

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Sidney Green

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Green, Sidney, 1961-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Sidney Green,
<b>Dates:</b>	April 18, 2012
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2012
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:28:00).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Basketball player and college basketball coach Sidney Green (1961 - ) played in the NBA for ten years. After retirement, he head-coached several college teams before being appointed ambassador for the Chicago Bulls. Green was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 18, 2012, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2012_115
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Basketball player and college basketball coach Sidney Green was born on January 4, 1961 in Brooklyn, New York. He starred on his high school basketball team at Thomas Jefferson High School. In 1979, Green, a graduating senior, was a McDonald's All-American selection and named the New York City Player of the Year. He chose to attend the University of Nevada at Las Vegas with a four-year athletic scholarship where he played under head coach Jerry Tarkanian. In 1983, Green was an NCAA All-American selection and he graduated that year with his B.A. degree in sociology. Green was the all-time leading rebounder and second

all-time scorer in the history of the UNLV men's basketball team.

Green was the fifth pick in the 1983 NBA Draft, where he was chosen by the Chicago Bulls to play power forward and played alongside basketball super star Michael Jordan. Green had a successful career in the NBA and went on to play for the Detroit Pistons, the New York Knicks, the Orlando Magic, the San Antonio Spurs, and the Charlotte Hornets before retiring from the league in 1993. In 1995, Green returned to basketball as head coach of the men's basketball team at Southampton College in Long Island, New York. Despite inheriting a team that had won just six games the year before, Green led his team to twenty-nine wins and twenty-seven losses during his two years as head coach. In 1997, Green went on to coach at the University of North Florida, where he increased the team's winning percentage by more than thirty percent. Florida Atlantic University hired Green as its head coach in 1999. He took his team to the first Atlantic Sun Conference championship in 2002, where he was named the A-Sun Coach of the Year. Green was hired as an assistant coach at the University of Indiana in 2005 and in 2009, the Chicago Bulls named him the team ambassador.

While in college, Green co-founded Shoot for the Stars Foundation in Las Vegas, Nevada. During his time with the Knicks in New York, Green participated in Governor Mario and Matilda Cuomo's Mentor Program as a spokesperson in public schools. He also founded Sid's Kids in Orlando, Florida while he played with the Orlando Magic. In 1989, Green received the NBA National Spirit of Love Award, given to the NBA player who has contributed significant time and energy to the community. Green's jersey was retired by the UNLV basketball team, and he was inducted into the UNLV Hall of Fame in 1994.

Green and his wife, Deidra, have two children, LaShawn and Taurean. Taurean has also played in the NBA.

Sidney Green was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 18, 2012.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Sidney Green was conducted by Larry Crowe on April 18, 2012, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Basketball player and college basketball coach Sidney Green (1961 - ) played in the NBA for ten years. After retirement, he head-coached several college teams before being appointed ambassador for the Chicago Bulls.

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# Restrictions

## Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

## Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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## Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Green, Sidney, 1961-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

## **Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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National Basketball Association

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## **Occupations:**

Basketball Player

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College Basketball Coach

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

SportsMakers

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## **Administrative Information**

### **Custodial History**

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

### **Preferred Citation**

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Sidney Green, April 18, 2012. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

## Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Sidney Green, Section  
A2012\_115\_001\_001, TRT: 1:30:42 2012/04/18

Sidney Green was born on January 4, 1961 in Brooklyn, New York to Lucretia Simmons Green and James Green. His maternal grandfather worked in the cotton fields of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, where Green's mother was born in 1920. Following her mother's death in 1932, Green's mother joined her sister in New York City, and became a domestic maid. Green's father was born in 1922 to plantation workers in Columbia, South Carolina. During the 1930s, his family migrated to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and then settled in New York City's Harlem neighborhood during the Harlem Renaissance. After serving in the U.S. Navy, Green's father worked as a store clerk in Harlem. There, Green's parents married and raised ten children as well as his mother's daughter from a previous marriage, Essie Mae Walton. Shortly after Green's birth, his family moved to Brooklyn, New York, where he grew up in a racially mixed community of African Americans and Puerto Ricans.

Video Oral History Interview with Sidney Green, Section  
A2012\_115\_001\_002, TRT: 2:30:07 2012/04/18

Sidney Green and his nine siblings were raised in the East New York section of Brooklyn, New York. They avoided the nearby Highland Park, where they were antagonized by the Italian and Irish residents; and emerging gangs like the Tomahawks, Mad Caps and Ghetto Brothers, which became prevalent in the 1970s. As a young child, Green admired local basketball stars Rodney Parker, James "Fly" Williams and Jim McMillian, who went on to play for the Los Angeles Lakers. Green was also a fan of the New York Knicks basketball team, although he initially preferred to play baseball. Green began his education at P.S. 158, Warwick School in Brooklyn, where his favorite teacher, Margaret Fuller, took him to the zoo and museums on the weekends. He began playing basketball at I.S. 302, Rafael Cordero School, and continued to play baseball in his neighborhood. Green also remembers the murder of his older brother, Joseph Green, in 1978.

Video Oral History Interview with Sidney Green, Section  
A2012\_115\_001\_003, TRT: 3:31:43 2012/04/18

Sidney Green attended I.S. 302 Rafael Cordero School in Brooklyn, New York, until an altercation with a substitute teacher forced him to transfer to Brooklyn's P.S. 64 at thirteen years old. His counselor, John McBride, then convinced him to join the local basketball league, where he was coached by Gil Reynolds, who also mentored James "Fly" Williams and NBA players Bernard King and Albert King. At Thomas Jefferson High School, Green became an All-American basketball player under the tutelage of Coach Jerry Wichern and Coach Sam Hanger. He also played with Nate "Tiny" Archibald in the Rucker League, a popular summer basketball tournament in New York City. In 1979, he played in the McDonald's All-American Game in Washington, D.C. alongside future NBA stars Ralph Sampson, Clark Kellogg and Isiah Thomas. Upon graduating in 1979, Green was recruited by Coach Jerry Tarkanian to attend the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he balanced his studies with a rigorous basketball schedule.

Video Oral History Interview with Sidney Green, Section  
A2012\_115\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:48 2012/04/18

Sidney Green played on the basketball team at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas under Coach Jerry Tarkanian. During his first year, he was named an All-American player, and the team competed in the National Invitation Tournament. In his senior year, they won twenty-four consecutive games, and were ranked number one in the nation. They went on to play in the NCAA tournament, where they lost to North Carolina State University. The team's fan base included entertainers like Sammy Davis, Jr., Lola Falana and Frank Sinatra, who frequently attended the games. Upon graduating in 1983, Green was selected by the Chicago Bulls as the fifth pick in the first round of the NBA draft. Prior to the start of training, he injured his back while lifting weights, which hampered his first season. Green played under coaches Kevin Loughery and Stan Albeck, and his teammates included David Greenwood, Orlando Woolridge and Michael Jordan, who joined the team during his second year. In 1985, Green was traded to the Detroit Pistons.

Video Oral History Interview with Sidney Green, Section  
A2012\_115\_001\_005, TRT: 5:28:39 2012/04/18

Sidney Green played on the Chicago Bulls basketball team for three years. During this time, he married his wife, Deidra Jackson Green. In 1986, Green was traded to the Detroit Pistons, where his teammates included Dennis Rodman, John Salley and Isiah Thomas. Under the guidance of Coach Chuck Daly, the team progressed to the Eastern Conference Finals. In 1987, Green became a free agent, and accepted a position with the New York Knicks, where he was coached by Rick Pitino. With teammates Patrick Ewing, Trent Tucker and Mark Jackson, Green faced challenging opponents like Kareem-Abdul Jabbar of the Los Angeles Lakers and Kevin McHale of the Boston Celtics. He played for the Knicks for two years, and then joined the Orlando Magic for one year, where he played alongside Reggie Theus, Sam Vincent and Jerry Reynolds. Green then transitioned to the San Antonio Spurs. Around this time, he underwent surgery to remove bone spurs from his ankles, which negatively impacted his playing ability for the rest of his career.

Video Oral History Interview with Sidney Green, Section

Sidney Green joined the San Antonio Spurs in 1990, where he played under legendary coaches Larry Brown and Jerry Tarkanian, who was his former coach at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). In 1992, Green joined the Charlotte Hornets, where he mentored rookie player Alonzo Mourning. The following year, he decided to retire due to a previous injury. Green returned to Las Vegas, Nevada, where he became a franchisee of Ethel M Chocolates and established the Shoot for the Stars Foundation. In honor of his legacy at UNLV, the college decided to retire his jersey in 1994. In 1995, Green began his college basketball coaching career at Southampton College in New York. There, he improved the team's record, and encouraged his players to also focus on their studies. He went on to serve as the head coach at the University of North Florida, and then at Florida Atlantic University. During his third year there, his team won the conference championship in the 2001 to 2002 NCAA tournament.

Video Oral History Interview with Sidney Green, Section  
A2012\_115\_001\_007, TRT: 7:29:15 2012/04/18

Sidney Green was the head basketball coach at Florida Atlantic University in 2002, when the team competed in the NCAA championship. Although they lost in the first round, Green was proud of the players, who included Earnest Crumbley, Jr., Jeff Cowans and Robert Williams. In 2004, Green left his head coaching position to become the assistant coach to Mike Davis at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. He then took a sabbatical leave to support his son, Taurean Green, who played for the University of Florida alongside future NBA player Joakim Noah. In 2006, his son's team won the NCAA championship. In 2009, Green became the team ambassador for the Chicago Bulls, where his duties included community relations work and motivational speaking. Green shares his plans for the future and his hopes for the African American community. He also reflects upon his life, legacy and how he would like to be remembered, and concludes the interview by narrating his photographs.



