

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Mario A. Elie, '81



Mario A. Elie grew up in Manhattan and was a parishioner of Holy Name of Jesus on W 96th St. Elie attended Power Memorial Academy where he played basketball alongside Chris Mullin under coach Steve Donohue. Elie played street ball in Central Park and other locations in New York City during the 1980s.

Elie played college basketball at American International College in Springfield, MA. Elie led AIC to their conference's first NCAA Division II Tournament Quarter-Final. He did not catch on in the NBA right away.

In 1986, Elie started his professional career at Killester in Ireland, where he won Player of the Year honors. He later played in the Portuguese League and then played in the World Basketball League and also in the Continental Basketball Association.

Mario broke into the NBA in the 90-91 season playing for the Philadelphia 76ers on a short-term contract and then spent the rest of the season with the Golden State Warriors. In the 92-93 season he was with Portland and in 93-94 went to the Houston Rockets. Mario won two NBA Championships, first in 1994 and again in 1995. He continued with the Houston Rockets through the 97-98 season. He then signed with the San Antonio Spurs where he won his third NBA Championship in 1999. Mario's final NBA year was 2000-01 when he was playing with the Phoenix Suns.

In 2007 Mario was inducted into the New York Basketball Hall of Fame and was named one of the top ten players in Houston Rockets history.

Mario started his coaching career in 2003 with the San Antonio Spurs. From there he has coached at Golden State, the Dallas Mavericks, the Sacramento Kings, the NJ Nets and the Orlando Magic.

Mario is married to Gina Gaston, a journalist and anchorwoman for Houston's KTRK-TV. He and his wife have triplets. Two boys and a girl, Glenn, Gaston and Lauren. The Elie's make Houston their home.