

Hi, I'm Dave Popkin. It's my pleasure to help induct tonight's honoree onto the Dan Finn Classic Wall of Honor.

Born and bred in Jersey City, he became one of the most accomplished high school basketball players in history.

He is the only player ever to start for Saint Anthony Friars' varsity squad for all four years.

He was a four-time high school All-American, led Saint Anthony to four State Championships, the New Jersey Tournament of Champions title, and was part of the 1989 National Championship team along with Terry Dehere and Bobby Hurley.

The Star-Ledger named him one of the Top 50 Basketball Players of all-time in the state of New Jersey.

Upon his graduation from Saint Anthony, he signed with Seton Hall University and helped lead the Pirates to three consecutive NCAA Tournament trips, including an Elite 8 and Sweet 16 finish.

He was the MET Basketball Player of the Year, the BIG EAST Defensive Player of the Year, a member of the BIG EAST's All Rookie Team, and 2nd team All-Conference.

Following this fantastic college career, he played professionally overseas in: Spain, Turkey, France, Puerto Rico, and Lithuania.

After retiring as a player, he went back to Seton Hall and proudly finished up his bachelor's degree.

He now owns a successful security company and is the President and Founder of Team Walker, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing academic and athletic after-school programs to the youth of Jersey City.

He is a winner, a leader, and a man with a huge heart that loves his hometown and the children that he now serves.

Several years ago, Mike and the Mad Dog asked Coach Bob Hurley who has the best Saint Anthony player he ever coached. Coach, of course, didn't want to give an answer and offend anyone, but when pressed as only they can do, Hurley considered the question and came up with that one player and his name is **Jerry Walker**.