



Bernard James

Bernard James is a former professional basketball player who played for Tallahassee Community College (2008 – 2010) and Florida State University (2010 – 2012). He is the oldest player ever to be drafted by the National Basketball Association at 27 years and 148 days old.

After dropping out of high school, Bernard earned his GED, and enlisted in the United States Air Force at 17. He served six years and attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. Bernard was assigned to the 9th Security Forces Squadron and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom to Iraq, Qatar, and Afghanistan.

Bernard initially planned to have a career in the military, but after undergoing a late growth spurt of 5 inches chose to pursue basketball as a potential career path.

Bernard ranks in TCC's top ten all-time in field goal percentage, rebounds and blocked shots. As an FSU player he closed his 69-game career ranked second in school history with a .627 field goal shooting mark and third with 164 career blocked shots. Bernard received the Most Courageous Award by the United States Basketball Writers of America and the Bob Bradley Spirit and Courage Award from the ACC in 2012.

In 2012 Bernard was selected 33rd overall in the NBA draft. He spent two seasons with the Dallas Mavericks and time with the Shanghai Sharks, Galatasaray, and the Limoges CSP of the LNB Pro A league before retiring from the game.

Watch the video presented at the 2019 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony of Eddie Barnes speaking on behalf of Bernard James:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSnFhncTN9E&list=PLvcWdVoOdfRrM_xYLo3zep5z5nOW6lVW&index=12