

= Gerry McNamara =

Gerry McNamara (born August 28 , 1983) is a retired American basketball player and current assistant coach of the Syracuse University men 's basketball team . A former guard for the Orange , he never missed a start in his career which lasted from 2002 to 2006 . He also helped lead the team to a title in 2003 .

After leaving Syracuse , McNamara played professionally for Panionios BC , Olympiacos BC , the Bakersfield Jam , BK Ventspils and the Reno Bighorns . In 2009 , McNamara announced his retirement from basketball and returned to Syracuse as a graduate student and assistant coach .

= = Personal life = =

McNamara was born in Scranton , Pennsylvania . He is the youngest of the four children of Joyce and Gerard McNamara . He has a brother Timothy and two sisters , Bridget and Maureen . He married Katie Marie Stott on July 21 , 2007 . He enjoys fishing almost as much as he enjoys basketball .

= = High school = =

McNamara attended Bishop Hannan High School (Now called Holy Cross High School) . In his four seasons at Hannan , the Golden Lancers compiled a record of 109 @-@ 17 . McNamara was named the Lackawanna League Division II Player of the Year for four years in a row , was a three @-@ time Associated Press Pennsylvania Small School All @-@ State First Team selection and was the AP 's Pennsylvania State Player of the Year in 2001 and 2002 . McNamara finished as Pennsylvania 's seventh all @-@ time leading scorer with 2 @,@ 917 points . He still holds the scoring record at Holy Cross .

Bishop Hannan advanced to the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Class A championship game after defeating Susquehanna Community High School of Susquehanna , Pennsylvania in the semi @-@ finals of his freshman year . The team also went to the finals his sophomore season and finished the state runner @-@ up in both 1999 and 2000 to Kennedy Christian High School of Hermitage , Pennsylvania .

After and before , but not during the 1999 and 2000 seasons , Bishop Hannan was named under the AA class of PIAA . After McNamara graduated in 2002 , the school , and all the neighboring Bishop schools except Bishop Hoban , went back to A for population reasons . In 2007 , when the school combined with Bishop O 'Hara of Dunmore , Pennsylvania , the new school called Holy Cross High School , was put in the AA class .

In 2001 the Golden Lancers were defeated by eventual PIAA Class AA champion Trinity High School of Camp Hill , Pennsylvania , in the Eastern Final .

In 2002 Bishop Hannan and Trinity met once again in the Eastern Final . McNamara exploded for a career @-@ high 55 points (41 in the first half) , putting him in 2nd place for the most points scored in a basketball game in PIAA history , as the Golden Lancers advanced to the Class AA championship game , 83 @-@ 76 . Three days later his 32 points led all scorers as Hannan held off Sto @-@ Rox High School and won the Class AA state title , 70 @-@ 68 .

Following his senior season , McNamara was named the 2002 Pennsylvania Gatorade Player of the Year and a fourth @-@ team Parade Magazine All @-@ American . For his high school accomplishments , McNamara was also named the 20th greatest athlete in Scranton @-@ area history by the Scranton Times in 2004 .

= = College career = =

McNamara had offers from schools such as Duke and Florida , but chose to attend Syracuse .

= = = 2002 @-@ 03 = = =

McNamara helped capture the school 's first ever National Championship in 2003 . McNamara started every game his freshman year , helping lead the Orange to a 30 @-@ 5 record , including a perfect 17 @-@ 0 at home . He averaged 13 points , 4 @-@ 6 assists and 2 @-@ 2 steals a game while shooting 35 percent from 3 @-@ point range and 91 percent from the foul line .

McNamara showed early on that he was a clutch performer , nailing a game @-@ winning 3 @-@ pointer as then @-@ No. 17 Syracuse notched an 82 @-@ 80 win over then @-@ No. 10 Notre Dame in February . In a March game at Georgetown , McNamara missed a free @-@ throw with 10 seconds left that allowed the Hoyas to force overtime . Until that point , McNamara had been a perfect 41 @-@ for @-@ 41 in conference play . However , McNamara made up for his miss , hitting two 3 @-@ pointers and adding another jumper in an 11 @-@ 3 run to start overtime as Syracuse beat Mike Sweetney and the Georgetown Hoyas , 93 @-@ 84 . Ten of McNamara 's 22 came in the extra frame .

In the NCAA Tournament second @-@ round game against Oklahoma State , McNamara scored 14 points and added six assists as the Orangemen overcame a 13 @-@ point first @-@ half deficit . In the semi @-@ final game against T. J. Ford and the University of Texas , the Orangemen won 95 @-@ 84 behind a career @-@ high 33 points from Carmelo Anthony and 19 points and four steals from McNamara .

In the title game versus favored University of Kansas , his six three @-@ pointers in the first half helped Syracuse open up an 18 @-@ point lead over the Jayhawks . In the second half , Syracuse held off a furious Kansas comeback , eventually winning the game 81 @-@ 78 behind the stellar play of freshman star Carmelo Anthony and a game @-@ saving blocked shot by sophomore forward Hakim Warrick . McNamara and Anthony were named to the All @-@ Tournament team .

== 2003 @-@ 04 ==

McNamara and Warrick were left to guide the team in the 2003 @-@ 2004 season after Anthony rode his heralded postseason play into the NBA . McNamara would not disappoint , averaging 17 @-@ 2 points per game . He was also a Wooden and Naismith award candidate and Second Team All @-@ Big East selection . McNamara and Warrick led the Orange to a 23 @-@ 8 record and a five seed in the NCAA Tournament . McNamara scored 43 points , including a school @-@ record nine three @-@ point shots , as Syracuse outlasted Brigham Young University 80 @-@ 75 in the tournament 's first round .

Syracuse built a 16 @-@ point lead over the University of Maryland in the second round ; they survived a furious Terrapins comeback in the 72 @-@ 70 win . In the Sweet 16 McNamara had a game @-@ high 24 points , but Syracuse could not overcome the University of Alabama , 80 @-@ 71 . McNamara averaged 26 @-@ 7 points in the three tournament games .

== 2004 @-@ 05 ==

In 2005 Syracuse finished 27 @-@ 7 and captured the Big East post @-@ season tournament title with a win over West Virginia University . McNamara averaged 15 @-@ 8 points and was named to the First Team All @-@ Big East . The fourth @-@ seeded Orange suffered a shocking overtime upset in the first round of the NCAA Tournament to the University of Vermont . McNamara struggled through one of the worst games of his college career , scoring just 11 points and missing 14 of his 18 shots .

== 2005 @-@ 06 ==

One of only two players left from the championship team , McNamara and Syracuse struggled through the 2005 @-@ 2006 regular season . Two highlights were the 38 points McNamara scored against Davidson College , the second @-@ most points ever scored by a Syracuse player at the team 's home arena , the Carrier Dome , and a 30 @-@ point performance against the visiting

Louisville Cardinals . Syracuse finished with a losing record in the Big East ; the team was in danger of missing the NCAA Tournament unless it secured the conference 's automatic bid by winning the Big East 's postseason tournament .

Prior to the conference tournament two separate publications , Sports Illustrated and the Syracuse Post @-@ Standard conducted polls of Big East players and assistant coaches . In each poll , McNamara was voted the Big East 's " Most Overrated " player .

Fueled by the negative press , and despite an injured leg , McNamara led Syracuse on a run to the Big East tournament title . In the first round he hit a running one @-@ handed three @-@ point shot with less than a second left in the game to spur Syracuse past the University of Cincinnati , 74 @-@ 73 . Following the game Jim Boeheim unleashed a passionate profanity laced defense of his star player to the attending media .

The next day McNamara hit a three @-@ pointer in the closing seconds of regulation to tie number @-@ one ranked University of Connecticut and eventually led Syracuse to an overtime upset . McNamara finished with 17 points and 13 assists , one assist shy of the Big East Tournament record .

Syracuse fell behind Georgetown University in the tournament 's semi @-@ finals , Syracuse 's third game in three days . McNamara hit five three @-@ pointers in the second half ? including one in the last minute of the game ? to slash the Hoyas ' lead to one . He dished out an assist to freshman guard Eric Devendorf to put Syracuse in the lead following a Georgetown turnover and forced another turnover in the closing seconds to clinch the game .

McNamara had 14 points and 6 assists in Syracuse 's 65 @-@ 61 championship game win over the University of Pittsburgh . Syracuse became the first team to win four games in four days and capture the Big East Tournament Championship .

McNamara won the Dave Gavitt Award as the tournament 's Most Outstanding Player . He donned a tee @-@ shirt with the mocking retort , " Overrated ? ! ! " as he helped cut down the nets .

McNamara 's career came to an unceremonious end in the first round of the 2006 NCAA Tournament . Severely hobbled by his leg injury and exhausted from the run in the Big East tournament , he scored only two points in just 23 minutes of play as fifth @-@ seeded Syracuse was upset by Texas A & M University . It marked the only game in his career McNamara was held without a field goal . The Orange finished with a 23 @-@ 12 record .

= = = Career summary = = =

McNamara started all 135 games he played in his four years and graduated with a degree in Communication and Rhetorical Studies in May 2006 . A 2006 Associated Press Honorable Mention All @-@ American , McNamara was named by Big East head coaches to the league 's All @-@ Freshman team in 2003 , to the All Big East second team in 2004 and to the All Big East first team in 2005 and 2006 .

His career statistics rank among the greats in Syracuse 's school history . He finished fourth in points scored (2099) , first in minutes played (4781) , second in steals (258) , third in assists (648) , first in three @-@ point shots made (400) and attempted (1131) , and first in career free @-@ throw percentage (89 @-@ 1 %) .

In 63 career Big East games , McNamara set conference records for three @-@ pointers made (183) and career free @-@ throw percentage (91 @-@ 7 %) . His 400 career three @-@ pointers ranked sixth all @-@ time in NCAA history .

McNamara was also named the 2006 winner of the Chip Hilton Player of the Year Award . The award is presented annually by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame to a senior Division I men 's player who demonstrates outstanding character , leadership , and talent .

McNamara left Syracuse as one of the most beloved players in Orange basketball history ; his final regular @-@ season game at the Carrier Dome on March 5 , 2006 , was the arena 's first @-@ ever advance sellout for a basketball game . The final attendance of 33 @-@ 633 , at that time an all @-@ time NCAA record for an on @-@ campus regular @-@ season game , included more than 3 @-@ 000 fans ? dubbed " McNamara 's Band " by the media ? from the Scranton area (according

to media reports more than 60 buses made the two @-@ hour trip from Scranton to Syracuse for the game) . Among those people coming up from Scranton were McNamara 's parents , who were in attendance for every game in his college career , and 2014 NEPA Pizza Madness Winner Carmen Pellegrino of Maroni 's Pizza . Syracuse lost the game to highly ranked Villanova University ; McNamara led all scorers with 29 points .

McNamara 's popularity continues to this date , as he can currently be seen in local television advertisements in Syracuse , New York , including the ad for Fernandez Automall . On August 16 , 2006 , The Scranton Red Barons , Triple @-@ A affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies , gave the first 6 @,@ 000 fans through the gates at PNC Field a Gerry McNamara bobblehead doll . The doll was featured on the Scranton @-@ set television show The Office , placed on the desk of the character of Dwight Schrute .

= = = Statistics = = =

= = Team USA = =

McNamara was one of 13 players who accepted invitations to attend the 2005 USA Basketball men 's trials and training camp from July 28 @-@ August 4 , 2005 . The team , coached by Villanova 's Jay Wright , won the gold medal at the World University Games in Izmir , Turkey .

McNamara played in all eight games and started four as the U.S. went a perfect 8 @-@ 0 . In those games , he averaged 8 @.@ 4 points , 1 @.@ 9 rebounds and a squad @-@ best 2 @.@ 6 assists per game . McNamara finished off the tournament with 13 points and five rebounds to help the Americans win the gold @-@ medal game over previously unbeaten Ukraine , 85 @-@ 70 .

= = Professional career = =

Before he graduated from Syracuse University , McNamara was drafted No. 1 overall in the 2006 United States Basketball League draft held on April 11 , 2006 by the Northeast Pennsylvania Breakers . However , McNamara decided not to sign with the Breakers and instead focus on the upcoming 2006 NBA Draft by participating in the annual NBA Pre @-@ Draft Camp . Despite being projected as a second round pick in some mock drafts , McNamara was not drafted . However , he was invited to participate in the Orlando Pro Summer League in Orlando , Florida playing for the Orlando Magic . At the conclusion of the league , McNamara was not offered a contract with the Magic .

On September 4 , 2006 , he signed a one @-@ year contract to play for Olympiacos BC , but only for Euroleague 2006 @-@ 07 games . After playing just 30 seconds in the team 's first five games , It is estimated he was paid \$ 90 @,@ 000 for that one minute . While he was in Greece , McNamara was drafted in the sixth round of the Continental Basketball Association draft by the Albany Patroons on September 26 , 2006 . The Patroons held McNamara 's rights until 2008 . McNamara reached a contract settlement and left the team and returned to the United States in November 2006 .

On December 12 , 2006 , in an attempt to boost his chances of playing in the NBA , McNamara signed with the Bakersfield Jam , an NBA Development League team located in Bakersfield , California . In doing so , he gave up a significant amount of money by leaving Olympiakos . McNamara was named as a reserve to the Western Conference 's All @-@ Star team and played in the Gillette D @-@ League All @-@ Star Game on February 17 , 2007 , in Las Vegas . He scored two points and recorded 5 assists . He finished the 2006 @-@ 2007 season averaging 10 @.@ 8 points and 5 @.@ 2 assists in 41 games .

On June 29 , 2007 , McNamara was invited to try out for the Philadelphia 76ers ' summer league team . Despite a sprained ankle he made the team and played in both Las Vegas and Utah summer leagues .

After not being offered a contract by the 76ers , McNamara decided to return to Greece by signing a \$ 400 @,@ 000 contract on August 21 , 2007 to play for the Greek team Panionios BC for the

Greek A1 League 2007 @-@ 08 season . He played his last game for the team on November 6 , 2007 , and was let go the next day , just four games into the season . McNamara played three of the four games and scored just seven points . Coincidentally , he was replaced on the roster by former Michigan State University star Mateen Cleaves with whom he shared minutes on the Bakersfield Jam team the prior season .

On February 15 , 2008 , McNamara signed a contract with Latvian basketball team BK Ventspils . After his brief stint in Latvia , McNamara returned to the U.S. after being invited to participate in the Utah Jazz 's training camp on September 17 , 2008 , but McNamara was waived on October 27 , 2008 .

On January 7 , 2009 , McNamara signed with the NBA Development League 's Reno Bighorns , joining him with former Syracuse stars Damone Brown and Donte Greene . Three days later , McNamara made his debut against his former team , the Bakersfield Jam , and scored six points and recorded 6 assists in a 93 @-@ 91 victory . However , on March 7 , 2009 McNamara was waived by the Reno Bighorns citing personal reasons , and it was reported that McNamara was considering ending his playing career .

= = Coaching career = =

On July 22 , 2009 , it was announced that McNamara would be returning to Syracuse University as a graduate student . He enrolled as a Master of Science candidate in the School of Education 's Instructional Design , Development and Evaluation program . In addition to taking classes , McNamara joined the basketball team 's coaching staff as a graduate manager . In November 2011 , following the dismissal of associate head basketball coach Bernie Fine in response to allegations of child sexual abuse , McNamara was promoted to assistant coach , with a focus on development of the guards .