

Rudy LaRusso
Los Angeles, CA

Date of Death: 7/9/2004

Classmate Rudy LaRusso died July 9th after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's Disease. The finest all around basketball player to ever play at Dartmouth, Rudy was a key leader of the teams that won Ivy Championships during our years in Hanover. Coming to Dartmouth from Brooklyn, Ruddy went on to play first for the Lakers in Minnesota, then for that team after its move to Los Angeles and finally for the San Francisco Warriors.

He was a great basketball player by any measurement, establishing Ivy League records that stand today, with recognitions including two times All Ivy, All Ivy Silver Anniversary, College All American, New York City Basketball Hall of Fame, five time NBA All Star and many others.

Retiring from professional basketball in 1969, Rudy went on to a successful career in business and finance. Bob Filderman, closer to Rudy than most of us, remembers him as "a good, close friend; someone we could talk to ... a gentleman, a person without false airs and one who was sincere and truly friendly to all."

Rudy is survived by his wife Roslyn and son Corey.

Obituary
Dartmouth Alumni Magazine

Athletic Remembrances from Dartmouth College

In July 2004, former Dartmouth great Rudy LaRusso died after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's disease. During his varsity career, which extended from 1956-59, LaRusso established rebounding records for Dartmouth which may never be surpassed.

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An All-Ivy League selection twice and an All-America, LaRusso led the Big Green to the Ivy League titles and NCAA appearances in 1958 and 1959. Dartmouth secured the 1959 title in a one-game playoff with Princeton that was won on a last-second shot by LaRusso. He was the captain of that Big Green team.

LaRusso continues to hold three rebounding records at Dartmouth, including the career mark of 1,239. He set the single-game record of 32 vs. Columbia his junior year, and established the season mark of 503, also as a junior. Throughout his varsity career, he averaged 15.4 rebounds per game. He is one of only two Dartmouth players to surpass both 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds in a career. LaRusso scored 1,167 points, an average of 14.6 per game, while Jim Francis '57 also reached those lofty heights with 1,050 rebounds and 1,159 points.

LaRusso was a second-round pick of the Minneapolis Lakers in the 1959 NBA draft. He moved west with the team a year later and was part of the original Los Angeles Laker team in 1960-61. Five times he was an NBA all-star and three times he helped the Lakers reach the NBA finals.

The 6-7, 220 lb. LaRusso concluded his professional career in 1969 with the San Francisco Warriors, and later became a successful investment banker and sports agent. He continued to live in the Los Angeles area, and was a spectator when the Big Green played at Loyola-Marymount on December 21, 1999. With a spirited second-half comeback, Dartmouth won, 89-67, and after the game, LaRusso visited the Big Green locker room where the Dartmouth players chanted, "Rudy, Rudy, Rudy."

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Rudy LaRusso Memorial Fund, Dartmouth Athletics, 6083 Alumni Gym, Hanover, NH 03755. The fund will benefit the Dartmouth men's basketball program.