

## From Hoya Hoops Star to FBI Agent

*by Ed Leary (1970-2000)*

Each year, the month of March is host to basketball legends. Fans rally around their alma mater's team, devote attention to picking their bracket, and then focus on the tournament that will crown a national champion. Through its annual "madness," the game of basketball captivates young and old alike and forges stars on a national stage. One such star was Special Agent Daniel J. Kraus (1951-1977), who from childhood to college, into adulthood, through a career in the Bureau and into his later years followed a basketball path that became the stuff of legend. He died of cancer on Dec. 28, 2012.

### **A Truly Memorable Game**

In 1934, the Temple University basketball team was renowned for its ability to run a zone defense. When Coach Elmer Ripley took his team to play a team of 11-year-old ball players from New York City in an exhibition basketball clinic at New York's Madison Square Garden against the Temple squad, a legend was born. It was at that game that 11-year-old Danny Kraus and his teammates amazed onlookers by their ability to pass and score at will against the zone defense of the storied Temple basketball team. Following that exhibition, Kraus went on to star as a basketball player at New York's DeWitt Clinton High School and achieved All-City Honors. It should be no surprise that Coach Ripley kept in touch with Kraus and his teammates and eventually recruited Kraus to play for the Georgetown Hoyas.

### **A Journey to the 1943 NCAA Championship**

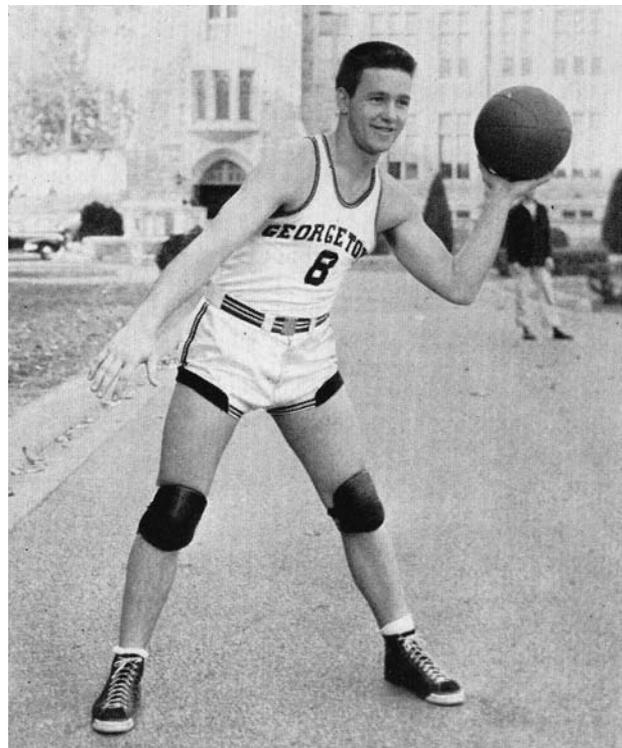
Ripley truly knew how to spot the best players in the sport. During the 1942-1943 college basketball season, his Georgetown University basketball team went all the way to the national championship game in the Hoyas' first appearance in the NCAA Basketball Tournament. Kraus served as a co-captain and was a team star. Regrettably, Georgetown lost to Wyoming in the final game of the tournament.

After his sophomore year, Kraus left Georgetown to enlist in the Marine Corps and served in the Pacific during World War II. When Kraus was discharged from the service, famed Coach Arnold "Red" Auerbach attempted to recruit Kraus to play in a new professional basketball league

— soon to become the National Basketball Association (NBA). Kraus declined Auerbach's offer and returned to Georgetown to get his degree, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science in 1948. Once back on the ball court for Georgetown, Kraus achieved All-America honors and captained the Hoya Basketball squad during his junior and senior year at college. After graduation, he served as a coach of the freshman team at Georgetown before playing pro ball for the Baltimore Bullets.

### **A Chance Encounter**

Kraus subsequently accompanied a friend who was applying for a position as a Special Agent with the FBI to a meeting with an FBI recruiter in Washington, DC. To his surprise, the FBI offered Kraus a job and he entered on duty as a Special Agent on Jan. 8, 1951. He served in the FBI's offices in Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Madison, Wisconsin and Washington, DC. Just as the media captured Kraus' hoops-career accomplishments, it also documented his Bureau career.



*Dan Kraus*

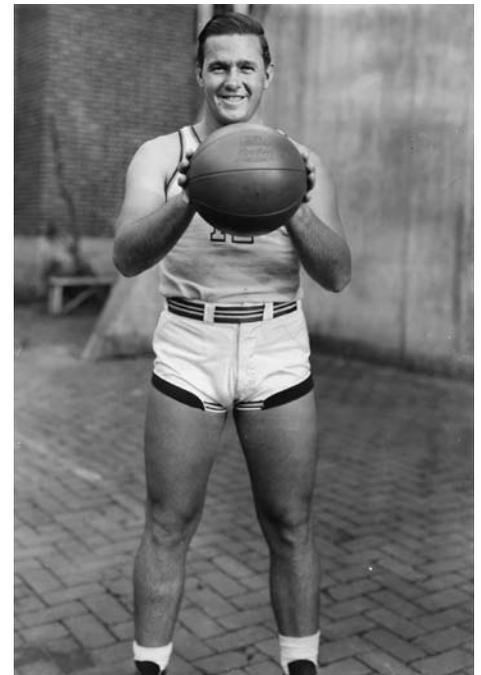
## Caught in Action

According to his family, in 1963 when Kraus was tasked with escorting a woman arrested by the FBI in a noteworthy Russian espionage case in Washington, DC, he borrowed a fedora from a colleague to ensure that he would be considered properly attired if observed by Director J. Edgar Hoover. A photograph of Kraus wearing a snap-brim hat and escorting the alleged female spy was published in the July 12, 1963, edition of *Life Magazine* in an article about several espionage cases that had received extensive media coverage at the time.

## Common Thread

Patrick Ewing, Eric (Sleepy) Floyd, Dikembe Mutombo, Alonzo Mourning, and former Special Agent Daniel Joseph Kraus have several things in common. All played basketball for the Georgetown Hoya basketball team and all were inducted into the Georgetown University Athletic Hall of Fame. Significantly, on Feb. 9, 2007, they were also all named as members of the Georgetown University All-Century Hoya Basketball Team. Kraus, who was 84 at the time, was the oldest player to accept the award.

Following his retirement from the Bureau, he and his wife, Jane, moved to Florida, where he was a member of the Indian River Chapter. At the age of 89, Dan died from cancer on Dec. 28, 2012. His passing was mourned by his wife of some 63 years, Jane Kraus, his eight children, 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, his many friends in the FBI, and Hoya sports fans. Without doubt, his legend will endure for years to come.



Dan Kraus



Ed Leary (1970-2000)  
Washington, DC, Chapter

## PHOTO FROM THE FILES



Sept. 26, 1957 — submitted by Bob Waller (1963-1987). FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover presented a trophy to the “Chiefs” softball team, which represented the Administrative Division and won the FBIRA Men’s Intramural League Softball Championship. Eugene Joseph Joyce, Richard F. Dean, Charles R. Temple, Richard C. Vogt, Charles Q. Smith, Robert B. Marsden, William W. Lovelace, FBIRA Activity Promoter Lester E. Short, Robert E. Brennan, Director J. Edgar Hoover, Andrew P. Bosko, James S. Mills, James R. Ryan, Rudolph E. Butts, Jay Deane Cox and Robert H. Waller.