

The topic we chose for the NHD theme, “Breaking Barriers”, is Texas Western’s all African American starting lineup in the 1966 NCAA basketball championship. We chose this topic because we are athletes and fans NCAA basketball. This event changed the game of basketball as a whole and helped turn it into the game we know today. Learning the history behind this great game has helped us to understand where it has been and the great impact that the victory had on basketball.

To begin our research, we had to get a foundation of knowledge on the event. This would help us greatly in the research process. Since we had gained this general knowledge, we were able to find the areas we needed to research to make our project. From there, we found many sources that were related to the base information we had gained, which allowed us to expand our knowledge and take notes. Once we felt that we had plenty of sources and information, we began to create our website. As we got into it, however, we realized we needed more information for particular areas of the website, so we focussed more on researching those sections to increase the information we had. This helped us to complete each page with a substantial amount of information so that we could fully convey the message we wanted viewers to receive.

When we began our project and our research, we originally had the thought of doing a documentary. We still feel as though this would be a successful way to convey this information as we could use some of the game footage more easily, but we realized that neither of us know much about video editing or documentaries in general, so that probably wouldn't have been the most effective way for us to attack this project. Instead, we figured that a website would be just as effective as the documentary. The website allows us to do something we feel more

comfortable with, while also using game footage and videos as we desire. Although we loved this idea, we had doubts at first as it took us about an hour to get used to the website creator. Once we got the hang of it, we created a page for each part of the topic we wanted to include, and we started to fill in information.

Our project relates to the theme “Breaking Barriers” very well. Texas Western was the first team with an all African American starting lineup to win the NCAA championship. Before this, it was believed that teams couldn’t be successful without at least one white starter, but this victory broke down this barrier for African Americans. This thought also prevented African Americans from receiving the same scholarship and playing opportunities as others. With the win of this Texas Western team, coaches began to realize the impact that African Americans can have on the game. This brought many more opportunities to these players, and broke down the color barriers in basketball.