

2-2002

## Interview No. 1653

Nevil Shed

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## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

Interviewee: Nevil Shed

Interviewer: Luis A. Saenz

Project: 1966 NCAA Championship

Location: n/a

Date of Interview: February, 2002

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Transcript No.: 1653

Transcriber / Summary: Daniel Santana

Nevil Shed discusses his experience playing for the Texas Western College basketball team. He discusses his initial prospects of working in the fast food industry but then decided it was not a career path he wanted to follow. Shed was recruited into Texas Western College basketball team thanks to a recommendation made by a former player of the team who recommended him to Coach Don Haskins. He then describes his first impressions of El Paso, its mountains, and its friendly atmosphere. Unlike other college campuses, he enjoyed that people talked to him to ask how he was doing. Coach Haskins is described as an easy-talking individual who Shed was excited to play for. Their team engaged in rigorous practices that Shed says were much harder than games they played against other teams; He notes that they practiced even until Coach Haskins was tired. Moreover, their coach demanded punctuality and constantly pushed his teammates to perform better by pointing out their flaws; He recalls moments where their coach called them insulting and playful names meant to motivate them into performing better. Despite his coach's criticisms that his team was too relaxed, Shed argues that they were always relaxed because all of his teammates' personalities interacted well together. He also noted trainings where they were told to sit in the dark to contemplate ways in which they could improve. Shed describes the NCAA playoffs as "just another game" that his team wanted to win. They were not motivated by the so-called "race question" as they competed against Kentucky State University. He believes if their win was solely motivated by the fact that their team had African American players while Kentucky State University did not, it would not have been as great of a win. Shed argues that Texas Western's success was instead based on its abilities and confidence.

Length of interview 13 minutes

Length of Transcript n/a