

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. Croix's Tim Duncan Retires From N.B.A.; Leaving Behind Unforgettable Legacy

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ST. CROIX -- After spending 19 years in the National Basketball Association and earning five championship rings, Tim Duncan, the St. Croix native who rose to prominence in the NBA as one of the best to ever play the sport of basketball, [has decided to hang his jersey](#) forever, leaving behind a lasting legacy not many can boast of.

He is 40.

Duncan joined the spurs and stayed with the team his entire career. The Spurs made the playoffs every year in his tenure, never with a winning percentage lower than .610, and won five titles, with Duncan the finals' most valuable player in three of them. He also won

the league M.V.P. Award twice.

Coming into the NBA relatively late, the 6-foot-11 Duncan was initially a swimmer. He was the No. 1 pick in the N.B.A. draft after four years at Wake Forest. (The Spurs had the top pick as a result of a rare down season largely caused by an injury to David Robinson.) The player selected just after Duncan, Keith Van Horn, has been out of the league for a decade.

His low-key nature often kept him out of the spotlight, but the sheer force of his accomplishments pushes him onto just about every list of the greats.

The superstar ranks fifth in career blocked shots (3,020), sixth in rebounds (15,091), seventh in games played (1,392) and 14th in points (26,496).

Duncan's playing time had gradually been reduced in recent years, and he had ceded his starring role on the San Antonio Spurs to Kawhi Leonard. Though he started 60 of the 61 games he played this season, he hit career lows in just about every category. But he was an All-Star as recently as 2015.

According to the release, As the only player in NBA history to play over 9,000 career minutes in the playoffs, Duncan ranks first all-time in postseason double-doubles (164) and blocks (568), third in rebounds (2,859) and sixth in points (5,172). For his career, Duncan appeared in 251 postseason contests (second all-time) and averaged 20.6 points, 11.4 rebounds and 3.0 assists in 37.3 minutes while shooting .501 (1,975-3,939) from the field.

Along with teammates Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili, Duncan is part of the NBA record for most wins by a trio in both the regular season (575) and postseason (126). Duncan and Gregg Popovich have the most wins by a player-coach duo in NBA history (1,001) and the Spurs forward finishes his career in San Antonio as one of just three players in NBA history, along with John Stockton and Kobe Bryant, to spend 19 seasons with one franchise.

Via [San Antonio Spurs](#), [New York Times](#).