Fitzpatrick began his basketball career at Dunbar High School in Somerset, Kentucky, where they won the 1953 State Championship Tournament and he was named the Most Valuable Player. The following year in 1954, they placed runner up among all black high schools. During those years, he made All-State, All-Bluegrass, All-Sectional. Fitzpatrick averaged 18-20 points per game and was considered the best basketball player in Kentucky. From 1954-1958 he went on to play for Knoxville College in Knoxville, Tennessee where he made All-SAIC, 4 years in a row and Most Valuable Player in the tournament of 1958. Fitzpatrick's professional basketball career began in 1958 as he played with the Harlem Globetrotter's for 7 years. He later became a member of the new American Basketball Association (ABA) League.

After Fitzpatrick's basketball career, he started working as a social worker, and then went on to become Athletic Director and finally Executive Director of the Middletown Community Center. There he spent 30 years working with youth and young adults. Fitzpatrick and wife Mattie reside in Cincinnati, Ohio and are the parents of 6 children, 17 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Jack Fitzpatrick