

# A Bob Cousy Timeline

1928

"Fabricated in France," as he is wont to say, Robert Joseph Cousy is born on Aug. 9, six months after his parents, Joseph and Juliet Cousy, arrive on a boat from France at Ellis Island. He lives with his parents and his maternal grandmother in a dilapidated Manhattan tenement. His frugal and hard-working father drives taxicabs and does other odd jobs, scrimping to save for a down payment on a house.



1940

The Cousy family buys a house in St. Albans, Queens, which they divide into apartments and rent out the first two floors. Six blocks away, Cousy discovers O'Connell Park, where a playground director, Morty Arkin, introduces him to basketball.



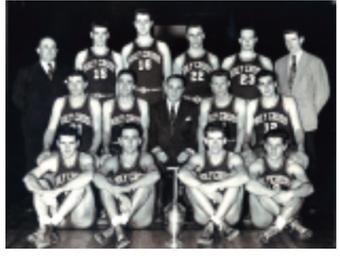
1946-47

After being cut from the team as a freshman and sophomore, Cousy, a senior, scores 26 points on the last day of the regular season for Andrew Jackson High School and captures the New York City scoring title. He is named captain of the prestigious Journal-American All-Scholastic team. He turns down a scholarship offer from Boston College because it doesn't have on-campus housing and accepts his only other offer—from Holy Cross.



1947

The Holy Cross basketball team practices in a barn on campus and plays its home games at South High School in Worcester, the Boston Arena and Boston Garden. The Crusaders win the NCAA eight-team tournament, defeating Oklahoma, 58-47, before 18,445 fans at Madison Square Garden. Cousy is a freshman playmaker on the second unit in Coach Alvin "Doggie" Julian's two-platoon system. The heroes are welcomed home by 10,000 fans at Worcester's Union Station.



1950



Cousy makes first team AP All-America—and is named the nation's Outstanding Player by the Basketball Writers of America as well as AP's Player of the Year. The NBA draft lands Cousy in the employ of the Tri-Cities (Rock Island and Moline, Ill., and Davenport, Iowa) Blackhawks. He is traded to the Chicago Stags, and that franchise disbands. As a result, NBA Commissioner Maurice Podoloff puts Cousy's name and two others in a hat. Disappointed Celtic owner Walter Brown gets stuck with "the local yokel" from Worcester.

1950

On Dec. 9, Cousy marries his sweetheart from St. Albans, Marie A. "Missie" Ritterbusch, in St. Peter's Church in Worcester. Best man Frank O'Flaherty '50 fails in one mission: He forgets to pick up the bride and drive her to the church. The couple gets married in overtime and celebrates at a reception in the Syrian-American Club on Wall Street.



1951

The Cousys welcome their first daughter, Marie Collette. The following year, their second daughter, Mary Patricia ("Ticia"), is born.

1952

Cousy buys half-ownership in Camp Graylag, a summer camp for boys in Pittsfield, N.H. He and co-owners Jacob Geib and his sons Fred and Robert convert the 500-acre woodland into a highly successful basketball camp, which closes operations in 1971.

1964



The Academy of Sports Editors names Cousy the Top NBA Star of All Time.

1963

Cousy takes over the coaching reins at Boston College, compiling a sparkling 117-38 record in six seasons and guiding the Eagles to postseason appearances in three NIT tournaments and two NCAA tourneys. He is New England Coach of the Year in 1968 and 1969.

1963

On March 17, at age 35, Cousy ends his playing career. A St. Patrick's Day farewell ceremony becomes known as "The Boston Tear Party," as an emotional Cousy breaks down several times during his speech. During a speechless moment, the tension is broken when Joe Dillon of South Boston, a 32-year-old Metropolitan District Commission water-division worker and devoted fan, yells, "We love ya' Cooz," sending the packed Boston Garden into delirium.



1961

On April 28, Cousy scores a hole-in-one on the 150-yard fifth hole at Oak Hill Country Club in Fitchburg, Mass.—one of his favorite courses. Through the years, Cousy remains an avid golfer and tennis player, a fixture at the Worcester Country Club and the Worcester Tennis Club. He recalls fondly playing a round of golf once with Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and Arnold Palmer.



1959

Cousy goes on a U.S. State Department tour to Africa. Five years later, he lectures behind the Iron Curtain on another State Department tour.

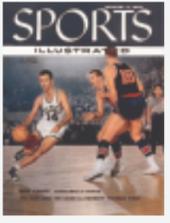
1957

Captain Cousy leads the Celtics to their first NBA title. He is named the NBA's Most Valuable Player and MVP of the league's East-West All-Star game.



1956

Cousy becomes the first NBA player to make the cover of *Sports Illustrated*. That same year, he is selected to the first class of the Holy Cross Varsity Club Athletic Hall of Fame.



1954

Cousy is a founding father of the NBA Players Association—and serves as its first president. He is also presented the 1954 *SPORT* magazine "Mr. Basketball" award. The moniker became his forever.

1965

On April 25, President Lyndon B. Johnson presents Cousy with the Big Brother of the Year award. Cousy, a national director for the charitable organization, has his Little Brother, 12-year-old Raymond Clark of Worcester, with him for the ceremonies at the White House. LBJ had received the award in 1964, the same year he addressed the graduates of the College of the Holy Cross.



1971

Cousy is elected to the James Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.



1974

Cousy begins a 34-year career as a TV analyst for college and professional basketball games. He works with Channel 27 in Worcester and WBZ in Boston and appears many times as an expert commentator on national TV sports specials and events.

1973

On Thanksgiving Eve, Cousy, tired of losing and being away from his family and friends in home-base Worcester, resigns 20 games into the season as coach of the Kansas City-Omaha Kings.



1994

Cousy arranges a special Worcester premiere of the movie *Blue Chips* on Feb. 7. Cousy plays a cameo role as athletic director Vic Roker in the film starring Nick Nolte. It is directed by Cousy's longtime friend Billy Friedkin, most famous for his movie hits *The French Connection* and *The Exorcist*. Friedkin says his directorial inspiration came from Cousy's 1975 book, *The Killer Instinct*. The movie celebration raises more than \$450,000 for local charities.

1998

Cousy receives an honorary doctor of humanities degree from his *alma mater*.



1999

*SportsCentury*, an ESPN biography program, names Cousy to its Top 100 North American Athletes of the 20th Century as voted on by a panel of sports journalists and observers. He is ranked number 94. Cousy cracks that he was beaten out by two horses—number 35 Secretariat and number 84 Man O' War—but finished three lengths ahead of number 97 Citation.

2008

On June 7, a life-size bronze statue of Cousy, created by sculptor Brian Hanlon, is unveiled in moving ceremonies at the entrance of the Holy Cross Hart Center.



2008

Before a sellout crowd on Nov. 16, Cousy's jersey is hoisted to the rafters at the Hart Center, along with the jerseys of George Kaftan '49, Togo Palazzi '54 and Tommy Heinsohn '56—all famed Crusaders who also performed for the Boston Celtics.