

Jimmie Guymon

Born: Monte Vista, Colorado

High School: Valley High School

College: Eastern New Mexico

The first time Jimmie Guymon touched a basketball was when he was just four years of age. What transpired from there was a story that led him to being one of the first United States imports to play pro basketball in the United Kingdom.

His nickname "Golden Arm" was given to him because of his extremely fine outside touch in shooting the basketball. When people talk about the greatest basketball player in Albuquerque history... the name of Jim "Golden Arm" Guymon always comes up!

High School

- Basketball player at Valley High School
- 1965 member of state championship team.
- One of the leading scorers and rebounders in New Mexico in his senior year

College

- Played from 1967-1971 and scored 1530 points.
- 1968-1969 Won an NAIA National Championship as a sophomore.
- NAIA All-American
- Drafted in the fifth round of the NBA draft by the Cincinnati Royals (now the Sacramento Kings), and the ninth round by the Dallas Chaparrals in the old ABA draft.

Professional

- Luck was not on Guymon's side early in his pro career, as he sustained infectious hepatitis. It took him over a year to recover from that fully. After that he failed to make the Phoenix Suns's roster.
- Guymon had given up any hope of playing professional basketball. As a result, he became a teacher at Grady High School in New Mexico. At about the same time, Tom Wisman, the player-coach at Sutton & Crystal Palace, and a former assistant coach at ENMU, asked Guymon to come to London to play for him in the National Basketball League. Jimmy did not need to be asked twice about playing the game he loved in Europe. Thus, Guymon made the decision to head to London, England to play for Crystal Palace.
- Became a pioneer of the game in England during his first season, 1973/74, taking the league by storm and earning the nickname, Golden Arm, in helping his club to a league and cup double (there were no play-offs back then) as well as being the unanimous selection for the MVP of the league.

- Another league MVP award would follow a couple of seasons later and three consecutive league and cup doubles with Crystal Palace, where he teamed up with Mark Saiers, would make them the dominant team of the era.
- It was during this time that Guymon led his team to the quarter final stage of the European Cup Winner's Cup (1975/76) where, along the way they beat the eventual champions Cinzano Milan in the group stage in Italy.
- In 1980, Guymon made the decision to drop down a division and join Wisman at the newly formed Solent Stars on the south coast, where he would combine playing with coaching the women's side Solent Suns.
- After winning the Division Two title and gaining promotion to the top-flight, 1981/82 with Solent was Jimmy's last season as a full-time player.
- A hip injury that he suffered from the previous season proved too painful for Jimmy to keep playing.
- Average 28 points and 8 rebounds per game.
- After securing a starting spot with the London team he won three championships and led the team to the quarter finals of the European Cup Winners' Cup; still the only English team to do so.
- Considered to be the best American to play in the United Kingdom professional league.
- Considered a real trailblazer that paved the way for other high quality import players to travel across the pond and help the boom in basketball of the late seventies and early eighties.
- Guymon's playing career finished with Solent Stars.
- Before deciding to focus on one-on-one teaching of the game, he tried his hand at coaching. He coached basketball in United Kingdom and has culminated in him being recognized as one of the top player development club coaches.
- 1982/83, Guymon assumed the coaching reigns at TCB Brighton, guiding them from a record of 4-18 and last place in their previous season, to a record of 13-11 and a seventh-place finish in the league. Brighton's sponsors, however, severed ties with the club at the end of the season severely restricting finances. The club relocated to Worthing and Guymon moved on to accept the position of head coach at Kingston.
- Guymon is perhaps most well-known for his work with a skinny 17-year-old big kid named Joel Freeland, who grew to be one of the premier big men in Europe and is now suiting up in a Portland Trailblazers jersey and Will Neighbour, who's based in Arkansas with UALR and is tipped to have a bright professional career ahead of him. Both Freeland and Neighbour attribute a lot of their success to Guymon.

Honors

- 1971 Named the Greatest Greyhound, which is the year's top athlete at Eastern New Mexico.
- 1999 Inducted into the Eastern New Mexico Hall of Honor.
- 2020 Inducted to the British Basketball Legion.