

John Davis



JOHNS DAVIS scored 1,091 points in his marvelous high school basketball career more than four decades ago. But it was his final two points, the very last basket he ever scored in a Brien McMahon uniform, that the former all-state player and All-City MVP will always be remembered for.

That basket on March 19, 1977, a short jumper with 1:58 left in overtime, would be the only two points scored in the three-minute extra period and gave the Senators a dramatic 68–66 victory over Stamford High in the Class LL state championship game in front of over 2,500 fans at the New Haven Coliseum. Davis' basket not only delivered McMahon its first state title in the program's storied history, but made the Senators the first team from Fairfield County to claim a Class LL crown.

Davis finished with a game-high 28 points on that memorable Saturday afternoon and he was a unanimous selection as the MVP of the state championship game. That was just one of the many

highlights of Davis's outstanding high school career on Highland Avenue.

The 6-foot-1 senior guard was also named MVP of the FCIAC championship game two weeks earlier when he scored a game-high 19 points in McMahon's 55–53 overtime win against FCIAC rival Rippowam at a packed Wilton Fieldhouse. The only two points in that overtime were scored by Davis's fellow co-captain William Corprew at the buzzer and avenged the Senators' only loss during that magical 25–1 season.

It was a season that saw Davis also capture the MVP award at the annual Williard Williams Christmas Tournament in December. The honors continued to pour in after the season for Davis, who was named first-team All-FCIAC, first-team All-State, and first-team All-Daily News Fairfield County.

A three-year varsity starter, Davis averaged a team-high 13.7 points as a sophomore and received All-FCIAC Honorable Mention as he helped a young McMahon squad go 16–5. He followed that up by scoring 12 points a game and repeating as an all-conference Honorable Mention his junior year for the 21–3 Senators, who reached the state semifinals.

But Davis saved his best for last as he averaged 20.1 points his senior year, including 25.8 points during the Senators' four state tournament contests en route to the state title. That run included a career-high 36 points in McMahon's opening-round win against Notre Dame of West Haven in which Davis became just the third player in BMHS history and only the fifth in city annals to score 1,000 career points.

He scored another 22 points in the Senators' 79–55 quarterfinal win against Westhill. In his postgame comments, Vikings' head coach Lou Orlando called Davis "the best player in the state," while McMahon coach Ralph King said he was "the purest shooter he has ever coached."

Davis would score 17 points in the semifinals as the Senators beat Hartford Weaver 69–57 to advance to their first-ever state championship game. He then capped off his brilliant career with that 28-point MVP performance as the Senators finished 25–1, giving Davis a sparkling 62–9 record in his three-year varsity career.

That high school career earned Davis a basketball scholarship to Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ, where he played under coach Bill Raftery, now a popular college basketball TV analyst and one of the voices of 'March Madness.'

But it was John Davis who created his own March Madness 45 years ago when he made one of the biggest shots in Brien McMahon basketball history.