

LEGEND

HONORING THE GREATS OF THE GAME



GARY HOLWAY

University at Albany Player (1955-59)

Gary Holway is one of the University at Albany's all-time great athletes and distinguished citizens. He led the basketball program to a pair of NAIA Tournament appearances and more than 60 victories as a four-year letterman during the late 1950s. As a biology professor at Oneonta State University, he had an accomplished 35-year career of education and service.

Holway, who is currently the second-leading scorer and rebounder in the UAlbany program's history, piled up 1,851 points and 1,225 rebounds in a college career that began in 1955 after serving four years in the U.S. Navy. Most of his service was spent on the USS Midway in the Mediterranean and during that period he played basketball for the Sixth Fleet.

In an 89-game career at UAlbany, Holway shot 49.7 percent from the field and 75.1 percent from the free throw line en route to a 20.8 career scoring average.

Holway, whose undergraduate education was supplemented by the GI Bill and part-time jobs as a truck driver and camp counselor, went on to average 24.9 points and 15.8 rebounds as a freshman when UAlbany was a state teachers college and not the university research center that it is known as today.

A 6-3 forward/center, Holway scored at a 22.1 clip in his sophomore season (1956-57) in leading his squad to the first of three consecutive 17-win campaigns. He averaged 19.1 points as a junior as the team reached the NAIA's for the first time in going 17-5. In addition, Holway established the school's single-game scoring record with 40 points against Utica College, a mark that still stands.

As a senior captain in 1958-59, he helped UAlbany advance to the second round of the NAIA District 31 Tournament en route to a 17-8 record. Holway contributed 17.1 points and 11.6 rebounds per game. He was honored by the school's Student Association on March 7, 1959 on "Gary Holway Night" as a tribute to his sportsmanship. In his final home game against Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Holway scored 26 points on 10-of-16 shooting.

A native of Saranac Lake, N.Y. and a four-sport scholastic athlete at the local high school, Holway earned his B.A. in biology and science, before receiving a M.S. in botany and a Ph.D. in plant ecology from Colorado State University.

Holway, who was a member of the first class to be inducted into UAlbany's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1984, has played basketball in national 3-on-3 tournaments for those over age 70 and has officiated soccer, basketball, volleyball and softball. He won a gold medal at the 2008 Empire State Senior Games as a member of the New York Owls basketball team.

NATE THURMOND

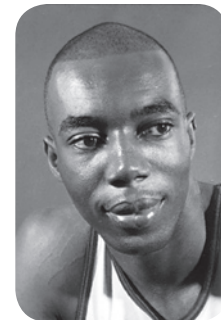
Bowling Green State University Player (1960-63)

Nate Thurmond was an All-American center on two Mid-American Conference championship basketball teams at Bowling Green and went on to be named one of the top 50 players in NBA history.

In college, Thurmond was a three-time unanimous first-team All-Mid-American Conference selection and is the only player in history to lead the league in rebounding three times. He scored 1,356 career points and added 1,295 career rebounds as a member of the Falcons

and was named first-team All-American by The Sporting News/UPI following the 1963 season. His name is found throughout the Bowling Green record book, ranking first in career rebounds and 18th in career scoring (he graduated as the school's fifth all-time leading scorer). He averaged a school record 17.0 rebounds per game during his collegiate career. His 17.8 ppg scoring average is eighth-best all-time.

As a junior, Thurmond led Bowling Green to a record of 21-4 overall and 11-1 in the MAC, advancing the team to the 1962 NCAA Tournament. The Falcons were ranked as high as No. 7 in the country during that 1961-62 campaign. The following year, the team returned to the NCAA Tournament and picked up one of the biggest wins in program history. In a February showdown, the Falcons hosted No. 2 Loyola (Ill.), a team that would go on to win the NCAA Tournament that year, and dominated from wire-to-wire in a 92-75 victory. Bowling Green has been to only one NCAA Tournament since Thurmond graduated.



Following such a successful collegiate career, he was selected by the San Francisco Warriors in the first round of the 1963 NBA Draft. He went on to play 12 seasons with the Warriors,

Chicago Bulls, and Cleveland Cavaliers, averaging 15 points and 15 rebounds per game over his 964-game career. He was a seven-time NBA All-Star and was voted to the NBA's All-Defensive team five times. Thurmond was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1985 and was named one of the 50 Greatest Players in NBA History in 1996. His jersey number, 42, was retired by both the Warriors and the Cavaliers and is the only basketball number honored at Bowling Green.