

Margaret Diaz



Margaret Diaz secured her place in Norwalk sports history on February 28, 1979. That was the night she became the first female high school basketball player in city history to score 1,000 career points. It came in the state quarterfinals and the 5-foot-8 senior finished with 18 points as the Norwalk High crushed Torrington 81-33.

She recorded 24 points and 13 rebounds in the semifinals and another 19 points in the state championship game to finish her career with 1,046 points.

Diaz, who passed away in 2010 in her native Trinidad at the age of 47, moved to the U.S. at the age of 10. She didn't start playing basketball until high school, but it didn't take her long to learn the game.

She averaged 11 points as a sophomore, 19.3 her junior year, and 17.2 as a senior while being named first-team All-FCIAC and All-State a second straight season and leading NHS to a 20-0 regular-season. She then scored

a career-high 34 points in the opening round of the state tournament.

Diaz received a scholarship to Division II Mount St. Mary's and scored a school record 1,952 points in only three seasons. She transferred to Division I Cheyney State as a senior and became one of the few players in women's basketball history to play in both a Division I and Division II Final Four.

She later pursued coaching as an assistant at the University of Bridgeport and then as the head women's basketball coach at Sacred Heart University.

Basketball wasn't her only sport. At Norwalk High, Diaz was a state champion quarter-miler on the girls track team and broke the state record. She also ran cross country one year to get in shape for basketball and won the FCIAC individual title.

After more than 30 years in the U.S, Diaz returned to Trinidad and was still playing basketball in her forties, winning a national women's club championship in 2003.