

## Charlie Criss

Born: November 6, 1948, Valhalla, New York

High School: Yonkers (1965) Gorton (1966) High School (NY)

College: New Mexico State University

### High School:

- 1964-1965 Westchester Rockland Newspaper All-County and All-City Team ... averaged 18.7 points per game
- 1965-1966 Westchester Rockland Newspaper All-County (#2 vote-getter) and All-City Team ... averaged 25 points per game, top scorer in the city
- Led Gorton High School to the Section 1 State championship and named MVP scoring a tournament record 118 points.
- 

### College

- 1966-1967 New Mexico Junior College averaged 30 points per game
- Played at NMSU from 1968-1970
  - 61 games; 13.4 points per game; 2.4 rebounds per game and 2.2 assists per game.
- 1968-1969 Started all the games and averaged 16 points per game but was unable to play in the NCAA tournament because junior college transfer was ineligible to play in the first year of Division 1 basketball.
- Starting guard on the 1970 Final Four team.
- 1968-1969 & 1969-1970 – Named Small Player First Team All-American.

### Professionally

- Began his professional career in the Continental Basketball Association, earning league Most Valuable Player honors with the Scranton Apollos in 1976, next playing for the Washington Generals.
- 1977 Atlanta Hawks of the National Basketball Association and played 418 games in eight seasons in the league with the Hawks, San Diego Clippers, and Milwaukee Bucks. When he entered the NBA, Criss was the league's shortest active player at 5'8".
- NBA career, Criss averaged 8.5 points and 3.2 assists per game, with his best year being his first in 1978, posting averages of 11 points and 4 assists in 77 matches. During the 1980 NBA playoffs, Criss averaged 14 points and 4.4 assists per game, as the Hawks eventually lost to the Philadelphia 76ers in the Eastern Conference Semifinals. On February 20, 1982, while on the Clippers, Criss scored a career-best 34 points and recorded 8 assists during a 118–101 win over the San Antonio Spurs.
- After retiring as a player, he worked as a golf instructor, an Atlanta Hawks television color commentator, a minor-league basketball coach and a basketball summer camp coordinator.
- Ran a computer lab at a middle school.
- Assistant basketball coach at Woodard Academy, the high school where his son played
- Owned Charlie Criss Graphics

### Honors

- 1975 Inducted into the NMSU Athletics Hall of Fame with his teammates, Sam Lacey and Jimmy Collins.
- Named to the NMSU All-Century Team
- 2004 1969-1970 team was inducted into the NMSU Athletic Hall of Fame.

### Community

- 

### Family

## 1970 New Mexico State Aggies

- Jimmy Collins, senior guard (6-2): 24.3 points, 4.6 rebounds
- Sam Lacey, senior center (6-10): 17.7 points, 15.9 rebounds
- Charlie Criss, senior guard (5-8): 12.5 points, 2.9 assists
- John Burgess, senior forward (6-5): 4.7 points, 5.5 rebounds
- Rudy Franco, senior forward: 0.2 points, 0.3 rebounds
- Jeff Smith, junior center (6-8): 12.8 points, 8.3 rebounds
- Chito Reyes, junior forward (6-6): 8.2 points, 4.6 rebounds
- Roy Neal, sophomore forward (6-6): 5.5 points, 5.2 rebounds
- Bill Moore, sophomore guard (6-3): 2.0 points, 1.3 rebounds
- Milt Horne, sophomore guard: 4.4 points, 1.8 rebounds
- Lonnie Lefevre, sophomore center (6-8): 1.3 points, 1.9 rebounds
- Tom McCarthy, sophomore guard: 0.3 points, 0.3 rebounds

**Head coach:** Lou Henson

**Assistant coaches:** Ed Murphy, Keith Colson and Rob Evans

1970 Small All-American with Calvin Murphy .... Petie Gibson 2<sup>nd</sup> team