



*Wayman Tisdal*  
(June 9, 1964 – May 15, 2009)

Wayman was what I called a true baker. By him living in two worlds (Basketball & Music), he had a beautiful talent of mixing those two different worlds that produced special results. I serious doubt it will ever be matched.



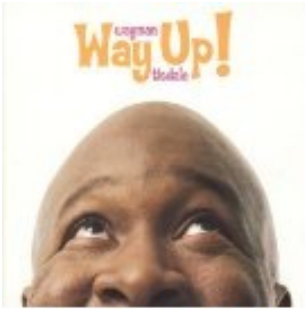
There was no doubt he was talented. His music was in the progressive style which many appreciate. I believe he took the same approach as Marcus Miller believing that the base is the center of it all. I do not know what it is but for some reason, gifted people like Wayman do not stay with us long. To say he had much more to put out there would be an understatement. His death was such a shock as he had been planning to go into the studio to put out even more great stuff.

The amazing thing is that if Wayman had stayed in the basketball world, we would not have known the music from him that is ingrained in us today. Staying in basketball was truly an option as he succeeded in the [Big Eight Conference](#) Player of the Year and the first player in collegiate history to be named a first-team All American by the Associated Press in his freshman, sophomore, and junior seasons.<sup>[7]</sup> He still holds the record at Oklahoma for the most points scored by any player through his freshman



**Rebound (Dlx) (Dig) [2008]**

and sophomore seasons. He won a gold medal as a member of the 1984 U.S. [Olympic](#) basketball team coached by [Indiana University's Bobby Knight](#), and the [Indiana Pacers](#) made Tisdale the second overall pick in the [1985 NBA Draft](#).



**Way Up (Dig) [2006]**

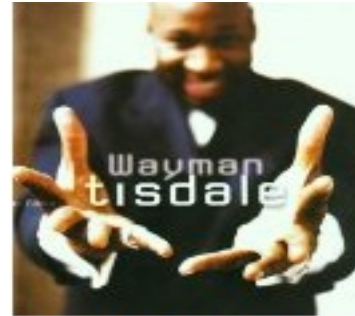
As a [center](#) and [power forward](#), Tisdale averaged over 15 points and six rebounds per game in a 12-season professional career with the [Indiana Pacers](#), [Sacramento Kings](#) and [Phoenix Suns](#). His best season was in 1989–90 with the Kings, when he averaged 22.3 points and 7.5 rebounds a game. Tisdale and [Mitch "The Rock" Richmond](#) combined to form one of the most dynamic duos in the NBA. In 1997 Tisdale retired to focus on his musical career.

In 1997, Tisdale became the first player in any sport to have his jersey number (23) retired by the University of Oklahoma.<sup>[7]</sup> When [Blake Griffin](#) was granted permission to wear it during his career at OU (2007–2009), he sought and received Tisdale's blessing before accepting it.

What was the deciding factor towards music with a career like that in basketball, who knows but to be able to touch both of these worlds like Wayman did is a blessing from him in doing so. We know it was a blessing for us to witness it.



Provided by the artist or their representative



**Face to Face [2001]**

Wayman played with many of the jazz stars today (Dave Kos, George Duke, Bobby Knight, Marcus Miller and Fred Hammond just to name a few) and put out at least nine albums and scores of music. I guess that is what makes this such a tragedy, with Wayman's positive optimism and style, many expect him to recover and move on with his career. As a shocker, just say another understatement.

Wayman I can only say that when it is time for me to check outta here, I hope I will arrive and see you playing next to Art Porter and the two of you are jamming like you have never jammed before.



Provided by the artist or their representative

*Bill Sommerville*