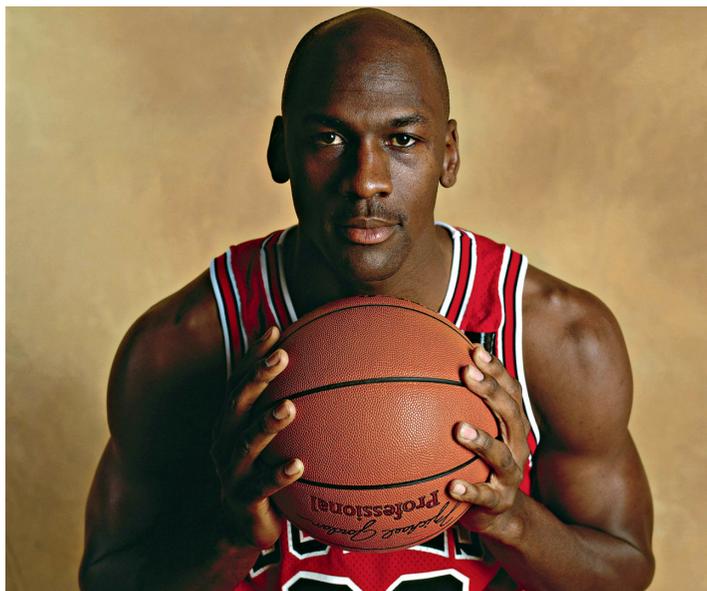


THE 100 GREATEST!



3 Michael Jordan

The prototype of the modern sportsman. Tiger Woods and Jordan are difficult to separate because they're such similar creatures, both sporting and corporate, but Jordan did it all first. Here was the man who turned basketball into the world's street game. Whose influence and fame reached so far into the darkest corners of the world that kids stopped playing their native sports and took up hoops, with a Jordan poster on the wall. A man who became the shoe that made the company that turned Jordan into a man rich beyond sport's previous levels of imagination. And the reason this happened? The insane competitiveness to become a player so good he seemed to deny physics, and to take a whole franchise on his back and win and win and win.



2 Don Bradman

The Don. The King. The greatest cricketer of them all and arguably the greatest Australian, too. Mathematicians have dissected his famous 99.94 average and proven that no sportsman anywhere in the world has ever been statistically so far ahead of the pack. Analysts have pored over that ancient grainy footage and marvelled at a cover drive so pure you could drink it. But what the drooling geeks and boffins think doesn't matter. What matters is what the man in the street thinks, and to him, The Don was the man who lifted a nation. War intervened, and he returned, aged almost 40, to lift a nation again. How many sportsmen have songs written about them? How many have a museum dedicated to them? And how many are their



country's best known individual on the global stage from all walks of life, past or present? The Don is as Australian as Uluru, and he was just as hard to remove. He passed 200 a whopping 12 times in Test cricket, scored 100 or more 29 times in his 80 Test innings, and 117 times in just 338 first-class knocks. Few batsmen pass 50 every third innings, let alone the magic 100 mark, but there we go talking statistics again. Surprisingly, The Don has knockers, which is proof people will argue about anything. The most common criticism is that he faced just four nations in Test combat. To them, we blow one gigantic raspberry and ask: how many nations did baseball legend Babe Ruth face?



PHOTOGRAPHY: GETTY IMAGES.