

2-28-1986

## Interview no. 748

Nevil Shed

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.utep.edu/interviews>



Part of the [Oral History Commons](#), and the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Interview with Nevil Shed by Charles Martin, 1986, "Interview no. 748," Institute of Oral History, University of Texas at El Paso.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Institute of Oral History at ScholarWorks@UTEP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Combined Interviews by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@UTEP. For more information, please contact [lweber@utep.edu](mailto:lweber@utep.edu).

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE:	<u>Nevil Shed</u>
INTERVIEWER:	<u>Charles Martin</u>
PROJECT:	<u>Texas Western's NCAA championship basketball team</u>
DATE OF INTERVIEW:	<u>February 28, 1986</u>
TERMS OF USE:	<u>Unrestricted</u>
TAPE NO.:	<u>748</u>
TRANSCRIPT NO.:	<u>748</u>
TRANSCRIBER:	<u>Anita Burdett</u>

BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Member of Texas Western College's 1966 NCAA championship basketball team.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

New York native, first impressions of Texas Western, experiences playing basketball for TWC, the 1966 basketball season, coaches Moe Iba and Don Haskins, the Final Four, the TWC-Kentucky championship game.

Length of Interview: 1 hour, 15 min. Length of Transcript 36 pages

Nevil Shed  
February 28, 1986  
By Dr. Charles Martin  
1966 Texas Western NCAA Championship Basketball Team

M: Okay. What I want to do is just do general background questions for a little bit. Then we'll get to the team and everything. For example, we always start off by saying, "Where were you born and where did you grow up?" So where were you born and where did you grow up?

S: Okay. I was born in New York City in the South Bronx. I attended one of the city schools there, Morris High School. I can say that I'm the son of a poor man, you know, not coming from the syndrome as saying a lot of kids in New York City never seen a cow, a chicken, you know, but a large portion of my life was located right there in the city.

M: Um hm, in the south Bronx. South Bronx in those days was a little bit different than it is today, by reputation?

S: It was bad then and it is worse now. It is in pretty bad shape. A lot of things have changed. The 3rd Avenue El which was a famous part is now torn down. A lot of the older buildings are torn down now and are replaced with projects, or it's just an open lot. Other parts look like, you know, the bombing of Germany or something. It really looks, it looks very bad. Very bad.

M: You played high school ball there?

S: Yes, at Morris High School. I was an All-City player and an All-American.

M: Okay. And did you come to Texas Western after you finished there at Morris or did you go on to another school first?

S: No. My freshman year I attended a black college, North Carolina A & T. All right. After one year of play there I decided that, you know, it

wasn't the school; I wasn't learning anything there. It was all basketball and nothing else. And counseling with my mom and my coach, a gentleman by the name of Hilton White who was credited for bringing or sending Willie Cager, Willie Worsley, myself, Nate Archibald and quite a few other ball players from that same area.

M: So he was more or less the Texas Western connection?

S: Yes sir, he was. When I came back to New York City, it was a kind of a thing where I had to go out and work and the kind of work that I was only able to get was that hard labor work and I just was not really ready for that and kind of frightened that I was going to be like the other guy on the block, you know. I started school hunting again and being that I was a sophomore, you know, I had a lot of eligibility left. There was a past ballplayer here who played for Coach Haskins by the name of Willie Brown. Willie Brown told Coach Haskins about us and Coach Haskins got in touch with Hilton White and when he contacted me and said, "Butch"--which is my nickname--"do you want to go to a Texas school? Without any reservations I said, "Yes. When do I leave?" I never had a visit down here but, you know, I just came and by golly, this is the best thing that ever happened to me. It has its ups and downs now, you know, by all means it has its ups and downs, but it was one of the best moves I ever made.

M: How did you feel about leaving New York City and then being at Carolina A & T for a while, coming to a school off in the desert [with] a predominantly white or white and Mexican student body, far away from the skyscrapers of New York?

S: Well, when I left New York City to go to North Carolina, it didn't seem like, you know, I was a long way from home. I knew that Greyhound bus could get me back in New York City in about 12 hours or so. I had, you

know, relatives in the area which made it kind of, you know, comfortable for me. But, when told that I was going 2,540 miles, you know, away from home and flying for the first time, right there, I automatically began to feel, shall I say culture shock. That's a good word for it, excited, you know. I guess I was considered to be a dude, you know. I was looking for, you know, right on, the cowboys and the oil wells. I felt kind of funny after years thinking about, you know, flying over El Paso and saying, "Hey Cager, there's no oil wells around."

M: (Chuckles)

S: You know, there's not really as much wild, wild west as I figured. You know, the Mexican population did not affect me too much because we have also a large population of Puerto Ricans. So I felt at home with that. As far as just really getting out of a black neighborhood... The first time I set foot on El Paso soil, you know, I was kind of glad for that; I was leaving a hell of a place. And, you know, I automatically seen a lot of promising things that could be to my beneficiary.

M: Um hm, um hm. Okay, well, let's see. (Telephone rings) Now when was your first year here?

S: Okay, let me see now. My first year was in '62.

M: Okay. So you were a senior then by the time of the...

S: No, I was a junior during the time of the NCAA championship era.

M: Okay. What were your initial impressions of Coach Haskins when you showed up?

S: Well, you know, Coach Haskins and Coach Moe Iba met Willie Cager and myself at the airport and he was a nice little, young, handsome, jolly-looking little guy, you know. And, you know, they were real nice to us, and welcomed us here and fed us and you know. We were pretty excited of

course to get on the campus and see how the life was. Easy going, mild-mannered guy, you know, and I automatically said, "Hey, I'm going to like this guy here." And when we left New York it was cold and here the weather was beautiful and I said to myself, "Hey, I'm going to like it here. This guy is going to be a real good guy for me." I remember the first day in his gym, you know, he got in there and he shot around with us, and told me certain things he expected from me, you know, and this may sound funny but he seemed like the ideal T.V. coach. You know, the kind of guy, "That's my coach, Don Haskins!" And it really made it real exciting, and of course being so far away from home, you know, I felt a lot more at ease.

M: Yeah. What did you think of your teammates when you first got here, too?

S: Hey, they were a bunch of jocks, you know. Of course I had to go through the era of the freshman, you know, the jokes, their little special little jokes they had where they took you across the border. That was a big thing then, you know. We got along real well as a team. I think that's one good thing about Coach Haskins' team. There was a strong closeness right from the beginning. As far as the fear of playing basketball, I did not have any fear that these guys were going to dominate me or I was going to dominate them. You know, at that time, I consider now still that New York is the basketball capital. And I felt when it came to that, I was going to hold my own but, you know, I felt real comfortable around everybody and everybody was real nice to me. That's what made it really so good: nice coach from the beginning and a good atmosphere, you know, with the athletes.

M: Okay. Now what happened when you started practices with Coach Haskins?

S: Now. That's a different story. The first thing I remember is just being

out there in my civilian clothes and a pair of sneakers on and he started putting me through, you know, a couple of little drills here and there and I figured, "Oh well, this is going to be about five or ten minutes. I'm going to show him my stuff and everything." And five minutes became ten minutes and ten minutes... To make a long story short, we were out there about 45 minutes. He really got into the basketball. At the beginning of the first day of practice, you know, which is real exciting for everybody, here's where we're going to really start getting things done and this man...I mean, hey he was a different person. He was tenacious, that's the word. And he used that word a lot, tenacious. And I did not, I couldn't spell it, you understand? I didn't know what it really meant, but as time went on, I had a good idea of what it was. I mean, he got down. Work, work and work, you know. You got into a situation where, you know, you didn't have time to think about being tired.

M: Um hm.

S: And I really got, I mean I really heard a lot of nice things from him. He never cursed at us, you know. But he had a talent for saying certain things to you that you wish you were cursed at. Like for example, if I may. He had this famous thing with me by saying, "Shed, you wild man, you." He said, "If your brains was dynamite you'd blow up this gym." You know. Or he'd call you, "You big sissy, you don't have no guts to get out there and work like you're supposed to." Just calling me a sissy! Hey, I'm a big-time, you know, a basketball... I want to play, you know. You can't call me a sissy. He had that beautiful knack of challenging you. "If you're not a sissy, you show me!" "Moe, you get a dress for that big girl." And he was a slave driver. I really thought he was a

N. Shed

slave driver.

M: Um hm.

S: I tell you, I thought this was the worst man on two legs with a pot belly. It was a total difference from the first time I met him. There were times when I got chewed out severely but the thing that I really liked about it is that if he chewed me out Monday, Tuesday was a new day. You know, he never carried over anything. And that was good so that I knew that come next time, or the next time I get on the floor, I don't have to worry about what I did. And I think that's a good policy in life, too. You know, if today is pretty rugged on you, it's a beautiful thing about this world that if God gives you another day on this earth, you got a chance to kind of make up for yesterday's mistakes, you know, or evaluate 'em, and make today or tomorrow a better one and that was a good philosophy that he carried over.

M: Did you live in the dorm on campus and what was it like around the dorm?

S: Well, we had this one famous dorm, good old Miners' Hall. All athletes stayed in that particular dorm at the time. It was an all-male dormitory. There was a famous curfew, I think it was at 12 o'clock. I don't remember what time it was. At a certain time the doors would be locked on you. I remember during the summertime it was burning up and in the wintertime, you know, you darn near froze. There's one thing I remember about the dorm, about Miner's Hall. In your rooms you didn't have an air conditioner. What it was [was] that on one end they had this big old blower, you know. It just blew down the hall and for your room to get cold, you'd have to open your door and going to the potty at nighttime was death! It was a possibility that you might get frost-bitten because you had to cross. That wind of that air conditioner was

N. Shed

really a trip. And, oh yes, you know, coming out of New York City... Wednesdays particularly was Mexican day, it was Mexican meal day.

M: Oh.

S: All right. And I remember my first time having lunch on Wednesday and I walked in and saw this weird looking food, you know.

M: (Chuckles)

S: And the clientele that was serving the food was Mexican, so I said, "Excuse me ma'am, I mean what's that stuff?" And she said, "Enchiladas, tacos, tortillas, menudo," you know. And I said, "Nahhh." The only thing I know about Mexican food was Spanish rice, the red rice and beans that we had in New York City. And it took a long time before I could consume that stuff; they always had a cold plate which consisted of cold cuts, a little salad, and I stayed with that for a long time. Now you can't keep me away from that darn stuff. And, you know, just like typical dormitories, you know, Wednesdays it was Mexican plate day. I remember another day you had the roast beef, mashed potatoes and peas day. That never changed. If there was a change, we thought it was Christmas any time of the year. That was something really funny about it. They fed us well. We ate well there. And, of course, certain times we had our special meals and there was a good gathering. The regular life of the basketball players and they'd jaw about the practices. And oh, of course, yes, we called Coach Haskins a couple of little names there, you know. Sometimes [I was] wishing that I never came to the dorm, and always it was amazing how it turned around so quickly. But you had to be a special type of guy to play for him, you know.

M: Yeah.

S: And I always felt that I'm sorry I came here but couldn't wait to get to

practice the next day. "I'm going to show that little fat so-and-so-and-so that he's not going to do this today because I'm going to be on top of it," but Nevil Shed had a knack of always getting in trouble. I remember sometimes I always thought that he stayed on me so hard that I went to bed with him at nighttimes, you know. I think sometimes I was his whippin' dog.

M: Were you the clown of the team? Or you and Togo?

S: Well, me and Louis Baudoin, we were more the amusing type, you know. A lot of times I remember he used to chew me out because I had this one thing if I ever scored or did something, like whenever I shot a basket, I'd run down to the floor and I'd applaud. (Claps hands) I'd just clap my hands, you know, and at first he thought I was showing off, but hey, I was into the game. I was really enthused and it was like a trademark of mine. I'd grin and once in a while some of my antics on the floor kind of probably came out amusing. Oh yes, I guess I was one of the jokesters on the team and, you know, that's what made that team so unique. Even under hard situations, you know, there was always time for a little amusement, which you've got to have, that release valve. And we did have that on the team.

H: Haskins motivated you through frequently staying on you and pushing you.

S: You better believe it. That's right. I tell you, you know, our practices far and none were harder than some of the games we played. And I tell you, with what we had to go through in practice, when it came time for games, you know... Hey, really, I didn't know what pressure was because I knew that if I made a mistake in practice he was going to come down on us. In a game he came down on us but you were so well tuned up by the time you got to the game, you didn't worry about it. Overtimes.

Hey, overtime was a new game. If some of the time when we were down, and I say some of the time because most of the time we'd be nose-to-nose or we'd be ahead of a team, we never worried about it, you know. I guess it was the urge: hey, I better stay ahead or I better not let that team get too far ahead of me. But, you know, we were so well-tuned and programmed--I guess was a good word--that pressure was no, no object of it. You know, we could withstand the pressure.

M: What did you think you were going to do when you started out the '66 season? Did you have any idea how successful you might be or...?

S: Funny thing you ask. I remember one day in practice when he was on one of his war whoops again, he sat us down and he was talking to us. And he said--and I can almost remember like it was yesterday--he said, "Just look at y'all. You're far and none the worst bunch of athletes I ever had. Just look at ya. With the way you all look, I doubt if we'll ever win half of our games. Just a pitiful bunch of athletes." And, you know, sitting on the bench after practice and perspiration falling all off me and everything, I kind of looked down the bench and we looked like a sorry bunch of guys. I mean, you know, me being the tallest guy on the team, 6'8", weighing about 100 and nothing pounds soaking wet, and then you got David Lattin, a big, beautiful specimen of a black athlete. Then you got Flip Baudoin with, you know, it, I mean, we, it was... Then you got good old Togo, that's a different little, and we said, "I don't know. It's going to be a rugged season this year." But when we started playing, it was altogether a different team. All those little textures of athletes, you know, definitely jelled into one sound unit. Oh, but it was, it was...we were a sorry bunch of guys.

M: (Chuckles) How well did you get along with the other coaches, too?

We're talking mostly about Haskins. What about Iba or the others?

S: Well, you know, that was the funny thing. You know, Coach Haskins, we knew that was The Man and we had a little funny thing about Coach Iba, Moe Iba, you know. He had a little, [in falsetto voice] a little Mickey Mouse voice, you know. And he would sometimes try to yell at us, but we'd kind of look at him [like] ahhh, you know, "get out of here." And he'd say, [imitating Mickey Mouse] <sup>^^</sup> Nevil, get over here. Get out on the court." And I'd kind of like want to blow him off, but we knew that [if] he'd be squeaking too much that the Bear was going to start to growl, you know, and so you'd listen to him. The thing I liked about Moe Iba was that even though he tried to yell at us, he was sharp. The man knew his X's and O's, you know, and he knew just what I had to do to survive, and, you know, to make the team go. And, you know, you'd get mad at him, particularly when you got this gigantic man roaring down your throat, you know. Then after getting, you know, your clothes blown off you, then this little squeaky guy is going to be getting on you, but you'd kind of set aside all that agony and listen to him because he definitely knew the game.

M: Um hm.

S: At that time Coach Haskins only had one assistant coach. And the mightiest man of all was Ross Moore, the trainer. God bless Ross Moore. The man I tell you, he kept us walking under all circumstances. Sometimes I thought take two pills and see me today, you know, was the answer. He made men out of us, you know. He had that thing where he instilled in me that, "Nevil, you can play with pain, but you can't play with an injury and by golly you better know the difference." And he didn't give us any sympathy. But when the injury was there, he was right

on top of it. And the care that this rugged man..., the touch and the care and the way he taped the ankles and made special pads and all kinds of braces for us, you know. Even gave injections. There were a couple of times when we'd go across the border and some of the athletes, not me, but I've heard about some of the athletes coming back with a "runny nose" you know, quote unquote, you know. He had a very dynamic way of giving us a dose of penicillin, you know. I guess he thought those little butts were dart boards because he'd really right in there, you know. And he gave good needle and, you know, I think that was a good health fact because if you didn't want to go behind the dart, you know, it was best to keep your nose clean. But oh, he was right there with us. There was some times that if we did something wrong, I mean Moe would get on us in that mighty voice of his, you know. Hey, he was of strong texture, too. With Moe, when Moe said something, everybody listened, including Coach Haskins.

M: What about your style of play. How similar was it to what you played in New York? Was there a New York style or something?

S: Totally different. Coming from New York City, a fast pace. You know, run and gun, run and gun, you know, not nice neat passing, you know. I came here. Remember the first day of...this one was a scrimmage game we had. I remember grabbing the rebound and pitching out to Bobby Oibler who was on the team at that time, you know, and I took off down the floor. I always could run, you know, and I'm down on the floor with my hand up there, "Throw the ball! Throw the ball!" And I'm looking at Bobby Oibler. Bounce, bounce, bounce, bounce, pass, pass, pass, and some more bounce, bounce. Then finally we get him, we probably scored. And I... "What you doing man? Hey, pass the ball here." And I remember one

time I got on one of the athletes so bad and I remember Coach Haskins saying, "Son, in this program we pass the ball. You're not back there in one of them city slicker places. We pass the ball." And that first year it was a big transition but I bounce, bounce, pass and it taught me poise and a lot of sound control and you had to really beef up on your techniques and we won. And later on, I thought, I guess he had a reason for that because he probably felt that he didn't have the type of team that could run, you know. Later on, particularly the year that we won the national championship, he let us go. It was still the bounce, bounce, bounce but it was a lot more passing action and, you know, it all depends on who you had handle the ball and we were well-rounded with talent, you know, guys that can do a lot of things on the floor.

M: What about defense?

S: That was the game. I came to him, you know, liking defense. A lot of kids from the City, a lot of kids from the City, you know, they like to shoot the ball, you know. I came to score, not to play defense. I contribute a lot of that to Hilton White, our coach in New York. He did put a lot of stress on defense. Defense to us was our offense and coming down here, you know, I enjoyed playing it and I had, you know, a lot of times, you know, the opportunity to hold some of the better athletes. And we played. And I mean there was a lot of pride. It was hard. There was a lot of times that the ball never went into the hole because we spent a lot of time on defense and I mean drills, drills, slide, you know, the dive for balls, boxing out, rebounding. That was a big part of his game and he is still known for that. And to hold a team down for three or four minutes or having to get the ball back quick in order to score, you know, to beat, you know, that all-mighty time, you know, that

was something that we enjoyed on being down early in the game and going into the overtime. You know, to us it was like a new game because we knew we had all that pressure and stuff that was drilled into us during the practices, you know. We took pride in our defense.

M: Did you ever run zone or did he only let you play man-to-man?

S: One time in my life I remember playing a zone, my senior year. I think we played one of the Utah teams and this team had a real quick team and Coach Haskins obviously felt that we couldn't handle a man-to-man. So we played this darn zone and I remember as the game started, you know, we got the tap and everything and we scored. And when we came down to play defense and they saw us in this two-three or whatever type of zone it was, the coach was mesmerized. I think he called a time-out. Even the referee--I think it was Irv Brown, one of the well-known referees--he was shocked. Like, "What are you doing, Don?" But our zone I think was almost a little different, too, because we were so man-to-man orientated and our movement and adjustment was so quick because of how he taught us, you know. It was a really tough zone to try to crack. And then I remember later on in the game when we had a couple of margins, he let us play man-to-man just for a little while and I was glad that that one time in my life under Don Haskins' supervision that we played a zone. Very, very rare that you'd see that. Matter of fact he hated a zone and I think he still does.

M: I'm sure inside he does.

S: Oh yes, that's true.

M: Well, how did the first part of the season go when you were in that '66 team? You got off to a pretty good start as I recall.

S: Yes, we got off to a pretty good start, you know. And some of the teams,

you know, the media, you know, and other people who are critics of the games saying, "Well, this team is a promising team here but they are only playing only Twiddly-Dum University and it's going to be a big difference when we go up against some of the better teams that we'll be playing in the near future." And it seems like, you know, every game we played, we played them well. We never really blew anyone out but you know we had a very sound lead on them. And as time went on Coach Haskins started putting together his combinations, you know, what would be necessary in order to play against different teams. One thing I heard time in and time out is that, "Wait 'til you play the next team." All the way up, throughout the whole season, until our last game which was against Seattle. At that time we were along with Kentucky and Duke and a junior college, the only teams in the United States that were undefeated. And it just so happened that earlier that day, Kentucky and Duke and the junior college [were] defeated and he said to us that, you know, "Right now you're the only team in the nation undefeated," and for a minute a little butterfly, you know, that feeling that, "Uh oh, can we hang on or is this going to be our night too?" And it just so happened that we lost that particular game and it took the pressure off of us.

M: Um hm.

S: One thing I remember. You know, it was funny that, you know, like I say, our personalities were quite different, you know. A couple of the kids were sitting and we had the little chips on our backs once in a while. And I remember, you know, we went in about 8, 10, 13 and 0 at the time, you know. Kind of got a little cool and he tells us, "Get on the floor and everything, and we kind of get real cool, "Yeah, I'm bad," you know. Yeah.

N. Shed

M: Um hm.

S: And I remember him sitting us all down and saying to us, "I'm going to tell you a story about when I was at Oklahoma. They had this thing where they used to shave freshmen's hair off and I was not about to have this happen to me. What I went and did, I found the biggest damn football player on the team and kicked the hell out of him." We all kind of looked up. And he said, "Now I know you all have been winning a couple of games but anytime you feel a little salty and you feel that you cannot listen to or do as I say, I'm welcome to oblige you." And, you know, we kind of, I don't know about the other guys, but I got the message loud and clear and when he said, "Shed, get on the floor," when I jumped up off the bench, my feet were moving before they'd hit the floor. And the other guys, the bigger studs you know, they probably, you know, still had the real cool...

[PAUSE]

S: Okay. Like I was saying, you know, everybody's action was a little different, for we knew that you just don't take advantage of him. And we got the message. We were a little cocky. You know, why not? A team like that. Heck. No one knew Texas Western College. I used to go back to New York, you know, particularly after the second year. "TWC?" I mean, "Who's that? Where's that at?" You know, and hey, now we're starting to get a little recognition, you know, of course we were a little salty. But it changed.

M: What happened that night after the loss in Seattle?

S: Oh, gosh. Yes! Well, there was a curfew. (Chuckles) Coach Haskins told us all that we had to be in our rooms I think it was 12 or 1 o'clock, and we said, "Hey, this is the last game of the season. We're

going to kind of hang out a little bit." So we had this deal at 12 o'clock you know, when he goes around and checks the rooms, we're going to be in our beds, you know. Everybody would be present and accounted for.

M: Um hm.

S: He came by the rooms; everybody was there. The minute he walked out the door and left, we got off the beds and proceeded right. Now I was a little slower getting dressed and then some friends were going to meet us downstairs. I think we were on like the, I want to say about the ninth or tenth floor in this one particular hotel. So the rest of the guys went on downstairs and I finally trailed behind them. By the time I got downstairs, you know, the car was full and they left and they were going to send somebody back to get me. So I was standing out there waiting and all of a sudden I see Coach Haskins and Coach Iba coming back into the hotel. So I tried this, "Oh, God, I wonder if they're going to check the rooms again." So I made this mad dash to the elevator but they got to the elevator before I did. So if you could imagine me scared to death, running up, you know, these 10, 11 flights of stairs trying to beat this elevator up there. With the grace of God I did. All right. I shot down the hall, got to my room, I heard, just as I slammed the door, the elevator doors are opening up and I said, "I wonder what the hell is he doing checking rooms now?" And I heard them knocking on a couple of doors and no one answered, so he just started banging on a couple of doors and he came to my room, and I was in bed and I said, "The door's open, Coach." And he said, "Where's Hill?" And I said, "I don't know. Isn't he down in Flournoy's room?" "No, nobody's in the room!" He said, "Where's Lattin?" And I said, "Coach, I don't know. I've been in my

room." Fully dressed. Fully dressed. Shoes. Everything. And then he was steaming mad and he says, "Well, I'm going to take care of this when I see them tomorrow."

And so he started out the room. And he paused and turned back around and said, "Nevil, how come you're not out of the room? Why are you still here?" And I kind of looked up at him with this sad look on my face [pretending to cry] and said, "Coach, can't you realize that here we were undefeated, the only undefeated team in the United States, and we lost this game and I, I'm really upset!" And I kind of snuggled back down and put the cover over my head, you know, and he kind of looked at me and he kind of put his hand on my shoulder and said, "Shed, you will play the next game." And he walked out of the room and the first thing that came out of my mouth was "Whew!" And I got away with that and it took years before I told him the truth about that. But, you know, I think he smelled a rat. But, hey, I was there. Regardless. With my clothes on, I was innocent.

M: (Chuckles) What about practice? Somebody told me there was also something about him getting on you about not being anxious to rebound, the rebounding drills with Lattin.

S: Oh yes. Well, you know, Nevil Shed, 6'8", like I said 100 nothing pounds, David Lattin, 6'6", muscular 244 pounds of just Titanic strength. We had several rebounding drills and like I told you I used to go through these antics on the floor and a couple of times he got, you know, he gets mad at me. And this one time I went through this one little particular thing and I wasn't rebounding, and then I was going through my little facial contortions and tossed darns and durns at everything and I think he finally got enough of it. And he said, "Shed, get the hell out the

gym. Just put on your clothes and get out of here." So, hey man, you know, yeah, okay, I'll leave. So I started back. I went and took my shower and I started back over to the dorms and, you know, like, the other athletes said, "Hey, Shed, what you doing out of practice, man? You know, I know practice is..." "Hey, man, damn Haskins," you know. "Shoot, threw me out of practice, man? Hey, man, I'm trying to rebound with Lattin. Hey, man, hey. Forget him, man." And I went to my room and the evening went on. Later on that evening Coach Haskins knocks on my door. And, you know, I walk over to it, "Yeah, man." And he comes in nice and calm. I just knew that he was going blow my ears out.

M: Um hm.

S: He was nice and calm. And he finally, he sat down on the bed and looked at me and said, "Nevil, you know I've been trying to tolerate some of this stuff you been doing and all. Going through these facial contortions, and you got all this quickness and as high as you can jump and everything and you won't get on the boards or anything, you know, and I get tired. I'm just tired of yelling at you, you know. And I'm just not going to take it anymore." And at that moment he reached in his pocket and pulled out this plane ticket. So I figured that, "Yeah, he's trying. I'm one of the studs. Yeah, he's pulling this little sleeve job on me." I said, "Yeah?" And he continued talking. He said, "Well, you know, like I say, you know you could still go to another school. You're young and everything but you're not going to do this on my team. There's certain things I expect and it has to be that way." All of a sudden I started getting a little uncomfortable feeling and this little guy, the little shadow, was saying, "Hey, Shed, he's not kidding with you. He's going to send your ass back to New York." And at that moment I had a

N. Shed

cold chill for that I remembered some famous words of my mother: "The only time I want to see you back in New York is during Christmas, Easter and the summer vacation." For I knew that she would get me well.

M: Um hm.

S: And all of a sudden I just broke down and said, "Coach Haskins, I don't want to go home." He says, "No, no, no, Nevil, I'm sorry. Son, you have to go. We just can't have that." And he pulled my drawers open and started taking my stuff out. Got a suitcase, started taking my stuff out my drawers and putting in my suitcase and I really got scared then. And I started taking the stuff out of the suitcase and putting them back in the drawers. And he continued to...and I started...and then he really had me and I started crying and saying, [pretends to cry] "Coach I don't want to go home!" He had me. Doggone it, the man had me! And I said, "Coach Haskins I don't want to go home. My mind's right. I'll do what you tell me to do. Just don't send me home." And he says, "All right. Well, Nevil, I'm going to give you one more chance but I tell you, those facial contortions and all that stuff you've been doing, I want it stopped and you better start rebounding." And I said, "Yes sir, Coach! Hey, hey, I, just please don't send me home." And he took the little ticket, you know, put it back in his pocket, and he left. I know he had a good grin on his face saying, "I got him that day."

Later on the guys came back and said, "Hey, I heard Coach Haskins was in your room." "Ah, nothing man. He was trying to, you know, get rid of me, man, but I ain't taking that stuff. Hey, hey, you see I'm still here, right?" And the guys go, "Yeah, right on, Shed," you know. The next day in practice when it got to the rebounding drill, a little backflash came over me what he said. And I remember the first time

[slaps hands together] that I went to confront Lattin on a rebound, he broke my nose. I mean David got me right square in the nose. But, you know, the moral of the story is that he got the job done, and I think after that time my rebounding was a little more consistent than it was before. But he got me well. That's one thing about, he has a good way of getting his points across to his athletes.

M: (Chuckles) Well, let's get into the playoffs that year. You went on to play Oklahoma City first and then Cincinnati and Kansas in the Regionals. What did you think of those games and those teams?

S: Well, I remember, you know, quickly talking about Oklahoma City. He told us what type of team this was. I think it was Abe Lemmons was the head coach there and Abe Lemmons is known for having, you know, super shooting teams. At that time he also had the number one rebounder in the country and he told us that, "You better get out here and play this team tough right from the start. If you don't, before you know it, you'll be quite a few points behind." Ahh, we took the game, you know, serious but that pressure was not on us. We went in the game and sure as he was talking, that team came out shooting that ball. I mean it seemed like they were taking one or two steps across the half court line and they were letting them go and before you know, we were 20 points down at halftime and he lit into us. Fortunately enough we came back and won the game.

M: Is this the one he didn't start Bobby Joe in?

S: I don't remember. I don't remember if that was the game or not. All I know is that we had to struggle to come back. As usual, because we were known for waiting, til the last minute to come back even through an overtime or just getting it done at the last minute.

And well, we weathered that storm and then I remember Cincinnati.

N. Shed

This was the game where I became Cassius Clay. Oh gosh, this one athlete, you know, he got my goat, and I remember he was just bumping me and he was grabbing my shorts and everything and I was trying to throw my elbow at him and Coach Haskins said, "You just get in and play the game." And I said, "But Coach Haskins, the guy..." [Imitating Haskins yelling] "Doggone it Shed, just play the game!" And I said, "Okay." And I remember one play where Lattin was in the corner and I was on the basket and the ball came to our side. We had to do some kind of little interchange, and I got ready to go out and pick for Lattin and this guy had a hand full of my shorts. So I saw Willie Worsley on the other side handling the ball and I saw one referee looking at him and I didn't see the other referee, and I just squared off and hit this guy right square in the nose. Of course his hair went flying all up and down and everything and they--beeeep--blew the whistle on me, and I was ejected from the game. And Coach Haskins went wild. Of course he threw me out. If it was left up to him, he would have thrown me out of the state of Kansas or Wichita where the game was being played at that time, you know. And I was scared to death. And he said, "You weren't going to play anymore and you're through." And I started crying and I ran to a telephone booth and I called my mom and told her and she said, "You big dummy. He should have thrown you off the team. What are you doing here in the middle of this part of the year and you going to be trying to hit a ballplayer." And that game was tough, and he didn't even allow me in the room at halftime and I stood out on the ramp and that's where I watched the game from and, you know, with the grace of God we won that game, too.

M: Um hm.

N. Shed

S: And then came the last one to get to the finals for the semis, you know, against Kansas, the Walt Wesley guy and I remember that game. He didn't start me the first half. And the beautiful thing about it is that, you know, even if we had our regular usual pep talk and he gave his orders and, you know, told who was going to start and what-have-you, and I remember him coming over alongside of me and I was sitting there scared to death, happy to have my uniform on, and he walked over to me and just gave me a kind smile and said, "Next time you do something like that, be a little more smarter, will you?" And I knew it was all over with.

M: Um hm.

S: And it was like a heavy load. It was a new day and by golly he got his point across. And I didn't play the first half and we were struggling, you know. It was one of those back and forth type of games and I remember the second half, he didn't start me right off. I've always had a good game playing at Wichita, at the Roundhouse it was called, and I remember when he did howl down the bench for me to go in, I mean I was up in a flash and I mean by the time my feet touched the ground, the jacket and sweatpants were off. And I played a good game and that was the game that really got real tough where we were tied up and it was a few seconds on the clock and Kansas had the ball and I remember this gentleman by the name of Jo Jo White took one step across the half court line and let it go and I tell you, we had Walt Wesley, this big seven foot guy, boxed out and we were ready for the rebound and we saw the ball in flight and I knew the ball was going in. My knees got weak and I said, "Oh no!" And bingo! It went in but it just so happened that a man by the name of Rudy Maritch, God bless Rudy Maritch, he was right on top of the call and saw Jo Jo White's foot out. Also Bobby Joe acknowledged that his foot was

out and they called it no basket. We went to an overtime and as usual we came out on top. And after that game it was on to College Park, Maryland, you know, for the Final Four.

M: What did you think you were going to do when you went off to College Park? Did you really think you could win it all?

S: I didn't think, I didn't have no business being there. I couldn't believe that I was going to the Final Four. In my heart I always thought we'd get in post-season tournament. But to go that far. You know, it was a surprise. The pressure wasn't there. I really didn't feel the pressure of "Oh God, what's going to happen? Am I going to be nervous?" The first game, you know. We wanted to play Duke, I remember that. Because they had this big slogan, you know. At that time Duke had the real super team and it was something about "We're Number One because we try harder" and we wanted to show them what that Number One meant to us.

M: Um hm.

S: Unfortunately, we played Utah the first game and Kentucky played Duke. We defeated Utah that first game and Kentucky defeated Duke University. Going into the finals, you know, knowing the next night, I was the one I think who was really the most jittery one on the whole team. I remember Bobby Joe and David Lattin and Flournoy and all the other guys were sitting around and everything and I was, you know goofing around with them. But it was something about that game, you know. It was like, oh, gosh, this is the last supper. We're going to the final one, you know. I knew that it was going to be now or never and the jitters were there up until game time when that buzzer at the tossing of the ball. That particular game, you know... Tell you what type of team we had, you know, most of the season I always started. This particular game Coach

Haskins didn't start me. Kentucky had a smaller team and he wanted a fast team out there. It did not mean a thing to me. And I can honestly say that. Even though it's twenty years ago. For some reason, you know, I just, well...number one, I knew that I was going to get in there somewhere. And then number two, that respect that we had for Coach Haskins and the discipline that he instilled in us, I wasn't about to challenge him. "Man, hey, coach, why wasn't I playing?" Or neither was I going to sulk. I knew that I would have my chance to play. And you know, it turned out to be the best thing. And I remember the game, you know. We handled them pretty well, particularly with those two steals of Bobby Joe's and we physically and with a lot of poise, the strong things that we did all season long was right there in that final game. Oh, how I can remember those last seven seconds. When that clock started ticking off, it seemed like the whole world just stood still and the only thing that I could see was that five, four, three, two, one and hey! I was part of a team that was the best team in the United States. We were Number One. And that's the feeling that, you know, hey, you cannot imagine that ever happening to you. A bunch of these guys that were for twenty-some-odd games looking down the bench and saying, "Hey, man, I can't believe that this is the same team that Coach Haskins was talking about." And we won it, and we won it because of all those things he did in practice. That maniac man, you know. And the unity. We went out on that floor knowing, not knowing what the outcome was going to be, but knowing that, hey, whoever came up against us, they had a job.

M: Um hm.

S: You know, they knew that they had to play. And all the way up to the final game, you know, and even after we won, it was always, wait 'til you

see that place and oh, the big upset. There's no upset when a Cinderella team you know, playing like we're doing, being Number One in rebounding and some other records that we held, you know, it wasn't an upset. It was a well put together team, well-trained, in tune for the ultimate goal in an NCAA basketball championship game. To win or to be a national championship. You know, and that's what we were.

M: How did you think Kentucky compared to some of the other teams you'd played, like Kansas?

S: My personal feeling, I thought the Utah game was a little tougher than the final game. Most definitely Kansas. You know, we were fighting them tooth and claw. I remember a game just during the regular season against New Mexico University. Whenever we went down there, you know, that was death. And I remember we had to pull that game out in an overtime, you know, in order to maintain a high national rating and continue our undefeated season. There were a lot of games I felt were tougher than that but, you know, we didn't take that game lightly. We knew that we respected the man who was coaching there. You know, Mr. Adolph Rupp, you know. Being the Baron of Basketball, I consider him, and we knew that any team he put on the floor there was going to be a tough team. But just that particular night, you know, we were a little better. We were a little better.

M: How did the Kentucky players and fans and coaches and all those people respond to your win?

S: Well, they had a whole lot of excuses. I remember I heard excuses from the team having the flu until us being brutal guys, you know. We just beat all. A bunch of misfits they called us, you know. "There's no such thing as a misfit, dumb, unorganized team going that far in any kind of

N. Shed

championship game." Of course, Kentucky was shocked, you know. For us, you know, our true-blue fans, I'm sure that everybody said, "Hey, we're going to get 'em. We've come this far. We're not going to die now." And you know we have those die-hard fans here in El Paso.

M: (Chuckles)

S: You know and I know they all wished they were there but then again I believe there's a couple of them saying, "Hey, you know, this is Kentucky," you know, talking about what this man has done in the past.

M: Yeah.

S: But they were shocked. Oh, they were shocked. And I'm quite sure the bookies were shocked, too. Because I'm not really into that gambling situation, but I bet we were truly the underdogs for that particular game.

M: Yeah. Well, what happened when you got back to El Paso? How was the response?

S: Well, the most beautiful thing in the world. The first exciting thing of flying was when the plane was flying over our airport and I remember the plane did a little dip as it circled around, you know. And we knew we were going to land and we saw all these little tiny ants of people waiting to greet us. And just excited that, hey, we're bringing home something as prestigious as that. The Number One team in the United States, you know. And to top it off was just to see what people are going to say and how they are going to respond. It was fantastic.

I think the second best thing was today, having an opportunity to see these guys twenty years later, you know, and seeing everybody and I thank God that we're all healthy. That was the greatest thing that ever happened to us. We all had little things to say, you know, the big pep

rally kind of thing, the ticker tape parade, the caravan through downtown all the little things, and what people gave us and there being thanks for having a bunch of great guys like we were and we still are, you know, to give these services in top entertainment to El Paso.

M: Well, you came back and played the next year, right?

S: Yes sir.

M: Was that kind of anticlimactic year after such a successful year?

S: Ohhhh, by all means. You know, all throughout the year, we knew that the challenge was even going to be harder thinking that, you know, everybody we play they are going to, you know, "Okay, we're coming back to beat the national champions, the national championship thing," and we had to play hard. We had a few little uncomfortable defeats--any defeat is an uncomfortable one--but I knew that every game we played, whether it was a win or loss, we played it hard. And of course, most of our team was back, except for a part when Bobby Joe was not with us, and we felt we had a good chance to win again. Our objective wasn't so long-range early but that was the fine line, what we were trying to pursue.

M: And then you lost to Pacific, was it, in the playoffs?

S: Yes, we lost the Pacific in the last game. I couldn't play in the post-season tournament my senior year because of this NCAA rule states that you only can play four years, you know. Well, three years competition, and I played one year at North Carolina A & T which took that year away and I went along with the team but it was, gosh, being on the outside looking in, you know. Particularly that year it was kind of rough on me.

M: Um hm. Um hm. What did you do after you finished that season? Did you stay in El Paso for a while or...?

S: Well, I stayed in El Paso until the end of the year was out and trying to

hope if I can get a draft choice. I had quite a little more time, you know, to graduate and at that time, you know, I guess I was athletically and educationally burned out. And I was waiting for that phone call, and I did get it, you know, and I was told that I was going to be drafted by the Boston Celtics in the second round and that was the beginning of a new era, you know, in my basketball life.

M: Did you go on and play in the pros?

S: Yes, that fall, that next fall, I went and played and unfortunately after all my high school and college and everything, I waited to get to the ultimate and have a real bad knee injury. Never had any knee injuries before. And what was so bad about it was that, you know, four or five years later on, with a torn cartilage and this tendon that was damaged, you know, they came out with this arthroscopic surgery, which if they would have had it back then, you know, I might have had a little more time in the NBA. But I played for...I was there for one year. I was there for one year and the team won a world championship that year and, you know, just having the opportunity to play with a Bill Russell and a Sam Jones and Havilechek and a Satch Sanders was something that, hey, that's something that you just can't forget. And still, you know, maintain a top-notch championship style of basketball.

M: How did you end up going back into coaching?

S: Well, after that second year, I went back to New York City and I decided that, you know, at that time my goal was I wanted to work in my community and I got married and I worked at a community center, matter of fact right around the corner from where I lived. And I stayed there and I had a little city league team, trying in somewhat follow the same footsteps as Hilton White did for us. And I had a pretty decent job but, you know,

as time went on, it was kind of rough without that degree, you know. I couldn't advance. So I decided to really go back to school and I called up Coach Haskins one time and asked him, "Hey, big daddy, do you think I can come back to school?" And he said to me, "Doggone it." He just said, "Well, hell, you should have been back here." And he gave me a scholarship, a graduate assistantship, you know, and I started really my coaching, you know, during that time and I stayed on with them 'til I graduated and he helped me get my first coaching assignment as assistant coach at the University of Wyoming where I spent several years.

M: Where did you go after Wyoming?

S: Okay, after Wyoming I moved to Milwaukee where I was the assistant basketball coach there for about five years at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. And then a year also in Milwaukee I coached at a technical college, Milwaukee School of Engineering. And then after that, I got a call from a gentleman by the name of Lindsay Holt, who was a good friend of Coach Haskins, asking me, "How would you like to come down to El Paso and work with your daddy?" I asked him, "When do I leave?" And I worked here with him for a year as his assistant.

M: Yeah, I remember that year.

S: Uh huh, and after one year this new job, this new university was opening up, the University of Texas at San Antonio, and they were looking for an assistant coach there and that's where I'm at at the present time.

M: Okay. When you look back at Haskins now, do you think he's gotten soft?

S: Yes! He's gotten very soft, you know, right to the point where now, you know, if you have a blister on your foot or you need a little water break and you know... He's still tenacious, you know, verbally and some of his actions, but he's not as much of a warhorse as he was in our era, and I

told him about this. I asked him about this once upon a time. And I said, "Wait a minute, Coach Haskins. Any of these guys, you ask them..."

[END OF TAPE 1]

M: We are continuing talking about the decline of Don Haskins and getting soft.

S: All right like I asked him, I said, "Look here, Coach Haskins." I said, "Man, hey, if we ever came to you talking about a sore blister or something, we were scared to death. I mean, many days I would run up and down the floor, you know, on my ankles. And these guys here, 'You got a sore foot?' 'Yeah.' Hey, you serve as their trainer. Water break? What was a water break? Two hours and a half practice? Hell, you used to practice until you got tired. Seven days a week, coach, remember that?" And he said to me, "You know, these athletes are a lot different from you guys." And I said, "What do you mean by that? You still got the same kind of winning tradition." And he said, "Yes, but the fibers were different." And I sat back and with my chest stuck out, said, "Yeah, we were tough." We were, you know. It's different. The athletes today, the ability's there and even more so, but the fibers truly were different. See, the athlete of today knows his rights. Then, you know, hey, when he...what he said, you know...went without any type of an act of discrepancy, you know. You just went out and did it and you were tough. And you knew that all this toughness and discipline that he instilled in you, that you'd play, you could play with it. You could play with it. And it made a lot of difference. But yet he still, you could still see that little tone of toughness in him. I remember when I was working for him, I was sitting down, this was right before practice. I was sitting down talking to one of the--it was the athletic director or

somebody--and we're just shooting the breeze and some of the kids are on the floor just goofing around, you know. And I heard him say, [Imitating Haskins yelling] "Hey! You guys, you get over here!" And all of a sudden I jumped up and ran out on the floor, you know, and I caught myself, you know. And I said, "Oh, oh yeah, hell! I'm a coach now." And the guy said, "What's wrong?" I said, "Oh, nothing, don't worry about it." I mean I was verbally intimidated. You know, the way he said that in that roaring voice, I literally jumped up and I was, hell, I was ready to play, you know. And I looked down and I had a coaching shirt on. You know. That's the type of impression that he put on you. You know the name they gave him, the Bear, was a good name. We had other names for him but we do not want to put that in history, you know.

M: Right. That'll be when I turn the machine off.

S: (Laughs) But yes, he has changed a lot, you know, but one thing about the guy, one thing about him, you know--at the time I didn't think it--but that man loves and cares so much, so very deeply about each and every one of his basketball players. I don't know and can't speak for the rest of the guys but I truly know one thing: he loves Nevil Shed. You know. He loves "his shadow" and, you know, that's "my daddy". I call him that, you know, and he means so much to me and right now if he said, "Coach, you come on back," I wouldn't think twice about coming back to work for him for that's how much I care and the love that I have for him is... There's just no comparison.

M: When do think you began to realize that, after you left?

S: It didn't take long. It didn't take long. You know, once you realize there's no more basketball and now the "room, board, and tuition, all fees paid," has to be paid by you and there's no one hollering at you to

get the job done, pick up, get your head, rebound, you know. You learn real fast that, hey, there was somebody out there caring for me and now that care that this man tried to instill in me, I have to do it for myself. And that's something that I think. He made me a man, you know. I don't think it was too soon, you know. I truly believe it was right on time. My style of coaching is a lot like him. You know, I'm a warhorse and my athletes think that I'm out of my mind. God knows that, I know they call me a couple of names except for Nevil Shed, but I also learned how to love. You know, I know how to love and I know in this mad, mad world you gotta, you know, you gotta love the game and really love the athletes. And what you're gonna be having for four or two years of your life--that coach is, he was the doctor, lawyer, Indian chief, you know. He was the man that, you know, hell, you know, he knows, for the time that we were with him, he knew us better than our own parents did.

M: Yeah.

S: And with all that he went through, the man had to really care for us and he's never really hurt us. We thought we were being hurt but he's never, he's never hurt me, you know. And I know he never even tried to do that.

M: There's one other aspect of that year that I want to talk about here as we're getting down to the end finally, and that is when did you become aware--well, I guess in the Kentucky game or before that--about comments about the fact that Texas Western started an all-black starting line-up? Were you as players very much aware of that as the season went on?

S: Well, you know, the media made the big deal out of that. I mean, they would say, "Yes, Kentucky, the all-white team will be playing this team that's consisted of white players but seven blacks are playing." We'll be the focal point of the game played. But in that game, you know, we

didn't look at it that way. I looked at it myself or I can speak for the team, we looked at it as, "Hey, we're going to play one of the better teams in the United States. You know, if I would have came into that game talking about, [slaps hands together] "Okay, whitey, man, your ass is mine," or he said "Okay, nigger," you know, hey, the game probably would not have been played as good as it was, you know. That game went and, you know, that game was played, you know, thinking, you know, hey, two good teams are being played. I don't think we ever made a gesture of, you know, "Yeah, us blacks, we got a Black Power kind of thing and we gonna beat those whities," because they had to beat a whole lot of blacks and whites to get right there unfortunately. And I don't think that Coach Haskins put us out there that way. He was putting the team or the combination of players out there which was necessary, you know, to play against that particular team. I truly believe that any combination of... If it was a lot of white kids with us blacks kids, then hey, well, the results would have been the same, you know. A strong unity and you got one objective, you know, to go out there and win. But it was ugly, you know, it really, it really got ugly, you know, to the point the things they said about Coach Haskins being a "nigger lover" or he got a bunch of misfits that none of 'em didn't graduate, and that is a lie because practically all of us are now college graduates and some of us are working towards our Master's and we all got good jobs, you know. It's all together different from what they said. And it really, really hurt me.

M: Um hm.

S: I try to be very vocal. Each year when I go to play-offs or I see, if I see one of these sports writers who have said that, "Hey, I'm here. I'm

one of those old black misfits, you know, hey, I'm one of them, the ones you said didn't graduate. I graduated." You know. "Have you spoke to Willie Cager? He was the first one to graduate. And he's teaching. We weren't misfits." Like I said earlier in the conversation, you know, misfits and ruffians, you can't go that far and try to win. You had to have a whole lot of sound principles and attributes which was given to us by Coach Haskins. What it boiled down to is that the team, how shall [I] say, nation's choice did not prevail that year. And just like in our world, you know, we come up with a lot of excuses. The excuse should have been is that, hey, the best team won, no matter what the color was. Well, that's a long story, you know. We're getting into the politics there but the game was played, you know. Texas Western vs. the University of Kentucky, and that's the only way I could look at it.

M: Um hm. Right.

S: That's the only way I could look at it.

M: That's the way a player would look at it. Looking back at it as a coach now and a recruiter, do you think that that really did speed up the end to the segregation in the remaining conferences?

S: Yes, sir. I really think that that was a big stepping stone, you know, for the black athlete, and a lot of doors were opened and when you really look at it, you got to thank a guy like Coach Haskins for being a pioneer and giving qualified athletes a chance, you know, to participate at a major college level, and it was just right after that you started seeing a lot of your southern super white programs start getting the black athletes to play with them and even though they were winning, you know, they started winning with a little more stability just by saying that you got to have a little bit of both to make that team run.

M: Do you think your style of play had any effect on the general style of play in college ball?

S: I think...I always did. Matter of fact, on the way down here to El Paso, Willie Worsley and myself were saying that we felt that we were just a little bit ahead of our time, you know, the stuff that Bobby Joe was doing and Willie Worsley. Whoever heard of a 5'9" or 6' athlete dunking the ball, you know, and we ran. I think our goals and ideas were the same but just the way we did things, you know. We had phenomenal ability. And it just so happened that, you know, that right time and combination, you know. Hey, the right science was there, you know, and to some people it happens year after year but for a border city school, you know. He had that right chemistry and he put together something that really turned out to be, hey, the nation's best.

M: Well, looking back on it--you've already partially answered this, but I'll ask it again for the record--how important was it to your life--winning that NCAA championship? Did you feel that this was the big experience or one of the big experiences of your life and were you ever the same?

S: Oh there's no question about it, you know, no question. I know that I believe that in my lifetime I know God thinks I'm number one; he thinks all of his children are number one. And my mother and father, you know, think I'm number one and with those things in mind it has instilled in me to say, "Hey, you know, go out there and do the best you can." But when you look in the real life, athletics, you know, and having a chance to go all the way to an NCAA championship, and then to win it, you know, is an ultimate dream. And that is one dream that, you know, I never thought I would have a chance to participate in, you know. And I played basketball

like I say with the Boston Celtics and even though I didn't participate in it a lot, you know, I got all the little goodies that went along with it, I don't even think about that. People say, "Well, Shed, you played for the Boston Celtics?" "Yeah, but let's talk about the Texas Western," you know, because I participated in it. I won a national...I was a national champion. You know, to be number one, something that for our beautiful city of El Paso is going to be here for years to come. And I always say that, you know, that it's great to render your services to a place that people cared about you. And people here in El Paso, then and now, have been good to me and I couldn't do no more than help be part of giving them something, you know, that's going to be a long time before another team does. And I thank them and "You're welcome, El Paso," and I hope it happens again for my daddy and everything, but it's something that's the greatest thing, you know, and I thank everybody and a lot of times, you know, I thank the good Lord for just giving me the opportunity to be part of something like this, you know. To some athletes it happens one, two and three times. It happened to me one time. And all the memories and the frolic and the things that we talk about, I don't believe that I'll ever grow old. You know, I think growing old is when you... Yes, in your life you have sufferings but through the sufferings nothing positive or good ever came out of it, you know. But through my little sufferings and hardships, I've had good things happen and right on this day of February 28, [1986], another good thing has happened to me. And I am thankful for it.

END OF INTERVIEW