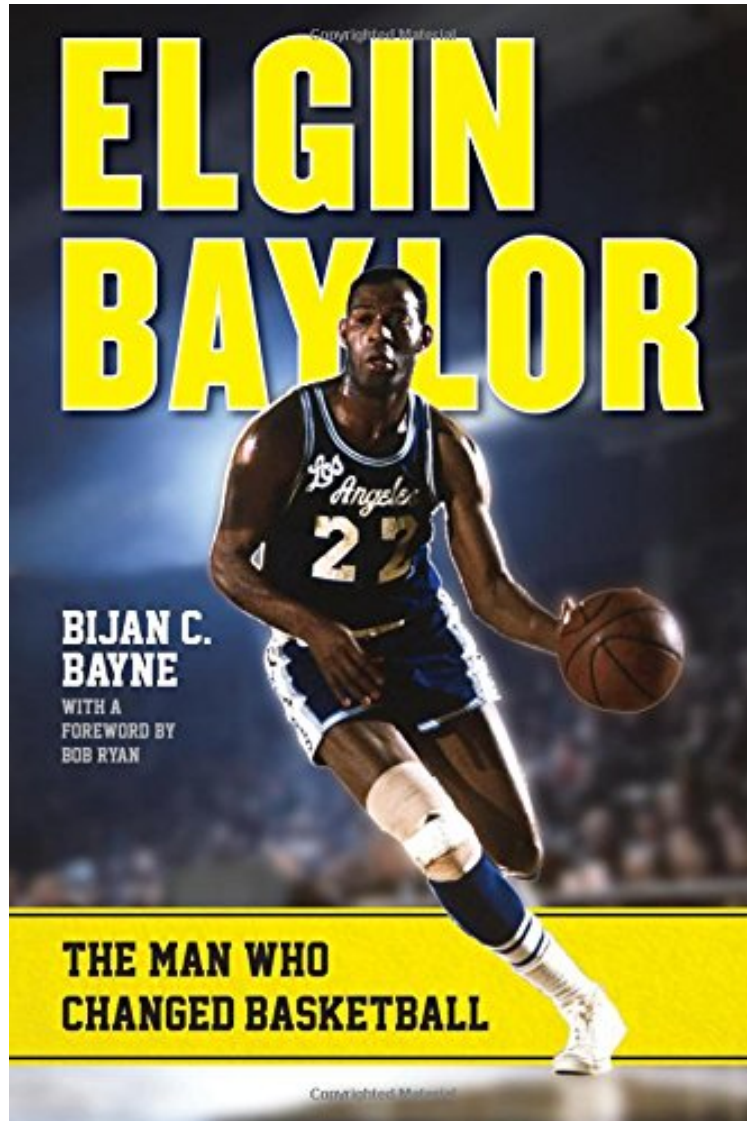


(Read now) Elgin Baylor: The Man Who Changed Basketball

Elgin Baylor: The Man Who Changed Basketball

Bijan C. Bayne

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Bijan C. Bayne : Elgin Baylor: The Man Who Changed Basketball before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Elgin Baylor: The Man Who Changed Basketball:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Book For Young Readers to Learn About An N.B.A. LegendBy Bill EmblomWhile I am not a fan of the N.B.A. today I do remember Elgin Baylor of the Los Angeles Lakers because I faithfully followed the St. Louis Hawks in the 1960s. Hawks' announcer Buddy Blattner used to refer to Baylor as "The Machine." Author Bijan Bayne covers his subject well in this book. Baylor was the reason the Lakers' move from Minneapolis to Los Angeles was successful and made it possible to build the fabulous Forum as the crowds came out

to see this magician make moves previously not seen on a basketball floor. The book covers Baylor's career very well in addition to the time he spent as a coach after his playing days were over. It also informs the reader of his relationship with Pete Maravich and owner Donald Sterling of the Clippers. Coach Butch van Breda Kolff comes in for a lot of criticism, also. I thoroughly enjoyed several quotes from the late Jim Murray of the Los Angeles Times. Murray is quoted as saying, "Watching Elgin Baylor on the basketball court is like watching Gene Kelly in the rain." Why the four stars which mean "I like it"? The author gets a great deal of his material from magazine sources such as Sport magazine, Sports Illustrated, and Jet magazine which is fine. What I found annoying was as he often referred to them he always mentioned the entire title of the article which, to me at least, interrupted the flow of what I was reading. I also found a rather heavy emphasis of statistics such as different players averaging so many points per game. This may not bother some readers but I found it to be disruptive. During the beginning of Baylor's N.B.A. career conditions in the league left a lot to be desired in regard to salaries, playing arenas, traveling from one city to another, among others. Unfortunately many younger readers have never heard of Elgin Baylor who some of today's players may have patterned their game from. This would be a good book for young basketball fans to read to learn about one of the pioneers from that group of players from the 1960s that ushered professional basketball into the spotlight. In addition I found it refreshing to read a book not laced with profanity. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed the book for the simple reason it filled me ...

By Norman Jones
When I was a young freshman basketball player at Manchester College in Indiana I first heard the name Elgin Baylor. I remember an African-American friend named Mel Ailer told me, "Remember the name Elgin Baylor." Mel was from Washington, D.C. where Baylor was from. That was in 1955 and shortly after that Elgin began his rise to basketball stardom. I enjoyed the book for the simple reason it filled me in or reminded me as to how good Baylor was. It seems to me his name is forgotten when it comes to discussions of all-time great players in college and the NBA. This book will raise your thinking about Baylor. It is well written and the research into Baylor's career is unreal. I saw him play many times and consider that to be a treasure younger people will have missed. Baylor was not only a great player, but an outstanding human being. I thank author Bayne for his detailed writing.

Norman Jones, Ed. D. author of *Growing Up in Indiana: The Culture Hoosier Hysteria Revisited*. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Elgin Baylor Shines!

By T. McCalmont
This was a book that is long overdue. The impact of Elgin Baylor on today's game is substantial. And needs attention. Bijan Bayne has brought forth his accomplishments in a well-thought-out and researched way. As one who lived in Los Angeles as a young person at the time it has helped me recall how much the game was shaped by those years as the NBA came to Los Angeles. I recommend this book highly to anyone who is interested in how the NBA has come to us today. My admiration for Elgin Baylor has only increased in my reading. Thank you,, Bijan for your fine work.

NBA Hall of Fame player Elgin Baylor was an innovator in his sport, a civil rights trailblazer, and a true superstar. He influenced future NBA All Stars such as Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant, and is considered by many to be one of the most important players in NBA history. A prolific scorer who baffled opponents with his twists and turns and inventive moves, Baylor was a force both on and off the court for the Minneapolis and Los Angeles Lakers. In *Elgin Baylor: The Man Who Changed Basketball*, Bijan C. Bayne tells the story of how a kid from the streets of segregated Washington, DC, who didn't attend college until he was over twenty, revolutionized basketball and stood up for his rights. In a time when few nationally prominent black athletes spoke out about racial inequality in the United States, Baylor refused to tolerate discrimination. On the court, with his balletic moves and urban style of play, Elgin Baylor lifted the game of basketball off the floor and into the air. *Elgin Baylor: The Man Who Changed Basketball* includes personal reflections from Baylor's old schoolyard companions, former teammates, players he coached in the NBA, and noted sports journalists, bringing to life his childhood, college career, and professional life with intimate detail. Basketball fans, historians, and those interested in the impact of sports on the Civil Rights Movement will all find this first-ever biography of Elgin Baylor both fascinating and inspirational.

Elgin Baylor, one of the premier superstars in the NBA, gets his first biography courtesy of Bayne, a Washington, D.C., sportswriter, who makes the case for considering Hall of Famer Baylor among the most elite players with his signature gravity-defying 'hesitation' jump shot. Born in 1934 in segregated D.C., Baylor didn't play basketball until high school, quickly gaining notice on the Phelps Vocational High School team. When the High Court struck down integration in 1954, Baylor transferred to another school, where a press notice called him 'literally unstoppable,' before joining teams at the College of Idaho and Seattle University, scoring big points and media attraction. During the 1958 NBA draft, Baylor was selected first overall and signed with the Minnesota Lakers, only to face Jim Crow laws when it came to hotels; the Lakers sat out a game in hopes of influencing team owners to create a nondiscrimination policy. Bayne writes expertly of Baylor's golden era with the newly relocated Los Angeles Lakers, his team-up with sharpshooter Jerry West, their rivalry with the Boston Celtics, his play in seven NBA finals and 11 All-Star games, and his decision to retire in 1971 due to bad knees. Bayne's gracious biography of a media-savvy, high-profile ex-sportsman shows the man as much more than his patented spin moves and one-legged jumpers. (Publishers Weekly) While often cited by current NBA superstars as being one of basketball's most athletically gifted and

influential players of all-time, Elgin Baylor (b. 1934) is not a household name for many of today's fans. This biography from Bayne (Sky Kings) chronicles Baylor's on-court heroics during the 1960s as a Minneapolis and then L.A. Laker, giving insight into why the versatile, acrobatic, high-scoring power forward is so revered within NBA circles. Baylor's greatest games during the peak of his playing career, his mostly friendly rivalries with Bill Russell and Wilt Chamberlain, and the Lakers' status as perennial bridesmaids to the hated Boston Celtics are covered in impressive detail. . . . VERDICT Surprisingly, this is the first biography devoted to the Hall of Famer. (Library Journal)The new book Elgin Baylor: The Man Who Changed Basketball gives us a look at the revolutionary man from his early childhood to his time both on and off the court in the NBA. The first biography on the Hall of Famer, author Bijan C. Bayne takes us through Baylor's life giving us the most rounded look at a man that stood tall in basketball and in life. Elgin Baylor: The Man Who Changed Basketball is out now. Get out and read something on one of the architects of the game. (North Pole Hoops)I was prompted to read Bijan C. Bayne's biography, simply titled Elgin Baylor with the realization I knew virtually nothing of this basketball icon. Not only was he playing in pre-ESPN days, with all the adulation that prompts, he was also a modest man. Elgin was a high school and college phenom when black athletes were just starting to emerge from mainstream media invisibility. Jackie Robinson had begun the change, but in Washington DC, an African American teen was ignored by the city's dailies. Unlike today. I think I was started hearing about LeBron James at his conception. Bayne's biog reveals Baylor as a decent family man, politically involved and responsible. More than anything else, for over a decade (the 60's), he dominated nearly every game in which he played. . . . It is sufficient to recall Elgin as a man well placed in the pantheon of basketball greats. (WBAL-FM)The basketball fan . . . might like unwrapping [this book as a gift], Elgin Baylor: The Man Who Changed Basketball by Bijan C. Bayne (foreword by Bob Ryan). (QSaltLake)Sometimes I am amazed at how many basketball fans are unaware of elite players from earlier eras. It appears that these people think there was no professional basketball players before Micheal Jordan, Larry Bird and Magic Johnson came into the league in the 1980's. One of these forgotten players was considered one of the best all time in the 1960's, Elgin Baylor. His story is captured in this excellent biography. . . .Elgin Baylor was one of the first true superstars of the NBA, with his best years coming during the late 1950's and early 1960's for the Minneapolis/Los Angeles Lakers. This biography of the man by Bijan C. Bane is the most complete book about Baylor. It is a well-researched and well written account of Baylor's entire basketball career. . . .Bayne captures the spirit of Baylor's game with exciting accounts of the skills he would show off. . . .Like Baylor's game, the book is filled with beautiful passages similar to this one. . . .[T]his is an outstanding book on a man that is often overlooked when the greatest players in the history of the game are mentioned. While that is a shame, this book does justice to show that Baylor truly is one of the game's elite players and the reader will come away with much respect for both Elgin Baylor the player and the man. (The Guy Who s Sports Books)The basketball fan on your list might like unwrapping Elgin Baylor: The Man Who Changed Basketball by Bijan C. Bayne (foreword by Bob Ryan). (Tribune)One of the NBA's most underrated superstars has never been the subject of a biography until now. Bayne, author of previous books about American sports, race and ethnicity, explains how the soft-spoken Baylor was a more influential proponent for racial equality than his demeanor would indicate. (Sports Biblio: The Athletic Experience in Books, History and Culture)Bijan Bayne's latest contribution to basketball history fills a perplexing gap: that is, why wasn't there a good, well-researched biography of Elgin Baylor before this? Although Bayne doesn't answer the question, he does provide a readable, interesting, and significant biography of one of the greatest and most innovative players who ever played . . . Bayne has utilized a great number of resources (newspapers, magazines, and books) to put together a reasonably seamless and well-organized look at Baylor. . . .[T]his is a book that deserves reading by historians of basketball and American culture. (Journal of Sport History)Elgin Baylor has long deserved a book like this highlighting his exceptional career that startled the basketball world when it sprang to life in the late 1950s. He was more than a pioneer with a game that was immune to the future. It was a nasty, racist age, and he reigned supreme with great dignity. They could play the game for a thousand years, and Elgin would still be relevant. Basketball owes him much, as does society in general. Kudos to Bijan C. Bayne for bringing Baylor's story back to life for future generations. (Roland Lazenby, author of Michael Jordan: The Life)Bijan Bayne has demonstrated he is a wise student of basketball with his elegant, richly-detailed biography of the often overlooked hoops innovator, Elgin Baylor. Bayne's absorbing book will make you want to dig up old videotape of Baylor's greatest aerial moments. It will certainly give you a better appreciation of Elgin Baylor the man. (Kevin Merida, managing editor of The Washington Post and co-author of Supreme Discomfort: The Divided Soul of Clarence Thomas)Bijan Bayne has written one of the best basketball biographies in the history of the genre about one of the greatest players the game has ever known. A marvelous narrative that reads like a novel. Do yourself a favor and read this book. (Kyle Keiderling, award-winning sports biographer and author of Heart of a Lion)Elgin Baylor was difficult to guard on the basketball floor and even harder to write about. He was the elusive superstar. Bijan Bayne, with his exhaustive research, makes a huge breakthrough here: He tells the most complete story of one of America's greatest sports icons. (Dan Raley, former Seattle Post-Intelligencer sportswriter)About the AuthorBijan C. Bayne is an award-winning Washington-based freelance writer who has written for Pro Basketball News, the Washington Post, The Boston Herald, Essence, and Washingtonian. He is a member of United States Basketball Writers Association, a founding member of the

Internet Baseball Writers Association of America, and an executive board member and media relations director for the Association for Professional Basketball Research. Bayne is the author of *Sky Kings: Black Pioneers of Professional Basketball*, which was named to the Suggested Reading List of the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2004, and *Martha's Vineyard Basketball: How a Resort League Defied Notions of Race and Class* (Rowman Littlefield, 2015).