



Jerome “Junk Yard Dog” Williams

Jerome was selected 26th overall by the Detroit Pistons in the 1996 NBA Draft. Williams appeared in over 500 games during his nine seasons and averaged 6.6 points and 6.4 rebounds per game. After the Pistons, Jerome played with the Toronto Raptors where he was also a huge fan favorite, the Chicago Bulls and the New York Knicks.

Nicknamed “Junk Yard Dog,” he was a tenacious player on the court and was hailed often for his leadership and commitment to community service. During his career, Jerome thrived in various roles such as starter, rebounder, cheerleader, community advocate and NBA Players Union representative. In 2000, Jerome was selected by other NBA players to serve in an executive role as their Union Vice President. During the NBA off-season, Jerome strategically positioned himself to have an influential role within the NBA. Jerome made strategic and calculated decisions that would allow him the opportunity to have an inside look at the many components that make up the NBA's organization such as being one of the only active players to intern at the NBA offices.



Jerome cultivated a starring role as Ambassador for NBA Cares, an NBA TV correspondent, NBA Fit spokesman and the NBA Goodwill Ambassador to South Africa, Israel, South America, Shanghai, Philippines, Beijing and Bahrain. Jerome's community efforts gained him national media exposure, numerous community service awards and two special invitations to dine at the White House during the George W. Bush administration. He also joined the NBA's "Basketball Without Borders" Program, an effort to teach the game and bring resources to underdeveloped nations in Africa, Asia and elsewhere. For Jerome's efforts to prepare high school seniors and college students with life skills for independent living; the Fannie Mae Foundation honored him by presenting him with their National "Home Team" Award. He also rang the stock bell at both the New York and Toronto Stock Exchanges.



Now retired, Jerome remains busier than ever running the JYD P.R.O.J.E.C.T.- its mission is to "unify people of all nationalities in a collective effort to save our kids."

Through the power of God, Jerome Williams has been blessed without measure. His first job was in the church, serving God as an altar server. As he grew, he relied on the power of prayer to overcome life obstacles, while building a strong work ethic doing all sorts of jobs. Jerome is known for being very bold in his faith in Jesus Christ and inspires youth to also stand strong for the Lord.

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