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Mark Aguirre is recognized as one of the best college basketball players ever. Along with George Mikan and Ray Meyer, his name is one of the most synonymous with DePaul basketball. Although he played only three seasons at

DePaul, Aguirre remains the school's all-time leading scorer.

In his first season at DePaul in 1978-79, Aguirre set Chicago and the college basketball world on its ear by leading the Blue Demons to the Final Four with a 26-6 record. Aguirre averaged 24 points and 7.6 rebounds as a freshman and made DePaul's Alumni Hall the place to be in the city.

Aguirre did not disappoint as a sophomore, leading the Blue Demons to a 26-2 record and No.1 ranking for most of the season. He averaged 26.8 points and 7.6 rebounds. A consensus All-American, Aguirre was also named the National Player of the Year by the Associated Press, UPI, the U.S. Basketball Writers and he was awarded the Naismith Award. Aguirre also was named to the 1980 U.S. Olympic team.

His junior season was almost identical to his sophomore year except for one thing, the Blue Demons had a new home arena - the Rosemont Horizon. Aguirre helped

pack the new suburban home, averaging 13,369 fans per game. DePaul became a fixture on national television and Aguirre averaged 23 points and 8.6 rebounds a contest for a team that would finish the year 27-2 and ranked No. 1. Once again, Aguirre was named a consensus first team All-American.

In his three years at DePaul, Aguirre led the Blue Demons to a 79-10 (.888) record. His career scoring average of 24.5 and his career point total of 2,182 are still Blue Demon records, and Aguirre is the only player in Blue Demon history to score 2,000 or more points in a career.

The Dallas Mavericks selected Aguirre as the No. 1 pick in the 1981 NBA draft. In his 13-year NBA career, Aguirre was named an NBA All-Star three times and helped the Detroit Pistons to the 1989 and 1990 NBA Championships. He finished his career with a 20 points per game scoring average.

