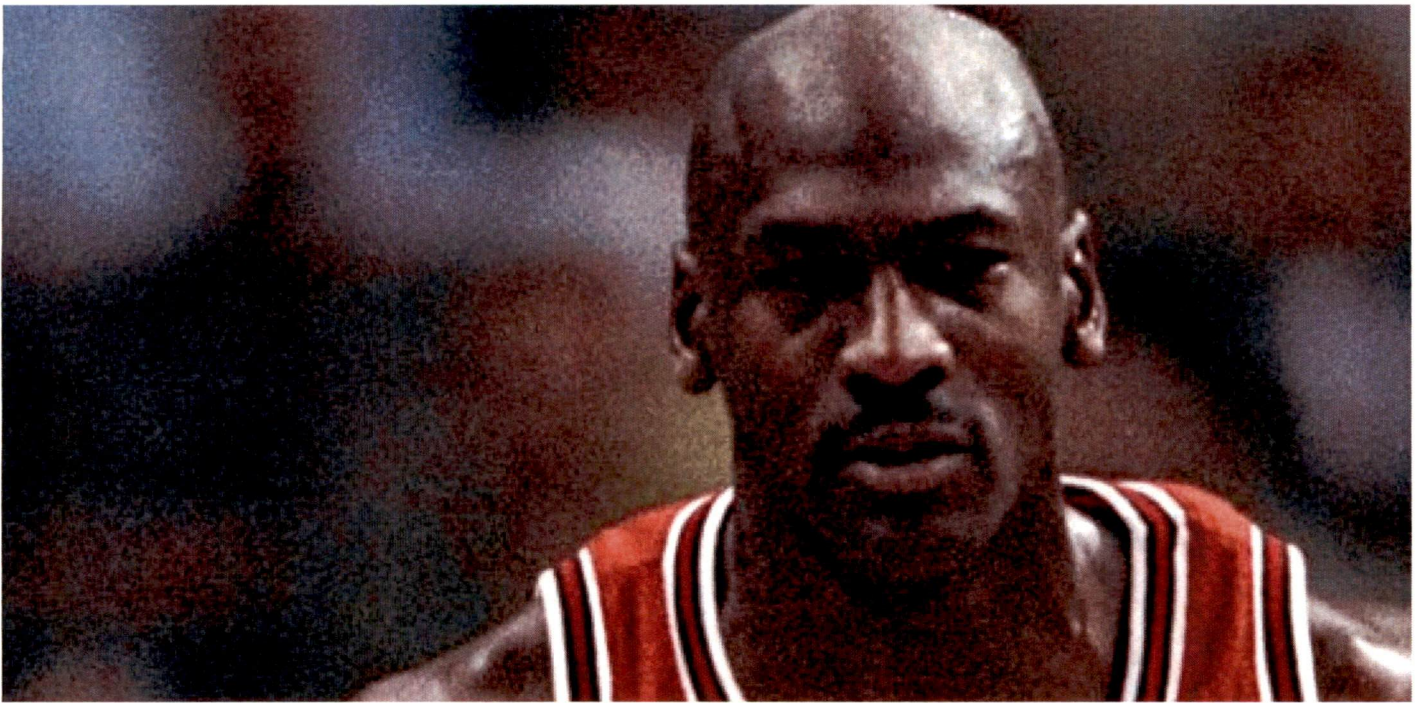




so does the triangle, as there will always be a triangle in existence whether it is a “weak side” triangle or a “strong side” triangle. The triangle can work with any type of player and team.

Early in Michael Jordan’s career (1985-1988), he had become the leading scorer of the NBA. He scored 37 points per game in 1987. This was due to mostly 1-on-1 isolation plays. Even though the Bulls were a great team they couldn’t get past the Eastern Conference Finals. When a young Phil Jackson came into the title-less Windy City in the 1989 – 1990 season, the Bulls had a lot of learning to do. Michael Jordan had been told by Phil that he would score less points and have the ball in his hands a fraction of the time. Michael, coming off of 2 barnburner losses in the previous seasons, at the hands of the “Bad Boy” Pistons, only cared for a championship. The Bulls adapted well to the triangle. Michael, coming off strong side double screens had many opportunities at the free throw line elbows where he either hit his flawless 15-20 foot jump shot or slashed to the middle of the lane. Phil often saw Michael revisiting his old isolation self often, especially in the playoffs, in which Phil would raise his hands in objection and present Michael with the triangle. That first season resulted in another loss at the hands of the Pistons. The next season with a well formed triangle, and a selfless team, the Bulls dethroned the “Bad Boys” in the East and then took down the

“ShowTime” Lakers in the Finals to capture their first NBA Championship. The Bulls captured 6 of the 9 NBA Championships in their 9-year run with the triangle offence.

The next opportunity for the triangle, orchestrated by Tex and Phil, came with the 1999-2000 Lakers. Chicago never had a dominant low post scorer. The Los Angeles Lakers had one in Shaquille O’Neil. In most cases, coaches would have created a whole new offensive book for different teams with varying offences. With the Triangle, nothing was changed. The spacing of the Triangle gave Shaq plenty of room to work on the low block and in a situation where if he were to get double teamed, defenders would still have to cover that 15-18 feet of space between players. The spacing of the Triangle resulted in a career high in points for Shaq and in the Lakers first season with the triangle, an NBA Championship. The Lakers run with the Triangle and the likes of Kobe Bryant, Pau Gasol, and Shaquille O’Neil ended with a total of 5 NBA Championships. This showed the versatility of the Triangle, and proved the Triangle and Phil to be the most prized possession of the NBA.

With great players, great coaches, and the great Triangle, many championships were achieved. The Triangle Offence provided teams with movement, spacing, and versatility to become the greatest basketball offence of all time.