

Legends of the Game

HONORING THE GREATS OF THE GAME

RICHARD TAYLOR

**Boston University
Player (1969-71)**



Richard Taylor exemplifies the traits of a legendary student-athlete, as he was not only a team captain for the Terriers his senior year but also the university's first-ever Rhodes Scholar.

On the court, Taylor was a spot starter and a valuable reserve during his first two seasons at BU before becoming a regular starter and co-captain as a senior. In his three varsity seasons, Taylor missed only three games and averaged 3.9 ppg and 1.9 rpg.

Though his stats may seem miniscule compared to others, his head coach, Charles Luce, needed Taylor on the court because he directed the plays and proved to be a true leader while also providing energy on the defensive end. A selfless contributor, he did whatever was asked of him, whether that was scoring 13 points against Northeastern or recording six assists in another game against Holy Cross.

Besides basketball, Taylor was heavily involved with other university activities. He co-founded the Afro-American Studies Center, now known as the Martin Luther King Center. Dr. King earned his Ph.D. at

BU, and Taylor did significant research in his papers, which are now on display in a special collection on campus.

His experiences led him to apply for the Rhodes Scholar with his paper titled "A Child of Mid-Century America." Inspired by Dr. King to become active in public service and to help people, he stressed in his paper not what he hoped to take out of Oxford but what he could give to the school.

After earning a bachelor's degree in journalism from BU, he would receive a bachelor's in philosophy, politics and economics at Oxford and then later a master's in business administration along with a juris doctorate from Harvard.

Over the last 15 years, he has been engaged in the real estate development field and has also served as an executive in residence at Suffolk University. More importantly, he has devoted time to the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts, helping the organization improve job readiness skills for residents in the urban markets of Boston.

He is a true BU legend.

J.R. HOLDEN Bucknell University Player (1995-98)

Bucknell is the oldest Division I college basketball program (along with Yale and Minnesota), with its roots dating all the way back to 1896. Bison teams have won better than 53 percent of their games over the last 116 years, and the program's archives are littered with standout players. Among that corps of stars, one of the most remarkable stories belongs to 1998 graduate J.R. Holden.

At Bucknell, Holden transformed himself from a lightly recruited guard into a 1,300-point scorer and a two-time first-team All-Patriot League selection. Holden went on to enjoy a very successful overseas career that took him to Latvia, Belgium, Greece, and Russia. He became one of the top stars in European basketball, where he led the powerful CSKA Moscow team to the 2006 Euroleague title.

At the urging of President Vladimir Putin, Holden later became a naturalized Russian citizen, and he represented Team Russia at several international competitions. Most notably, Holden stole the ball from Spain's Pau Gasol and then nailed the dramatic game-winning jumper with two seconds left to give underdog Russia the 2007 European title, and along with it a berth in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

As Bucknell's fourth Olympian and Russia's starting point guard in Beijing, he started all five games and averaged 38.6 minutes, 17.6 points and 4.8 assists per game. In his Olympic debut, he had 19 points in Russia's victory over Iran. He then added five points against Croatia, 25 against Lithuania, 20 against Australia, and 19 against Argentina. Among all Olympians in pool play, he was the fifth leading scorer, and ranked first in minutes played and tied for third in assists.

Holden retired from CSKA Moscow last spring after leading the team to its ninth straight Russian championship.

In addition to the appearance in the Olympics, his career was highlighted by eight national titles, four Russian Cups, two Euroleague championship titles, and eight Euroleague final four appearances. Since returning to the United States, Holden has completed his memoir, *Blessed Footsteps*, in which he chronicles his amazing story.

