

= Steve Javie =

Steve Javie ( born January 17 , 1955 ) is an American retired professional basketball referee who refereed in the National Basketball Association ( NBA ) from the 1986 ? 87 NBA season to the 2010 ? 11 season . As of the beginning of the 2006 ? 07 NBA season , Javie has officiated 1 @, @ 264 regular season , 190 playoff , and 18 NBA Finals games . According to Referee magazine , Javie was a highly regarded referee in the NBA , and he was respected within the officiating community for his game management skills . He was also notable during his NBA officiating career for his quickness in assessing technical fouls .

Prior to his NBA career , he played and graduated from La Salle College High School . He later played baseball for Temple University from 1974 to 1976 and later was an umpire in the Florida State League ( Class @-@ A ) from 1978 to 1981 . Transitioning to basketball , he officiated in the Continental Basketball Association ( CBA ) from 1981 to 1986 .

= = Personal = =

= = = Early life = = =

Steve Javie was born on January 17 , 1955 in Philadelphia , Pennsylvania to Stan and Stella Javie . During his childhood , he attended and later graduated from La Salle College High School in Philadelphia , Pennsylvania , where he played baseball , football , and basketball , earning All @-@ League honors in baseball and basketball . Following high school , he continued a baseball career at Temple University . He graduated from the university in 1976 with a bachelor 's degree in business administration . As a prospect in baseball , Javie signed with the Baltimore Orioles minor league organization . He was released from the Orioles minor league system ( Class @-@ A ) after one year due to an arm injury suffered as a pitcher . Also is the proud owner of a beer distributor in the Roxborough section of Philadelphia . Supporting the city in each and every way he can .

= = = Family = = =

Steve Javie 's father , Stan Javie , was also a sports official . Stan Javie worked in the National Football League from 1951 to 1980 as a field judge and back judge , and was assigned to officiate four Super Bowls . In an interview with Referee magazine , Steve Javie described his father as " a guy you 'd go to war with . He had a passion . He was probably the official that everyone strives to be , but can 't , because you have to be yourself . I can 't be a Stan Javie and you can 't be , but if you took all the characteristics and makeup , you 'd want to be that kind of official . " His godfather , Johnny Stevens , was an American League umpire and worked four World Series in a career that spanned from 1948 to 1975 .

Javie resides in Blue Bell , Pennsylvania . He is married to Mary Ellen , whom he met in 1990 at the Philadelphia International Airport , where she was employed . The couple was married in August 1991 .

= = = Charity = = =

Along with his wife , Steve Javie started the Javie Foundation for Charity to raise money for the homeless , disabled , abused and neglected children . He hosts an annual fundraising golf tournament to support a variety of causes in the Philadelphia metropolitan area . The two @-@ day event , which also includes dinner , dance , and silent auction , has raised US \$ 1 million since its inception .

In 2007 , he participated in a summer clinic at Don Guanella High School in Springfield , Pennsylvania , along with four other NBA officials , teaching developmentally challenged boys the rules of basketball and how to signal violations .

= = Baseball umpire = =

After his baseball playing career was over at age 22 , Javie began working at Johnson & Johnson in their baby products line . Becoming uninterested in his job at Johnson & Johnson , he decided to pursue an occupation within sports , and became a baseball umpire in 1978 . Having no prior experience as an arbiter , Javie attended an umpire school operated by Major League Baseball ( MLB ) umpire Bill Kinnamon . Upon completion of training , he was selected to work in the Florida State League . Looking to be promoted to the Class @-@ AA Eastern League , he was denied entrance into the league due to scheduling conflicts and later a players ' strike . In June 1981 , after two and a half years in the Florida State League , Javie left the organization over disagreements with executives due to the lack of promotion opportunities , and being forced to split from an experienced umpire crew that included Jerry Layne , who later worked in the major leagues .

= = Basketball referee = =

= = = CBA career = = =

While serving as an umpire , Javie had officiated basketball games at the high school level in Pennsylvania during the baseball off @-@ season . In addition , he was invited to NBA camps for prospective officials . Within a week of return home following the end of his umpiring career , Javie contacted his father 's friend , NBA referee Earl Strom , who assisted Javie in reaching then @-@ CBA supervisor Cecil Watkins about the possibility of working in the CBA . After officiating games in Philadelphia 's Baker League , he was hired by the CBA in the fall of 1981 . He arrived to the CBA with a " baseball mentality " and had to make quick decisions on the court because of the league 's reputation for fighting among players and arguing by coaches . During a game at The Armory in Albany , New York , Javie was chased down a staircase by then @-@ Albany Patroons coach Phil Jackson , who had received a technical foul . He worked CBA games for five years before being hired by the NBA in 1986 .

= = = NBA career = = =

= = = = Early years = = = =

Upon arriving in the NBA , Javie developed a reputation early for having a " quick trigger finger " , and he was believed to be one of the league leaders in calling technical fouls during the late 1980s and early 1990s . Reflecting on his early years in the league , Javie told Sports Illustrated in October 2000 , " I 'd get so mad I 'd lose control for two or three minutes , and that 's when I would miss calls . " Javie developed mentorships with referees Joe Crawford and Jack Madden to assist in the maturation process . Working his debut game with Crawford at the Pontiac Silverdome in Detroit , Michigan , Javie received a grade of 40 points out of 100 by supervisor Darell Garretson . While reviewing game film later at the hotel , Crawford noted errors made throughout the game by himself . As a result of this film study , Javie learned that experienced officials make mistakes and admitting error will improve a referee 's ability in the long @-@ term . Ninety minutes after the conclusion of a game , Javie reviews game film . In addition to film review , Madden taught Javie not to lose focus when players and coaches were upset , and to walk away from them rather than becoming angry . Javie credited his mentors for success as a referee saying , " My mentors have made me what I am today . I 'm a little part of each of them . It 's their success in teaching me . "

= = = = On @-@ court controversies = = = =

Javie 's first public incident came during the 1990 ? 91 NBA season in a game between the Portland Trail Blazers and Washington Bullets at the Capital Centre on April 4 , 1991 . Bullets ' forward Pervis Ellison was called for a personal foul and then threw the ball at referee Billy Spooner . Javie ran across the court to impose a technical foul on Ellison for this action . In the sequence of events that followed , Javie ejected Ellison after protesting the call , the Bullets ' head coach Wes Unseld for protesting the dismissal of Ellison , and the Bullets ' mascot , " Hoops " , for making gestures to incite the crowd . Rod Thorn , then the NBA 's vice president for operations , ruled that Javie overreacted in ejecting Ellison and would be subject to discipline . The extent of the disciplinary action was not disclosed . Javie reflected on the experience saying , " My fatal mistake was getting involved with Billy [ Spooner ] and Pervis [ Ellison ] in the first place . You have to be there for your partners , but most of the time you 've got to let them call their game . "

Nearly three years later in another game involving the Portland Trail Blazers , Trail Blazers radio broadcast analyst Mike Rice was ejected by Javie for disputing calls from his broadcast position . In the third quarter of the game in Indianapolis , Indiana , Rice made a " choke " gesture towards Javie in disagreement over a goaltending violation non @-@ call on shot attempt by Portland 's Cliff Robinson . After a verbal exchange between Javie and Rice , Rice was removed from the broadcast and escorted to the locker room area by arena security .

During the 2002 ? 03 NBA season , Javie was fined \$ 1 @,@ 000 by the league for a verbal altercation with Pat Riley , then @-@ head coach of the Miami Heat .

In a January 2007 game between the Philadelphia 76ers and Denver Nuggets , Denver point guard Allen Iverson received two technical fouls and was ejected from the game in the fourth quarter . Iverson was quoted postgame about Javie , telling the press , " I thought I got fouled on that play , and I said I thought that he was calling the game personal , and he threw me out , his fuse is real short anyway , and I should have known that I couldn 't say anything anyway . It 's been something personal with me and him since I got in the league . This was just the perfect game for him to try and make me look bad . " Iverson was fined \$ 25 @,@ 000 for his remarks , as well as for " verbal abuse of a game official " .

= = = = Income tax evasion trial = = = =

In January 1999 , Javie was the only one of fifteen referees to be acquitted of tax evasion charges as a result of not reporting income he received by downgrading airline tickets provided by the league . Other referees were sentenced to probation or a period of house arrest , and ordered to pay the taxes . He fought the charges because he believed he did not intentionally do anything wrong . Discussing the trial , Javie told Referee magazine , " My job is about my name . My dad taught me your name is the most important thing . I had to fight for my name . " During the trial , Javie argued that he didn 't owe taxes on more than \$ 84 @,@ 000 in income over three years because the money was value @-@ earned from frequent flyer miles , which are non @-@ taxable . He later described the trial as " the hardest two weeks " of his life .

= = = = Memorable games = = = =

In April 2003 , Javie was the referee in Michael Jordan 's final game of his fifteen @-@ year NBA career . During a game break towards the end of regulation , Javie congratulated Jordan on his career and told him he was a " class act " . Javie then turned around and told the younger players on the court , " You could do a lot worse than modeling yourselves after this guy . "

= = = = Retirement = = = =

Javie announced his retirement before the beginning of the 2011 ? 12 season .