



JOHNNY  
**RED**

TRIBUTE

02.10.09

# "RED" KERR

# RED

# BIO & FACTS

## Johnny "Red" Kerr, Television Host

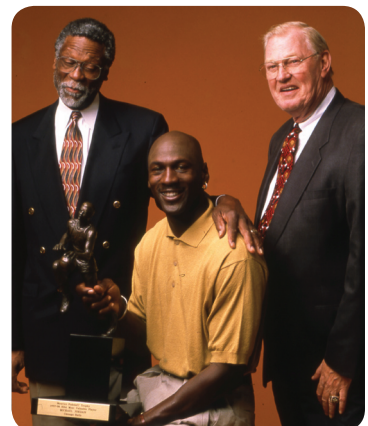
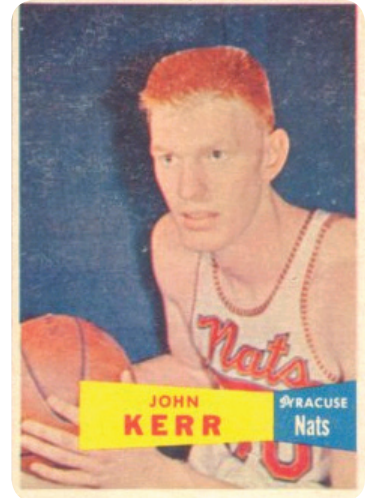


Johnny "Red" Kerr enters his 35th season with the Bulls ... he has been part of both Bulls' television and radio broadcast teams ... Johnny's name is synonymous with professional basketball in Chicago ... "Big Red" was the first coach of the Chicago

Bulls in 1966 and earned NBA Coach of the Year honors for the 1966-67 season, when he directed the first year expansion Bulls to a playoff appearance ... a native Chicagoan, Johnny starred as a prep at Tilden Tech, collegiately at the University of Illinois and in the pro ranks with Syracuse, Philadelphia and Baltimore ... his NBA record for most consecutive games played (844) was broken during the 1982-83 season by Randy Smith ... he is one of the select NBA players who totaled more than 10,000 points and 10,000 rebounds during his career ... he coached the Phoenix Suns and also held several administrative positions in both the NBA and ABA ... he is an insurance investment consultant and holds the title of President of Kerr Financial Services ... his book "Bull Session" was released in October 1989 ... John resides in Riverside, Ill., and has five children, Ed, Matt, Jim, Bill and Essie, and 10 grandchildren.

## Johnny "Red" Kerr, Notable Facts

- He has worked for the Bulls in various capacities for 35 of the franchise's 43 seasons, most notably as a team broadcaster for more than 30 years
- He was the Bulls first head coach and was the NBA Coach of the Year in 1967
- As an expansion franchise in 1966-67, Kerr guided the Bulls to the playoffs (he is the only head coach in NBA history to coach an expansion team into the playoffs during its inaugural season)
- He also served as the Bulls' business manager for two seasons (1973-74, 1974-75)
- He played 12 seasons in the NBA for Syracuse, Philadelphia and Baltimore (in his 12 seasons, his teams never missed the playoffs)
- He won an NBA Championship with the Syracuse Nationals his rookie season in 1954-55
- From 1954 to 1965, he appeared in a then-NBA record 844 consecutive games
- He was a three-time NBA All-Star (1956, 1959 and 1963)
- He scored more than 10,000 points and grabbed more than 10,000 rebounds during his career
- Averaged 13.8 ppg, 11.2 rpg and 2.2 apg in 30.7 mpg in 905 NBA games



## "RED" KERR

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## QUOTATIONS

### On being honored by the Bulls...

"I am humbled by the honor being bestowed upon me for doing something that is my passion."

"I am looking forward to what will be one of the most exciting nights in my life."

"When I look at all the people who have been honored in the United Center, I am humbled to know that I am amongst them."

"I am just as proud to be part of this wonderful Bulls family now as I was when we played in the International Amphitheater, surrounded by the greatest fans in the world."

"I walk down the street with pride knowing I was part of the most successful franchises in sports history".

### On his career as a player ...

"Before I played basketball, the farthest I ever traveled from Chicago was Lake Geneva, Wis. Basketball showed me the world and world leaders. It brought me to the Eiffel Tower, The Coliseum in Rome, Vienna, The Alps, Bull fights in Barcelona, the Pyramids, and Vatican City where I had an audience with the Pope. I have been blessed to have met President Kennedy and Senator Bobby Kennedy along with many of our past Presidents."

"It is hard to believe all the success in my life came from putting a round ball through a metal ring. It led me to the University of Illinois where I met my wife of 46 years, Betsy."

"When I played for Syracuse, the typical mode of transportation was the train. It

took us eight hours to go from Syracuse to New York City to play the Knicks and we never left the state. Today it takes four hours to fly to LA."

"After winning the NBA Championship my rookie season with the Syracuse Nationals, I had to start work at my off-season job driving a truck for Penrod Merchants Transport in Chicago."

"Things have change immensely since I was drafted by the Syracuse Nationals. The year I entered the league, the 24 second shot clock was introduced. I was blessed to play with the first African-American in the league, my good friend, Earl Lloyd. I have seen payrolls skyrocket. I came in with a contract of \$5,500 (that included a \$500 signing bonus) as a first round (sixth pick overall) draft choice. The players per diem was \$5.00 per day, enough for a soda and a bowl of chili."

### On his career as a coach ...

"One of the biggest thrills of my life in 1966 was to be able to come home to the city I love and be part of something truly special - Coach of the Chicago Bulls"

"To be able to play high school basketball at Tilden, college ball at the University of Illinois, twelve years as a professional in the NBA, and then be selected as the first coach for a brand-new franchise in my hometown, the Chicago Bulls."

"When I got the Chicago Bulls head coaching job there was no doubt in my mind who I wanted as my assistant, Al Bianchi. We both thought, and felt, the same way about basketball. The end result was a playoff spot the first year."

"After becoming the first NBA expansion team to make the playoffs, my assistant, Al Bianchi was rewarded with the job of

head coach with the Seattle SuperSonics. My reward? I got to coach the following season without an assistant coach."

"I am the only person to coach two NBA expansion teams and win both season openers"

"Here is a trivia question - Name the only non-playing NBA head coach ever traded. It was me - When I went to Phoenix as head coach, the Bulls got a player and cash for me."

"I guess I did have a nose for talent, after successfully signing future hall of famers Julius Erving (Dr. J) and George Gervin (The Ice Man) to their first professional contracts."

### On his career in basketball ...

"I have been in basketball a long time. I still remember Dr. Naismith saying - *Hey Red, hand me a nail* - when he was putting up the peach basket."

"I made more money talking about basketball than I ever did playing it."

"I have been very fortunate to have been part of the Chicago Bulls family. I have seen them win six world championships. I have always felt that I had the best job in the world. I got to see Michael Jordan play at least 82 times a season and I got paid to talk about it."

"Somebody once asked me what I missed most when Michael Jordan retired. I told them the instant replays."

"We have had good teams, we have had bad teams. Sometimes I did not like the way they played, but I always loved them. There was never a game that I played in or coached where I didn't feel we could win."