Bulls committed only 5 turnovers.
- 6/12: **Won** 108-101 at home (Pippen 32/13, Jordan 30/10 assists, Paxson 20 points). Jordan was openly emotional after the game – weeping while clutching the championship trophy. Bulls out-scored LA 28-21 in 4th Q. Lakers were led by Sam Perkins (22 points) and Elden Campbell (21 points); Magic Johnson: 16/11 & 20 assists.

- Lakers shot 81% from FT line – 2nd highest for the Finals. Magic Johnson handed out NBA-record 62 assists in 5G series
- Jordan: Finals MVP (1st of 6). Jordan scored record 156 points in 5G series; his 14 steals is most for 5G series.
- Club shot NBA record 52.7% for 5G series.

Playoff	Games	Scoring	Rebounds	Assists	
Michael Jordan	17	31.1	6.4	8.4	
Scottie Pippen	17	21.6	8.9	5.8	Averaged 2.5 steals/game
Horace Grant	17	13.3	8.1	2.2	
Bill Cartwright	17	9.5	4.7	1.9	
John Paxson	17	8.2	1.4	3.1	
BJ Armstrong	17	5.5	1.6	2.5	
Craig Hodges	17	4.3			(11 3-point shots)
Perdue	4.1	Levingston 2.6	King 2.1	Williams 1.9	Hopson 1.6
Bulls outscored opponents 103.9-92.2. Club shot 51.4% from field; opponents 45%					

League:

- **Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton**, former Harlem Globetrotter and one of the NBA's 1st black players, passed away at 67.
- NBC and TNT paid \$875M to broadcast games through 1993-94.

Changing Places: Alex English (Dallas), Sam Perkins (LA Lakers), Ricky Pierce (Seattle), Dale Ellis (Milwaukee), Xavier McDaniel (Phoenix), Eddie Johnson (Seattle), Danny Ainge (Portland), and Antoine Carr (San Antonio)

Noteworthy games:

11/2: **Phoenix** beat Utah 119-86 in Tokyo, Japan. **First regular season game played outside North America.**
Utah beat Phoenix 102-101 the following day.

Golden State beat Denver 162-158 – NBA record for points scored in regulation (320).

11/19: **Milwaukee** beat Utah 114-104. Bucks' **Alvin Robertson** totaled 10 steals.

12/1: **LA Clippers** beat Denver 137-121. Clippers' **Charles Smith** scored 52 points.
NY Knicks beat Charlotte 116-93. Knicks' **Patrick Ewing** scored 50 points.

12/20: **Houston** beat Orlando 128-126. Rockets' **Hakeem Olajuwon** blocked 11 shots.

12/30: **Orlando** beat Denver 155-116. Magic G **Scott Skiles** handed out **NBA record** 30 assists.

1/10: **San Antonio** bet Orlando 117-111. Spurs' **David Robinson** recorded a quadruple-double.
Robinson scored 43 points, grabbed 12 rebounds, handed out 10 assists & blocked 10 shots.

1/15: **Utah** beat San Antonio 124-102. Jazz's **John Stockton** handed out 28 assists.

1/18: **Seattle** lost to LA Lakers 105-96. Sonics' **Shawn Kemp** blocked 10 shots.

1/26: **Houston** beat Cleveland 103-97. Rockets' **Vernon Maxwell** (51 points) was 4th NBA player to score 30 points in 1Q, joining Wilt Chamberlain, David Thompson, and George Gervin.

2/14: **Philadelphia** lost to Sacramento 98-81. 76ers' **Manute Bol** blocked 10 shots.

4/11: **Golden State** beat Houston 111-99. Warriors went 33-33 at free-throw line.

4/15: **LA Lakers** beat Dallas 112-100. Lakers' **Magic Johnson's** 9,888th career assist broke Oscar Robertson's NBA record.
Johnson also committed 11 turnovers during the game.

Streaks: **Portland** started out 19-1 – including winning 16 in a row; **LA Lakers** (+16), **Houston** (+13), **Detroit** (+11 & +10).
Sacramento began 1-12; **Charlotte** lost 11 straight and went 1-11 in December; **Miami** lost 10 in a row.
Covering parts of 2 seasons, Sacramento established most consecutive road losses at 43 (11/21/90 - 11/22/91).

- **Denver** allowed NBA record 130.8 ppg.
- **Utah** G Stockton handed out NBA record 1,164 assists. His 14.2 assists per game were 2nd highest.

NBA Top 3:	Scoring			Rebounding		
	Michael Jordan	Chicago	31.5	David Robinson	San Antonio	13.0
	Karl Malone	Utah	29.0	Dennis Rodman	Detroit	12.5
	Bernard King	Washington	28.4	Charles Oakley	NY Knicks	12.1

NBA Top 2:	Assists			FT%		
	John Stockton	Utah	14.2	Reggie Miller	Indiana	91.8%
	Magic Johnson	LA Lakers	12.5	Jeff Malone	Utah	91.7

Blocked Shots			Steals			3-pt %		
Hakeem Olajuwon	Houston	3.9	Alvin Robertson	Milwaukee	3.0	Jim Les	Sacramento	46.1%
David Robinson	San Antonio	3.9	John Stockton	Utah	2.9	Steve Kerr	Cleveland	45.2

Last Year: Alex English and Adrian Dantley

Rookie Class: Gary Payton, Dennis Scott, Antonio Davis, Kendall Gill, Jayson Williams, Terry Mills, Mario Ellie, Loy Vaught, Cedric Ceballos, Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf, Lionel Simmons, and Tony Massenburg
Massenburg played through 2005 season with 12 different teams.

#1 NBA draft: Derrick Coleman (Syracuse) by New Jersey

Rookie/Year: Derrick Coleman, New Jersey

6th Man: Detlef Schrempf, Indiana

Improved: Scott Skiles, Orlando

Defensive: Dennis Rodman, Detroit

Executive/Yr: Bucky Buckwalter, Portland

Coach/Year: Don Chaney, Houston

All NBA Team: Charles Barkley, Karl Malone, David Robinson, Magic Johnson, and Michael Jordan

MVP: **Michael Jordan**, Chicago

Hall of Fame: Inductees included Nate Archibald, Dave Cowens, Harry Gallatin, college coach Bobby Knight, and former NBA Commissioner Larry O'Brien

NBA finals: **Chicago** beat LA Lakers in 5 games.