



JAMES SPANARKEL

Hudson Catholic Regional HS

Athlete - Basketball

Jim Spanarkel is one of the greatest athletes to hail from Hudson County. A basketball and baseball star at Hudson Catholic, he also played both sports at Duke University.

As a basketball player, he was a 1,000-point scorer for Hudson Catholic, where he graduated in 1975. He was a three-time All-County player and two-time All-Stater on the hardwood. A highlight of his hoops career was a victory over St. Anthony in the 1975 Hudson County final, in a game played before thousands at the Jersey City Armory.

In baseball, he earned All-State recognition as a pitcher and first baseman.

Even though he played both sports at Duke, basketball was clearly his specialty. He was a three-time team MVP, a two-time All-Atlantic Coast Conference selection and a two-time All-America. He was named most outstanding player at the NCAA East Regional in 1978, during a run where the Blue Devils finished national runner-up. He ended his career as Duke's first 2,000-point scorer, and was inducted into the school Hall of Fame in 1990.

Spanarkel was taken 16th overall in the first round by the Philadelphia 76ers in 1979. His NBA career spanned five years.

Spanarkel has also had a successful career as a broadcaster, as an analyst for the Brooklyn Nets on YES and NCAA games for both CBS and FOX Sports.