

"Big Daddy D"

David Lattin: Worthing Great Inducted to Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame



David Lattin was only a junior, but already a muscular, towering force in the middle, when he led a new high school in Houston's Sunnyside neighborhood to a PVIL 4A state championship in 1962. It was the Evan E. Worthing Colts' only basketball state championship, but the beginning of an honor-filled career for the player who became known as "Big Daddy D."

And, at age 69, Lattin's accomplishments are still being recognized, as on May 18 the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches will include him along with five others for induction to the TABC Hall of Fame class of 2013 in ceremonies at the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel in San Antonio. Other members of the class are Richard Clemit Hyden, who led Buna to four girls state titles in 10 seasons; Rhonda Farney, who has won more than 900 games as girls coach at Goldthwaite, Ozona and Georgetown; Mike Kunstadt, who coached at Corpus Christi Carroll before

becoming one of the state's foremost authorities on basketball recruiting; Dennis "Denny" Smith, who compiled a 509-499 as boys' coach at San Antonio McCollum High School, and former Seguin High School boys' coach Harry Miller, who went on to coach at Baylor.

In 1962, Lattin was the first prep basketball player in Texas named an All-American when he led Worthing to its title, coached by Bennie Roy. Both Lattin and Roy are members of the PVILCA Hall of Honor. He was All-American, again, as a senior averaging 29 points, 19 rebounds and 13 blocked shots per game and received over 300 scholarship offers, settling on Tennessee State University. However, unsatisfied with the level of competition, he returned to Houston and competed with Amateur Athletic Union teams before accepting a scholarship from Coach Don Haskins at Texas Western College and setting the stage for arguably the biggest upset in NCAA Basketball Tournament history.

Lattin was the starting center when the Miners, and their all-black starting five, met the highly favored Kentucky Wildcats and their all-white starting five coached by Adolph Rupp, for the national championship. Lattin scored 16 points and grabbed 9 rebounds in the Miners' 72-65 win at Cole Field House on the University of Maryland campus.

In over eight NCAA Tournament games with the Miners, Lattin, at 6-6, 225 pounds averaged 19.5 points per game (155 total) and 11 rebounds per game (88 total) and scored in double figures in 44 of 56 games. He was All-America during both the 1966 and 1967 seasons and was the first pick (10th overall) by the San Francisco Warriors in the 1967 NBA Draft.



Lattin played for the Warriors and also the Phoenix Suns, and then in the American Basketball Association with the Pittsburgh Condors and Memphis Tams. He finished his career with the Harlem Globetrotters. The 2006 film, "Glory Road," told the story of the Miners' program and their unlikely national success. Lattin's biography is, "Slam Dunk to Glory" (2006).

He has also been inducted to the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame (2007) and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame (2007).

Lattin has a degree in business administration and is a businessman and entrepreneur in Houston.