



EXPERT OBSERVORS seem agreed that Walt Hazzard, UCLA's great All-American guard, has a successful career in big-league pro basketball ahead of him despite being a comparatively small player by pro standards.

The sharp-eyed Negro star who sparked the Bruins to a regular season record of 26-0 and the national collegiate No. 1 rating, is only six feet, two inches tall. That's several inches short of average for the big boys in the National Basketball Association. But Walt makes up for his lack of height with amazing all-around skill.

Hazzard was sensational as UCLA won its first two NCAA tournament games last weekend to make its record 28-0. Walt hit for 26 points as the Bruins squelched Seattle, 95-90, and bagged 23 in a 76-72 victory over San Francisco.

Coach Forrest Twogood of Southern California, UCLA's home-town arch-rival, is one of Hazzard's biggest boosters. "I think Hazzard is the best thing that has come along since women," Twogood quipped. "He makes a travesty of a normal game. Despite his size handicap, there surely must be a place for him in pro basketball."

Former USC and Boston Celtics ace Bill Sharman, familiar to Nevada Southern University fans as current coach of Los Angeles State College, said, "Hazzard has the finest vision I've seen in a long time and I'm certain he can cut it in pro ball. He's one of the game's great passers and I'd be very much surprised if he didn't become a top pro player."

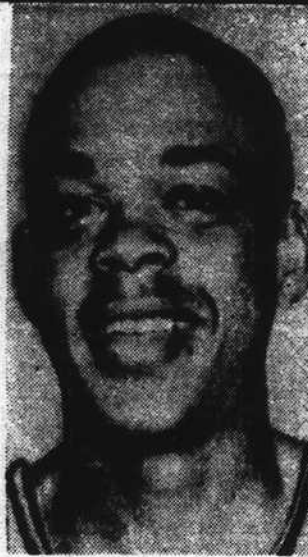
SHARMAN COMPARED HAZZARD favorably with his former Celtic teammate, Bob Cousy, a perennial all-pro star of recent years. Sharman said Hazzard was in the same class with Cousy at comparable stages of their developments.

"Bob's big asset was moving the ball and hitting the open man," Sharman said, "and that's what Hazzard is capable of doing."

Sharman revealed that four pro clubs had asked for his opinion of Hazzard's chances to make good in big-league ball.

UCLA coach John Wooden claims Hazzard is even greater than his record shows. "In my opinion, Walt could help any team, college or pro, because he is essentially a team player. He does more than the statistics indicate because he's completely unselfish and inspires his teammates to keep that ball moving until a scoring opportunity presents itself. And he's improved immensely as a defensive player during the past season."

Coach Fred Schaus of the Los Angeles Lakers, who has first shot at Hazzard under the NBA's draft system, feels that Walt will make a fine pro player. But Schaus said he will have to consider his club's exact needs before the Lakers exercise a territorial claim on Hazzard.



WALT HAZZARD

SAMMY BLASTS CASSIUS

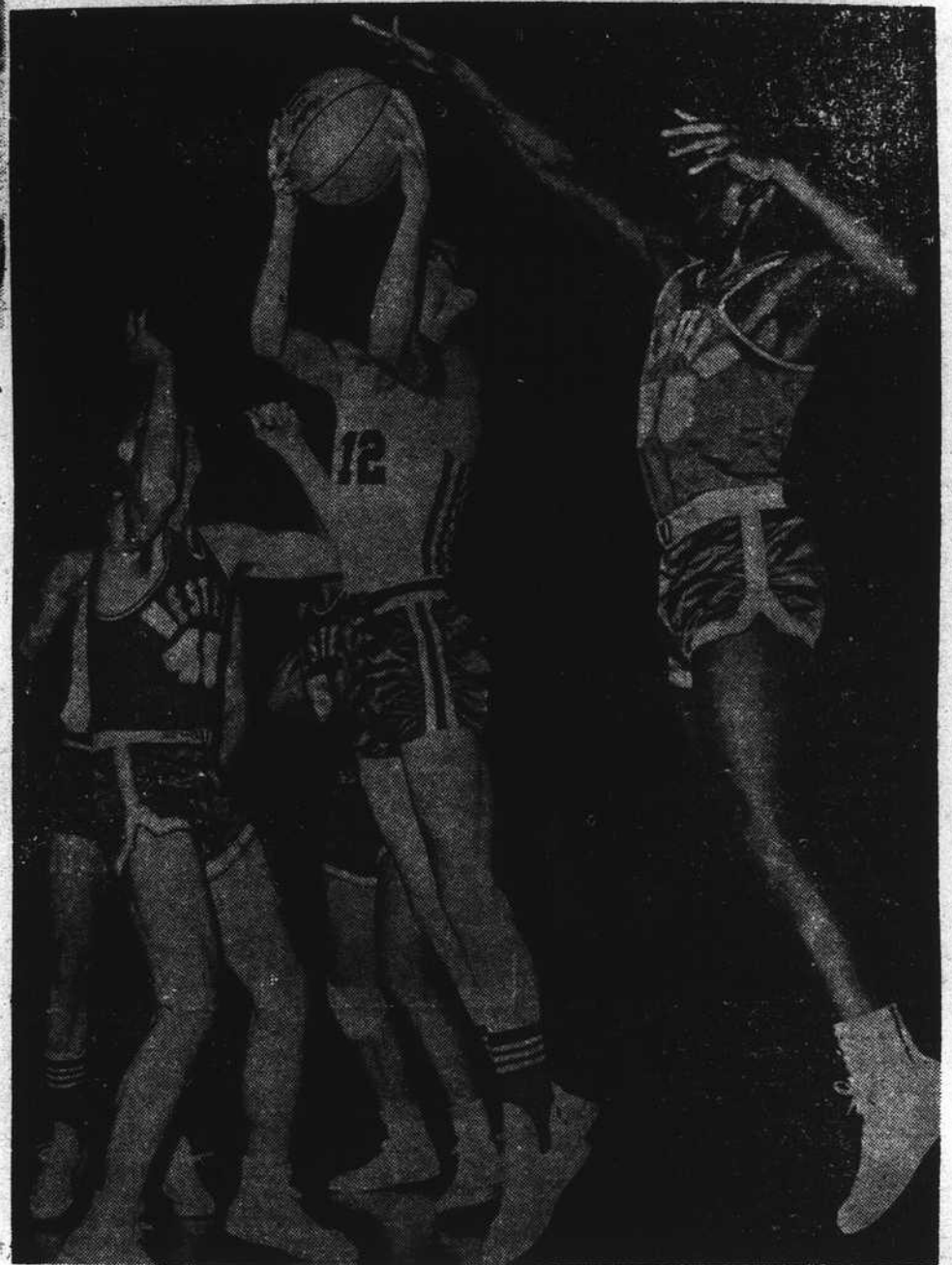
HEAVYWEIGHT boxing champion Cassius Clay's espousal of the Black Muslim philosophy of strict segregation of the races has been denounced by entertainer Sammy Davis, Jr., as a severe blow to the Negro's long battle for social and economic equality.

Davis blasted Clay's views during a trip to London, England, for the filming of a television show.

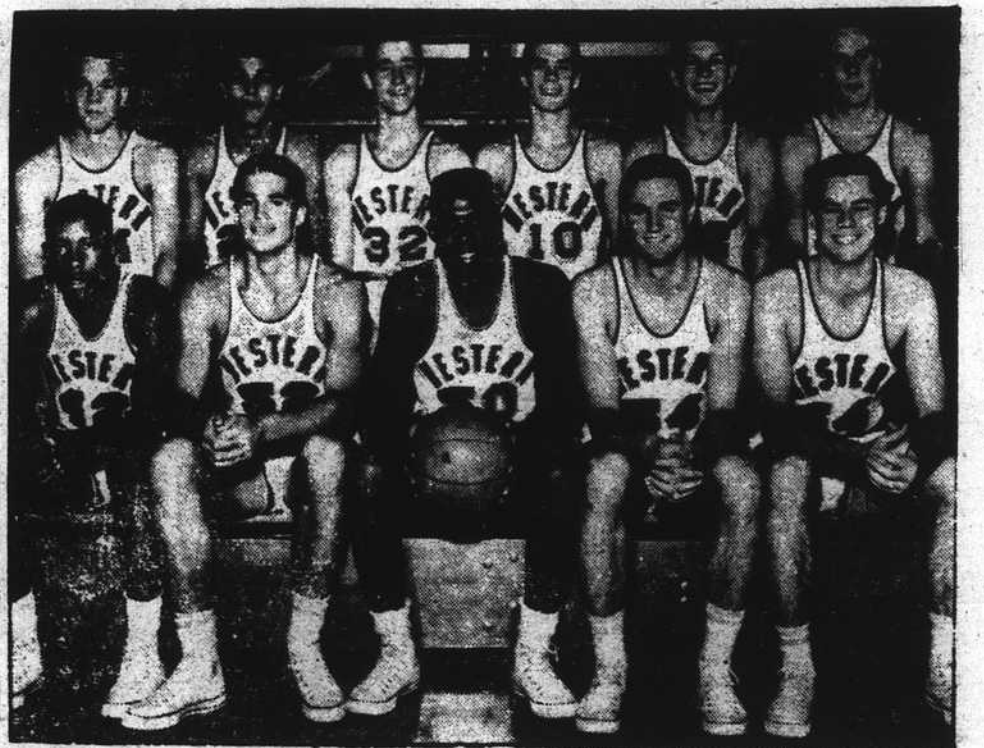
"Clay's decision to actively support the Black Muslim movement and his ill-timed and ill-advised comments on the color problem have set the Negro back 100 years," Davis declared. "His opposition to all that hundreds of thousands of Negroes have been fighting for amounts to saying that segregation is the only answer. I personally resent and deplore his attitude."

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GORDON SPARKS WESTERN TO STATE CAGE CROWN



GORDON GLEAMS--One of big reasons why Western High is new State basketball champion was play of Jim Gordon, shown above right blocking shot by Reno's Dave Yeoman in semifinal game won by Western, 59-52. Gordon was named co-most valuable player after Western defeated Gorman in final, 63-52. Western team lower shows (seated from left) John Whitmore, Bill Harris, Gordon, Em Molisee and Farley Anderson; (rear from left) George Hendrick, Dennis Daboll, Skip Mead, Sam Pizzò, Brian Karn and Don McCullah. (Photos courtesy Review-Journal and Sun)



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