

# Havlicek Hustled Way to Greatness in NBA

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Now 33 and hustling just as much as when he was a raw-boned cager for the Bridgeport High Bulldogs, John Havlicek used that hustle and determination to become one of the all-time greats in the National Basketball Association.

It is with great honor that the Times-Leader sports department dedicates its 1973-74 Basketball Edition to John Havlicek, a gentleman and superb athlete better known to America's sports fans as "Mt. Hustle."

Now in his eleventh season as a member of the Boston Celtics, Havlicek, team captain and inspirational leader, is approaching a plateau very few NBA players have ever reached . . . 20,000 career points.

Havlicek entered the 1973-74 campaign with 19,100 points and should reach this milestone sometime in January, barring injury.

However, don't bet that injuries will keep him down long. Hampered by injuries during much of the last several seasons, Havlicek has proven durable. For example, this is what they said about him in the Celtics' 1973-74 Yearbook concerning last season:

"He was 10 feet tall all season long and growing when the Havlicek right shoulder was knocked loose in the fourth playoff game of the Eastern Championship. Even then, "Hondo" led the Green to a pair of victories left-handed. The accident probably cost the young Celts the World Championship. 1972-73 was another brilliant triumph for the Boston captain."

Havlicek played 3,367 minutes in 80 games . . . a fraction better than 42 minutes a game . . . his 23.8 average topped the team in scoring and was good enough for 11th place in the NBA. Assistwise, he was seventh in the league with 6.6 per game. His 567 rebounds was third best on the team.

In the honors department, he once again was named to the All-League team, polling the second largest number of votes. He was again voted to the All-League Defensive team. At the All-Star Game in Chicago, he played for the East in his eighth consecutive game and he plays the All-Star Game as he does league and playoff games — all out.

Aside from taking on the Knicks one-handed in the playoffs, Havlicek's other brilliant effort last season came in the very first playoff game against the Atlanta Hawks when he caged 54 points, an all-time record in the great Celtic tradition that reaches back to 1946. In that sterling effort, John was 24 of 36 from the floor and perfect in six tries at the foul line.

Of all the great Celtics, Havlicek carried the best per game average, 28.9, during 1970-71 when he scored 2,338 points, also the highest in the team's history.

When he finished last season with 19,100 points, he became the highest scorer in Celtic history. He now rates ninth on the all-time NBA scoring list and is certain to move up the ladder before he ends his fabulous career.

The road to professional basketball fame was not easy for him. He was an all-around athlete at Bridgeport High, also starring in football and baseball. His scholastic basketball career was hindered because the school was without a gymnasium one season and the Bulldogs had to play all of their games on the enemy courts.

Nonetheless, his achievements were many and Havlicek earned all-state honors. He played in the annual North-South game and became close friends with Jerry Lucas of Middletown. Both were to carry this friendship on to Ohio State University where they became All-American performers and led the Buckeyes to three straight Big Ten titles and one national championship. The Buckeyes were 78-6 during the Havlicek-Lucas era and John became the Celtics' first draft choice in 1962.

His versatility . . . or better yet, his reputation as a superb athlete, was demonstrated when he was also drafted by the Cleveland Browns as an offensive end . . . even though he did not play college football.

There aren't many goals which John hasn't achieved in his professional basketball career and he's certain to reach additional milestones before he calls it quits.

Right now, though, he'll continue hustling and playing basketball the only way he knows and hopefully lead the Celtics back to the top.

John and family, which includes his pretty wife, Beth, and two children, Chris, 2, and Jill Rene, born last season, live in Melrose, Mass., during the season and in Columbus during the summer months.



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## 1973-74 Basketball Special

