

The Big 'E'

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

With 2:08 left in the first quarter of the recent Houston Rocket/Trail-blazer clash in which the locals lost 111-109, Elvin "The Big E" Hayes became one of five players who have scored over 25,000 points in his National Basketball Association career.

It took Hayes thirteen seasons to join the company of Wilt Chamberlain, Oscar Robertson, Jerry West, John Havlicek, and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. According to Hayes, he was relieved that the record was out of the way and considered accomplishing the feat a blessing.

"I thank God," he said. "I'm very appreciative to be in the elite company of such fine athletes. This is a very happy moment of my life and I feel blessed to be able to play in the league for so many years."

Calvin Murphy, the Rockets' mini-guard who has scored close to 20,000 points himself feels that Elvin Hayes had no easy road to the points and he explained what he meant.

"Elvin has played against Wilt, Bill Russell, Zelmo Beaty, Kareem, Walt Bellamy, Willis Reed, Bob Rule, Nat Thurmond, and all of the other big boys of the game," he said. "E has gone up against some tough guys over the years and I think it's great that he has been so successful. He's always been a premier player to me and I guess he showed them again tonight. I'm happy for him." Hayes scored 21 against the Blazers and Murphy added 25 to Moses Malone's 34 points.

Hayes, a 1968 graduate of the University of Houston started his N.B.A. career in San Diego and was later traded to Houston and Washington. On June 8, 1981, Hayes was traded back to Houston for two second-round draft choices and says that he loves being back in the Longhorn state of Texas.

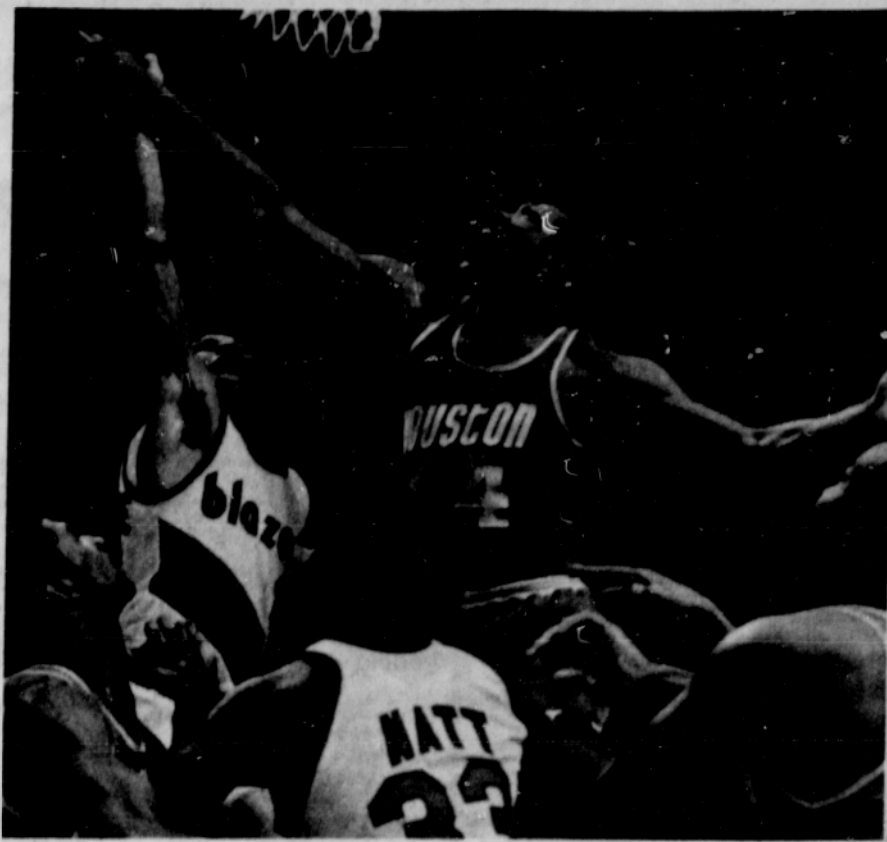
"It's a great feeling to be back," he said. "By far, moving back to Houston was one of the best things to happen to me and it feels like I never left here. I enjoy it very much."

Though known as an excellent scorer over the years, Elvin has modified his role with the Rockets since they have so many guys on the team who can. Coming into the Blazer game, Hayes sported a career low 13.5 scoring clip with a season high of thirty.

"Basically, my role is to play defense and help Moses on the boards," he said. "I set a lot of picks, provide leadership, and I help to keep the game under control. We have so much talent on this team and it is important for everyone to do their job."

When questioned about what is left for him to accomplish in the N.B.A., the five-time N.B.A. All-Star and member of the Washington Bullet Championship team in 1978 says there is only one more thing to accomplish.

"I want another championship," he said. "The first one was so sweet and I would like to experience it again. Physically, I'm able to bang around for a couple of more years and that's enough time to do it. We have a good team here and I think we can do it."



Blazermania at the Paramount

by Ron Sykes

Blazermania! Sounds like a once proudly yelled, but dying, high school cheer. But is Blazermania really dying? According to the action at Memorial Coliseum and the Paramount, Blazermania is alive and kicking strong. There are as many Blazer fans now as ever before. I came to this conclusion after my visits to the Coliseum and the Paramount during the last Friday game between Portland and Phoenix.

A loyal Blazer fan, Lily Mae Jackson said, "I wouldn't go to the Coliseum and I seldom miss a game at the Paramount. The doors open at 5:30 and normally I'm the first one through. I don't want to miss any of the action." The action at the Paramount begins with a five-piece live band on the first balcony. As one walks in, listening to the music, immediately to the left number of

concession stands; everything from Italian pizza to Chinese stir-fried food. The early arrivals are milling around the food stands and cocktail bars conveniently located throughout the building. If one didn't know better, he would think that Leonard Hearn's championship fight was about to be viewed.

At 7:00 o'clock when the pregame show starts, the seats begin to fill-up. By 7:15, the capacity crowd of 2974 were seated, listening intently to every word Dave Twardzik and Bill Schonely had to say. The noise level is extremely high, but is compensated by the audio volume being about two decibels higher than normal. Was simply shocked to see two-thousand-odd Paramount fans rise to the playing of the National Anthem being played at the Coliseum. This proves what I have long believed. The Paramount crowd is only an extension of the

Coliseum.

The thirty-second clock, scoreboard and portable basket brought in for the half-time hoop-shoot further enhanced this belief. "I love this place," yelled an excited fan. "Things are livelier here than at the Coliseum." Which only meant that the booze flows more freely and that there are fewer people to contend

with when leaving. The General Electric equipment supplied one of the better closed-circuit pictures that I have witnessed. After reviewing the entire show, I can easily see why some people would prefer the Paramount. It was particularly interesting during half-time when the cameras went into both team huddles and allowed you to see and hear each coach mapping out his strategy. And you know, it really didn't matter that the Blazers blew the game. It was a good show.

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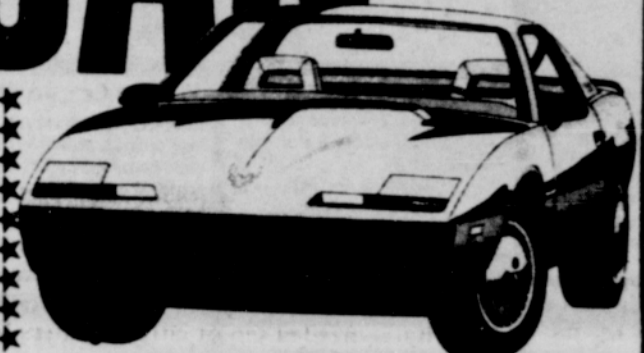


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