

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Oscar Robertson

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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>	Robertson, Oscar, 1938-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Oscar Robertson,
<b>Dates:</b>	September 3, 2016
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2016
<b>Physical Description:</b>	10 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:50:53).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Basketball player Oscar Robertson (1938- ) began his career with the Cincinnati Royals, and won an NBA title with the Milwaukee Bucks in 1971. As president of the NBA Players Association, he negotiated the start of free agency in the NBA. Robertson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 3, 2016, in Cincinnati, Ohio. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2016_017
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Basketball player Oscar Robertson was born on November 24, 1938 in Charlotte, Tennessee to Mazell Bell Robertson and Bailey Robertson, Sr. During World War II, Robertson and his family moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, where he played on the basketball team at Crispus Attucks High School. The team became the first all-black high school team to win a state championship in the United States in 1955; and in 1956, they secured their second title with an undefeated season. Robertson went on to attend the University of Cincinnati, where he played varsity basketball from 1957 to 1960. There, he led the nation in points per game for all three seasons, and became the all-time leading NCAA scorer by the end of his college career – twice leading the team to the NCAA Final Four. Robertson graduated from the University of Cincinnati with his B.S. degree in business in 1960.

Robertson won a gold medal as co-captain of the U.S. men's basketball team at the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome. That same year, he was recruited to the NBA as the first overall draft pick. Playing for the Cincinnati Royals, he won the NBA Rookie of the Year award after scoring 30.5 points per game and leading the league in assists. In his second NBA season, Robertson became the first player to average a triple-double, also breaking the single-season record for assists. He was selected for the All-NBA First Team in each of his first nine seasons with the Royals. In 1970, Robertson was traded to the Milwaukee Bucks, where he played alongside Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. He won his only NBA title in 1971, and retired from basketball in 1974. Additionally, Robertson served as the president of the NBA Players Association from 1965 to 1974, making him the first African American man to head a nationwide labor union in professional sports. He represented the organization in the class-action case *Robertson v. National Basketball Association* in 1976. The subsequent settlement included the Oscar Robertson Rule, which started free agency in the NBA.

After retiring, Robertson started several businesses, including OR Solutions and Orchem, Inc. He was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1980. Robertson co-founded the National Basketball Retired Players Association in 1992, and was heavily involved in the Boys Club of New York and the National Kidney

Foundation. He also started the Oscar & Yvonne Robertson Scholarship Fund to support minority students at the University of Cincinnati.

Robertson and his wife, Yvonne Crittenden, have three daughters: Shana, Tia, and Mari.

Oscar Robertson was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on September 3, 2016.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Oscar Robertson was conducted by Larry Crowe on September 3, 2016, in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was recorded on 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Basketball player Oscar Robertson (1938- ) began his career with the Cincinnati Royals, and won an NBA title with the Milwaukee Bucks in 1971. As president of the NBA Players Association, he negotiated the start of free agency in the NBA.

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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:

Robertson, Oscar, 1938-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Robertson, Oscar, 1938---Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Basketball Player

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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 Oscar Robertson, September 3, 2016. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 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 Oscar Robertson, Section A2016\_017\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:44 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Oscar Robertson, Section A2016\_017\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:01 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Oscar Robertson, Section A2016\_017\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:53 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Oscar Robertson, Section A2016\_017\_001\_004, TRT: 4:30:11 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Oscar Robertson, Section A2016\_017\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:28 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Oscar Robertson, Section A2016\_017\_001\_006, TRT: 6:29:52 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Oscar Robertson, Section A2016\_017\_001\_007, TRT: 7:28:48 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Oscar Robertson, Section A2016\_017\_001\_008, TRT: 8:33:29 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Oscar Robertson, Section A2016\_017\_001\_009, TRT: 9:29:46 ?  
Video Oral History Interview with Oscar Robertson, Section A2016\_017\_001\_010, TRT: 10:20:41 ?