

World Championships brought coach, players close

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spurred a reported \$40 million offer from the Los Angeles Lakers in 2004, Krzyzewski said he has no interest in coaching in the pros, even though he's enjoyed dealing with the NBA stars at the worlds.

"This is an incredible, unique experience, and I love that experience," Krzyzewski

said after a recent practice. "But I'm not going to be going to the NBA I love coaching in college. Whenever I get through coaching in college, that'll be it, whenever that is. I'm not saying that it's imminent."

The 59-year-old Krzyzewski, a West Point graduate, accepted this job because he wanted to restore

the U.S. to prominence in world basketball. Krzyzewski has won 753 games and three national titles in 26 years at Duke and five at Army. But he hasn't led a team to an Olympic gold medal, although he was an assistant on the gold medal-winning Dream Team in 1992.

U.S. forward Shane Battier played for Krzyzewski at

Duke and sees in his coach the same vigor at the worlds.

"He's enjoyed the journey because it is so different from what he's been doing the last 30 years," Battier said. "And he is an individual who really gets off on those sorts of experiences and those challenges."

At the outset, it was fair to wonder whether rich NBA players would be sufficiently motivated. But when Krzyzewski and Colangelo required players to commit through the Beijing Olympics, the likes of James, Kobe Bryant, Carmelo Anthony and Dwyane Wade bought in.

Once the U.S. had assembled its roster, Krzyzewski didn't worry about his wealth of NBA talent. He dealt with his players as people, not celebrities.

During training camp in Las Vegas this summer, Krzyzewski spent much of his time talking to players individually, just as he did with James at practice in Japan. He understands this is the NBA offseason and

knows not to push too hard.

"Even when we're doing five-on-five, if a guy's sitting out, I might go up to him and be able to do that instead of saying, 'Will you come to my room and have this meeting?'" Krzyzewski said. "That's relationship-building. At least the first three days in Vegas, that's all I was doing."

"Somebody would say, 'Well, who's the head coach?'" Krzyzewski said with a grin. "I don't know. There's this guy walking around talking to everybody."

The players may have envisioned the sort of fiery speeches Krzyzewski uses when Duke faces North Carolina. But his approach has been more low-key.

"I really didn't know what to expect coming in," guard Kirk Hinrich said. "He's been real straightforward. He tells you how he feels. He's just a good guy. He lets us play, he knows we've got a ton of great players, and he just lets us go out there."

Krzyzewski has relied on his assistant coaches - Mike

D'Antoni of the Phoenix Suns, Jim Boeheim of Syracuse and Nate McMillan of the Portland Trail Blazers - to handle some of the technicalities of game preparation while he has tried to develop a sense of his players' personalities.

Battier knew Krzyzewski would figure out how to relate to the NBA stars. They may be far richer, and far more famous, than his Duke players. But they still want to win, and Krzyzewski knows how to do that.

"He obviously knows the game," Battier said. "He knows X's and O's. But his biggest strength is understanding people, and getting people to play well together."

"I knew, giving him enough time to get to know some of the guys and understand their personalities, he would find a way to get people to get on the same page," Battier said. "And I think thus far he's done a really great job of that."

Nothing uncontested with Brooklyn arena development

By Desmond O. Butler

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - The tension over a project that would reshape Brooklyn with an NBA arena, office towers and thousands of apartments was quite evident at a recent hearing on the project.

A state senator stood up and endorsed the project, but was shouted down by a woman in the audience who opposes the plan. The woman was immediately engulfed in boos and jeers by an audience that included construction workers, affordable housing advocates and teenagers dressed in NBA jerseys. It was just one of many heated encounters in a hearing that dragged on for seven hours.

Supporters say the hearing illustrated the breadth of an extraordinary local coalition in favor of the plan - a group that believes the poor and middle class will benefit through jobs and affordable housing promised by the developer.

But for opponents, the hearing - along with the boos against the opponent - was indicative of what they believe is a cozy, stage-managed public review process.

"The fix is in from the start," says City Council Member Letitia James, one of the few New York public officials opposed to the project.

The \$4.2 billion Atlantic Yards project, to be built over a rail yard, was designed by star architect Frank Gehry. It includes an 18,000-seat stadium, 606,000 square feet of office space, 6,860 units of housing, retail space and a hotel in 16 towers ranging from 19 to 58 stories. The arena would become the home to the New Jersey Nets, owned by the developer, bringing a major professional sports team back to Brooklyn for the first time since the Brooklyn Dodgers left in 1957.

The developer, Bruce Ratner, believes the project will breathe life into a void etched by the large rail yards. He has agreed to make substantial environmental improvements to the neighborhood - recently declared blighted by the state - and turn seven acres of the project into publicly accessible space groomed by an award-winning landscape architect.

"This project guarantees the growth of Brooklyn for the future," said Jim Stuckey, executive vice president of Forest City Ratner.

Opponents say the biggest blight is on the horizon.

"Atlantic Yards is inconsistent with the character of the community," says James, whose constituents include some people living in the proposed footprints of the project. "It's out of scale."

At the moment, two of the proposed towers would rival the nearby 34-story Williamsburgh Savings Bank, which at 512 feet has loomed in near isolation as the tallest building in Brooklyn since it was built in 1929. A tower dubbed "Miss Brooklyn" by Gehry will reach 620 feet in current plans.

The scale and striking design, with undulating, glass towers of varying size and angles, would transform the image of predominantly low-rise and brownstone Brooklyn neighborhoods. Opponents say it will create a traffic nightmare.

Not surprisingly, a great deal of the opposition has emerged from neighborhoods both bordering on the project - and if it proceeds, underneath it.

One vocal opponent has been Daniel Goldstein, the sole remaining condo-owner in a building within the plan's footprint.

Forest City has been buying up land and buildings with offers above market rate. It says it now owns or controls 93 percent of the condos and co-ops in the footprint - all but five units - and the majority of the rest of the real estate.

In early 2004, Goldstein and other owners helped start Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, an organization he says has grown to include 21 community groups, more than 2,000 donors and 700 volunteers. Members, including a handful of celebrities, have dissected the developer's plans, proposed alternatives, published copious critiques in print and blogs, protested loudly against eminent domain seizures and threatened litigation.

"We want to see development over the rail yards that is in a reasonable scale for the existing community and we are against using eminent domain for a project like this," says Goldstein.

He suggests the basketball arena be built elsewhere, perhaps Coney Island.

But supporters of the project think the opposition is distinctly local and fueled by transplanted Manhattanites. Developers have the backing of Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Gov. George Pataki and the vast majority of the City Council, state Assembly and

Senate.

They also have a key partner in ACORN - the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now - a national advocate for low- and middle-income urban families that focuses on issues like lowering crime, improving schools and affordable housing.

ACORN - not an obvious bedfellow for the developer - saw an opportunity in the project, said Bertha Lewis, executive director of ACORN New York. The group agreed to support the plan - with the weight of its 40,000 active members in New York - in exchange for a community benefits agreement that includes integrating affordable housing into Atlantic Yards.

Under the deal, 50 percent of the 4,500 rental apartments proposed would go to people within five income brackets starting at \$21,270 per family of four and capping out at \$113,440. Those apartments would be integrated so that low-income families and market-rate renters would live side by side.

"The elevator has to work for everyone," Lewis says. She says that if the deal can set a template for other developments, it might mitigate the plight of poor people, who have watched Brooklyn improve only to be priced out.

"This deal is a benefit not only to our members but in the neighborhood in general, for the folks who have lived here in Brooklyn for 20, 30 years," she says.

The deal brought a big, vocal constituency squarely in support of the developer. As evidenced by the hearing and packed informational meetings on the affordable housing units, ACORN has convinced a lot of people that jobs and affordable housing offset the downside raised in the environmental impact study, including traffic and the use of eminent domain to seize property.

The project awaits the end of a 60-day comment period on the environmental review before a state agency overseeing the project could approve and send it for final consideration to the Public Authorities Control Board, controlled by the governor.

Even with swift approval, the fight over Atlantic Yards is likely to spill into the courts.

But Forest City believes the Brooklyn Nets will be playing basketball in the new arena by 2009.

Former Howard track coach among hall of fame inductees

By Bonitta Best

THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

Former Howard University track and field coach William "Bill" Moultrie will be among 12 of the sport's most accomplished collegiate coaches inducted into the U.S. Track and Field and Cross-Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

The class of 2006 features coaches who won NCAA men's and women's team titles at all three divisional levels in cross country, indoor track and field, and outdoor

track and field. The distinguished group will be inducted during the USTFCCA annual convention Dec. 12 in San Antonio, Texas.

"This year's hall of fame class personifies the values of collegiate track and field and cross country," said Sam Seemes, CEO of the USTFCCA. "The mark they've left on their sports is immeasurable. Our association is honored to induct such a group of individuals into the Hall of Fame."

During his 26-year tenure,

Moultrie won 10 conference championships and had several student-athletes named to All-American teams.

Under his leadership, Howard also had several athletes who qualified for, and participated in, Olympic competition.

Moultrie was an Olympic assistant coach in 1992 and became the first African American to serve as Olympic track referee four years later in Atlanta.

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