

1-7-2006 *Glory Road* Chat with Myles Brand, Josh Centor, David Lattin

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2 JOSH: Well, it's an absolute pleasure to
3 be able to sit down and take some time to chat with David
4 Lattin, star player for the 1966 National Champion Texas
5 Western men's basketball team.

6 David, thank you for taking the time to sit
7 with us.

8 DAVID LATTIN: Josh, thanks for having me.

9 JOSH: First question, what do you think of
10 the NCAA Centennial Celebration so far?

11 DAVID LATTIN: Absolutely fabulous. I got
12 in a little bit late yesterday. And from what I've seen,
13 you've got a number of people here associated with the
14 NCAA, and I think that's great. To see Glory Road again,
15 I think that was great. To be able to discuss it and talk
16 about it, discuss some of the things that it really meant,
17 other than just a game. It was fun to be part of it.

18 JOSH: When you see how much something like
19 what the 1966 team achieved has impacted all of these
20 people still involved with the NCAA, how does that make
21 you feel?

22 DAVID LATTIN: Oh, outstanding. It's
23 fabulous. And I just can't -- you couldn't -- no one
24 could feel better than I feel right now. This is -- I'm
25 going through a stage right now in my life where we -- I

1 really didn't think that this would come back again. And
2 now it actually came. It's living. It's life. And it's
3 really -- it was a tough story to talk about all the
4 things that happened, give the youngsters something to
5 think about, and let them know the reason that where they
6 are now is partial because of us.

7 JOSH: Does it feel like it was just
8 yesterday?

9 DAVID LATTIN: You know, looking at the
10 film, and certainly the -- you know, the flashbacks to
11 remember some things that happened and watching the game
12 and some of the teams that we played certainly feels like
13 it was yesterday.

14 JOSH: You know, talking about the
15 experience with Texas Western, how has that impacted, you
16 know, the last 40 years of your life?

17 DAVID LATTIN: Well, with Coach Haskins,
18 who was like the disciplinarian, discipline helped me in
19 business. Learning discipline from him helped me in
20 business and helped me in my life and helped me to be a
21 better person. And certainly it made -- and being a
22 winner, of course -- I've talked about some of these
23 things in my book, Slam Dunk to Glory -- Lattin's Slam
24 Dunk to Glory about how it made me a better person, how I
25 was a winner, and that just helped me on with my life as I

1 went on.

2 JOSH: Now, your book, Lattin's Slam Dunk
3 to Glory, that slam dunk was a monumental dunk at the
4 beginning of that championship game against Kentucky.

5 Is that something that's gone with you
6 throughout your life, that slam dunk?

7 DAVID LATTIN: Absolutely. I mean, I can't
8 turn a corner unless I talk about that. You know, we talk
9 about Pat Riley -- and Pat, you know, was in a kind of in
10 an awkward position at this very difficult time. And he
11 was the recipient of a dunk that was meant to send a
12 message to Pat Riley, if he was there, the Kentucky team,
13 the Kentucky coach, Adolph Rupp, the Kentucky fans, and
14 the whole state of Kentucky that we were here to win.

15 And so that dunk, it was an intent dunk.
16 And so, you know, he just happened to be there, and that's
17 what it did. It sent him a message to let them know that
18 we were going to win a game, period.

19 JOSH: Yeah. It certainly -- seeing the
20 replay, it certainly set the tone.

21 In the book, I'm sure you discussed that.
22 What other things do you talk about in the book?

23 DAVID LATTIN: Well, I'm going to expand on
24 that just a bit further. The dunk, if I may, the NCAA
25 Rules Committee outlawed the dunk for 10 years -- I talk

1 about that in my book -- for 10 years after that dunk.
2 There was no dunk in the NCAA college basketball for
3 10 years, a whole decade, if you can believe that.

4 You know, I meant it for the message, but I
5 didn't mean it for that kind of a message. I didn't want
6 them to outlaw the dunk.

7 But you ask the question, part of your
8 question, what is --

9 JOSH: Yeah. Just what else do you discuss
10 in the book? Do you discuss, you know, just that page of
11 your life? Or do you discuss your business career? Or --

12 DAVID LATTIN: I discuss where I came from,
13 how I got there, other people that helped me get there;
14 the reason I went to Texas El Paso, Texas Western at the
15 time, some things that went on at the school; leading
16 to -- things that helped -- leading up to the game; what I
17 thought; what my teammates thought; basically what we
18 all -- we thought about during the process of getting to
19 the championship, and we talked about the things that
20 happened during to the championship.

21 I talk about what -- some of the things I
22 thought -- that went through my mind as I walked out on
23 the court and saw Duke and Kentucky playing in the
24 semifinals -- quite shocking. You know, how I felt with
25 all the referees, and the officials, the opposite coach,

1 the people in the stands, the guys from the hot dogs, bus
2 drivers, the guy sweeping the floors -- everybody was
3 white.

4 And talk about if Kentucky had been in the
5 same position as we were, would they have played as well?
6 How would they have performed?

7 So I just talked about all those things,
8 and it's a total overview. And Coach Haskins has written
9 a book as well, but it's completely different from Coach
10 Haskins' book. If you get to read that and you'll you
11 read my book, you'll see there's a difference.

12 JOSH: Is writing a book something that
13 you've always wanted to do? Or was it something that
14 happened, you know, after that experience?

15 DAVID LATTIN: Well, Bobby Joe Hill and I
16 had decided to write a book together. And as you know,
17 Bobby passed. And when the movie -- I saw the movie
18 coming, and I thought, well, you know I'm just going to
19 write this book anyway. You need to (indiscernible). It
20 would be nice to hear something from the players.
21 Everything's been from everybody else. There's been other
22 people to write books, but nothing from a player, what we
23 thought. And it's very difficult to write what another
24 person is thinking from the inside out.

25 JOSH: Right.

1 DAVID LATTIN: So that's why -- one of the
2 reasons I wanted to write that book, because I wanted them
3 to hear the real truth.

4 JOSH: Something that you mentioned was the
5 discipline from Coach Haskins and how that impacted you.
6 What would you say for current student athletes, that
7 discipline, how that can -- you know, they can carry that
8 through their lives? How important that is?

9 DAVID LATTIN: I don't think anyone could
10 possibly be successful if they don't have discipline. And
11 you have to have a certain discipline in what you eat, and
12 you have to have discipline on how you treat your love
13 life, your businesses -- they all come together with
14 discipline. And if you don't have that discipline, you
15 have the tendency to stray away from what you're thinking
16 about -- not have the tunnel vision to focus on what you
17 want to accomplish. And so that's where the discipline is
18 very, very important.

19 And Coach Haskins certainly kept that going
20 through our minds every day.

21 JOSH: Let's talk a little bit about
22 education. That was something that came through in the
23 movie and something that was -- it seems like it was
24 important to all of the athletes on the team.

25 What are your feelings on that and the

1 educational opportunities that are provided to student
2 athletes today?

3 DAVID LATTIN: Well, I think it's excellent
4 that they get -- will get a very important education. I
5 was saying it was just very impossible -- it's impossible
6 to be successful if you don't have it. I mean, in order
7 to just keep up -- we're not talking about selling in
8 front of anybody, you have to be knowledgeable. So you
9 cannot get the knowledge unless you're educated. So
10 that's why it's very, very important to get the education.

11 JOSH: Talk a little bit about to the team
12 and your teammates. Seeing a couple of the guys last
13 night and how you interact, it seems like you're still
14 playing together every day and that you're very close. I
15 know you played professional basketball. Did anything
16 ever match the camaraderie on that team, that college team?

17 DAVID LATTIN: No, never. It's very
18 difficult to explain the camaraderie and the cohesiveness
19 that we enjoyed as a team. Again, we've all been
20 together, not necessarily as a team, but we were together
21 in the same gymnasium, practically every day for two years
22 before we actually went on the court together to win.

23 So it's -- anybody that has ever played on
24 a championship team can tell you that it's something that
25 the other teams don't have, other than a will to win, of

1 course. You need to like the person that you're playing
2 with. You know, you have to respect them. And you don't
3 really have to like them that much, but you have to
4 respect them.

5 And the only way to get respect is you have
6 to earn it. You have to go out on the court, in practice
7 every day and gain the respect from your teammates, and
8 that's what all my teammates did.

9 JOSH: Yeah. One of the -- obviously the
10 significant new path of what you all achieved with that
11 whole season and that victory, what are your feelings
12 about not only winning that game, but playing that role in
13 history?

14 DAVID LATTIN: You know, my feeling, the
15 way I feel about it now is I get a rush, a wonderful,
16 wonderful feeling, because I now how it helps youngsters
17 to get education, to be recruited by all universities. It
18 also helps racial relations in our country as well. I
19 think the thing where we would be -- and Josh, and I'm
20 sure you could better (indiscernible) -- where would we be
21 without sports in this country right now? It helps us to
22 live together. We learn to lead together, to think
23 together, to help each other out, to reach a certain goal
24 as people. And it lets us know that -- reminds us
25 continuously that we're God's children, you know, and

1 we're all the same; we're all the same. We're different
2 colors, but we basically are the same.

3 JOSH: What's coming up next for you? I
4 know you have the book coming out, and the movie --
5 clearly you must be -- I must have seen it a number of
6 times already, going around in special screenings. What's
7 next? Any ideas?

8 DAVID LATTIN: Well, you know, I'm focused
9 on a book right now. You know, we're working to finish
10 it -- it's finished. I just keep changing things, little
11 things in it. But that's going to certainly take the most
12 of my focus right now, is the book. And as you know --
13 but you don't know -- but I mean it's actually
14 (indiscernible), that's always going to take a lot of my
15 time as well.

16 JOSH: Okay. Is there anything else that
17 you'd like to share about the whole experience at the
18 convention and the movie screening last night?

19 DAVID LATTIN: Well, I loved -- we loved --
20 I loved the movie. It made me feel good to see so many
21 people enjoyed it. And the -- what it's really all about
22 is that it helps us to learn to live together. Racial
23 relations was strained in those years, early '60s, blacks
24 were just beginning to vote. And it was just very
25 difficult. (Indiscernible) so it's really helped our

1 racial relationship. And that's what makes me proud.

2 JOSH: Thank you, so much for taking the
3 time with me this morning. You're a true role model. And
4 I enjoyed the movie, and I encourage everybody to go out
5 there and see it. And definitely to go pick up Lattin's
6 Slam Dunk to Glory.

7 DAVID LATTIN: Thank you, Josh. Thank you.

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