



Founder Tony Squire and Former Alumni, NBA All-Star Ray Allen

# Ray Allen Boston Celtics

Ray Allen, the sharp-shooting guard for the Boston Celtics, has put together a remarkable 14-year career, which includes nine all-star appearances and one NBA title. He has averaged 20.5 points per game for his career and makes almost nine out of every 10 free throws he takes (89.4 percent for his career). He has knocked down 2,444 three-pointers and is one of the league's most-feared marksman from beyond the arc.

He recently took some time to discuss his AAU playing days with *The Real AAU Basketball*.

## Question No. 1: When & for what team(s) did you play AAU basketball?

My 11th grade year I played AAU with a team in South Carolina. Then I played, that same summer, with a team out of Richmond, Squire AAU. We played in the Sunny Hill League. I remember we played in a D.C. tournament against (Boston Celtics teammate) Rasheed (Wallace) too!

## Question No. 2: What is your best memory of playing AAU basketball?

Early in the summer just prior to my senior year of high school, Bob Gibbons released a report in which he ranked the top 25 high-school basketball players in the country. He put together the list at the Nike Camp that I attended. All summer, I had that report on my mind and my buddy, Stephan, kept telling me, "Man, you should be in the top 25!" Finally, I scored (I think) 44 points in a tournament where Bob Gibbons was a spectator. He came up to me afterward and said he rewrote his list...and he put me on it at "25B."

## Question No. 3: How did playing AAU improve your overall game/ability?

More than anything, it opened my eyes to all of the great players

around the world. Being from the south, you normally only get to see players from that area and don't get the opportunity to see all of the great players out west. So, when you play in the big tournaments in Vegas, or anywhere for that matter, that is when all of the great players come out to play. AAU brings all of the best players into one building and that is what I looked forward to more than anything.

## Question 4: What kind of real-world, professional lessons did you learn while involved in AAU that you still carry with you to this day?

I learned how to play with the other great players. Everybody comes from a team where they are the best player by far and when you play in AAU, you play with a lot of talented individuals. In AAU, you learn how to adapt, play, come together and win in tough times. You can have a lot of high school teams that are great, but when you have five or six guys that are McDonald's All-Americans and are guaranteed to go to the best colleges in the country, that is when you have to learn and adapt your game. It was easier to transition to the college game because of the experiences I had in AAU.

## Question No. 5: How important was the role of the coach to your personal development and team development while in the AAU basketball system?

The most important thing, regardless of how great the players are, is that coaches must help players understand the game and how important basketball is. There are a lot of players that are just as talented and blessed athletically, so having the knowledge of the game is critical... and that is sometimes forgotten.



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