

Greg Pritchett



Greg Pritchett was only in third grade when he picked up a basketball for the first time. Five decades later he still hasn't put the ball away for good.

From those early childhood days, Pritchett went on to become one of the best players in the city in the mid-1970s at Brien McMahon High School before starring at Sacred Heart University and later playing professionally in South America.

It was while growing up in Roodner Court and attending St. Joseph Catholic School in South Norwalk that Pritchett first took an interest in basketball. Just a few years later he became one of the top players in the Norwalk Biddy Basketball League and on the Roton Middle School team.

All roads led to Brien McMahon where Pritchett made the freshmen basketball team and before the end of the season was promoted to the Senators' junior varsity squad.

That was just a prelude of great things to come. As a sophomore in 1973–74, Pritchett broke into the varsity starting lineup. McMahon had won its first FCIAC championship the previous year and four of the five starters from that team

returned the following season. Coach Ralph King had to fill one starting position and it was Pritchett who won the job.

The 6-foot-3 sophomore responded by averaging just under 10 points while starting all 25 games for the 22-3 Senators, who won a second consecutive FCIAC crown and reached the Class LL state semifinals.

Then after the other four starters graduated, Pritchett was the lone returning letterman in 1974-75 and was named a junior captain. As the on-court leader of a team that started three sophomores, Pritchett averaged 13.4 points as the Senators went a surprising 16-4 in the regular season and returned to postseason play.

But it was as a senior that Pritchett blossomed into the one of the best players in the state as the second-year captain averaged a team-best 17.3 points — including a career-high 31 points against New Canaan—and led the Senators to a 21-3 record and trips to the FCIAC and state semis.

Displaying his all-around ability, Pritchett also averaged 6.3 rebounds and three assists a game while considered one of the best defensive players in the state. In addition to being named first-team All-FCIAC, he became only the third player in school history to earn All-State first-team honors and was also named All-New York Daily News.

He graduated as the Senators' fourth all-time leading scorer with 912 career points. Over the next four years, he would score 1,033 points for Sacred Heart University, none bigger than the clutch basket he hit as a sophomore in 1978 with seconds remaining to give the Pioneers an 84-83 win over Merrimack College in the New England Regional final to secure a berth in the NCAA Division II 'Elite Eight.'

After college, Pritchett played professional basketball for three years in South America with stints in Chile, Brazil, and Argentina.

His playing days were far from over, however. Pritchett continued playing basketball on weekends in New York City and in 2013 — at the age of 55 — he organized and played in an "Over 40" league at the Carver Center.

And a few months shy of turning 60, Pritchett is still playing pickup games at the local gym and at the park on weekends. He also operates a side business called "Home Court Advantage" with his sons Matthew and Marqus, providing individual basketball training. Matthew played at Bridgeport Central High, while Marqus also played at Central before transferring to McMahon and finishing his career on the same court as his father.