

NIKOS GALIS



- **Nikos Galis**, born on July 23, 1957 in New Jersey USA, is a Greek-American former basketball player or otherwise characterized as the legend of Greek basketball. He is the most important figure of the sport's history in Greece.

- This is a man who has set firm foundations for development of Greek basketball. Every Greek even in the most remote village knows of this player. His perfect movements in court but also in the air, his jumps and the waist's breaks, made many times his opponents despair and literally hang over him.





- *Olympiacos* and *Panathinaikos* expressed their interest in the year 1979 for the acquisition of this Greek shooting guard. Notwithstanding all that he preferred to join the team *Aris* in Thessaloniki which was champion in Greece.

- In 1986, **Galis** won the championship with him being top scorer in the world and Greece terminated 10th taking part for the first time in its history of a World Championship final phase.

EuroBasket 1987

- The "Honest Giant" as he was called, was holding in his hands the fate of the Greek team. He was named best player in the tournament with 37 points and best European basketball player in 1987.



1987 Nikos Galis against the Soviet Union



- **Nikos Galis** tries his famous favourite piece of lay-up with all opponents hanging over him. However, Galis got up in the air with the opponents, but when they rested in ground, he forgot for a while the law of gravity.

•Panathinaikos

- In 1992, he was obtained from *Panathinaikos*. During that period when the team was doing more badly than ever, he brought it on top.



- In 2013, he became a candidate to join the company's Hall of Fame with names such as Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan. Nevertheless, another person took this position.

In ceremony of the Aris field's rename.



- In the same year the basketball court in Thessaloniki was renamed from Alexandrio to "Nikos Galis Hall".

- We do not know much about his life because he avoids making public statements, but he is one of the most beloved people in our country. Even though he did not participate in the Olympic Games, he was a little man (183cm) who charmed in court. With his exploits he caused jealousy to his competitors and the admiration of his fans. This person reached so high, obtained posthumous fame, which according to the ancient Greeks was the most important possession. So, his effort and fatigue, the endless hours of training, his patience and perseverance were rewarded. We should take courage and strength from him.
- Who knows? Each of us can hide a little **Niko Gali** inside himself....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8W2ykXGvEFQ>

