



SACRED HEART CYO RECOGNIZES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS KEVIN JOYCE

Played on the 1972 U.S. Olympic Basketball Team

NORTH MERRICK, N.Y., October 8, 2006 – In a ceremony following the Sacred Heart CYO “Welcome Back” Mass, the youth sports program recognized Kevin Joyce with its Distinguished Alumni Award. The North Merrick native graduated from Sacred Heart School in 1965, played on the U.S. Olympic basketball team in Munich in 1972 and was a first-round draft pick in the NBA.

After graduating from Sacred Heart School, Joyce attended Archbishop Molloy High School and played for the legendary Jack Curran. In his senior year, Joyce led the team to the New York City championship and was named the MVP of the CHSAA. After graduation from Molloy, Kevin played under coach Frank McGuire at the University of South Carolina where he led the team to the ACC Championship and national rankings in 1971-72.

The 1972-73 season was a banner year for Kevin as he was named the Captain of the USA Olympic Team, 1st team All American, averaged 22 points a game and was the 11th player selected in the NBA draft by the Golden State Warriors.

Kevin opted for the ABA instead and became a solid player for the Indiana Pacers in 1974 and 1975 - but a career-ending knee injury led Kevin into coaching. He served as assistant coach for four seasons under Frank McGuire before his ambitions turned to Wall Street. Kevin is now a successful institutional equity salesman with Kellogg Partners in New York.

Joyce starred in one of the most controversial games in the history of basketball during the 1972 Olympics. In the gold medal game, Joyce led a furious second half American comeback as they took the lead with just three seconds remaining. The Soviets inbounded the ball as time expired and the Americans began celebrating their apparent victory. But the officials were confused by the Soviets contention that they had asked for a timeout. They opted to put three seconds back on the clock, and the Soviets inbounded the ball again.

For a second time the Americans thwarted a score and they began to celebrate their apparent victory. However, the officials ruled that the timer had failed to post the 3 seconds on the clock, and the Soviets were allowed to inbound the ball a third time. On the final try, the Soviets completed a length-of-the-court pass and scored a lay-up, handing the U.S. its first ever Olympic basketball defeat.

The United States team has remained upset about the outcome of the game ever since. They refused to accept the Olympic silver medal during the medal ceremony, and those medals remain encased in a vault in Lusanne, Switzerland to this very day. The game has been featured in documentaries produced by both ESPN and HBO Sports.

A display has been created in the Sacred Heart School trophy case to memorialize Joyce's accomplishments. It includes photos of him with his 7th grade CYO championship team and the '72 Olympic team.

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