

# The Washington Post

## Sports

# Harry Gallatin, Hall of Fame NBA basketball player, dies at 88

By News Services, Staff Reports and From news services and staff reports October 7

Harry Gallatin, a Hall of Fame basketball player who was a seven-time All Star forward for the New York Knicks in the 1950s, died Oct. 7 in Edwardsville, Ill. He was 88.

The Knicks and Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, where Mr. Gallatin was a former coach and athletic director, confirmed the death through his family. The cause was not disclosed.

Mr. Gallatin spent nine seasons with the Knicks, one in the Basketball Association of America and eight in the NBA, and finished his career in 1957-1958 with the Detroit Pistons. He averaged 13.3 points and 11.9 rebounds in 630 regular-season NBA games. He led the league in rebounding with a 15.3 average in 1953-1954 and was an All NBA first-team selection that season.

His 33 rebounds in a 1953 game are still the Knicks' single-game record.

Called "The Horse" for his rugged play, the 6-foot-6 Mr. Gallatin never missed a game or practice in his career. He played 610 consecutive games with the Knicks, a team record that stands, and was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass., in 1991.

Mr. Gallatin coached at Southern Illinois at Carbondale from 1958 to 1962, going 79-36 with the Salukis. He then coached in the NBA, going 111-82 in more than two seasons with the St. Louis Hawks and 25-38 in parts of two seasons with the Knicks. He was NBA coach of the year in 1963 with the Hawks.

As athletic director at Southern Illinois at Edwardsville from 1967 to 1972, Mr. Gallatin started the school's basketball program in 1967 and coached the Cougars for three seasons. In 1973, he became the school's men's golf coach, leading his team to 18 NCAA Division II championship appearances.

Harry Junior Gallatin was born April 26, 1927, in Roxana, Ill. He served in the Navy during World War II, then attended Northeast Missouri State Teachers College (now Truman State University).

He completed his bachelor’s degree in only two years, leading the school’s basketball his team to a record of 59-4 record and two appearances in the NAIA tournament in that time. In college, Mr. Gallatin was also an outstanding baseball player. After the Knicks selected him in the 1948 draft, he spent two off-seasons as a minor-league baseball pitcher in the Chicago Cubs system.

Mr. Gallatin later received a master’s degree in physical education from the University of Iowa.

— From news services and staff reports

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