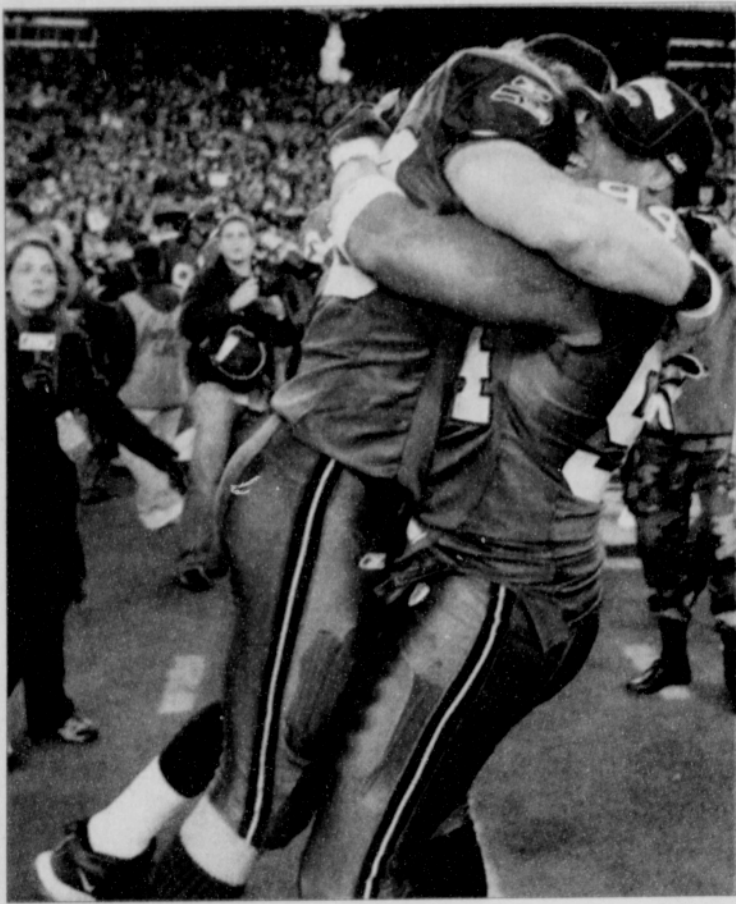


## SPORTS

## Seahawks in Super Bowl



Seattle Seahawks defensive ends Grant Wistrom, (left) and Bryce Fisher celebrate their 34-14 win over the Carolina Panthers Sunday in Seattle in the NFC Championship football game. (AP photo)

## Joyous trip 30 years in the making

The Seattle Seahawks will be making their first appearance in the Super Bowl against the Pittsburgh Steelers in Detroit on Sunday, Feb. 5.

The Seahawks earned their Super Bowl XL berth by outclassing the Carolina Panthers, 34-to-14 to win the NFC championship Sunday. Seahawks fans chanted "Super Bowl, Super Bowl" as Shaun Alexander carried the NFC championship trophy down the field at Qwest Stadium in Seattle, a joyous trip that was 30 years in the making.

Alexander, a killer defense and playing on a field where they didn't lose this season, all combined perfectly Sunday to help the Seahawks rout the Panthers in the NFC title game.

"I think we got people excited about football again here in the



The Seahawks' Shaun Alexander crosses into the end zone for a touchdown against the Carolina Panthers during the fourth quarter Sunday. Seattle will be making their first appearance in the Super Bowl against the Pittsburgh Steelers in Detroit on Sunday, Feb. 5. (AP photo)

Pacific Northwest," coach Mike Holmgren said. "They're all coming to Detroit with us, everybody in the stadium's coming. They were great for us all year. Home-field advantage in this place means everything."

In this case, it means the Seahawks (15-3) will meet the Pittsburgh Steelers, 34-17 win-

ners over Denver in the AFC, in the Super Bowl. That game will be played in Detroit on Feb. 5 and the Steelers already are favored by 3½ points.

Alexander, the league's MVP, came back from last week's concussion to rush for a team playoff-record 132 yards and two touchdowns, and Seattle pressured Caro-

lina stars Jake Delhomme and Steve Smith into oblivion. "We have an unbelievable team, an unbelievable group of fans," Alexander said. "Prayer works. I get knocked out and guys step up. One guy goes down and another guy steps up." The Seahawks picked off three passes in winning their 12th straight home game.

## Movie 'Glory Road' Documents Texas Western's Historic Win

## 1966 NCAA champs broke color barrier

(AP)—Don Haskins didn't realize the impact of what he had done until a few days later. That's when the letters started arriving. Thousands of them, mostly from the South.

Almost all began the same way: "Dear n—lover:"

His Texas Western basketball team had won the national championship. But Haskins was no longer in any mood to celebrate.

"The worst time of my life was the next few weeks after we won the national championship," Haskins said. "It didn't really dawn on me what this was all about until that time."

Haskins' crime — an unpardonable one in certain parts of the country — was that he started five black players against Kentucky's all-white team in the NCAA final.

Worse yet, his players had beaten the Wildcats 72-65 to become national champions.

It was 40 years ago, March 19, 1966, to be specific. America was a different place then, and basketball was a different game.

A world away, blacks were fighting and dying alongside their fellow white soldiers in Vietnam. They weren't, however, playing basketball at many schools in the South, where de facto segregation still reigned.

Just two years earlier, President Johnson had signed landmark civil rights legislation prohibiting discrimination of any kind. But change came slowly, even on the basketball court where ability was supposed to matter more than the color of a player's skin.

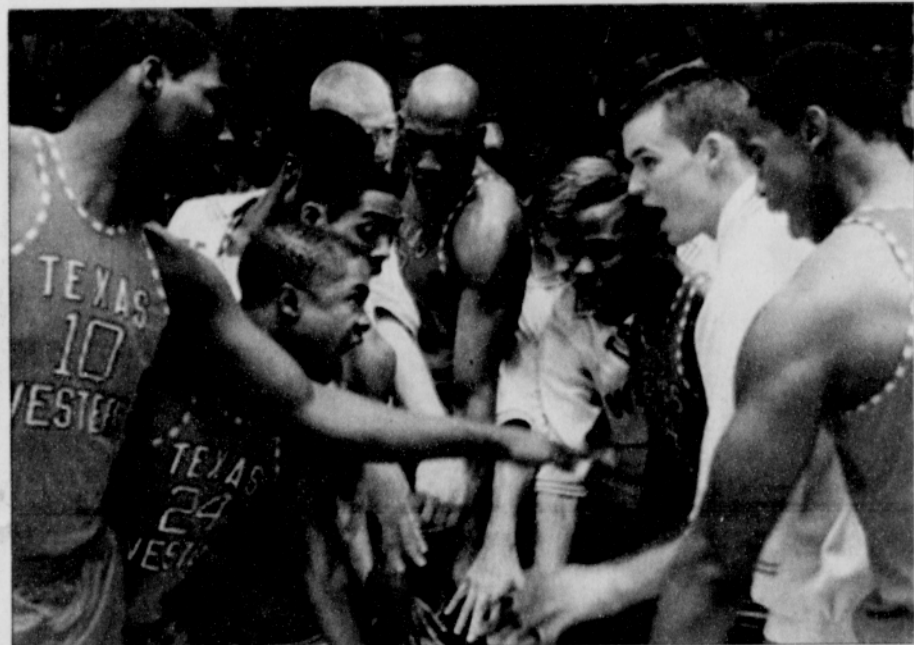
Haskins and his Miners weren't trying to change all of that when they took the court against Kentucky in the national final, and the argument could be made that they really didn't. It would be another season before a black player took the court in the Southeastern Conference, and two more after that before Kentucky's team was integrated.

Putting five black players on the court wasn't meant as a statement for racial equality. It was a lineup

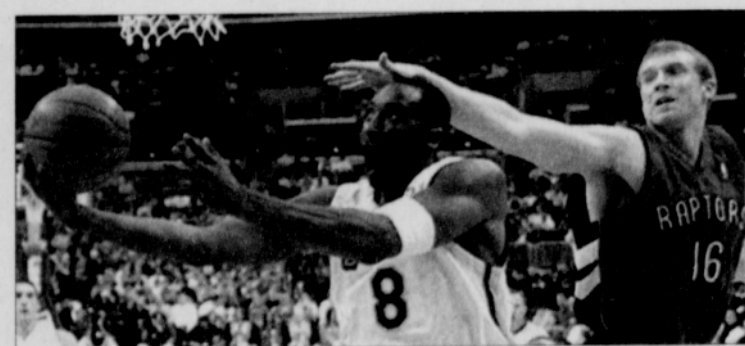
put together to win a basketball game.

"We had one goal, one objective and that was to win the basketball game," said Harry Flourmoy, a Texas Western forward immortalized on the cover of Sports Illustrated that week blocking a shot from Kentucky's Pat Riley (yes, that Pat Riley).

"Glory Road" opened last weekend around the country, and Haskins and his players say the movie makers got most of it right.



The movie "Glory Road" imparts a sense of what it meant in 1966 to have black players outnumber white players on a college basketball team.



Kobe Bryant goes to the hoop past Toronto defender Matt Bonner on his way to scoring 81 points in the Lakers' 122-104 victory over the Raptors Sunday.

## Kobe Hits Mind Boggling 81 Points

## Highest since Wilt Chamberlain

The Los Angeles Lakers' star Kobe Bryant scored a staggering 81 points Sunday night against the Toronto Raptors in a 122-104 win.

The mind-boggling high point score has only been outdone by retired Wilt Chamberlain's 100-point game in 1962.

By halftime, Bryant had 26 points, not a bad tally for most players. By the end of the game, he had put up the second-highest total in NBA history.

His response to how he did was, "It just happened, man" Bryant

said. "To sit here and say I grasp what happened, that would be lying. Not even in my dreams."

The NBA's leading scorer left to a standing ovation with 4.2 seconds remaining, having shot 28-of-46 from the floor, including 7-of-13 from 3-point range and 18-of-20 from the foul line.

With the fans at Staples Center chanting "MVP! MVP!" Bryant made two free throws with 43.4 seconds remaining for his final points. He scored 27 points in the third quarter, 28 in the fourth.

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