

Charles Sharp

It is a privilege for me to nominate Charles Sharp for the distinct honor of having his athletic jersey retired and displayed prominently. Charlie was one-in-a-million, perhaps the most dominant offensive basketball player ever to play at SWT/Texas State and possibly in the State of Texas. He put SWT on the map by leading it to third place in the nation in 1959 and the NAIA National Championship in 1960. He destroyed defenses and was virtually unstoppable.

His accomplishments follow and are not to be taken lightly. He played at a time when segregation of universities was still a fact. Many of the great African American players (such as Dick Barnett, Willis Reed and Lucias Jackson, all all-pro for years) went to the black colleges and universities, and most of those schools were in the NAIA, where SWT played and won.

His name was well-known. Even a few months ago, one of Charlie's teammates was in Kansas City (site of the NAIA playoffs) in a cab and the driver, when told his passenger played in the tournament in 1960, said he remembered those Texans and asked what happened to that "hook shooter."

In Kansas City he was affectionately known as the "Big Hooker" and as "Razor Sharp." I recall our team coming out of a hotel on the way to the basketball arena and having people coming up to us for autographs and asking which of us was the hook shooter.

Regarding the criteria for this honor, here are some succinct comments:

- I. **Graduated: Left school in good standing.** Yes. When Charlie's eligibility was up, he was still short of credits to graduate. He had no money to stay in school, and in those days there were no scholarships available to help. Perhaps today things would be different.
- II. **Lettered:** Yes, Charlie lettered three years. He failed to letter his freshman year primarily due to an automobile injury which caused a severe head injury and he was unable to play that year.
- III. **Minimum all conference.** Yes. Both junior and senior years he was first team all conference and first team both NAIA and Little All American.
- IV. **Lifetime accomplish in professional athletics:** Drafted in 4th round (24th overall) by the Philadelphia Warriors of the NBA) Voluntarily left the Warriors after their aircraft made an emergency landing and Charlie made a decision that he did not want the professional basketball life of flying.
- V. **Citizenship:** As far as is known, Charlie was a great citizen. He moved to California (where he became an excellent tennis player) and I generally lost contact with him from then on. We do know he was extremely well-liked.
- VI. **Minimum of ten years:** Yes

I have attached some photos to give the Committee a sense of Charlie's appearance and of his physical style of play. I sincerely hope he will be selected. There is no one more deserving.



Bruce Gregg, Col, USAF (Ret)
Team Captain 1961
Hall of Honor 1999

CHARLIE SHARP

Those who were fortunate enough to see him play will never forget him. Those who had the misfortune of trying to guard him, would like to forget # 52 and that virtually unstoppable hook shot! (John Havlicek and Jerry Lucas and the 1960 Ohio State National Champions could not stop him in the 1960 Olympic Trials)

- 3 year letterman 1957 – 58, 1958 – 59, and 1959 - 60. These teams went 74 and 14 during his 3 seasons (84% winning record) (Bobcats lost 1 home game during his 3 years at SWT)
- First Team All Lone Star Conference 1958 – 59 and 1959 – 60.
- Led 1958 – 59 team to 3rd place in NAIA
- Led SWT to 1960 NAIA National Championship. The *only* basketball National Championship Team in SWT/Texas State's history
- Voted MVP of the 1960 NAIA Tournament in Kansas City
- Voted one of the *Top 25 Players in the history* of the NAIA Tournament
- 1st Team Little All American 1959 and 1960
- 1st Team NAIA All American 1959 and 1960
- NAIA All Tournament Teams 1959 and 1960
- Inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame
- Member and starter of the small college All Star entry in the 1960 Olympic Trials. The Small College All Star team beat the 1960 NCAA National Championship team (Ohio State) in the 1st round of the trials. Outscored Ohio State's heralded Jerry Lucas, generally recognized as the best NCAA player in the nation.
- Charlie was recently recognized as one of *top 75* men and women basketball players and coaches in the *75 year history* of the Lone Star Conference
- Still the *only* member of the 700 Point Club (790 in 1959 - 60 and 731 in 1958 - 59)
- Averaged over 22 ppg for his SWT career, and this on a team with 3 other prolific scorers (the 3 others are either in the 300 or 400 point clubs, two in multiple years)
- Was the leading scorer in both the 1959 and 1960 NAIA National Tournaments with *150 points each year* (5 games each year – an outstanding 30 point average!)
- SWT/Texas State single game record: most points scored – 53
- SWT/Texas State career scoring leader: 1984 points, with a 22 ppg career average. Still stands today!
- Also led the 1960 team in rebounding at 11.8/game
- Drafted Number 24 by the Philadelphia Warriors of the NBA (team with Wilt Chamberlain).

Sharp Had An Answer, 53 Points

By BOB GALT, Staff Writer

What is an All-America basketball player?

The big question got one of the most complete answers it's ever had Monday night in the opening round of play in the sixth annual AAU Cotton Bowl College Basketball Tournament at Fair Park's Recreation Bldg.

Charley Sharp, Southwest Texas State's Little All-

America, answered the question in a most pronounced way. He hustled like a band of starved giants fighting for a thimble of food that meant the difference between destruction or survival.

And he connected on his shots—jump shots, layups and most of all, hook shots.

When all was said and done the 6-5-er from the little South Texas town of Carrizo Springs had racked up 53 points to lead his mates to an 89-65 victory over Texas Wesleyan College.

East Texas State, Wayland College and Midwestern University also scored first-round wins to advance into Tuesday's semifinals.

WAYLAND NEXT

Sharp and his crew will take on Wayland at 8 p.m. while Midwestern goes against East Texas at 9:30. In Consolation play, Austin College meets Texas Wesleyan at 5 with Pan American and Trinity meeting at 6:30.

Sharp's total was a new individual scoring record for the

Bobcats. It broke the old mark of 44 set in 1953 by Lewis Gilcrease against Washburn University in the NAIA playoffs.

Sharp, who looks amazingly like Texas Tech's great football center E. J. Holub, scored 18 points in the first 10 minutes of play against the Rams, the tournament's defending champions.

The smaller Fort Worth team managed to stay with the Bobcats, however, and trailed at halftime by only a 34-43 count.

But then Sharp started. He hit 15 points in the first four minutes of play in the second half and scored every one of his team's field goals in the period until guard Rudy Davalos connected with but 6:20 remaining in the game.

In marking his 53 points, Sharp hit 19 of 36 field goal attempts and 15 of 22 free throws.

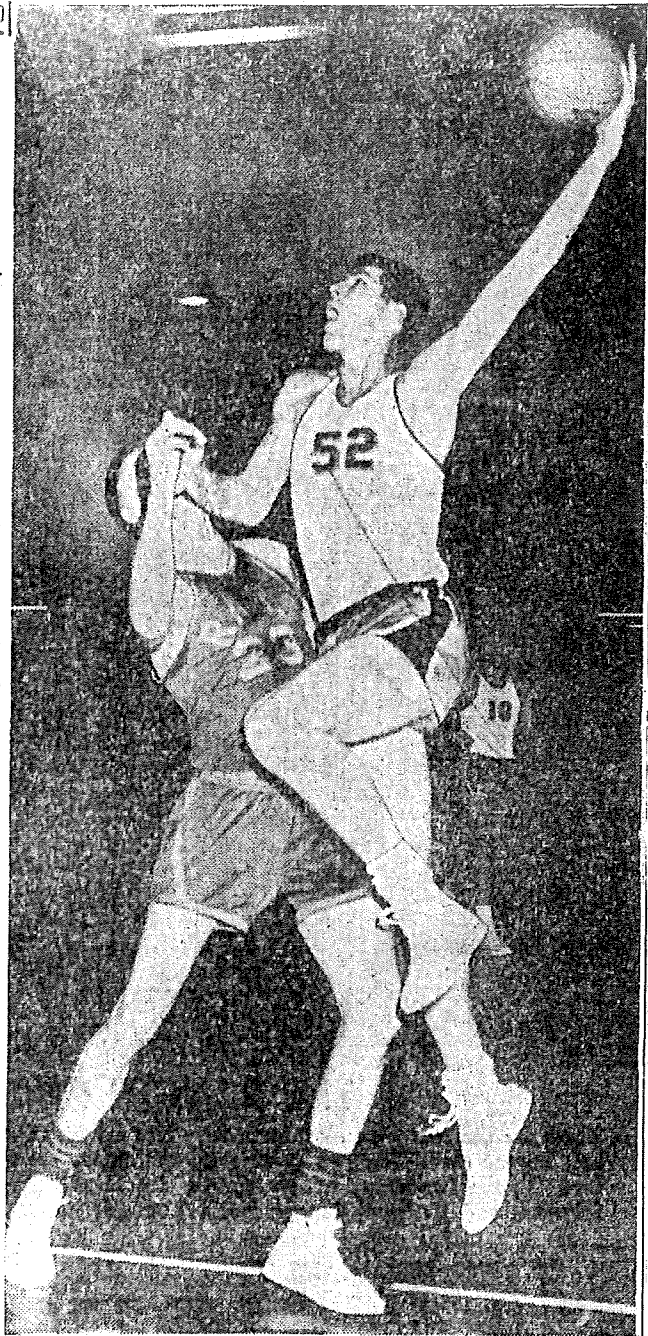
LIONS ROAR

Trinity, with an early-season win over Rice to its credit built up an eight-point lead over East Texas with 3:50 remaining in the first half. But from there it was all East Texas as the Lions caught fire to pull up 31-31 at intermission and then jump from there into a quick 46-33 lead. The final was 64-57.

Jim Culpepper dumped in 22 points to lead the Lions; while Don Hrebec, a set-shot artist from St. Louis, marked 20 for the Tigers.

Wayland College used a running game to completely outclass Austin College, last year's runner-up, 68-52. Rod Reid, a 6-3 senior, hit for 20 to lead the Pioneers while former Garland High ace Reggie Riddle hit 14 for Austin.

In the only game that could be classified as an upset, Midwestern dumped previously unbeaten Pan American College, 68-65. Charles Horton, a former Wichita Falls High star, was



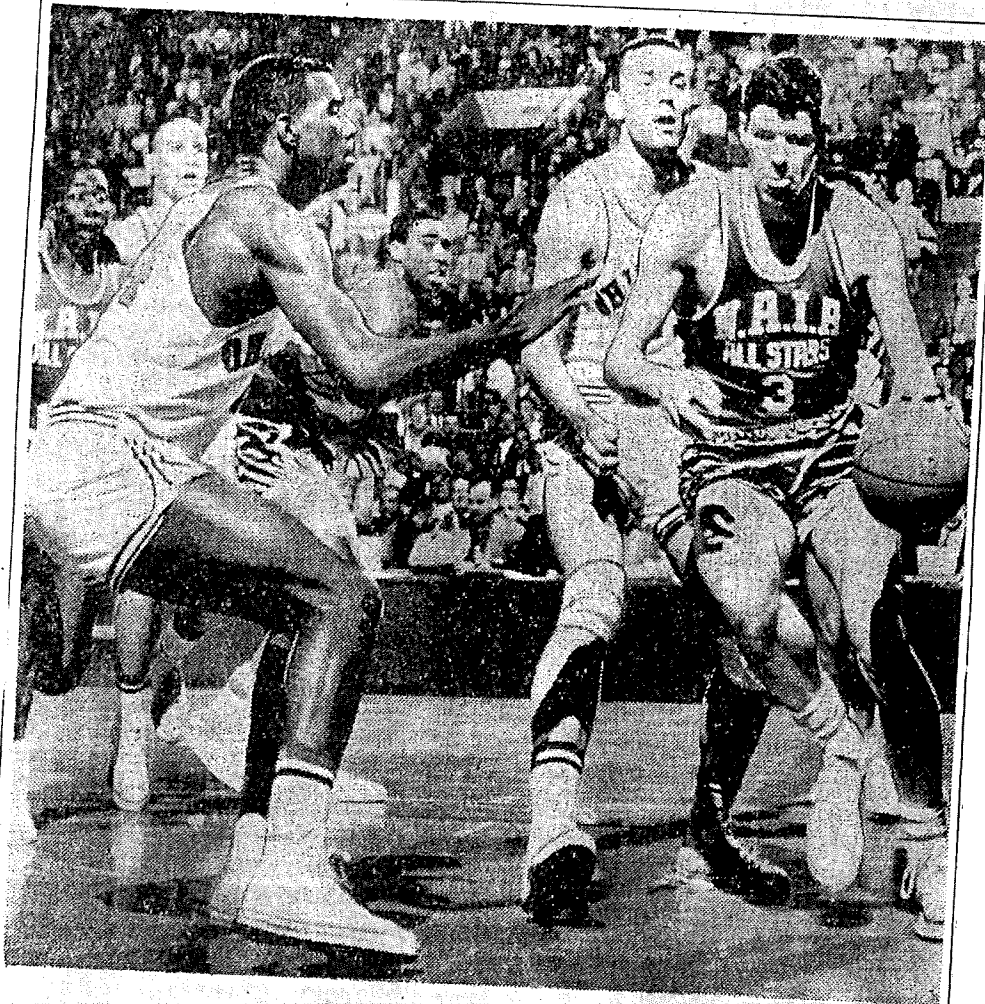
CHARLIE MY BOY

Charles Sharp, Southwest Texas State's Little All-American, fires one of his hook shots against Texas Wesleyan College in the opening round of play of the AAU Cotton Bowl College Basketball Tournament. Sharp hit this one, just as he did on about everything he threw at the basket Monday night. His grand total was 53. Trying to defend is the Rams' Don Rees.—Staff Photo by Ed Benedict.

The Dallas Morning News Section 2

DALLAS, TEXAS, SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1960 **

Sports . . . Comics . . . Oil . . . Financial

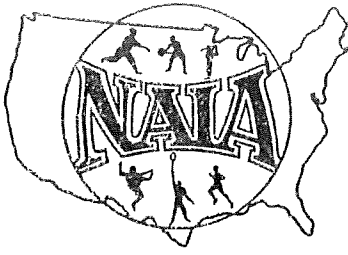


—Associated Press Wirephoto.

OUT OF MY WAY!

Charles Sharp, Little All-America star from Southwest Texas State, dribbles around Ohio State's All-America ace, Jerry Lucas, during

Olympic Trial game at Denver. Sharp and his NAIA all-stars upset the favored Ohio State team, NCAA champs; 76-69.



National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics

Aladdin Hotel, Kansas City 5, Missouri

Telephone: Victor 2-1543

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April 19, 1960

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Mr. Charles Sharp
Student
Southwest Texas State College
San Marcos, Texas

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A. O. Duer
Aladdin Hotel
Kansas City 5, Missouri

Dear Charles:

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Dr. Francis Hoover
Business Manager of Athletics
Appalachian State Teachers College
Boone, North Carolina

I hope you arrived home in good shape, are rested up, and are enjoying pleasant memories of your participation in the Olympic basketball playoffs as a member of the NAIA All-Star team.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

Leo Nicholson
Director of Athletics
Central Washington College of Education
Ellensburg, Washington

I want to speak for our organization and myself personally in congratulating you upon your outstanding achievement in winning from Ohio State. This could not but be one of the outstanding upsets of the year. You played a terrific game and I am only so pleased that I was there to see it. This game will long be remembered in the history of the Olympic playoffs.

THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT

Volney Ashford, Vice-President
Director of Athletics
Missouri Valley College
Marshall, Missouri

I was also proud of you when you were given a tremendous hand by the crowd upon leaving the floor the last night. I hope none of you feels too badly at having lost two games, for your achievement in winning from Ohio State far overshadowed any other matter.

FOURTH VICE-PRESIDENT

Clifford J. Aultman
Director of Athletics
Geneva College
Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania

I want to thank each of you for the fine spirit you displayed the entire time you were in Denver. You worked hard and you were repaid for your efforts. I sincerely hope that this fine achievement will stand you in good stead as a memory when you have difficult days.

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Portales, New Mexico

AOD:emp

Sincerely,

A. O. Duer

Why do you recommend this person for jersey retirement? Please reference eligibility evaluation criteria.

I have been at San Marcos and Texas State for the last 60 years. Charles Sharp has the most influence on the Bobcat Basketball team that any other player in our history. This man played the Post position and no one, I mean no one could guard him. Our team played Tennessee State in the National Tournament in 1958-59 and Charles was scoring at will. The other coach called time out and asked his team who was going to guard Sharp. One of his players said, "Coach, no one is going to guard him". He averaged an even 30 points a game in 10 National Tournament games and could have made more had we not been winning by a large margin and Coach would take him out. All Conference, All District, All National Tournament, MVP of Tournament, + Drafted by Philadelphia. What a player.

Please include additional attachments if necessary.

Each nomination form will only be used as a guide to determine which Athletic Alumni should be considered for jersey retirement. Each nominee will be thoroughly researched by the Jersey Retirement Committee. It will be the responsibility of the Jersey Retirement Committee to obtain background information on each nominee as it pertains to the Jersey Retirement Qualifications.

Jerome McLeod

Please submit nominations to:

Texas State Jersey Retirement Committee
Darren B. Casey Administration Complex
601 University Drive
San Marcos, TX 78666

Charles Sharp

Graduated: NA

Played: 1958-1960

Member of the NCAA NAIA 1960 Men's Basketball National Championship Team...Member of the 1959 team that placed 3rd in the NAIA National Championship Tournament... Back-to-back Lone Star Conference titles...NAIA TOURNAMENT MVP 1960...Three time letterman...Individual game record most points 59...Individual game record most field goals made 19...Two time 700 Point Club member with 731 and 790 points in the 1958-59 and 1959-60 seasons...Individual season record most points 790...Individual season most field goals attempted 531...Individual season most field goals made 288...Most season points by a Junior 731, and most season points by a Senior 790...Individual career record most field goals made 665...Individual most field goals attempted 1,278... All-time leading scorer in the history of Bobcat Basketball with 1,984 points... Number five Bobcat all-time leading rebounder with 799...Annual individual scoring leader in 1958, 59, and 60...Team rebound leader 1960...Field goal percentage leader 1958 and 1960...Free throw percentage leader 1959...Little All-American 1959 and 1960...NAIA All-American 1959 and 1960... Lone Star Conference All- Conference Selection 1959 and 1960.

Sharpe was picked in the 4th round and 31st pick overall in the 1960 NBA draft by the Philadelphia Warriors. Very little information is available about Sharpe after his graduation.