



# Pau Gasol

Basketball



BS3

HE IS WIDELY REGARDED AS THE BEST SPANISH PLAYER, ONE OF THE BEST EUROPEAN PLAYERS AND ONE OF THE BEST POWER FORWARDS OF ALL TIME.

## Birth

Born in 1980, Barcelona (Spain).

## Brother

older brother of former NBA player Marc and ACB player Adriá.

## Position

Power forward / center

## NBA

NBA Rookie of the Year in 2002, being first non-American player to win that award.

2 NBA championships. with LA Lakers. in 2009 and 2010, along specially with Kobe Bryant and Phil Jackson..

One of only four players with at least 20,000 points, 11,000 rebounds, 3,500 assists and 1,900 blocks during the regular season, along with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Tim Duncan and Kevin Garnett.

In 2023 his Lakers jersey 16 was retired and stays on the top of the Lakers pavilion, next to Kobe's jerseys.

## Spain national team

Gasol has won a FIBA World Cup title (2006), three EuroBasket titles (2009, 2011 and 2015), two Olympic silver medals (2008, 2012) and an Olympic bronze medal (2016).

It's normal to have bad nights, lose games and make mistakes, because we are all human, but the important thing is to know how to get up as quickly as possible.

I try to approach every game as if it's my last.

Kobe Bryant is the closest thing to a big brother I've ever had in my life.

**Pau Gasol Sáez** started playing basketball with school team. As he was very skinny, he played as point guard, which made him very quick and able to see the play in advance.

In 1997, at the age of 16, he started to play for FC Barcelona along with his friend Juan Carlos Navarro. While in junior category, they won Europe (1998) and World championship (1999).

Gasol was a very complete player. He was a refined scorer in the post and midrange and his overall game was near-ambidextrous. He was also a skilled passer (assists) and an above-average shot blocker (defense).

In 2001 he begun his NBA career. Gasol played for the Memphis Grizzlies, the Los Angeles Lakers, the Chicago Bulls, the San Antonio Spurs and the Milwaukee Bucks.

In 2021, and after almost a year and a half without playing, he decided to return to FC Barcelona to prepare for the Tokyo Olympics, his last competition. Pau Gasol was then elected as a member of the IOC to represent athletes. He fights "for equality and clean sport".



### DID YOU KNOW?

Pau Gasol and Kobe Bryant formed one of the great playing partners of the LA Lakers. They were close friends and treated each other like brothers, with mutual respect and admiration. They spoke to one another during games in Spanish.

Both shared a common goal: to give back to society what sport had done for them and had many projects together to unite sport, healthy habits, personal and sports training.

Gasol speaks Catalan and Spanish (mother tongues) as well as Italian, French and English. He likes music (specially classic and opera) and plays piano. He studied medicine for a year, but couldn't continue due to basketball.

In 2003, he was named a UNICEF ambassador. In 2010, UNICEF's Pau Project commenced in Ethiopia, to aid in the fight against infant malnutrition.

In 2013, along with his brother Marc, he established the Gasol Foundation, to help to promote community health and healthy living habits, especially by preventing and fighting childhood obesity.