

In 1966, during a time of inequality and racism, Texas Western broke a racial barrier by starting all black athletes and winning an NCAA Men's Basketball Championship. The team from Texas Western was the- first team with all black starters to earn a title. After the 1966 championship, colleges throughout the South began recruiting more black athletes. As a result of the title, Texas Western opened the door to collegiate and professional athletic integration.

Our History Day project was about Texas Western's historic 1965-66 season. We chose this project because everyone in our group loves basketball, and we thought doing a project on an all-black basketball team that won an NCAA title would be an intriguing topic to research. Our topic is very important for our world. Texas Western played 6 black players and 1 hispanic during the game. While TWC was playing all black players, Kentucky was all white. Since TWC won, 72-65, African-Americans and other raced players got much more respect, in sports and in their everyday rights.

We researched for several months. In October we went to the Hennepin County Library in Minneapolis. There, we got books like *Glory Road* by Don Haskins, written by the coach himself, *Negro Protests* by Bradford Chambers, and other books that would help us move farther in the research process. We mainly used secondary sources, but had some primary sources in our research. We would =especially like to thank Mrs. O'Donnell and Mrs. Campbell for helping us with our needs. Also, I would like to thank Mr. David Lattin for giving up his own time for an interview. The more we researched our topic, the more we felt like experts.

We picked this topic by researching broken barriers in history. When we spotted Texas Western we immediately knew this would be an inspiring topic. We knew we wanted to pick a

topic that had something to do with sports, but we didn't want the topic to be too broad. If it was too broad, we would have too much information, and have to narrow the topic down. After considering documentary, we decided that doing a website would suit our topic very well. When we chose a website we created using NHD WebCentral. We used the methods NHD WebCentral gave us to complete our website. We learned to work together as a team during the process.

Our project relates to this year's theme, Breaking Barriers, because the whole 1965-66 season was a barrier and they ended up winning the NCAA title. By starting and playing all black or Hispanic players, TWC ended up doing great. As Don Haskins said, "I'm going to play the best players I got," and his best players were black. This topic was and is very important because, after the title, black players got to go to a more respected college program. It wasn't just basketball this season impacted, it was football, baseball, and all the other sports.

