

Oklahoma City Thunder

The Oklahoma City Thunder is the name of a professional basketball franchise based in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The team plays in the Northwest Division of the Western Conference in the National Basketball Association (NBA); its home court is at Chesapeake Energy Arena.

The Thunder's NBA Development League affiliate is the Tulsa 66ers, which is owned by the Thunder. The Thunder is the only team in the Major professional North American sports leagues located in the state of Oklahoma.

Formerly the Seattle SuperSonics, the team relocated in 2008 after a dispute between owner Clay Bennett and lawmakers in Seattle, Washington. The SuperSonics team qualified for the NBA Playoffs 22 times, won its division six times and won the 1979 NBA Championship.

In Oklahoma City, the Thunder qualified for its first playoff berth during the 2009-10 season. Team members followed this success by winning their first division title as the Thunder in the 2010-11 season and their first Western Conference championship as the Thunder in the 2011-12 season, appearing in the NBA Finals for the fourth time in franchise history and the first since 1996, when the club was based in Seattle.

The Thunder's previous incarnation, the Seattle SuperSonics, was formed in 1967. In its 41 years in Seattle, the SuperSonics compiled a 1,745–1,585 (.524) win-loss record in the regular season and 107-110 (.493) in the playoffs. The franchise's titles include three Western Conference championships and one NBA title in 1979.

Chesapeake Energy Arena — which was the Ford Center at the time — began hosting the Oklahoma City Thunder in 2008.

In the 2012 NBA Playoffs, the Thunder swept the defending champion Dallas Mavericks in the first round to advance and face off against first round foes from 2010, the Los Angeles Lakers. The team defeated the Lakers in five games and advanced to play



the San Antonio Spurs in the Western Conference Finals. The Thunder lost the first two games against the San Antonio Spurs but won the next three including a Game 5 road win, to take a commanding 3-2 game lead in the series. In Game 6, the Thunder defeated the Spurs 107-99 and advanced to the 2012 NBA Finals. Durant led the way with 34 points, playing all of *regulation* time in the game. In the 2012 NBA Finals against the Miami Heat, the Thunder won the first game at home but then lost four in a row and ended up losing the series in five games.

