tracy mcgrady the inspiring story of one of baske Academic PDF

tracy mcgrady the inspiring story of one of baske has captivated basketball fans around the world for decades. From his early beginnings to becoming an NBA legend, McGrady's journey is a testament to perseverance, talent, and relentless dedication. His story not only highlights his on-court achievements but also offers inspiration to aspiring athletes and anyone striving to overcome obstacles in pursuit of their dreams.

Early Life and Childhood

Tracy McGrady was born on May 24, 1979, in Bartow, Florida. Growing up in a modest family, McGrady's passion for basketball was evident from a young age. Despite facing various challenges, including limited resources and the need to balance school and sports, he demonstrated exceptional talent and determination.

Childhood Challenges

- Limited access to advanced training facilities.
- Balancing academics with basketball practice.
- Overcoming self-doubt and external skepticism about his potential.

From an early age, McGrady showed a natural aptitude for the game. His ability to score from anywhere on the court and his impressive athleticism set him apart from his peers.

Rise to Basketball Stardom

High School Achievements

Tracy McGrady attended Mount Zion Christian Academy in North Carolina, where he showcased his skills and garnered national attention. His high school career was marked by:

- Averaging over 25 points per game.
- Leading his team to multiple state championships.
- Earning numerous accolades, including McDonald's All-American honors.

These accomplishments caught the attention of college scouts and NBA recruiters alike.

College and Drafting

Although McGrady's college career was brief?he played for the University of Houston?his performance was notable. His athleticism and scoring ability made him a top prospect for the NBA.

In 1997, McGrady declared for the NBA Draft and was selected ninth overall by the Toronto Raptors. His entry into professional basketball marked the beginning of a remarkable career.

NBA Career Highlights and Achievements

Early Years with Toronto Raptors

McGrady's rookie season was promising, but it was his second year that truly showcased his potential. Over the years, he developed into one of the league's most prolific scorers.

Peak Years with Orlando Magic and Houston Rockets

During his time with the Orlando Magic (2000-2004) and Houston Rockets (2004-2010), McGrady:

- Won two NBA scoring titles (2003, 2004).
- Earned seven All-Star selections.
- Demonstrated versatility as both a scorer and playmaker.

Notable Moments

- Scoring 13 points in the final 35 seconds of a game to lead the Magic to victory in 2004.
- Achieving a career-high 62 points against the Sacramento Kings in 2004.
- Leading the Rockets to the playoffs multiple times and being named to the All-NBA First Team.

Overcoming Injuries and Adversity

Despite his success, McGrady's career was marred by injuries, particularly to his back and knees, which hampered his performance and limited his playing time.

Injuries and Their Impact

- Multiple surgeries and rehab periods.
- Challenges in maintaining peak physical condition.
- Periods of doubt and frustration.

However, McGrady's resilience shone through as he consistently worked to recover and return stronger. His perseverance in the face of adversity serves as an inspiring lesson for many.

Transition to Retirement and Post-Playing Career

McGrady officially retired from professional basketball in 2013. Since then, he has transitioned into various roles:

- Basketball analyst and commentator.
- Mentor for young players.
- Philanthropic work supporting youth sports initiatives.

His post-retirement endeavors reflect his commitment to giving back to the community and fostering future generations of athletes.

Legacy and Influence

Impact on the Game

Tracy McGrady's style of play?marked by his smooth scoring ability, athleticism, and versatility?has influenced many players who followed. His ability to perform under pressure and his clutch performances remain legendary.

Off-Court Contributions

Beyond his athletic achievements, McGrady is known for:

- His leadership qualities.
- Advocacy for athlete health and wellness.
- Engaging in philanthropic activities.

Recognition and Honors

McGrady's contributions have been recognized through various awards and honors, including induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Lessons from Tracy McGrady?s Inspiring Journey

- Perseverance Is Key: Despite setbacks and injuries, McGrady's determination kept him pushing forward.
- Work Ethic Matters: His relentless practice and focus on improvement drove his success.
- Adaptability Is Crucial: Transitioning from a star player to mentor and analyst shows his ability to adapt and grow.
- Give Back: Using his platform to support youth and community initiatives exemplifies his character.

Conclusion

Tracy McGrady?s story is a powerful testament to what can be achieved through passion, resilience, and hard work. His journey from a young boy in Florida to an NBA superstar and inspiring figure serves as a beacon of hope and motivation for countless individuals around the world. Whether on the court or off, his legacy continues to inspire generations to dream big and never give up.

Meta Description: Discover the inspiring story of Tracy McGrady, a basketball legend whose journey from humble beginnings to NBA greatness teaches resilience, dedication, and the power of perseverance.

Tracy McGrady: The Inspiring Story of One of Basketball?s Greatest

Tracy McGrady: The inspiring story of one of basketball?s most talented and resilient athletes is a testament to perseverance, skill, and unwavering dedication. From humble beginnings to NBA stardom, McGrady's journey reflects the challenges and triumphs faced by many athletes striving for greatness, making him a figure whose story continues to inspire fans and aspiring players worldwide.

Early Life and Beginnings: From Orlando to the World Stage

Childhood and Introduction to Basketball

Tracy Lamar McGrady Jr. was born on May 24, 1979, in Bartow, Florida, a small town with a modest sports culture. Growing up in a family where sports were valued, McGrady was introduced to basketball at an early age. His tall stature, combined with natural athleticism, quickly marked him as a promising talent.

High School Stardom

McGrady attended Mount Zion Christian Academy in North Carolina, where his basketball skills flourished. During his high school years, he gained national recognition for his scoring ability, versatility, and exceptional athleticism. His performances attracted attention from college scouts, setting the stage for his future in professional basketball.

College Career and Decision to Go Pro

Unlike many NBA stars, McGrady bypassed college basketball altogether, choosing instead to declare for the NBA draft after high school. This decision was driven by a desire to pursue his dream of playing professionally. His raw talent and potential made him an early prospect, albeit with some concerns regarding his experience level.

NBA Debut and Rising Star: Overcoming Challenges

Entry into the NBA

Tracy McGrady was selected ninth overall in the first round of the 1997 NBA Draft by the Toronto Raptors at just 18 years old. His entry into the league was marked by immediate potential but also by the typical struggles of a young rookie adjusting to the professional game.

Early Career Struggles and Development

In his initial seasons, McGrady showcased flashes of brilliance but also faced challenges such as inconsistent playing time and adapting to NBA defenses. His development was gradual, but the foundational skills?ball-handling, scoring ability, and athleticism?were evident.

Breakout Seasons and Recognition

By his third season (2000?2001), McGrady had established himself as a primary scoring threat. His ability to create shots and his fluid scoring style earned him recognition, culminating in his first All-Star selection in 2001. Despite the Raptors struggling as a team, McGrady?s individual brilliance drew attention nationwide.

The Toronto Raptors to Orlando Magic: The Ascendancy

Transformation with the Raptors

During his tenure with Toronto, McGrady evolved from a promising rookie to one of the league?s premier scorers. His scoring averages increased steadily, and he became known for his clutch performances and ability to carry the team offensively.

The Trade to Orlando and Peak Performance

In 2004, McGrady was traded to the Orlando Magic, a move that marked a turning point in his career. With the Magic, he reached the peak of his athletic and scoring prowess, earning consecutive NBA scoring titles in 2003 and 2004. His combination of size, skill, and agility made him one of the most formidable offensive players in the league.

Notable Achievements and Highlights

- Two-time NBA Scoring Champion (2003, 2004)
- Seven-time NBA All-Star (2001?2007)
- All-NBA First Team selections (2003, 2004)
- NBA Player of the Month multiple times

His style of play was characterized by:

- Unpredictable scoring moves
- Deep three-pointers
- Exceptional ball-handling in tight situations
- Ability to perform in clutch moments

Overcoming Injuries and Setbacks: The Resilient Athlete

The Impact of Injuries

Despite his success, McGrady's career was marred by injuries, particularly to his back, knees, and shoulders. These setbacks significantly affected his playing time and performance, especially during critical seasons.

The 2008-2009 Season and Retirement

Injuries culminated in McGrady?s decision to play fewer games, and in 2012, he announced his retirement from professional basketball. His injuries serve as a reminder of the physical toll the sport takes on athletes and the importance of resilience.

Mental Strength and Adaptability

Throughout his injury-plagued years, McGrady demonstrated mental toughness. He adapted by refining other aspects of his game, mentoring younger players, and maintaining a positive outlook

despite setbacks.

Legacy and Impact: Beyond the Court

Contributions to the Game

McGrady's influence extends beyond his scoring titles and All-Star appearances. He was known for his:

- Playmaking ability
- Versatility on both ends of the floor
- Leadership qualities
- Impact on team dynamics

Off the Court: Philanthropy and Personal Life

Off the court, McGrady has been involved in various charitable endeavors, focusing on youth development and community outreach. His story resonates with many young athletes facing adversity, emphasizing the importance of resilience and perseverance.

Post-Retirement and Current Endeavors

Since retiring, McGrady has remained connected to basketball through commentary, coaching clinics, and mentorship programs. His insights continue to inspire aspiring athletes and fans alike.

Lessons from Tracy McGrady?s Journey

- Dedication and Hard Work: McGrady?s rise from a small-town kid to NBA superstar underscores the importance of relentless effort.
- Resilience in Adversity: Overcoming injuries and setbacks demonstrates the significance of mental toughness.
- Versatility and Skill Development: His ability to adapt and evolve his game made him one of the most complete offensive players of his era.
- Giving Back: His philanthropic efforts highlight the value of using success to uplift others.

Conclusion: A Legacy of Inspiration

The story of Tracy McGrady is more than just about basketball achievements; it?s about perseverance, adaptability, and inspiring future generations. His journey from modest beginnings to

NBA stardom exemplifies that with passion and resilience, obstacles can be transformed into stepping stones. As fans and athletes continue to look up to his legacy, McGrady remains a shining example of what it means to pursue excellence against all odds.

In summary, Tracy McGrady?s inspiring story is a testament to the power of dedication, resilience, and passion. His contributions to basketball and his efforts off the court make him a true icon?an athlete whose journey continues to motivate countless individuals around the world.

QuestionAnswer Who is Tracy McGrady and why is he considered an inspiring figure in basketball? Tracy McGrady is a former professional basketball player known for his exceptional scoring ability and versatility. His inspiring story includes overcoming injuries and setbacks to achieve great success in the NBA, inspiring many aspiring athletes. What are some of Tracy McGrady?s most notable achievements in his basketball career? Tracy McGrady?s notable achievements include multiple NBA All-Star selections, two scoring titles, and being inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2017. How did Tracy McGrady overcome injuries to continue his basketball career? McGrady faced numerous injuries, but his resilience, dedicated rehabilitation, and mental toughness allowed him to bounce back and continue competing at an elite level. What impact has Tracy McGrady had off the court beyond his playing career? Off the court, McGrady is involved in philanthropy, mentoring young athletes, and working in basketball commentary, inspiring others through his leadership and community work. What challenges did Tracy McGrady face during his early years, and how did he overcome them? McGrady faced challenges such as limited resources and injuries early on, but his determination, work ethic, and passion for the game helped him overcome these obstacles and succeed. Why is Tracy McGrady often regarded as one of the most talented scorers in NBA history? His incredible scoring ability, including his smooth scoring moves, deep shooting range, and ability to score under pressure, earned him a reputation as one of the most talented scorers. What lessons can aspiring athletes learn from Tracy McGrady?s story? Aspiring athletes can learn the importance of perseverance, resilience in the face of adversity, continuous self-improvement, and maintaining passion for their craft. How has Tracy McGrady influenced the next generation of basketball players? McGrady?s style of play, work ethic, and leadership have inspired younger players to pursue excellence, and his story encourages perseverance and dedication in pursuit of their goals.

Related keywords: Tracy McGrady, NBA, basketball legend, sports inspiration, professional athlete, basketball career, sports motivation, athlete biography, NBA highlights, sports success

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Isaiah Thomas: The Inspiring Story of One of Basketball?s Most Resilient Stars

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captivating players is a narrative ?lled with determination, grit, and an unyielding passion for the game. Despite facing countless obstacles, Isaiah Thomas has carved out a remarkable career that not only highlights his skill on the court but also serves as a beacon of inspiration for athletes and fans alike. From his modest beginnings to his rise as an NBA star, Thomas?s journey embodies the true spirit of perseverance in professional sports.

The Early Years: Humble Beginnings and Early Challenges

Isaiah Thomas?s story starts in Tacoma, Washington, where he was born and raised. Standing at just 5 feet 9 inches tall, Thomas was often overlooked in a sport that favors height and physical dominance. However, his passion for basketball and relentless work ethic set him apart from an early age. Playing at the University of Washington, he showcased his incredible talent, becoming one of the top scorers in college basketball. His ability to score e?ortlessly and his quickness on the court caught the attention of NBA scouts despite his stature.

Overcoming Size Stereotypes in Basketball

One of the most compelling aspects of Isaiah Thomas?s inspiring story is how he overcame the widespread bias against shorter players in the NBA. Many doubted whether someone

of his height could compete at the highest level, but Thomas?s skill set and basketball IQ proved them wrong. His agility, speed, and fearless attitude allowed him to maneuver through defenses and make plays that left audiences and critics in awe. This part of his journey serves as a powerful reminder that determination and talent can defy traditional expectations.

Breaking into the NBA: From Underdog to Star

Selected as the 60th and ?nal pick in the 2011 NBA Draft by the Sacramento Kings, Isaiah Thomas?s entrance into the league was far from glamorous. Being a late draft pick meant he had to ?ght harder than most to prove his worth. Early in his career, Thomas had to adapt quickly, learning the pace and physicality of the NBA while maintaining his con?dence. His breakthrough came during his time with the Boston Celtics, where he blossomed into an All-Star point guard and became the face of the franchise.

The Boston Celtics Era: A Star is Born

Isaiah Thomas?s tenure with the Celtics is often regarded as the pinnacle of his career. He transformed from a role player into one of the league?s most dynamic scorers. In the 2016-2017 season, Thomas averaged over 28 points per game, earning him All-NBA Second Team honors and a spot in the NBA All-Star Game. His ability to carry the team on his back, especially during the playo?s, highlighted his leadership and competitive ?re. Despite being one of the shortest players in the league, he consistently outperformed taller opponents, making his success story even more inspiring.

Facing Adversity: Injuries and Setbacks

No inspiring story is complete without obstacles, and Isaiah Thomas?s journey is marked by signi?cant challenges, particularly injuries. In 2017, Thomas su?ered a devastating hip injury that altered the trajectory of his career. The injury required surgery and a lengthy rehabilitation process, testing his mental and physical strength. Rather than giving up, Thomas approached his recovery with determination, embodying resilience in the face of adversity.

The Mental Battle: Staying Positive During Tough Times

Injuries can be as mentally draining as they are physically painful. Isaiah Thomas?s story underscores the importance of mindset in overcoming setbacks. Throughout his rehabilitation, he remained optimistic and focused on returning to form. His story encourages athletes and individuals alike to maintain hope and persistence, even when circumstances seem bleak. Thomas also became an advocate for mental health awareness, openly discussing the emotional toll injuries and professional challenges can take on players.

Isaiah Thomas?s Playing Style: Small Size, Big Impact

Isaiah Thomas?s game is a masterclass in maximizing one?s strengths while mitigating weaknesses. His quickness, ball-handling, and scoring ability made him a nightmare for defenders. Known for his fearless drives to the basket and clutch shooting, Thomas proved that heart often outweighs size in basketball.

Speed and Agility: Thomas?s quickness allowed him to penetrate defenses and

1.

create scoring opportunities.

Shooting Accuracy: He was a reliable shooter from mid-range and beyond, often

2.

hitting critical shots in high-pressure moments.

Leadership: Despite his stature, Thomas led by example, inspiring teammates with

3.

his work ethic and competitive spirit.

Life Beyond the Court: Isaiah Thomas?s Impact and Legacy

Isaiah Thomas?s inspiring story extends beyond basketball. He has become a role model for young athletes who face similar doubts about their potential due to physical factors or early setbacks. Thomas?s willingness to share his challenges and triumphs adds a layer of authenticity to his legacy.

Giving Back and Inspiring the Next Generation

O? the court, Thomas is involved in community outreach and youth programs, using his platform to encourage young players to chase their dreams relentlessly. His story is often cited in motivational talks and sports documentaries, highlighting how perseverance and self-belief can lead to success regardless of obstacles.

Lessons from Isaiah Thomas?s Journey

The inspiring story of Isaiah Thomas the inspiring story of one of baske is ?lled with

valuable lessons applicable not only to sports but to life in general:

Embrace Your Unique Strengths: Thomas?s success shows that leveraging your

1.

individual talents can overcome perceived limitations.

Persistence is Key: His career demonstrates the importance of never giving up,

2.

even when faced with setbacks.

Mental Toughness Matters: Staying positive and focused during di?cult times

3.

can make all the di?erence in recovery and growth.

Leadership Comes in Many Forms: Thomas?s ability to inspire teammates

4.

highlights that leadership is about action and attitude, not just physical presence.

Isaiah Thomas?s journey through the highs and lows of professional basketball o?ers a compelling narrative that resonates far beyond the sport. His story encourages everyone to push past doubts, work hard, and believe in the impossible. In a game that often celebrates physical dominance, Thomas reminds us that heart, determination, and resilience can de?ne a true champion.

Question

Answer

Who is Isaiah Thomas in

the context of basketball?

Isaiah Thomas is a professional basketball player known for

his incredible scoring ability and inspiring journey

overcoming adversity in the NBA.

What makes Isaiah

Thomas's basketball story

inspiring?

Isaiah Thomas's story is inspiring because despite being

one of the shortest players in the NBA at 5'9", he worked

tirelessly to become an All-Star and a fan favorite,

overcoming physical and personal challenges.

How did Isaiah Thomas

overcome challenges in

his basketball career?

Isaiah Thomas overcame challenges such as his height

disadvantage, injuries, and personal tragedies through

dedication, resilience, and hard work, proving his value on

the court through exceptional performance.

What are some of Isaiah

Thomas's career

highlights?

Some career highlights for Isaiah Thomas include being a

two-time NBA All-Star, leading the Boston Celtics in scoring,

and delivering unforgettable playo? performances,

particularly in the 2016-2017 season.

How has Isaiah Thomas

impacted the basketball

community o? the court?

O? the court, Isaiah Thomas has inspired many through his

story of perseverance, engaging in community service,

mentoring young athletes, and advocating for mental

health awareness.

What lessons can aspiring

basketball players learn

from Isaiah Thomas's

story?

Aspiring players can learn the importance of determination,

hard work, and resilience from Isaiah Thomas's story,

showing that obstacles like physical limitations can be

overcome with passion and e?ort.

Isaiah Thomas: The Inspiring Story of One of Basketball?s Most Resilient Stars

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players unfolds as a compelling narrative of perseverance, talent, and determination. Despite facing numerous obstacles, including physical setbacks and professional challenges, Thomas has carved out a remarkable career that continues to inspire fans and athletes alike. His journey from a small-statured college standout to an NBA All-Star exempli?es the power of grit and relentless pursuit of excellence within the competitive landscape of professional basketball.

The Early Years: Overcoming Physical Limitations

Isaiah Thomas?s story begins in Tacoma, Washington, where he stood out not because of his height?listed at just 5 feet 9 inches?but due to his prodigious skill and competitive spirit. In a sport where height and physicality often dictate success, Thomas?s stature presented an inherent hurdle. Many scouts and analysts overlooked him during his high school and early college years, doubting his ability to compete at the highest levels. Despite these doubts, Thomas excelled at the University of Washington, showcasing exceptional scoring ability, court vision, and leadership. His collegiate performance caught the attention of NBA scouts, but the question remained: could a player of his size thrive in the NBA?s physical environment? This skepticism would follow him into the professional ranks, shaping his approach to the game and fueling his determination.

Isaiah Thomas?s NBA Rise: Talent Meets Tenacity

Drafted 60th overall in the 2011 NBA Draft by the Sacramento Kings, Isaiah Thomas?s entry into the league was far from glamorous. Late second-round picks often struggle to secure meaningful playing time, yet Thomas de?ed expectations with his o?ensive prowess and competitive ?re. His quickness, scoring touch, and ability to perform under pressure became his signature traits.

The turning point in Thomas?s career arrived during his tenure with the Boston Celtics. Emerging as a leading scorer and team leader, Thomas earned two All-Star selections (2016, 2017) and was widely regarded as one of the league?s premier point guards. His performance in the 2017 playo?s, including a memorable game-winning buzzer-beater against the Washington Wizards, exempli?ed his clutch abilities and underscored his impact on the court.

Playing Style and Key Strengths

Isaiah Thomas?s playing style is de?ned by several key attributes that have allowed him to succeed despite physical disadvantages:

Explosive Scoring: Known for his ability to create shots and score in bunches,

1.

Thomas consistently averaged over 20 points per game during his peak years.

Ball Handling and Agility: His quickness and dribbling skills enable him to

2.

navigate defenses and create opportunities for himself and teammates.

Clutch Performance: Thomas has a reputation for delivering in high-pressure

3.

situations, often hitting critical shots late in games.

Leadership: On and o? the court, Thomas has demonstrated leadership qualities,

4.

inspiring teammates through his work ethic and resilience.

Challenges and Setbacks

Isaiah Thomas?s inspiring story is not without adversity. A major turning point came in 2017 when he su?ered a hip injury that signi?cantly impacted his career trajectory. The injury required surgery and extensive rehabilitation, limiting his mobility and e?ectiveness on the court. This physical setback led to trades and short stints with various NBA teams, re?ecting the challenges of regaining his prior form.

Additionally, Thomas endured the psychological and professional strain of transitioning from a team leader to a bench role. His perseverance during this period highlights the mental toughness required to navigate the often unforgiving nature of professional sports.

Legacy and In?uence Beyond the Court

Isaiah Thomas?s journey resonates as a broader narrative about overcoming obstacles and rede?ning expectations. His ability to succeed against the odds serves as motivation not only for aspiring basketball players but also for individuals facing challenges in various walks of life.

Impact on the Game and Future Players

Thomas?s success as an undersized point guard has contributed to the evolving perception of player archetypes in the NBA. Today?s league values versatility, speed, and skill over traditional size metrics, and Thomas?s career helped pave the way for other smaller guards to gain recognition.

Moreover, his story emphasizes the importance of resilience and adaptability, traits that are increasingly celebrated in professional sports culture. Coaches and analysts often cite Thomas as an example of how determination and skill can overcome physical limitations.

Community Engagement and Personal Growth

O? the court, Isaiah Thomas has engaged in various philanthropic activities, supporting youth programs and community initiatives. His commitment to giving back re?ects a personal dedication to fostering growth and opportunity beyond basketball.

His journey also underscores themes of personal growth and reinvention. As Thomas continues to adapt his game and role in the NBA, he embodies the dynamic nature of athletic careers and the ongoing pursuit of excellence.

Comparative Analysis: Thomas Among NBA Underdogs

When compared to other NBA players who faced similar doubts due to size or draft position, Isaiah Thomas stands out for his combination of scoring ability and leadership. Players like Allen Iverson and Chris Paul share some parallels in terms of overcoming skepticism, but Thomas?s story is unique in how he maximized opportunities despite being a late draft pick and sustaining a career-altering injury.

His statistical output during peak seasons?averaging over 28 points per game in 2016?2017?is particularly remarkable given the context. Few players drafted so late have achieved comparable impact, making his achievements even more noteworthy in the annals of NBA history.

Pros and Cons of Isaiah Thomas?s Career Trajectory

Pros:

1.

Exceptional scoring talent and o?ensive creativity

1.

Resilience in overcoming physical and professional challenges

2.

Leadership and clutch performance in critical moments

3.

In?uence on rede?ning the role of smaller guards in the NBA

4.

Cons:

2.

Career impacted signi?cantly by hip injury and surgeries

1.

Inconsistent team roles post-injury leading to reduced playing time

2.

Challenges in maintaining peak performance over time

3.

Isaiah Thomas the inspiring story of one of baske ball?s most compelling ?gures continues to unfold as he adapts to new roles and challenges. His journey, marked by triumphs and trials, o?ers a nuanced perspective on professional sports careers?one where talent, heart, and resilience de?ne success just as much as physical attributes or statistics.

Isaiah Thomas, inspiring basketball story, NBA player journey, overcoming adversity, basketball motivation, Isaiah Thomas highlights, underdog athlete story, basketball perseverance, NBA inspiration, Thomas basketball career

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