



John Saintignon

Alumni Spotlight

Within the foundation of our community, the legacy of St. John the Evangelist Catholic School thrives through its alumni, who embody the values of faith, service, and excellence instilled during their time here, weaving a tapestry of inspiring stories and accomplishments. Among these narratives, we're privileged to spotlight one of our distinguished graduates, John Saintignon, who completed his journey with us in 1979. As we catch up with John, we're thrilled to witness the enduring impact of his St. John's education and to celebrate his continued successes. Join us as we shine a spotlight on John's journey since his days at our school, reflecting on the shared values that unite us across generations.

Educational and Career Journey:

John Saintignon's educational and career journey is nothing short of remarkable. Following his time at St. John the Evangelist Catholic School, he continued his academic path at Salpointe Catholic High School. His passion for basketball led him to the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he followed his dream of playing college basketball. Later, at the University of California, San Diego, he maintained his dedication to both academics and athletics, earning his BA in Economics while thriving on the court.

Notably, John's talents extended beyond the classroom. With three-time All-American honors and the distinction of being the NCAA's leading scorer, he attracted attention from professional leagues in Europe and Latin America. Embracing this unique opportunity, John embarked on a professional basketball career that took him across continents.

Transitioning from player to coach, John's journey entered a new chapter. Starting as a high school coach, he developed his skills and eventually ascended to coaching roles at the NCAA Division 1 Pac-10 level, NCAA Division 2 level, and even as a head coach for professional teams in Mexico, the Kingdom of Bahrain, and Japan. Through his diverse experiences, John Saintignon has not only excelled in his career but has also inspired countless individuals with his dedication and passion for both the sport and coaching.



Achievements and Milestones:

Starting with his time at St. John's, he played a critical role in securing the school's first basketball championship title and earned the prestigious MVP award in the Parochial school league. His stellar performance continued at Salpointe Catholic High School, where he received All-State honors.

In college, John's talent and dedication earned him the distinction of being a three-time All-American and a three-time MVP of the conference. He further solidified his legacy by becoming the leading scorer in the NCAA, with an impressive average of 31.2 points per game. His expertise on the court was recognized internationally, as he was named a rookie all-star in Barcelona, Spain.

John earned the coveted Coach of the Year title at Mar Vista and Bonita Vista High Schools in San Diego. Beyond the realm of sports, he is a published author, with his debut book "Take Your Shot, Make Your Play" available in the literary world. Currently, he is preparing to release his second book titled "Shooting for Impossible."

In addition to his accomplishments in basketball and writing, John holds a Nidan (2nd) degree Black Belt in Karate. His journey serves as a testament to his unwavering dedication, passion, and relentless pursuit of success.



Impact on the Community:

John Saintignon has demonstrated his commitment to making positive contributions through active involvement in charity work, both internationally and locally, where he embodies the values instilled in him. In his hometown of Nuevo Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico, John gives back by contributing to an orphanage, providing support and care to children in need. Additionally, in Ube, Japan, where he once coached, John partners with Kids Wrap to assist neglected children, offering mentorship and guidance. Through his dedication to charitable initiatives, John exemplifies the spirit of compassion and service, making a profound impact on communities near and far.

Quotes and Reflections:

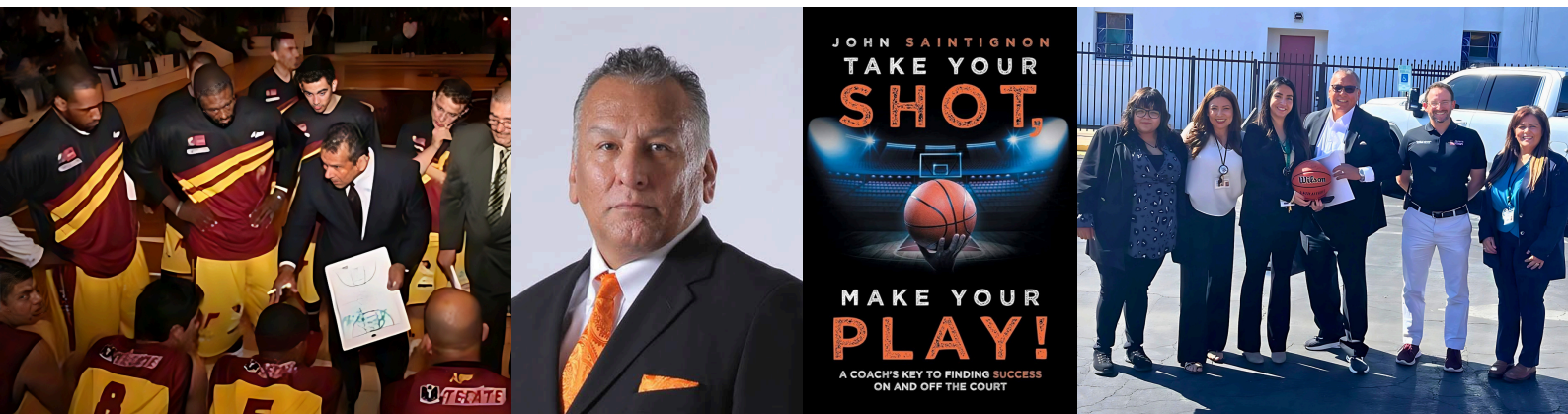
As John Saintignon reflects on his time at our school, he shares invaluable advice derived from his own experiences: "Basketball is a tool to get an education. I have much advice to offer, as the quality of your life will be in direct proportion to the effort you give in the classroom and in your other activities. Excellence is an all-the-time thing, not just when you think people are looking at you. Your time at St. John's will provide you the solid foundation for you to continue and achieve great things in your life. Take every advantage of the teaching that is offered to you daily, get curious about things you do not know and be comfortable meeting others as you will come to discover you will eventually have something in common and maybe a friend for life."



Professional and Personal Highlights:

John Saintignon's life beyond the court and classroom is equally enriching. Married for over 26 years, John is a devoted husband and father to two exceptional sons. One son has graduated from USC and is pursuing a career as an actor in Los Angeles, while the other is set to graduate this year with a degree in Chemical Engineering.

Outside of his family life, John finds joy in staying active and exploring new interests. He enjoys cycling almost daily and is dedicated to perfecting his skills in the martial arts. With a deep appreciation for the outdoors, John eagerly explores nature whenever he can, always enthusiastic about discovering new parts of the world and embracing fresh experiences.



In conclusion, John's journey stands as a testament to the lasting influence of a Catholic education. His narrative embodies the fusion of faith, academic excellence, and dedication to service, echoing the principles instilled during his formative years at St. John the Evangelist Catholic School. John continues to serve as a source of inspiration for current and prospective students, inspiring them to follow his lead.

John invites anyone to connect with him on Facebook, LinkedIn or Instagram. For more information visit his website at www.johnsaintignon.com.



Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/john.saintignon>



LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/john-saintignon-176a4332>



Website:

<https://www.johnsaintignon.com/>



Thank you, John, for returning to St. John the Evangelist Catholic School to meet with our students and inspire them with your journey. We appreciate your time and the positive impact you've made! You are always welcome here, and we look forward to future visits. Your continued connection to our school is cherished.

March 27, 2024

