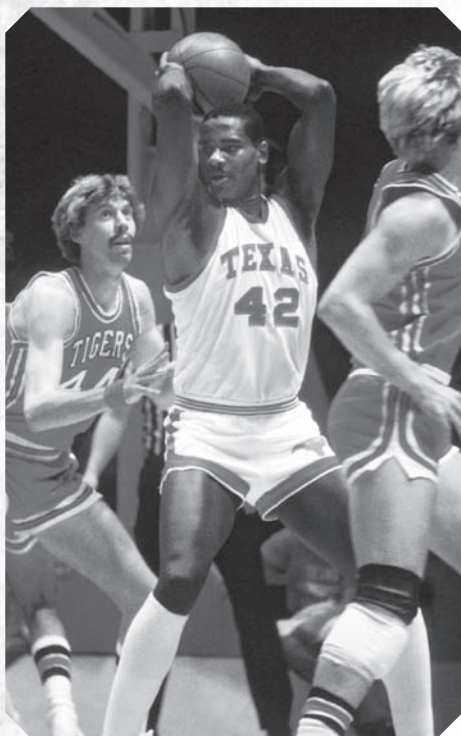


Legends of the Game

LaSALLE THOMPSON ★ UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ★ PLAYER (1980-82)



LaSalle Thompson enrolled at Texas in the fall of 1979 out of Cincinnati's Withrow High School and developed into one of the most dominant post players in school and Southwest Conference history. Despite playing only three years before turning professional, he finished his collegiate career as UT's all-time leading rebounder (1,027) and recorded 1,463 points in 87 games.

Thompson earned All-America honors from the Helms Foundation following his junior season (1981-82) after leading the nation in rebounding (13.5 rpg). He still owns school records for career rebounding average (11.8 rpg) and single-season rebounding average (13.5 rpg).

Thompson made an immediate impact in his first collegiate game for the Horns, recording 14 points and six rebounds in 29 minutes during a home win against Northwestern Louisiana. He went on to lead the team in rebounding (9.7 rpg) and blocks (1.2 bpg) as a freshman, while ranking third in scoring (12.8 ppg). He would set school freshman records for single-game rebounds (17), total rebounds (292), rebounds per game (9.7), blocked shots (36), and blocked shots per game (1.2).

As a sophomore in 1980-81, Thompson ranked fifth nationally in rebounds (12.3 rpg) and earned first-team All-Southwest Conference honors. He posted what was then just the second 20-point, 20-rebound performance in school history, as he tallied 26 points and 21 rebounds at North Texas. Thompson registered a total of 23 double-doubles during the year, which remains a single-season school record.

Thompson notched a school-record 12 consecutive double-doubles during a stretch that began with UT's 91-76 win at Biscayne (Dec. 1) and continued through the 62-60 win at Arkansas (Jan. 12). He led the team in points (19.2 ppg), rebounds, and blocks (1.7 bpg) and was selected as the team's most valuable player.

Thompson earned All-America honors from the Helms Foundation after leading the nation in rebounding (13.5) as a junior. He registered eight consecutive double-doubles in a stretch that began with UT's 62-55 overtime loss at Arkansas (Feb. 6) and continued through the 60-59 loss to Rice. He also set UT's school record for rebounds in a half, when he logged 16 in the first half at Xavier.

Just as he did as a sophomore, Thompson led the Longhorns in points (18.6 ppg), rebounds, and blocks (2.1 bpg) and was named the team's most valuable player. Thompson finished his career with school records in rebounds (1,027, a mark that was not broken until the 2003-04 season by James Thomas) and double-doubles (55). He still ranks 14th in career scoring at Texas with 1,463 points.

Thompson turned professional following his junior season at Texas and was a rugged low-post threat for 15 seasons in the NBA. Thompson appeared in 71 games during his rookie season with the then-Kansas City Kings. He started 38 of 80 games in his second season with the Kings and averaged 10.3 ppg and 8.9 rebounds per contest. Thompson started 77 of the Kings' 82 games the following season and averaged a double-double with 11.8 ppg and 10.4 rpg to go with 1.6 blocks per game.

Thompson relocated along with the Kings to Sacramento where he spent the next four seasons before being traded to the Indiana Pacers during the 1988-89 season. Thompson spent the next six seasons with the Pacers and helped them to the 1994 Eastern Conference Finals.

He joined the Philadelphia 76ers for the 1995-96 season and played with the Denver Nuggets during the 1996-97 season before rejoining the Pacers later that season. All totaled, Thompson appeared in 985 games over 15 seasons in the NBA and averaged 7.9 ppg and 6.8 rpg.

Thompson was inducted into the University of Texas Men's Athletics Hall of Honor in 1998. He served a stint as general manager and head coach of the San Diego Wildfire in the American Basketball Association (ABA) during the 2000-01 season, the only year of the Wildfire's existence. Thompson served as an assistant coach with the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats (2008-2010). Today, he operates LTE Enterprises in Sacramento, Calif.

