



## **Kent Benson**

Kent is a legend in Indiana as well as throughout the NBA. He starred at Indiana University where he played his college basketball for coach Bobby Knight. In 1976, he led the Hoosiers to an undefeated season with a perfect 32-0 record and won the National Championship. Kent was named the NCAA Most Outstanding Player that season.

Other college honours bestowed upon Benson include being named a two-time All-American in 1976 & 1977. He was also the 1976 National Fellowship of Christian Athletes College Athlete of the Year and was named to the 1976 Olympic Basketball team.

In his college career, Kent put his 6'10" and 235lb. frame to good use as he scored 1,740 points which was #2 all-time at powerhouse Indiana University at the time he graduated. He was also second all-time in career rebounds with 1,031.

His outstanding college career led the Milwaukee Bucks to draft Kent #1 overall in the 1977 NBA draft. His aggressive and physical style of play led to an altercation with the Lakers' Kareem Abdul-Jabbar only two minutes into Benson's first ever NBA game, resulting in Abdul-Jabbar breaking hand. Midway through his 3<sup>rd</sup> season, the Bucks traded Kent to the Detroit Pistons. It was in the Motor City that he played the best pro ball of his career and was able to lead many of the players who in a few short years who were vital components of their back-to-back championship team.

After leaving the Pistons, Kent played one season with the Utah Jazz and one with the Cleveland Cavaliers before finishing up his playing career with a season in Italy. His name appears as one of the greatest college players of all-time on countless lists published by numerous organizations.

In his post-playing days, Benson went on to be successful in business with several companies in the consulting and strategy sector.

Kent's faith is the most important part of his life. He grew up Catholic and served as an altar boy. Then in his sophomore year of high school, he attended a Fellowship of Christian Athletes conference in order to be around his basketball heroes. On the last evening of the conference, he gave his life to Christ.

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