The Dream Team

In 1992, the greatest collection of basketball talent was brought together on one team. Jordan, Bird, Magic, Ewing, the list goes on and on. The 1992 American Olympic basketball team not only captured the gold medal, but the spotlight of the spotlight of world. Although the United States has won many gold medals in basketball, this team dominated in a way that no other team could ever again. The development of the team was quite interesting. The national team’s head coach, Chuck Daly, was worrisome of the team’s understandable confidence. Chuck Daly decided to put together a practice team for the national team to scrimmage against. This roster was comprised of some of the United States’ best collegiate basketball players across the country. The coach purposefully created lineups to cause the national team to play as poorly as possible. When the team lost, Chuck Daly was successful in humbling his players. Soon later, Daly had them scrimmage against the practice team again with better lineups, and “they won by a hundred.”

The formation of this team was not as easy as anyone who didn’t observe it first person would think. Magic Johnson had recently retired from the sport of basketball in order to sustain his fight with the AIDs virus. Larry Bird was reaching the end of his career. This stated, the entire team was a legend. There was a reason why they have been referred to as “the dream team.” In fact, every member of this team, for the exception of Christian
Laettner, was eventually inducted into the National Basketball Association’s Hall of Fame. Additionally, the selection of the team included some conspiracies. For example, Michael Jordan, a superstar far younger than Larry Bird, had only one requirement in joining the team. Michael refused to play if his ‘greatest enemy’, Isaiah Thomas, were not selected. This was controversial because Thomas was indisputably good enough to be on the team.’ Once the team arrived in Barcelona, the entire spotlight was on them. Not only did every observer admire the skill set of the American team, but additionally other teams marveled at the opportunity to play against them. For example, the Cuban national team actually lined up to take a photo with them before a qualifying match.

The United States’ basketball team went on to be undefeated throughout the 1992 Olympics. It will be difficult for there to ever be a more skilled basketball team on a court ever again.