



Emmett McGovern

Men's Basketball
1975-1977

1. What does being a DePaul Letterwinner mean to you?

Although my stay at DePaul was only a year and a half it was a time that is deeply cherished. I am very proud to say that I was a member of the DePaul Blue Demons for the 1975-76 season and part of the 76-77 season. It was an exciting time for DePaul as we were on the way to the national spotlight. In 75-76 we got into the NCAA tournament, which was quite an accomplishment. At that time it was only 32 teams and somehow we snuck in there. We drew the ACC champ University of Virginia and we knocked them off to get into the Sweet Sixteen. Our next game was against Virginia Military Institute which we ended up losing in double overtime. My highlight was scoring a basket that got the game into the 2nd overtime.

I ended up transferring from DePaul for personal reasons in the middle of my sophomore year and this was a very difficult time for me. I truly loved Coach Meyer and son Joe, as well as, Dr. Sarubbi. I also loved my teammates, Randy Hook and Gary Wydra, as well as the rest of the guys: Dave Corzine, Randy Ramsey, Joe Ponsetto, Ronnie Norwood, Curtis Watkins, Gary Garland, Andy Pancratz, Greg Coehlo, Billy Dise, and Scottie Fiereisel. For alot of years I lost my connection to DePaul, but through friendship with Jeannie Lenti and Doug Bruno I was welcomed back into the DePaul family for Ray Meyer's last game in the old alumni hall. I reached out to Jeannie and told her I would like to attend in order to honor Coach and she just totally made me feel like I had never left. Coach Bruno did the same type of thing right around the same time. I called him to see if I could get my daughters into his summer camp and to work the camp as a coach for their fee.... Coach Bruno told me, "not only will the girls attend my camp tuition free but you will get full coaches pay as well....my girls and I attended Coach's camp for the next 7 years.

DePaul always had part of my heart and it was truly great to get that connection back. Since then I try to attend as many events as I possibly can. I am very proud to say that I was part of the Blue Demons in a very exciting era.



Emmett McGovern's Favorites:

- ♥ **Travel destination:** Rome or Hawaii
- ♥ **Books:** Uncommon Faith, They Call Me Coach
- ♥ **Author:** John Coverdale, John Wooden
- ♥ **Movie:** The Godfather
- ♥ **Sports movie:** Hoosiers
- ♥ **Quote:** The True athlete should have character....not be a character
UCLA Coach John Wooden



2. Why did you choose DePaul?

Met Coach Ray and Joey at the Ray Meyer Summer Camp and fell in love with the Old Coach. I used to come down and play pick up with the guys on the team after my senior season at Saint Patrick High School and cliqued pretty well with the players so I felt strongly that DePaul was the right place for me.

3. What was your favorite memory while at DePaul?

Playing in the NCAA Tournament in the 75-76 season.

4. What did receiving a scholarship from DePaul mean to you?

I was very proud to receive that scholarship from a school that had academic and basketball prestige.

5. What was your funniest memory at DePaul?

Coach Meyer's rants at half time and then some of the imitations that a few of the players could come up with.



6. Brief Summary of your life from graduation till now:

Married Colleen Riley (now for 27 years) and have 4 children: Eileen 25, Emmett Jr 23, Mary Kate 20 and Maeve 17.

Worked as a Treasury Bond Trader at the Chicago Board of Trade for 18 years and then in 2000 changed careers and became a high school counselor and basketball coach at my alma mater Saint Patrick High School.

7. What advice would you give to a current or future student-athlete?

Put your heart into whatever you are doing at that moment....have God in your life and ask Him to help you to do that.....keep this order:

1. God
2. Family
3. Academics
4. Whatever your passion is

Our new weekly feature “Behind the Bricks” allows DePaul letterwinners a chance to tell the DePaul community a little bit about themselves, a brief reflection on their time as a Blue Demon student-athlete and where they have gone since stepping off the court, field or diamond.

This feature was renamed “Behind the Bricks” to coincide with the dedication of the John and Dale Melbourne Herklotz Letterwinners Plaza and Champions Courtyard. With the plaza filled with 3,800 bricks representing DePaul’s student-athletes since 1926, each brick has a story. “Behind the Bricks” will allow letterwinners to tell their “DePaul Story”.