

# ***Frank Ramsey, First Among 'Sixth Men' in the N.B.A., Dies at 86***

By [Richard Goldstein](#)

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Frank Ramsey, the Boston Celtics Hall of Famer who pioneered pro basketball's "sixth man" role with hot shooting and savvy defense coming off the bench while playing on seven N.B.A. championship teams, died on Sunday at a hospital in Evansville, Ind., about 50 miles from his home in Madisonville, Ky. He was 86.

Ramsey's son Tripp confirmed the death. He said Ramsey underwent surgery for an aneurysm two weeks ago and went into cardiac arrest on Sunday.

An all-American at Kentucky and a member of the university's 1951 N.C.A.A. championship team, Ramsey went on to spend nine seasons with the Celtics during the dynasty orchestrated by Coach Red Auerbach.

Auerbach used the 6-foot-3 Ramsey at guard or small forward when his starters needed breathers, but he was often on the court in tight games during closing moments as well.

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