



PSU Hall of Fame Alumnus stays connected 20 years post-grad



PSU alumnus, Oscar Gonzalez, of Spain, graduated over 20 years ago with a BSE in Physical Education in Athletic Training, but he still considers PSU a home away from home in the USA.

"They were so good to me from day one," he said of his time at PSU and on the basketball team. "The relationships that I made were so special from day one that it's like my second house, like Gene Iba was my coach here and was like my second father."

Oscar played for the Gorilla Basketball team from 1995-1999, and can be found on the PSU Hall of Fame wall located in the Garfield Weede Building on campus. Gonzalez was recruited to play at Pitt State the same summer Gene Iba became coach.

"Gene was in a need of a point guard... so we have a common friend in Spain, and he reached out to him and said he needs a point guard, so he brought me here and things worked out very well for everybody," Gonzalez said.

Upon graduation, Oscar played basketball professionally in Spain for 12 years, and now works as an agent for professional athletes. For him, choosing to play college basketball at Pitt State was "the greatest decision I made in my life."

"That was the main reason why I became a professional basketball player and the main reason why who I am right now," Gonzalez said. "It changed my life, because from 18 to 22 you just turn into an adult and start living some things that are going to be there forever..."

This year is the first time in two years Gonzalez has been back to visit Pittsburg since 2019; previously, he visits at least once a year. The community in Pittsburg and at Pittsburg State University struck Gonzalez as something special, and is what draws him back every year.

"The community has so much impact on people's lives here," he said. "That's the reason why 28 years later, I'm here. Otherwise I would be in my country doing whatever I want to do, but every year I want to come back with the people that really took care of me when I was younger, and it's a way to give them back what they give to you when you're a kid."

As a way to give back to the program that loves, he helps recruit promising athletes in Spain to play at PSU and recruits college basketball players to play professionally internationally.

"What I try to do, is that when I see players back in Spain that could help the program, I try to talk to them about coming here and at the same time what I do is I try to help the players that are here now to come overseas and play professionally whether it is Pittsburg State or other schools," he said.