



Best in Basketball?

By DICK SLAY

"BETTER than Jack George was in high school? Elgin Baylor is better than Jack George is right now."

The speaker was Coach Bob Dwyer of Archbishop Carroll and the time was nearly four years ago. Dwyer's team was beaten that day by Spingarn High School and, in particular, by a 40-point contribution by this boy Baylor.

Then, as now, Jack George was playing for the professional Philadelphia Warriors, and for some six years since graduation from St. John's he had been regarded as the standard by which every succeeding basketball product of Washington high schools should be measured. Dwyer's statement had been no slam at George; rather, a supreme compliment for a youngster.

A 6-foot-5 giant with the co-ordination of a small man, Baylor was incredibly accurate anywhere in half-court. On defense he smothered opponents. Seldom

did a rebound escape him. He simply destroyed the concept of the game for a teen-ager.

Today, Baylor dominates basketball at Seattle University in the same manner, but with national recognition. Barring injury, he should be the first Washington boy to achieve All-America since Bosie Berger in the early 1930s at the University of Maryland.

Baylor made some of the All-Americans as a sophomore last year: International News Service, Look Magazine, Helms Foundation, Converse Magazine. But on a consensus basis—an average of all published selections—he ranked seventh, or on the second team.

The youngest of five children of John W. and Uzziel Baylor, who have lived at 154 Heckman street S.E., for 18 years, Elgin played at Phelps Vocational and Spingarn under the same coach, Dave Brown. They

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Washington's contribution to the Pacific Northwest's basketball is Elgin Baylor, 6-foot-6 and 225 pounds. Now at Seattle University, he seems headed for All-America honors.



Seattle Coach John Castellani gives a half-time talk on strategy. Baylor has the towel. On his right is Francis Saunders, formerly of Spingarn.