



MACCABIUSA MEDAL OF HONOR



NAT HOLMAN (Z"l)

Nat Holman was a towering figure in early American and Jewish basketball, widely known as "Mr. Basketball" for his brilliance both on the court and on the sidelines. As a player, Holman starred with the Original Celtics and later achieved legendary status as Head Coach of the City College of New York Beavers (CCNY). In 1950, his team became the only college squad ever to win both the NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Tournament and the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) in the same season.



Beyond his playing and coaching, Holman was among the founding group that organized the U.S. Delegation for the first Maccabiah in 1932, helping lay the groundwork for American Jewish athletic participation on the world stage. From 1973 to 1977, he served as president of the United States Committee Sports for Israel (USCSI), which would become Maccabi USA.

Through coaching, organization-building, fundraising, and international outreach, Nat Holman played a vital role in shaping Jewish athletic identity and strengthening the connection between American Jews and Israel via sport and received the Yakir Maccabi Award in 1984.