GENERAL

ray allen career 3 pointers

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Ray Allen Career 3 Pointers: The Evolution of a Basketball Legend

When one thinks of the most prolific three point shooters in NBA history, Ray Allen's name inevitably rises to the top. With a career that spanned 18 seasons, the former Boston Celtics, Miami Heat, and Golden State Warriors guard carved out a legacy defined by precision, consistency, and clutch performances from beyond the arc. This article takes a deep dive into Ray Allen's career 3 pointers, exploring his early development, statistical milestones, and the impact he had on the modern game of basketball.

Early Years and College Career

Raymond James Allen was born on October 16, 1975, in Nashville, Tennessee. He attended the University of Georgia, where he played for the Bulldogs from 1994 to 1997. While not a prolific scorer in college, Allen's shooting mechanics were already refined, and he earned a reputation as a reliable perimeter threat.

- Freshman Year (1994 95): Averaged 5.5 points per game, shooting 36.7% from three point range.
- Senior Year (1996 97): Improved to 12.8 points per game, shooting 40.8% from beyond the arc.

His college performance caught the attention of NBA scouts, and Allen entered the 1996 NBA Draft as the 18th overall pick by the Milwaukee Bucks. Though he was drafted by Milwaukee, he never played a game for them, as he was traded to the Seattle SuperSonics before the season began.

Draft and Early NBA Years

Allen's rookie season (1996 97) with the SuperSonics saw him average 10.7 points per game, shooting 36.2% from three. His shooting range was a significant asset for a league still adapting to the three point shot's growing importance.

1. 1997 98 Season: Traded to the Milwaukee Bucks, Allen's three point percentage improved to 42.5%.
2. 1998 99 Season: Played a key role for the Bucks, averaging 12.8 points per game and shooting 43.4% from beyond the arc.

During these formative years, Allen began to develop the shot mechanics that would later make him one of the NBA's most lethal shooters. His smooth release, quick release time, and ability to create space became hallmarks of his style.

3 Point Shooting Evolution

Shooting Mechanics

Ray Allen's shooting form is often studied by aspiring guards. Key elements include:

- Balance: A steady base with feet shoulder width apart.
- Release Angle: A high, smooth arc that allows for better accuracy.
- Follow through: A consistent hand position that ensures repeatability.

These fundamentals, combined with a strong work ethic, allowed Allen to maintain high shooting percentages even

as his career progressed.

Statistical Breakdowns

Throughout his career, Allen’s three point shooting statistics demonstrate remarkable consistency:

Season	Teams	Games	FG%	3P%	3P Made	Points
1996–97	Seattle	77	42.3%	36.2%	103	825
2005–06	Boston	81	48.1%	44.8%	303	1,577
2010–11	Miami	80	48.8%	40.4%	291	1,488
2012–13	Golden State	65	45.3%	45.5%	254	1,311
2015–16	Golden State	61	41.9%	34.4%	129	599

These numbers illustrate how Allen's shooting efficiency remained high throughout his career, with a three-point percentage hovering around the 40% mark for the majority of his tenure.

Milestones

Ray Allen reached several key milestones that cemented his place in NBA history:

- 2,500 Three-Point Field Goals Made: Achieved in 2010, becoming the first player to reach this mark.
- Career 3-Point Leader (2011): Surpassed Larry Bird's record to become the NBA's all-time leader in made three-point field goals.
- Three-Point Leader (2006–07): Led the league with a 45.2% shooting percentage.

Peak Performance Years

2000–2004: The Boston Era Begins

After being traded to the Boston Celtics in 2000, Allen found a system that allowed him to flourish. The Celtics' offense, which emphasized spacing and ball movement, was a perfect fit for Allen's shooting prowess.

During this period, Allen's three-point shooting saw a significant uptick. In the 2002–03 season, he led the league with a 43.1% three-point shooting percentage, and in 2003–04, he was second in the league with 45.0%.

2004–2010: The Heat and Championship Run

In 2004, Allen was traded to the Miami Heat, joining forces with future Hall of Famers Dwyane Wade and Shaquille O'Neal. The Heat's fast-break style provided Allen with ample opportunities to hit his signature long-range shots.

- 2005–06 Season: Averaged 19.5 points per game, shooting 44.8% from three.
- 2006–07 Season: Led the NBA in three-point percentage at 45.2% and was named to the All-Star team.
- 2006–07 Playoffs: Hit a career-high 5 three-pointers in a single game against the Toronto Raptors.

Allen's most memorable moments came during the 2006–07 playoffs, where his clutch shooting helped the Heat secure their first NBA championship. His ability to hit deep three-pointers in critical moments earned him the nickname "The Shot Caller."

Playoff 3-Point Prowess

Ray Allen's playoff performances often surpassed his regular-season averages. He is widely regarded as one of the most effective shooters in NBA postseason history.

Finals Performances

Allen’s contributions in the NBA Finals were pivotal:

- 2007 Finals (Heat vs. Spurs): Hit a game winning three pointer in Game 6, securing the championship for Miami.
- 2010 Finals (Heat vs. Lakers): Made 5 three pointers in a single game, setting a Finals record for most 3 pointers in a game.

Clutch Shots

Beyond the Finals, Allen’s clutch shooting is legendary. One of the most iconic moments occurred on March 29, 2007, in a game against the New Jersey Nets. With the game tied and seconds remaining, Allen hit a deep three pointer that gave the Heat a 112 109 victory. This shot is still celebrated by Heat fans as a defining moment in the franchise’s history.

Record Breaking Moments

2,500 Three Point Field Goals Milestone

On March 15, 2010, Ray Allen made his 2,500th career three point field goal against the Minnesota Timberwolves. This achievement positioned him as the first player in NBA history to reach that mark, a testament to his consistency and longevity.

Three Point Leader

In the 2006 07 season, Allen became the NBA’s all time leader in made three point field goals, surpassing the legendary Larry Bird. He finished that season with 1,065 three point field goals made, a record that would stand for years.

Transition to the Golden State Warriors

After the 2009 10 season, Ray Allen signed with the Golden State Warriors, a team that was rapidly evolving into a dominant force in the NBA. Allen’s veteran presence and shooting skill complemented the Warriors’ young core, including Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson.

- 2010 11 Season: Averaged 17.9 points per game, shooting 40.4% from three.
- 2012 13 Season: Became the oldest player to hit 50 three pointers in a season at age 37.

Allen’s time with the Warriors was marked by several memorable moments, including a game winning three pointer against the San Antonio Spurs in the 2013 playoffs that helped the Warriors advance to the Western Conference Finals.

Post 2014 Career and Retirement

After a brief stint with the Milwaukee Bucks in 2014, Ray Allen returned to the Golden State Warriors for the 2015 16 season. Although his playing time decreased, he remained a reliable scorer from beyond the arc.

On July 13, 2016, Allen announced his retirement, leaving behind a legacy as the NBA’s all time leading three point shooter with 2,973 made three pointers. His career was honored with a special ceremony during the Warriors’ 2017 NBA Championship celebration

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