



Cazzie Russell

Biographical Information

In 1962, while playing at Chicago Carver High School, Russell was named the Chicago Sun Times Boy's Player of the Year. A three-time All-American and two-time Big Ten Player of the Year, Russell led the Wolverines to the NCAA Final Four as a sophomore and again as a junior, when U-M finished as national runner-up to UCLA. Russell was named National Player of the Year as a senior, when he averaged 30.8 points per game, and helped Michigan to the Elite Eight. He completed his collegiate career with 2,164 points while leading the Wolverines to a three-year mark of 65-17 and three consecutive Big Ten titles. Crisler Arena, which opened in 1967, has been dubbed *The House that Cazzie Built*.

Russell spent twelve seasons in the NBA. Russell was the NBA's first draft pick in 1966, and was named to the 1967 All-Rookie Team. He was part of the famous 1970 Knicks team winning the NBA championship over the Los Angeles Lakers. Russell played in the 1972 NBA All-Star Game while with the Golden State Warriors. While with the Lakers, he was the last player to wear #32 prior to Magic Johnson.

In 1981, he returned to pro basketball as a coach in the Continental Basketball Association for the Lancaster (Pa.) Lightning. He guided his team to that league championship that season. Russell was the head coach of the men's basketball team at the Savannah College of Art and Design for 13 seasons.

Cazzie Russell was inducted into the College Basketball Hall of fame in 2011, and currently resides in Savannah GA.