

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with David Lattin

---

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Lattin, David (1943- )
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with David Lattin,
<b>Dates:</b>	May 11, 2010
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2010
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 uncompressed MOV digital video files (1:49:34).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Corporate foundation executive and basketball player David Lattin (1943 - ) was part of the historic Texas Western College team that was the first to start an all-black lineup at the NCAA championship. He went on to play for professional teams like the Phoenix Suns and the Harlem Globetrotters. Lattin was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 11, 2010, in Houston, Texas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2010_016
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

---

## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Professional athlete and entrepreneur, David Lattin was born on December 23, 1943 in Houston Texas. His mother, Elsie Lattin, was widowed when Lattin's father died in 1949. Lattin attended elementary and secondary schools in Houston before graduating from Evan E. Worthing Senior High School in 1963. Lattin was named All-State and All-American both his junior and senior years and was the first Texas player to be named to a High School All-American team.

Lattin left Tennessee State in 1964 citing the lack of basketball competition. He returned to Houston and played the AAU before receiving a full scholarship to attend Texas Western College in 1965 where he played with the Miners, a Division 1 team in the NCAA. Under the leadership of Coach Don Haskins, the Miners won the 1966 Division 1 NCAA National Championship with five black starting players. Lattin was named All-American during the 1966 and 1967 seasons.

In 1967, Lattin left Texas Western College after he was drafted as the number one pick by the NBA's San Francisco Warriors. He went on to play with the Phoenix Suns, the Pittsburgh Condors, and the Memphis Tams, ending his professional career with the Harlem Globe Trotters from 1973 to 1976. Returning to school, Lattin earned his B.S. degree in business administration and started several successful business ventures including Your Maison Housing.

Lattin was inducted into the Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2007. That year, he also wrote *Slam Dunk to Glory*.

Lattin has a son Clifton, a daughter Leslie, and several grandchildren.

David Lattin was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on May 11, 2010.

## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with David Lattin was conducted by Denise Gines on May 11, 2010, in Houston, Texas, and was recorded on 4 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Corporate foundation executive and basketball player David Lattin (1943 - ) was part of the historic Texas Western College team that was the first to start an all-black lineup at the NCAA championship. He went on to play for professional teams like the Phoenix Suns and the Harlem Globetrotters.

---

## Restrictions

### Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

### Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

---

## Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

---

## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Lattin, David (1943- )

Gines, Denise (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Lattin, David (1943- )--Interviews

---

African American basketball players--Interviews.

---

# Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

---

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

---

Phoenix Suns (Basketball team) Harlem Globetrotters

---

# Occupations:

Basketball Player

---

# HistoryMakers® Category:

SportsMakers

---

# Administrative Information

## Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

## Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with David Lattin, May 11, 2010. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

## Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

---

# Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

---

# Detailed Description of the Collection

## Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with David Lattin, Section A2010\_016\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:12 ?

David Lattin was born on December 23, 1943 in Houston, Texas to Elsie Boyd Davis and Courtney Lattin. His mother was born in 1903 in Shreveport, Louisiana to Josephine Boyd and John Boyd, and left school in the third grade in order to work. Lattin's father, who was also born in Shreveport, was a railroad worker, and died when Lattin was six years old. Lattin began his education at Blackshear Elementary School, and developed an interest in basketball at an early age. During the eighth grade, he tried out for the basketball team at William E. Miller Junior High School, but was unsuccessful. Determined to become a better player, Lattin trained by running the stairs at Houston's Rice Stadium every day. He was named the city's top junior high school basketball player during the ninth grade at Crispus Attucks Junior High School. He went on to attend Evan E. Worthing High School, where he became an All-American player. He also recalls a shootout between the Black Panther Party and the Houston police.

African American families--Texas.

Black Panther Party.

Video Oral History Interview with David Lattin, Section A2010\_016\_001\_002, TRT: 0:28:57 ?

David Lattin attended Crispus Attucks Junior High School in Houston, Texas. There, he met sports writer Lloyd C.A. Wells, who convinced the principal to promote Lattin to the varsity basketball team. Lattin also practiced at the Jewish Community Center, where he first encountered white players. He became an All-American basketball player at Houston's Evan E. Worthing High School; and, upon graduating, received over three hundred scholarship offers from schools like New York University and the University of Southern California. He matriculated at Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee, because the school agreed to grant football scholarships to five of his friends. Before completing his freshman year, Lattin transferred to Texas Western College of the University of Texas in El Paso, Texas, where he played alongside Harry Flournoy, Bobby Joe Hill and Willie Cager. The team competed in the 1966 NCAA University Division Basketball Tournament under Coach Don Haskins.

Tennessee State University.

Texas Western College--Basketball--History.

NCAA Basketball Tournament--History.

Haskins, Don, 1930-2008

Video Oral History Interview with David Lattin, Section A2010\_016\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:46 ?

David Lattin played for Texas Western College of the University of Texas in the 1966 NCAA University Division Basketball Tournament. After winning against teams like Arizona State University and University of Kansas, the team progressed to the semi-finals, where they defeated the University of Utah, and were matched against the University of Kentucky (UK) for the final round. During an interview, the UK coach, Adolph Rupp, made disparaging remarks about Lattin and his African American teammates. In response, Lattin's coach, Don Haskins, decided to use an all-black starting lineup for the first time in the NCAA conference. During the final game, Lattin's team were confronted by Confederate flags and racist rival fans. They went on to win the tournament, and Lattin was interviewed by KYOK Radio and KCOH Radio in his hometown of Houston, Texas. In 1967, Lattin was selected by the Golden State Warriors during the first round of the NBA draft. He also recalls the NCAA ban against dunking from 1967 to 1976.

NCAA Basketball Tournament--History.

Texas Western College--Basketball--History.

National Basketball Association.

Golden State Warriors (Basketball team)

Video Oral History Interview with David Lattin, Section A2010\_016\_001\_004, TRT: 0:20:39 ?

David Lattin played for the San Francisco Warriors for one year, and was then traded to the Phoenix Suns. He injured his hand during a game, and sat out during the next season. After his hand healed, Lattin decided to leave the NBA, and join the Harlem Globetrotters, where he played alongside Meadowlark Lemon, Fred "Curly" Neal and Bobby Joe Mason. He went on to play in the American Basketball Association with the Pittsburgh Condors and Memphis Tams, and briefly returned to the Harlem Globetrotters in 1977. After retiring from basketball, Lattin studied business administration. He went on to own a rental car company, invested in rental property and later worked for the advertising department of the Republic National Distributing Company, LLC. Lattin had two children, Clifton Lattin and Leslie Lattin Smith. He describes his support for the movement to compensate college athletes, and shares a message to future generations. Lattin also describes his mentorship efforts and legacy.

American Basketball Association (1967-1976)

Harlem Globetrotters--History.