

## **Panagiotis Giannakis bio**

Panagiotis Giannakis was born in 1959 in Nikaia, Athens, Greece. He is a graduate of the Department of Physical Education and Sport Science of the Kapodistrian University of Athens. He is married and has two children and two grandchildren.

Panagiotis Giannakis is one of the greatest personalities of Greek sports and European basketball. He has won titles at the elite level of clubs and national teams and has been distinguished in any event that he has participated both as an athlete and as a coach. He is the only winner of the gold medal at Eurobasket both as an athlete and head coach.

As a player and a coach, both with his actions and with his public statements, Mr. Giannakis has highlighted the values of maximum effort, continuous improvement, cooperation and team cohesion as prerequisites for excellence in sport and lifelong participation in health-related physical activities. With his example he has motivated hundreds of thousands of Greek children to adopt sport as a way of life.

### **The player**

He started his athletic career in 1971 at the age of 12 in Ionic Nikaia. In 1982 he became NBA draft of Boston Celtics (among the first Europeans to be made draft). In 1984 he was transferred to Aris Thessaloniki, in 1993 to Panionios and in 1994 to Panathinaikos where he ended his athletic career. His biggest successes at club level were the FIBA European Cup with Aris and the Euroleague title with Panathinaikos.

In Greek National Team he played for first time in 1975 at the age of 16 when, with the junior national Children he won the silver medal at the Eurobasket of Athens. His greatest successes with the National Men's team were the gold medal at the Eurobasket of Athens in 1987 and the silver medal at Zagreb's Eurobasket in 1989.

On August 2, 1996, against Brazil, he played for the last time with the blue-white shirt. With the National Team he played a total of 351 times, more than any other European player, scoring a total of 5,282 points and participating in 8 European Championships, 3 World Championships and the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

### **The coach**

In 1997 Panagiotis Giannakis became the coach of the National team of Men.

In the Eurobasket of Belgrade in 2005 and 18 years after the Eurobasket in 1987 where he won the gold medal as leader and player of the national team, he also won the gold medal as a coach. In 2006 he won the second place at the World Championship in Japan, excluding the US Dream Team in the semi-finals, which has been undefeated since that time.

Apart from National team of Greece, Panagiotis Giannakis has been a coach for Panionios (FIBA

Europe League Final), Olympiakos (Euroleague finals and semifinals), Aris Thessaloniki, French Limoges and China National Team.