



## Otis Birdsong

Leader, mentor – words that describe Otis Birdsong. This prolific speaker's basketball career was one of the most notable, undisputable careers of all times. Even a cursory review of Birdsong's credentials is evidence that he has deep experience in, and an understanding of, how to coach and play the game. Additionally, he has experience in the administration of a bonafide professional basketball program and team management, as well as in-depth knowledge playing the game in business.

In the NBA, Birdsong was the second player chosen in the 1977 draft when he was taken by the Kansas City (Sacramento) Kings. He scored over 12,000 career points in 12 seasons with the Kings, New Jersey Nets and Boston Celtics. He was selected to the NBA All-Star Team 4 times and averaged over 18 points per game for his career.

His command of the fundamentals and sophisticated nuances of the game make him effective at mentoring and developing seasoned professionals, and novices alike. His superior discipline and focus puts him in an exclusive and distinguished group of professional players – those who get it!

A skilled communicator, this 4-time All Star received numerous awards for excellence in communications with the media. Equally as impressive, after retiring from the game, he served as president and general manager of the Little Rock Rim Rockers, which won the 2005 ABA championship. Birdsong also served as chairman of the board of directors of the National Basketball Retired Players Association which now boasts a high of nearly 700 former players, working both inside (programs for ex-players) and outside (serving their communities).

Finally, under Birdsong's leadership, he and fellow player, President/CEO NBA Retired Players Association, Arnie Fielkow stood in Washington, DC alongside NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, NBPA President Chris Paul of the Los Angeles Clippers and President Obama to confirm a five-year commitment to the My Brothers' Keeper mentoring program. This work is evidence of his strong, proactive leadership capabilities as well as his abilities to execute strategically for the greater good.

Birdsong's accomplishment have since afforded him induction into the University of Houston Hall of Honor, the Florida High School Hall of Fame, the Florida Sports Hall of Fame, the Southwest Conference Hall of Fame, and the Polk County Schools Hall of Fame.

