TONY RONZONE

It is no exaggeration to call Tony Ronzone the world’s best international basketball scout. That’s what Time Magazine called the Castro Valley native in a 2004 article and nothing has happened in the last decade to change that.

There are many more international scouts in the National Basketball Association than there were when that article was written, but none work harder than Ronzone, who is now the director of player personnel for the Dallas Mavericks.

Ronzone played professionally overseas in New Zealand, Australia, Italy and the Phillipines. At 22, he became the youngest person to coach the New Zealand National team and later coached the Saudi Arabian National Team and the United Arab Emirates.

The Mavericks hired Ronzone as an international scout in 1998. Based in China, he became the first American to coach the Chinese National Team, which featured Yao Ming and Wang ZhiZhi. He led the Chinese team to a gold medal in the East Asia Games and convinced the Chinese government to allow ZhiZhi to sign a contract with the Mavericks (paving the way for Ming’s arrival in the U.S.)

The Detroit Pistons hired Tony away from Dallas in 2001, then promoted him to Director of International Scouting and Basketball Operations in 2005. He held that position until 2010 when he became Assistant General Manager for the Minnesota Timberwolves before returning to the Maveicks and his present position in 2012

Concurrently with his jobs in the NBA, Ronzone served as Director of International Player Personel for the USA National Team under Managing Director Jerry Colangelo and Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski. In that capacity he contributed to Gold Medals at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, the 2012 Games in London and the 2010 FIBA World Championships in Istanbul.

Ronzone’s love for basketball began while playing CYO ball at Our Lady of Grace in Castro Valley. At Bishop O’Dowd High he was “East Bay Player of the Year” his senior season while leading the Dragons to the finals of the state championship. He later played both basketball and baseball at the University of Nevada and Long Beach State.

Tony and and his wife, Tricia, have twin boys, Cade and Austin, and a daughter, Elan.