



GET THE TROPHY AND ADVANCE.

The **Zelmo Beaty Game** is one of five games to be participated in the first round of The Basketball Classic presented by Eracism, with the winner receiving a trophy and advancing to the second round of the tournament.

"These five games are one of the unique aspects of our tournament," said Gary Stewart, President of Eracism. "Student-athletes have an opportunity to raise a trophy and advance to the second round. It also gives players, fans, and the media an opportunity to learn more about some of the legends of our game like Zelmo Beaty, Travis Grant, Marques Haynes, Cleo Hill and Willis Reed. These men were giants in the history of the game."

Zelmo Beaty was a relentless force at both ends of the floor during his career at Prairie View A&M University (1958–1962), averaging 25 points and 20 rebounds per game in four seasons.

Big Z" was a two-time first team NAIA All-American and led the Panthers to an NAIA National Championship in 1962, earning MVP honors in the tournament and setting the record for rebounds with 96.

The third overall pick in that year's NBA Draft, Beaty played 12 seasons of professional ball in the NBA and ABA, averaging at least 20 points per game in five seasons. The 6-9 center scored more than 15,000 points and grabbed nearly 10,000 rebounds in his pro career. He and Willis Reed (Grambling) are the only former Southwestern Athletic Conference players in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

During his time in the fledgling ABA, he served as the players union president and played in three All-Star games, helping the Utah Stars to the championship in 1971. He also coached the Virginia Squires for 42 games in the 1975-76 season.

"He was a banger," former Indiana Pacers coach Bob "Slick" Leonard said. "He was not only physically tough, but mentally tough, too. At the same time, he played the game with dignity and grace. His play demanded respect."

A bruiser around the basket, Beaty played in perhaps the greatest era for professional centers, battling against Wilt Chamberlain, Bill Russell, Artis Gilmore and others who towered four or five inches over him. He used a mid-range jump shot, toughness and leaping ability to offset the height disadvantage and average a double-double.

"From the waist up, he was about as strong as you could get," teammate John Bailey said. "Nobody was going to push him around."

"Zelmo was big and strong and nasty," according to former Utah Jazz coach Jerry Sloan. "The kind of guy you wanted on your team."

Beaty was named to the NAIA's 50th & 75th Anniversary Teams and has also been inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame and the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame.

He died of cancer in 2013 at the age of 73.

The Zelmo Beaty Award is given annually to the nation's leader in total blocked shots.



ERACISM

ESPN+

ERACISM4EVER.COM