

**Jerry Chambers, 1966 Final Four
Most Outstanding Player**

**Directed by
Reggie Turner**

LESSON PLAN

study guides

This study guide was created by the Global Sport Institute at Arizona State University. <https://globalsport.asu.edu>

Jerry Chambers, 1966 Final Four Most Outstanding Player – Lesson Plan
<https://globalsportmatters.com/video/2019/04/05/jerry-chambers-turned-final-four-mop-award-into-lifetime-of-helping-others/>

Black print: Instructions for the teacher

Blue print: Spoken instruction from teacher to participants

1. Documentary and Worksheet Questions (15-19 minutes)

- a. While watching this 14-minute documentary, write down answers to the following questions. You'll also have a few minutes after it's over to finish your answers.
- b. Provide individual worksheets and start the documentary.

1. What does it mean to be the MOP?

Most Outstanding Player. Most often awarded to the player on the championship team. Jerry Chambers won the award and was not on the winning team. He still holds a record for his 143 points in four games without a three point line. His talent transcended the racial division and social climate of his time.

2. Why is it significant that Jerry Chambers was awarded the Most Outstanding Player?

Traditionally, the MOP award is given to a player on the winning team. Jerry Chambers however was not, he was on the fourth place team. His skill and ability stood out above the other players.

3. What lessons did Chambers learn from his experience in the Final Four tournament?

He learned to believe in himself and to set goals. He learned to transfer goal setting and leadership to other aspects of his life.

4. How did Jerry Chambers incorporate his passion for basketball after he graduated?

He became an athletic director, mentor, and coach. He organized recreational youth sport programs in Los Angeles. Through youth sport programs he helped to mentor young children and provided safe and positive spaces for children to grow in sports.

5. What role did sport play after Chamber's son died?

Sports offered a place of refuge and therapy. Sport provided a place for leadership and education. Chambers was about to mentor and work with youth to not only be great athletes but great members of society.

6. What did the program provide for the youth? The parents?

All kids were treated the same and provided the same amount of playing time. The program wanted to enhance kids' experience and make them not only a better player but a better person. It provided a community and healthy environment for the kids and parents. It presented an opportunity for parents to get involved as well.

7. What did Chambers value in the game of basketball?

He loved the game. It was never about the money and Chambers was not financially motivated. It was about how good he was. He wanted to work on his game to be good at the game of basketball. He saw basketball as a stepping stone in his career. Basketball was his passion and love.

8. What are Chambers thoughts on today's game?

The money they are making today should be lifetime money. He thinks the game now is a game of finesse. He considers himself a finesse type player and thinks today's game would have been "right down his alley." In other words, he believes he would have fit well with today's style of basketball.

2. Discussion Questions (5-15 minutes)

This discussion can be done in a full group or broken down into small groups.

- Option to have student write answers down first
1. Why is it significant that Jerry Chambers was awarded the Most Outstanding Player?
 2. How do you think the Civil Rights movement affected NCAA sports and athletes?
 3. Why do you think it is important for youth to have positive leaders?
 4. Basketball and youth sport programs served as a place of refuge and healing for Jerry Chambers after his son died. What is a sport or activity (team sport, dance, cooking, etc....) that has served as a positive outlet for you? How has it helped you overcome challenges or rough times rough patches in your life?
 5. How might Jerry Chambers's experience in basketball be different if he were a woman?

3. Worksheet Discussion Activities (15 - 35 minutes - can eliminate 1 if needed for time)

This discussion can be done in a full group or broken down into small groups.

1. Jerry Chambers talked about how he always knew he was going to do something else with his life and career after he finished playing basketball, but many college and pro athletes today (in some sports) do not have this mentality. When their playing career is over, they sometimes feel lost about what comes next. Imagine if you were forced to quit your dream job when you were 30 years old.

- a. What are some of the challenges you think you'd face (mental, professional, etc.)?
- b. How would you feel?
- c. What resources would you seek out to help you move forward?
- d. What steps would you take to start your next career or venture?

2. Jerry Chambers discusses the benefit of his youth sports program going beyond improving children's athletic skill to also develop the youth as good people. In addition, he uses the program as a way to get the parents involved, creating role models for the youth. Pick an activity and design your own youth program that would develop a specific skill and develop the people who participate. Be sure to include why you think this activity is important, what the potential benefits are, the target audience (and why), how to reach them, and what equipment and/or services you'd need (e.g. facilities, basketballs, coaches).

- a. What is it?
- b. Why is it important and what are its potential benefits?
- c. Who is the target audience, and why?
- d. How will you reach this target audience?
- e. What equipment and/or services would you need?

4. Conclusion *(3-5 minutes)*

1. What role can sport play in racism/the eradication of racism?
2. What opportunities does sport provide for athletes? People of color?
3. What would you say Jerry Chambers' legacy is?
4. How might greater awareness about the topics we learned and talked about improve the world?