

## Gerald Colangelo



Jerry Colangelo is Chairman of USA Basketball's Board of Directors for the 2009-2012 term. He was appointed as the first Managing Director of the USA Basketball Men's Senior National Team program for the 2005-2008. Colangelo assembled the coaches and players of the "Redeem Team," who returned USA Basketball to Olympic glory and claimed the gold medal at the 2008 Games in Beijing, the USA's first gold in a major international competition since 2000.

Jerry Colangelo arrived in the Valley of the Sun in 1968 to take over the expansion Phoenix Suns NBA franchise as the youngest general manager in professional sports and has since guided the Suns into one of the most successful organizations in the NBA. With the Suns, his roles have included general manager, head coach, president, managing general partner, chief executive officer and now chairman. The 40-plus-year tenure with one franchise is the longest in the NBA. The Suns pulled off one of the biggest turnarounds in NBA history in 1988-89, nearly doubling their win total (from 28 wins to 55) and making the first of 13 straight playoff appearances.

He brought Major League Baseball to the Phoenix in 1998 and served as Chairman and CEO of the 2001 World Champion Arizona Diamondbacks. Going from expansion team to World Champion in just four years was a record for Major League Baseball. Arizona won the National League West in just its second season to become the fastest expansion team in baseball history to qualify for the postseason, just as the Suns did in their second season in 1969-70. Colangelo was involved with the governing of baseball, serving on the Legislative Committee, Equal Opportunity Committee and on the board of directors of the MLB Advanced Media, the technology arm of the league.

In 1996 Colangelo was the key element in facilitating the move of the NHL's Winnipeg Jets to the Valley of the Sun to become the Phoenix Coyotes. Colangelo was also on the founding committee for the WNBA, and owner of the Phoenix Mercury, which were one of the league's inaugural teams in 1997.

As former Chairman of the NBA's Board of Governors from October 2001 through October 2005, Colangelo has had influence on the growth of the NBA as a member of the league's Finance Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, Expansion Committee and Competition and Rules Committee.

Jerry Colangelo and partners developed projects in Phoenix such as the US Airways Center (formerly the America West Arena), Chase Field (formerly the Bank One Ballpark) and other projects. He was also one of the individuals involved in the construction of the Dodge Theater in downtown Phoenix. The Dodge is currently a top boxing and performing arts venue in the American Southwest.

Colangelo has been named the NBA's Executive of the Year four times (1976, 1981, 1989, 1993).

Colangelo's impact on the game of basketball has been so great, he was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in April 2004 and inducted into the Illinois Basketball Hall of Fame. On November 04, 2007, Colangelo was inducted into the Phoenix Suns "Ring of Honor", the club's most elite group. Mr. Colangelo is also an inductee of the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame.

The Valley of the Sun United Way bestowed its highest honor, the Spirit of Caring award, to Colangelo on June 30, 2005 for his passion for improving lives in the community. Recently Colangelo was honored as Humanitarian of the Year by Sinai Institute.

The *Arizona Republic* named him the Most Influential Sports Figure in the state of Arizona for The 20th Century and the *Phoenix Business Journal* regularly voted him among its “Most Influential” Business Persons in the Valley. Nationally, Colangelo has been among *The Sporting News*’ most powerful people in sports for over the last decade and most recently was listed 60th in *BusinessWeek*’s annual “The Power 100” ranking of the 100 most powerful people in sports for 2008.

Colangelo is currently a Chairman of: the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, the National Italian American Foundation and Young Life International. He served as former Chairman of: Valley of the Sun United Way, Valley Big Brothers Collaboration for a New Century, Southwest Leadership Foundation, Leadership Foundations of America, and Christian Businessmen’s Club. Colangelo has served on the board of directors of: the Phoenix Art Museum, Greater Phoenix Economic Council, Athletes in Action and Phoenix Suns Charities. He also was as former vice president of the Phoenix Downtown Partnership and former Vice Chairman of the Phoenix Community Alliance. He is a lifetime member of the Phoenix Thunderbirds, an organization dedicated to the promotion of Phoenix through sports.

Jerry Colangelo authored a book entitled “How You Play the Game” where Colangelo gives insight into the world of the business and his own life. He shares some business components on team building, leadership and personal development. Also in the book entitled “Return of the Gold” written by Dan Bickley, Colangelo shares compelling stories of his life and of his journey, working with incredible players of the Redeem Team such as, Kobe Bryant, Dwayne Wade, LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony and many other talented players.

He graduated from the University of Illinois, where he earned All-Big Ten honors and captained the Illini as a senior. He also played two years of baseball at Illinois. Colangelo was a member of Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity. Colangelo prepped at Bloom Township High School in Chicago Heights, Ill., where he was an all-state basketball honoree as a senior, and a top pitcher on the baseball team.

Born November 20, 1939, Colangelo grew up in the “Hungry Hill” neighborhood of Chicago Heights. Colangelo and his wife Joan, have four children: Kathy Holcombe, Kristen Brubaker, Bryan and Mandie Colangelo, and six granddaughters and four grandsons.