

# Dwayne ‘The Rock’ Johnson

Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson started out as a football player—winning a national championship on the 1991 University of Miami Hurricanes team before playing briefly for the Calgary Stampeders in the Canadian Football League (CFL). However, after being cut by the Stampeders two months into the 1995 season, Dwayne Johnson turned his attention to professional wrestling, where he became a fan favorite as “The Rock” and won 10 world championships. But as successful as he wrestling career was, Dwayne Johnson has found his biggest career success post-retirement as an A-list actor of action movies. This summer alone, Dwayne Johnson has starred in box office hits *Furious 7* and *San Andreas*. Other recent credits include starring roles in *G.I. Joe: Retaliation*, *Hercules* and the television show *Ballers*. With no signs that his movie career is slowing down, we can expect to see a lot more of Dwayne Johnson on the big and small screen in coming years.



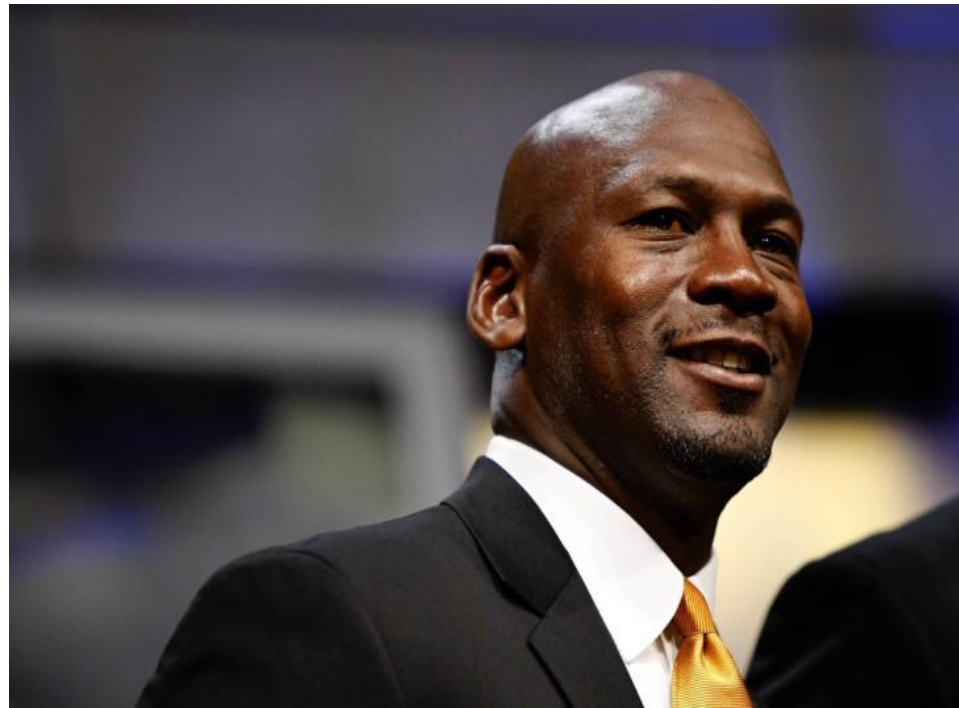
# Vinnie Jones

Vinnie Jones is a legendary soccer player in his native England, and best known in North America as an actor. From 1984 to 1999, Vinnie Jones terrified opponents as a member of several prominent British Premier League soccer teams, including Chelsea, Sheffield and Leeds United. He won a championship in 1988 as a member of the team Wimbledon, and captained the Welsh national soccer team on several occasions. Along the way he also regularly head-butted opponents and kicked them in the testicles. Known as a “hard man,” Vinnie Jones is still remembered as one of the most fearsome players in English soccer history. And he has successfully parlayed that image into an acting career since retiring from professional sports. Vinnie Jones has starred in a wide range of films including *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*, *X-Men: The Last Stand* (as Juggernaut) and *Swordfish*. And his film career shows no signs of slowing down any time soon.



# Michael Jordan

He has defined his sport as few athletes have and continues to be synonymous with the word “basketball.” Michael Jordan did it all on the basketball court and can count six NBA championships and five NBA Most Valuable Player trophies to his name. But since retiring in 2003, Michael Jordan has continued to find success in retirement and is now a billionaire, according to *Forbes* magazine. Most of Michael Jordan’s success has continued to come from corporate endorsements from companies such as Nike and Gatorade. He has also been a spokesman in retirement for blue chip companies such as McDonald’s and Coca-Cola. In fact, it is estimated that Michael Jordan still earns more than \$40 million a year in corporate endorsements. However, Michael Jordan also owns nearly 90% of the NBA’s Charlotte Hornets and has many real estate ventures. No wonder everyone wants to “Be like Mike.”



# Hakeem Olajuwon

Nicknamed “The Dream” during his professional basketball career for his conduct on and off the court, Hakeem Olajuwon had a very successful career in professional sports—winning back-to-back NBA Championships with the Houston Rockets in 1994 and 1995. He was also named the NBA’s Most Valuable Player in 1994. However, since retiring from basketball in 2003, Hakeem Olajuwon has amassed a fortune in real estate deals. By most estimates he has earned more than \$100 million from buying and selling high-end properties in the Houston, Texas, area. Remarkably, all of Hakeem Olajuwon’s real estate deals are carried out in cash, as it is against his Muslim faith to charge interest to anyone. Today he divides his time between Houston and Jordan, where he moved with his family to pursue Islamic studies and continue carrying out lucrative cash-only real estate deals.



# Mario Lemieux

Known to fans as “Super Mario,” Lemieux is widely regarded as one of the top five hockey players to ever lace-up a pair of skates. He also has the distinction of being the only person to win the Stanley Cup trophy as both a hockey player and a professional hockey team owner. Mario Lemieux won back-to-back Stanley Cups with the Pittsburgh Penguins in 1991 and 1992. He then won a third Stanley Cup with the Pittsburgh Penguins in 2009 as owner of the team. In fact, since retiring as a hockey player in 2006, Mario Lemieux has built a career as perhaps the most successful athlete turned owner in sports history. He is credited with saving the Pittsburgh Penguins from bankruptcy in 1999, and has worked to keep the NHL team in Pittsburgh despite several attempts to move the franchise to another city. Mario Lemieux also overcame cancer in the form of Hodgkins Lymphoma and has established a foundation in his name that funds promising new medical research projects. Not too shabby.





# George Foreman

During his early years as a heavyweight boxer, George Foreman was known as an inarticulate and fearsome hitter who regularly demolished his opponents. A two-time world heavyweight champion and Olympic gold medalist in 1968, George Foreman did it all in the ring, including legendary bouts against Mohammed Ali. But since retiring, George Foreman has reinvented himself as a hugely successful pitchman and the force behind the “George Foreman Grill.” Known as the “lean, mean, fat-reducing grilling machine,” the George Foreman Grill has sold like hot cakes around the world, and George Foreman himself gets 40% of the profits—making him much more money than he ever earned in the ring. George Foreman is also a spokesman for several other ventures including car companies.

