



Dr. Michael C. Billys – Basketball Career

This account pertains to my personal development and is written mostly from memory such facts and experiences. If by some unknown reason you do not see your name below, it is by no means on purpose. Please forgive me of any such circumstance should occur. It is purely by coincidence and is purely unintentional. The purpose of this outreach is two-fold in scope: First is to note the history of various basketball experiences in my life and secondly, to rekindle some of the relationships developed during the process. The following is a reflection of my living organized basketball. There have been many contributors to my growth and development which as a result has given me much satisfaction and fulfillment. To those I owe a debt of gratitude. Thanks to all. I appreciate your help with all my heart and soul.

Reading, PA - Church League: 1964-67

Growing up in Reading, PA became an excellent backdrop for my basketball prowess, as the city of Reading was strategically designed with the magic of playgrounds and Boys Clubs spread out positioned over the cities sparse neighborhoods. The City of Reading Recreation Department is set up with numerous playgrounds across the city where youngsters are involved with all sorts of activities and can play ball all year around. This serves as an excellent plan to keep children occupied and concentrated on organized play. Local education agencies place elementary schools with playgrounds in neighborhoods all around the city. There are **4 Junior High Schools** situated at each corner of the city. Student athletes from each **Jr. HS** compete against each other which is an excellent approach to personal development. The students eventually converge to **RHS** and matriculate there for their final **10th, 11th, and 12th grades**. This system serves as a prototype for urban settings to emulate as children grow up learning and maturing through sports and other various activities. **Reading HS** basketball teams are perennial champions. **RHS** is the current reigning **PIAA Class VI Basketball Champions of 2017** and will defend their title this year with yet another run for the State Title. School pride is very important for the motivation of all in the community. **Lonnie Walker IV** was named player of the year in **PA 2017** and also selected as a MacDonald's All-American. Many other college basketball players, All-Americans, and NBA players came out of **Reading HS**, including **Joe Natale, Jimmy Krick, Dick (Tiger) Graul, Bill Jankans, Stu Jackson, Donyell Marshall**, and now **Lonnie Walker IV (Miami Hurricanes)**.

Basketball became a life-long passion for me at a very young age (**12yo – 6th grade**), as I practiced it seemed all day long at the **10th and Green Streets** playground which had a basketball court. I was blessed with progressive parenting from my mom & dad, who allowed me to spend long hours there. It was a tough struggle when I started being shorter than most guys my age. I joined pick-up games and usually the guys were much older. This was the ultimate way to improve! I soon found out the best way to contribute was to be faster and smarter. I needed to shoot from way out (set shots), shake and bake, or out-run my opponents. This allowed me to become an adept shooting guard and a playmaker at the same time, usually bringing the ball up the court because I fused both together. Hard work and many hours of practice paid off! To be the fastest guy on the court was imperative! Both motivation and proof of skills gave me both a vote of confidence and a peace of mind. This came as I was able to '**listen and learn**' from my coaches and then apply these suggestions on the court. Soon became time for organized play which became instrumental in successful team play. I began playing in the **Church League** which played all games at the local **Y.M.C.A.** My teammates from Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church were **Ernie Orphanos, Bill Bankes, Alex George**,

Jim Sianis, Harry Sianis, Alex Skarlatos, Jim Harris, Stanley Fanaras, and Tony Talarico. I must apologize to my teammates because from time to time I was known to 'hog the ball'...and I became known as a "gunner". Our youth basketball programs were also prevalent at the various **GOYA** basketball tournaments in central Pennsylvania and Maryland. After the tournaments, our youth and parents would mingle at dinners, dances, and eventually the liturgy services the following Sunday mornings. Oh, to have my youth back growing up playing church league and recreational league basketball. They were by far my favorite times of basketball! Recently at a recent Ahepa dinner-meeting the keynote speaker referenced as to playing basketball with or against Mike Billys in our GOYA tournaments, they needed **two balls 'one for the game' and 'one for Mike'**....!!! Oh well! I loved to shoot and better yet....loved to score points. Swish! This was the stepping stone in my growth and development in basketball. It's a tribute to my family, church services, Sunday school lessons, my coaches, and my teammates in showing me the way.

Church League '64-'65'									
<i>1st game</i>					<i>2nd game</i>				
<i>3rd game</i>					<i>4th game</i>				
<i>5th game</i>					<i>6th game</i>				
<i>7th game</i>					<i>8th game</i>				
<i>9th game</i>					<i>10th game</i>				
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<i>95th game</i>					<i>96th game</i>				
<i>97th game</i>					<i>98th game</i>				
<i>99th game</i>					<i>100th game</i>				

Olivet League				
INTERMEDIATE				
Vikings	Points	Games	Points	
Pfeiffer	0	7	M. Kirk	0
McClary	6	11	O. Kline	6
Cahill	5	10	W. Kirk	5
Dunn	3	6	Gallagher	3
Heath	2	4	W. Johnson	2
Totals	21	9	Totals	26
Referee - Wanner				
Cards	P.	W.	Losses	
Marshall	1	1	4	
Johnson's	9	12	4	
W. Kirk	10	11	3	
Gallagher	1	1	3	
George	2	4	2	
Heath	2	4	1	
Totals	31	33	Totals	30
Referee - Wanner				

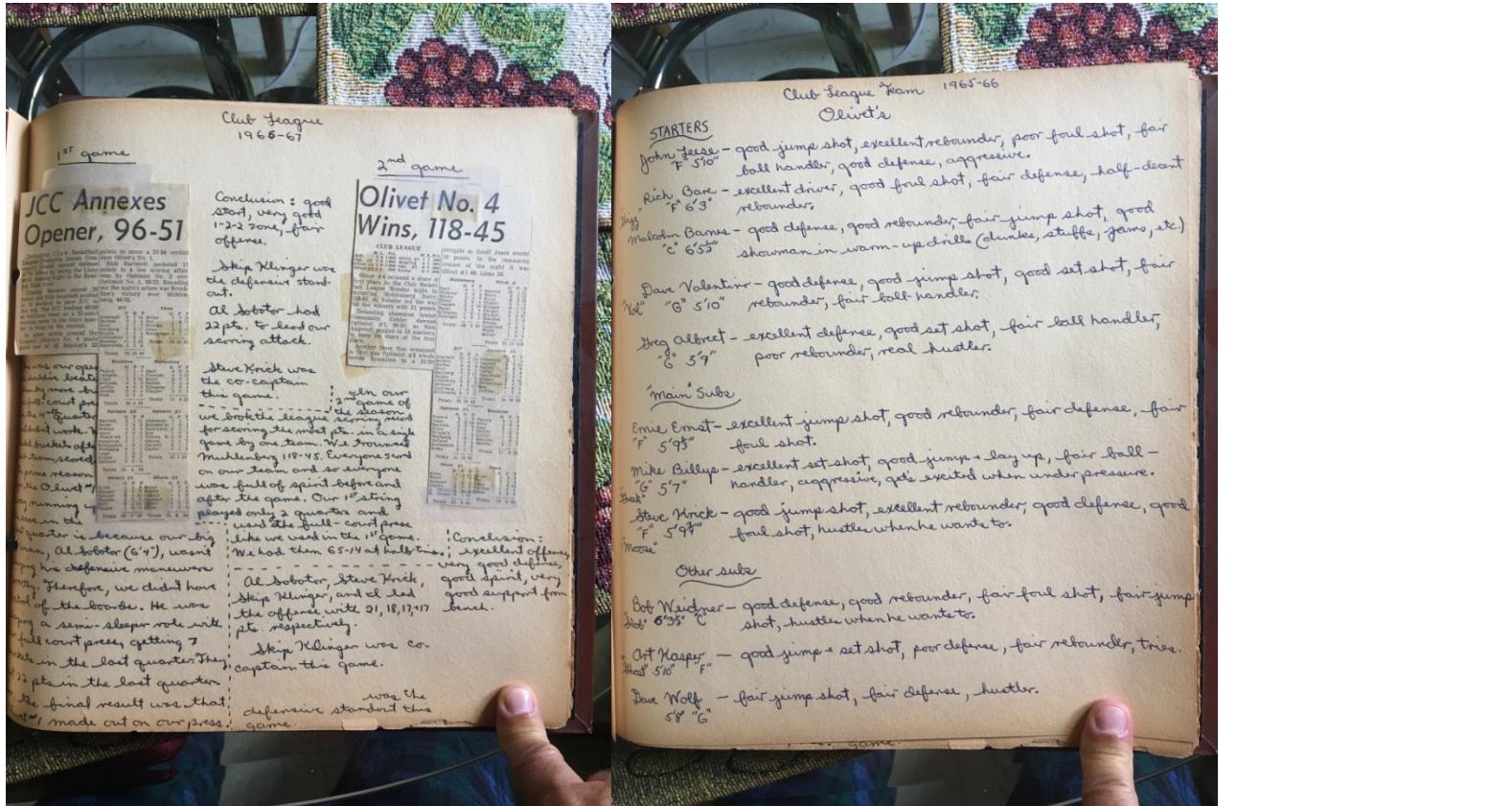
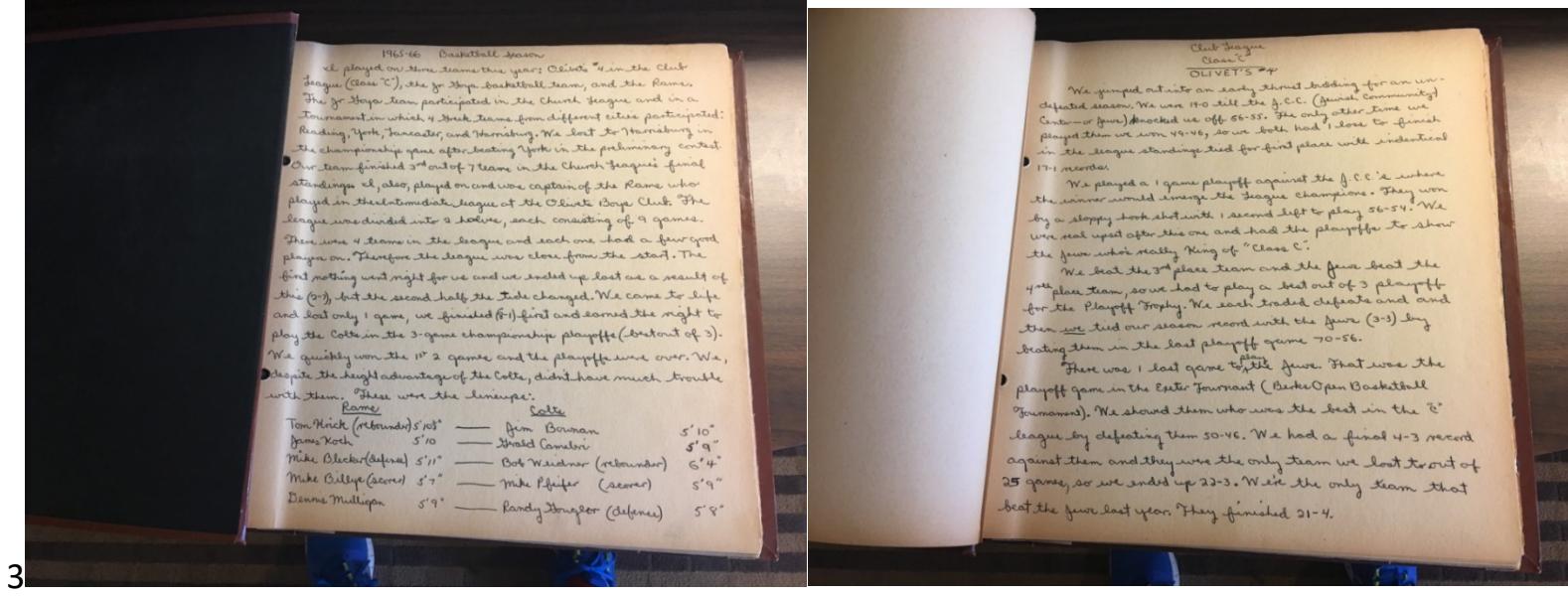
INTERMEDIATE				
Colts	O	P	W	Name
J. Marshall	0	17	11	Hill
E. Marshall	0	17	11	McKee
Carpenter	0	17	11	Weiner
Can. Am. Corp.	0	17	11	Wolfe
Total	31	44	24	Total
Notre Dame-Palmer and Burkett				
Vikings	Eagles			
McFie	0	17	11	M. Eick
McCleary	0	17	11	Kirby
H. Sherman	0	17	11	Goldsack
Glouster	0	14	11	Kraus
Gough	0	14	11	A. Michael
Totals	30	69	Total	35 38
Notre Dame-Palmer and Burkett				

INTERMEDIATE NO. 4		
	Home	Away
Bitter	O 1	20 M. Krock
Brink	O 1	21 H. Krock
Brink	O 1	22 L. Krock
Brink	O 1	23 T. Krock
Brink	O 1	24 J. Krock
Brink	O 1	25 D. Krock
Brink	O 1	26 Total 13 63
Cote		
	Visiting	
M. Brink	O 1	27 F. P. M. Peter
Brink	O 1	28 G. Peter
Brink	O 1	29 McCleary
Brink	O 1	30 R. Peter
Brink	O 1	31 Ringier
Brink	O 1	32 S. Peter
Brink	O 1	33 Total 21 54
Total		
Holmes-Warner and Peeler		
SENIOR NO. 4		
	Lake	Hawks
Schulz	O 1	26 King
Schulz	O 1	27 K. King
Schulz	O 1	28 P. King
Schulz	O 1	29 R. King
Schulz	O 1	30 Total 10 61
Holmes-Vanzen and Hobush		
	Royal	Thorn
M. Holmes	O 1	26 F. Palmer
M. Holmes	O 1	27 G. Palmer
Krock	O 1	28 L. Palmer
Krock	O 1	29 Total 10 52
Holmes-Vanzen and Hobush		

Olivet League			
INTERMEDIATE			
Vikings	Colts	Knights	Rams
Pfeiffer	0 3 12	M. Krick	14
Reiter	0 1 12	M. Krick	8
Caines	0 1 12		0
Brown	6 2 11	Gallagher	3
Ogert	4 9 9	Shenk	1
Totals	15 9 99	Totals	26 23
Befriens-Wanner			
Colts			
Marshall	G F P	G F P	G F P
Cammack's	0 1 18	Klinger	12 10 18
Reiter	1 0 6	Samuelson	3 3 11
Brown	0 0 6	Urban	0 0 6
Hollister	3 0 8	Wright	7 9
Totals	3 3 33	Totals	20 18
Befriens-Wanner			

Reading, PA Recreational League Class C: 1964-67

Playing basketball from an early age was such a marvelous learning experience in my life. I think about those times growing up every day and thank my parents for allowing me to develop my life accordingly through basketball. During this same period of time, I played basketball at the neighborhood **Olivet Boys Club #4** where I could participate in the **Recreational League (Class C)** which played games all over the city of Reading and the Club League that held their games at the **Olivet #4 Boys Club gym**. Participation in these leagues, along with intramural play Northeast Junior High and Reading Senior High School satisfied my enormous appetite for competitive basketball play. All games were officiated by sanctioned referees and were completely organized in these leagues. This shaped an on the court demeanor to give me valuable experience in controlling my emotions when frustrated and/or elated. Playing ball with my schoolmates was very valuable in my growth and development. I want to thank my coaches **Wally Briel, Bill Faller, and Ron Durant** for my formidable training in this crucial time of my teenage life. Without their collective drilling of the fundamentals, none of us would have developed basketball talent. I thank them all from the bottom of my heart. You guys are the true heroes! I worked hard to inspire the youth in my professional career because of your example. May God Bless You loving coaches!



Olivet Boys Club #4 Class C Basketball League Champions of Reading, PA - 1967



BASKETBALL CHAMPS—Here is the Olivet Boys Club No. 4 team champion of the Club Basketball League. Front row, left to right, are Michael Blecker, David Wolf, Michael Billys, Ronald Naugle, Michael

Pfeifer, Art Kasper and coach Ron Duranto. Back row, left to right, are Maud Cammarano, Paul Klinger, John Marshal, Gerry Cameleri, Steve Krick and Al Sobotor.—Eagle Photo.

Pictured above is our Championship Olivet Boys Club #4 Basketball Team who conquered the Class "C" Recreational League in 1967. Finally, my teammates who gave me inspiration to continue my career in college were my best friend to this day Michael Pfeifer (deadeye), Steven (Moose) Krick, Ron (Buzz) Naugle, Alphonse Sobotor, Mauro Cammarano, Mike Blecker, Jackie Marshall (Donyell Marshall's uncle), Jim Koch, Paul Klinger, and Gerry Cammaleri.

HELLENIC COLLEGE BYZANTINE EAGLES: 1967-71

Playing basketball with the Hellenic College Byzantine Eagles from 1967-71 who competed in the Division III Greater Boston College Basketball Conference became an everlasting pleasure in my life. Mike Pagos of Springfield College fame in Springfield, MA (Home of Dr. James Naismith HOF) was our first Head Coach. Coach Pagos recognized our potential as an organized basketball team and made us practice every day. I honed my developed skills of shooting, eye-hand coordination, and knowledge of fundamental team play to 'lead the charge'. With confidence and assertiveness, I was able to lead our team both on and off the court. The first two years of playing ball at Hellenic College became an extreme challenge. Our team did not consist of the talent or height to compete at a high level of success. Coach Pagos expected a lot from me, since I could score and still run the point. Our strategy was to run the ball through various screens, double screens, and back door plays when slowed to a half-court offence but most of the time the strategy was to run the ball. Most of the time was spent fast breaking and out running our opponents. I had to score big numbers most of the time even when opponents double teamed me or played a box and one. I scored in the 20's, 30's, and 40's most times with some games scoring in the 50's but not satisfied unless we won the games! My highest game was 64 pts. (**No 3 point line**)!!! I thank all my teammates on my freshman and sophomore teams that helped me to develop the skills needed to excel in the last two dynamic seasons of play. We always had camaraderie! Fr. Dennis Strouzas, Fr. Peter Karloutsos, and Christy Christ executed precision in running the floor while throwing single and double picks to free me up to shoot the ball. Legendary superstars who excelled in basketball at the Seminary before it became Hellenic

College were dynamic ball handler Fr. Ted Stylianopoulos (50's) and prolific scorer Fr. Alexander Karloutsos (early 60's).



Top row: (left to right): Coach Vic Kissal, Stanley Pappas, Panagiotis Giannakopoulos, Constantine Zozos, Paul Tucker, Doug Southworth, Jim Gordon, George Dounelis (manager), Peter Calagias (statistician).

Bottom row: (left to right) Joe Jani (assistant trainer), Michael Sarris, Peter Bournelis, Thomas Zampas, Michael Billys, John Pournaris (manager).

Coach Vic (Fr. Basil) Kissal became our head coach during my Junior and Senior years at **Hellenic College**. He was a fantastic motivator, totally committed to our team achievement. **Coach Kissal** hailed from the infamous **Demetha HS** in **Washington, D.C.**, the perennial high school power house in the USA., where he played basketball. **Coach Kissal** brought to Hellenic an intense desire to achieve excellence in basketball. **Coach Kissal** convinced Red Auerbach (who scouted me) to allow the **Boston Celtics** to practice at our magnificent facility during both pre-season and the regular season during my first 4 years of college 'ballin'. All NBA visiting teams would also practice there when in town for games which became a phenomenal opportunity for me. I studied the pros and watched both the Celtics and the visiting teams practice all the time. I could watch them even in closed gym practices because I was also in charge of cleaning the gym as my college work-study program. We played our home games in the Pappas Gymnasium which was and still is a tremendous facility where the Boston Celtics practiced when they played their home games. I got to meet many players from around the NBA because the visiting teams would practice there as well. This really worked out fantastic! That was how I became totally committed to the game. I became obsessed with practicing dribbling the ball, shifting my feet, shaking and baking, going to the rim, shooting from the outside, and also foul shots. In my junior and senior years, I became the '**high scorer**' for the team. Many times defenses would play a box and one to defend me from scoring which would force us to use double screens. **There was no 3 - point line** at that time but I could still unleash '**long bombs**' from deep outside. When my jumper was on along with the bombs, it was just an awesome feeling! Another skill was to **out run players down the court** racing to the bucket. All that together made for a high point total with consistency. **Fr. Dean Martin** (of blessed memory) fondly nicknamed me "**Runner**" a tag I'll never forget! When fouled my percentage was very high from the foul line! I attribute this by taking lots of foul shots every afternoon when I practiced by myself.

Our team became very proud to play for Hellenic College! We had a positive won-loss percentage at about to approximately 75% during this time at Hellenic College. We never won a championship but our school enthusiasm was definitely enriched through our commitment to excellent performance as a team and our tremendous fan spirit. We

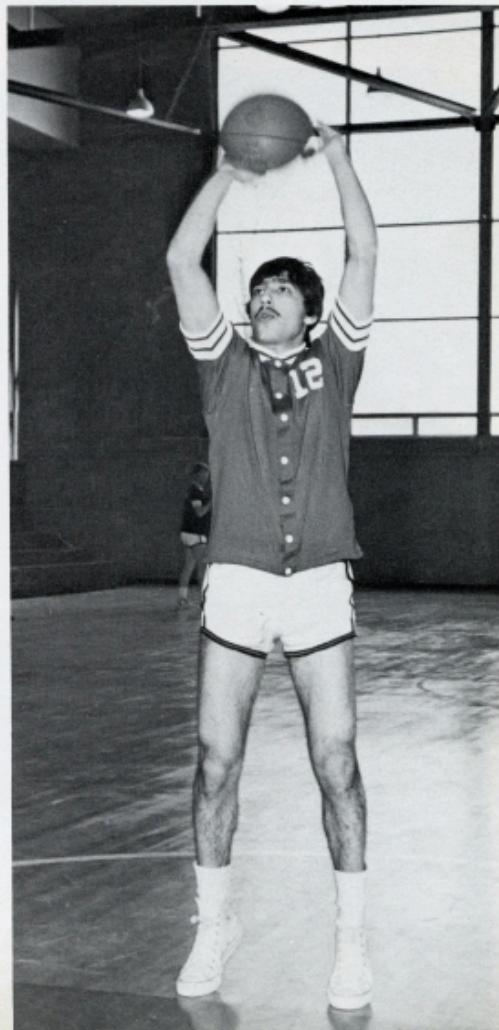
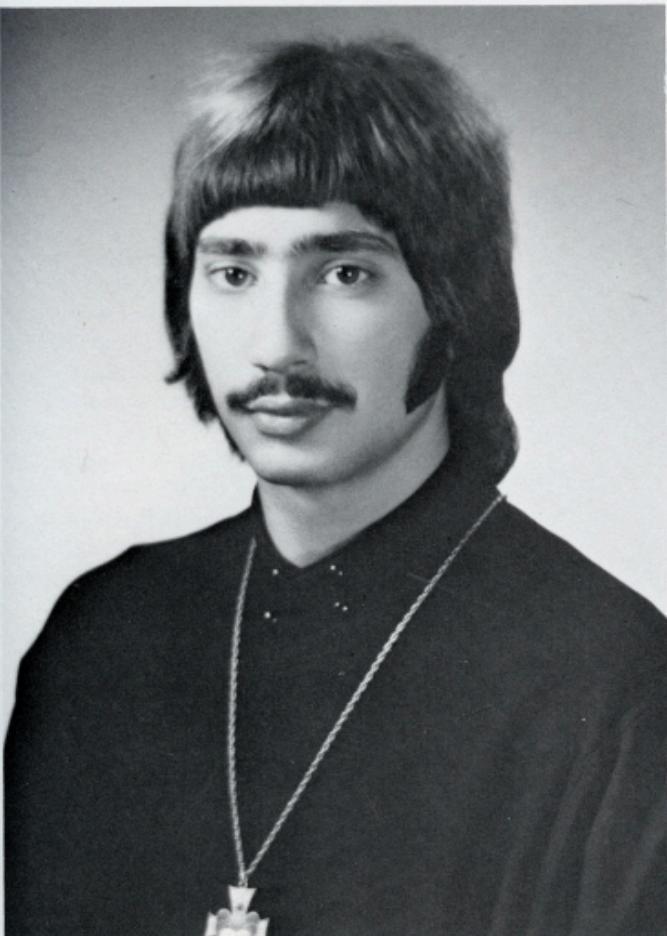
had many fans from the student body that came to see us play. Greek fans also came from the surrounding Greek communities. We were the '**Byzantine Eagles**' and proud of our commitment to excellence and school spirit, as we were representing our Greek heritage! Many times our fellow students would greet us with '**BRAVO**' after the games. The School Spirit and the School Pride we had would motivate us to succeed and play well with performance and dignity. We represented Hellenic College every game we played with both honor and integrity. We had tremendous camaraderie for sure and it was great enthusiasm for our School! The satisfaction of having my classmates, schoolmates, and our fans cheering for our success made it all the worthwhile. It was highly evident once again that both practice and hard work is essential for success. Once you believe you can do something, you're able to conceive it, and eventually you will achieve it. This is what working hard and practice will do for you. Practice, practice, practice, and then you'll eventually find....**PRESTO.....SUCCESS!**



I loved hearing my schoolmates cheering loudly when our team scored buckets. We played for the school, the church, and for the local church communities in the Boston Metropolis area. Wow! Awesome! Fantastic! **Fr. Chris Kerhulas and Fr. Gabriel Karambis (blessed memory)** led the cheers with the **Archbishop Iakovos and Fr. Leonidas Contos**, along with our spiritual advisor **Fr. Maximos Agiourghousis (Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh)**. Classmates and schoolmates who frequently came to cheer us on were **Metropolitan Methodios (George Tournas), Fr. Paul Costopoulos, Fr. Manny Gratsias, , Fr. James Rousakis, Fr. Dean Martin (of blessed memory), Fr. Dean Paleologos, Fr. Nick Krommydas, Fr. George Dounelis (of blessed memory), Fr. Dean Botsis, Fr. Andrew George, Fr. Jim Doukas, Fr. Nick Mallis, Fr. Tom Pistolis, Fr. Johnny Angel, Fr. Michael Kouremetis, Fr. Michael Eaccarino, Fr. George Matsis, Fr. Nick Petropoulakos, Fr. Peter Salmas, Fr. Steven Koffinas, Dr. Peter Kalkanis, Dr. Harry Voyages, Nick Poulos, George Geranios, Jim Chouramanis, Anastasios Raptis, Archie Mavromatis, and Registrar/Ass. Coach Bill Pappas**, as well as many others too numerous to mention or even remember, would be creating a ruckus in the stands. These fans would lead our seminarians, schoolmates, and fans who packed the gymnasium for our home games in a specific cheer they composed which went... "**Big Greek hands, Big Greek feet....Hellenic, Hellenic, Can't Be Beat**" while vigorously stomping their feet in the process!

MICHAEL C. BILLYS

Mike was born in Reading, Pennsylvania and presently resides in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania where he is a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Greater Harrisburg. Upon graduation from Reading High School in 1967, he entered Hellenic College in the Pre-Theology program. "Runner" or "B.A." was a member of the College Choir during his Freshman and Sophomore years and the Byzantine Choir in his Junior year, during which he also took part in the 1970 Good-Will Summer Tour. Mike, who is a superb athlete, was a member of the Varsity Basketball team for three years here at Hellenic. He has also participated in all Intramural sport leagues. In his Junior year Michael was elected Secretary-Treasurer of his class and in his Senior year was class representative to the Student Council. He was a member of the Religious Life Committee in his Junior year. For the future, Michael plans to continue studies in the School of Theology.





We had many faculty members and spiritual advisors who attended our home games, including **Greek Orthodox Archbishop Iakovos** and **Hellenic College Dean Rev. Dr. Leonidas Contos (pictured above)**. Both would attend our home games and cheer loudly with the rest of the student body and our team was motivated to play hard. All home games were played at the phenomenal **Pappas Gymnasium** that the school is very proud of. It was built from the generous contribution of the Pappas brothers from Houston, Texas.



(Top Left) Hellenic College Byzantine Eagles during a time out at a home game at Hellenic College. (Top Right) Co-Captains Mike Billys and Paul Tucker with Coaches Kissal and Pappas (1971) planning strategy.

HELLENIC COLLEGE OWLS: 1978-81

In this given point in time our Hellenic College basketball team was now called the "Owls". Our first **Coach Joe Delgado** was instrumental in applying strict discipline and an organized practice schedule to the otherwise 'splintered' basketball program when I arrived in 1978. That first year our team consisted of **Fr. Dean Hountalas, Fr. Jon Magoulias, Fr. Bill Bartz, and Terry Amarantos**. Together with those four players and myself our team was able to generate enthusiasm a very productive season from **1978-79**.

Dr. Thomas Lelon, President of Hellenic College with Registrar Fr. Christopher Metropolis (the current President of Hellenic College/Holy Cross) made significant improvements to our basketball program at Hellenic College. **Coach Richard Dukeshire** was hired to lead the program. "Duke" (who coached the Northeastern University Huskies from 1958-71), along with his **Assistant Coach Jack Lahane** in **1979** made the specific commitment to put collegiate basketball to the forefront. All parties worked together to put Hellenic College on the map in the Northeast America. The coaching staff and administration was completely dedicated with the zeal to succeed. It was a phenomenal feeling to again be an integral member of an organized collegiate basketball team at Hellenic College.

It became my time to be **the experienced veteran. Coach Dukeshire advised me to be a leader and motivator to the much younger inexperienced players both from America and Greece**. I became a much needed bridge extending from the coach to the players. This was an integral piece of strategy which gave me the valuable experience that I could utilize later in my professional career as an educator and motivator. I became both a mentor for my teammates both on and off the court, a form of graduate assistant. Schoolmates who were committed supporters kept us focused on training and the commitment to excel. **Metropolitans Nikitas (Nikitas Lulias), Sevastianos (Peter Anton), Gerasimos (Gerry Michaleas), Fathers Kosmas (Ike) Karavellas, Demetrios Antokas, Costa Pavlakos, Ted Poteres, Nick Kasmeotis, Chris Bender, and Pat Viscuso** to name just a few as well as many others. We will be forever grateful for the support of the entire student body. Without support from the administration, the board of trustees, the student body, and many fans who came to see us play from the surrounding Boston communities, we wouldn't have had the success or the fun in our program. This was a highly gratifying and fulfilling time in my life and I'm eternally grateful for this opportunity. **This era of time was truly the glory years in the history of Hellenic College basketball.**

HELLENIC COLLEGE OWLS

1981 Greater Boston Small College Conference Champions



Pictured

above (Left to Right): James Floras, Nick Polechronis, Ted Pihakis, John Kalariotes, President Thomas C. Lelon, Larry Psaltis, Captain John Koutsouflakis, Panagiotis Fasoulas, Demetris Botsis, Coach Richard Dukeshire, John Alexander, Achilles Manolopoulos, Mike Koshivas, Dr. Michael Billys, and Manager Fr. Tom Zaferes.

HELLENIC COLLEGE OWLS: 1979-81

Our beloved **Hellenic College Owls** became the champions of the **Greater Boston Small College Conference Champions during the next two seasons from 1979 to 1981.** During these final two years of my organized basketball career at Hellenic College, I was blessed to have the opportunity to play with a true superstar in our **MVP John Koutsouflakis** of Pittsburgh, PA. I came out of retirement because he wanted me to play! John was our leading scorer as he was putting up major points! He scored as many as 53, 48, and 43 points which reminded me of myself during my first stint at Hellenic College. It was truly awesome to be a part of this resurgence as it was truly remarkable how talented this team was. **John Koutsouflakis and I are still the best of friends to this day.** I became his 'koumbaro' and **was the best man in his wedding.** John is my spiritual little brother and will always be my life-long very close friend. Other significant recruits that rounded out this championship team at Hellenic College included forwards **Demetrios Botsis (6'5")** and **Nick Polechronis (6'6")**, along with guards **Mike Koshivas and Jim Flores.** I experienced great joy playing alongside these very proficient teammates and champions.

We had a phenomenal team for the league we were in and ended up undefeated. Coach Dukeshire reached out to Greece and recruited a young **18 yo** center named **Panagiotis Fassoulas (7'0)** who became a defensive stalwart and rebound specialist, igniting many 'quick as lightning' fast breaks for us guards that completely shattered our opponents. He loved to block shots in the paint! Pano put on much needed weight during his playing career while at Hellenic College, then later joined the Wolf pack at NC State, playing one memorable season for the flamboyant coach **Jim Valvano in 1985-1986.** Pano was then chosen by the Portland Trailblazers in the 1986 NBA draft, but he respectfully declined the offer so he could return to play professionally in Greece. He played for **PAOK** and **Olympiakos** but ascended to high acclaim as he contributed with high success in the **FIBA Basketball World Cups.** Fasoulas won the championship for Greece in the **EuroBasket Championship in 1987** with teammates **Nick Galis (NBA HOF Inductee of 2017)** and **Panagiotis Giannakis.** Galis, Fassoulas, Giannakis, and Koutsouflakis were all-stars in the Hellenic Basketball Federation in Greece. Fassoulas and Giannakis also played on the Greek National Basketball teams of the late '80's.

John Koutsouflakis went on to become an all-star in Greece like joining perennial all-stars Panagiotis Fasoulas and Panagiotis Giannakis. All three were professional players in Greece for years. Panagiotis Giannakis (6'5") who was the only person to win the EuroBasket Championship both as a player (1987) and as a coach (2005), played for the Hellenic College Byzantine Eagles the year after I had graduated and the team maintained high success. The Boston Celtics then drafted **Giannakis** the following year, but like Fasoulas decided to play professional ball in Greece instead. Fasoulas is highly regarded as the best big man to ever play professional ball in Greece. Fasoulas went on to become a very successful politician in Greece, assuming the position of Mayor of Piraeus from 2007-2011. He then was inducted in the **FIBA Hall of Fame in 2016**, however our teammates at Hellenic will always remember him affectionately as '**Our Tower of Strength**'in the middle! Our team was very powerful with both the frontcourt and backcourt supported by a powerful player personnel. The best part of it all was enjoying the student body once again becoming unified in their positive morale and enthusiasm. Once again it was '**Big Greek Hands, Big Greek Feet, Hellenic Hellenic Can't Be Beat!**





Deciding to enroll at **Hellenic College** in **1967** and to **continue from 1978 – 81** still remains as the best decision I ever made in for my growth and development as a person and as a basketball player. Little did I know that my love for basketball would become full blown as I played for '**The Scholi**' twice in two different eras; once from **1967-71** and the other from **1978- 81**. My basketball experience at Hellenic College allowed me to compete with and against many talented ball players during my career. I was also able to meet many Greek players from all over the country while playing Ahepa tournaments in the Boston area. These tournaments were held in various venues in the Boston area including our home gym at Hellenic College. The Ahepan teams would compete from all over the entire USA. Also, District Championship tournaments were held at various venues throughout the Boston metropolis. It was incredible! These tournaments were organized by **Dr. Monthe Kofos** who served as **National Athletic Director of the Ahepa** for decades. **The National Ahepa Golf Tournament** is named after him and I knew him personally throughout my time at

Hellenic College/Holy Cross SOT. Some of the players I met and played against during my years of being player/coach for the Hellenic team at the Ahepa Basketball Tournaments in the greater Boston metropolitan area were previous Ahepa Hall of Fame inductees Chris Tsiotis, Nick Tsiotis, and Kirk Vidas.



Archbishop Iakovos giving me the 'high five' and recognizing my contributions to the Ahepa and Hellenic College bringing morale and moral support to the entire student body. I appreciated it very much and his beloved memory will continue to be etched in heart and soul. Graduating from **Hellenic College in 1971 and Holy Cross School of Theology in 1981** gave me the **professional leadership** required to work in public service, the community, and the church. I also received a **Masters of Education** degree from **Millersville University** and a **Doctorate of Education** from **California Coast University**. My professional doctoral dissertation was entitled "**A Survey Identifying Factors That Influence Teacher Morale in the Harrisburg School District**". I served as a special education administrator and teacher in the Harrisburg School District for 27 years. I am currently still serving the community in a part-time basis working for the **Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.** as a behavioral consultant and mobile therapist over the past 19 years working with children and their families. These children have been diagnosed with various exceptionalities including neurological impairment, autism, and/or behavior disorders. Onward and Upward!

In closing, I must say the most positive gift from attending Hellenic College was the opportunity to reap many valuable lessons of life along with developing life - long relationships. These relationships include many bishops, priests, and lay persons from the Greek community who I had as professors, schoolmates, and classmates throughout these previous **4 decades**. I've earned the affectionate nickname during this time of being "**The 4- Decade Man**" but if you ask me, I have this experience close to my heart forever denoting a lifetime of perennial dedication to service. To this day I continue to advocate Hellenic College for any aspiring collegiate student to attend for a scholarly education and development of a professional career. Additionally, this formidable education has a formidable approach to our faith with an atmosphere focusing on Hellenism and spirituality. **Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of Theology** is located in Brookline, MA strategically located in the best part of the Boston metropolis area.







Most of all I thank Almighty God for the grace of free choice and opportunities to repent and recover when mistakes in life become self-consuming. My original experiences with family and friends became the foundation in my life and the reason for my success in basketball. This came by my original membership in both the **Sons of Pericles** and the **GOYA** in my teens. This personal recollection of my 'life in basketball' is a testament of how the mind, body, and spirit can work to satisfy the most of success even in a competitive sport such as basketball. I love all the people I've met along the way in my years of play. These wonderful experiences have truly been a 'journey of love'. I'm currently very involved with **Ahepa Chapter #64 of Harrisburg, PA.** in the **Ahepa Power District #4** assuming various leadership roles including **Chaplain, Corresponding Secretary, Membership/Steering Committee Chairman, Scholarship Committee member, Greek Independence Commemoration Chairman at the State Capitol, and Greek Festival Committee Chairman of our Ahepa Chapter #64.** I hope to always remain committed in serving Christ, our fraternal brotherhood of the Ahepa, and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Respectfully submitted,

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