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The **Travis Grant Game** is one of five games to be participated in the first round of The Basketball Classic presented by Eracism, with the winner receiving a trophy and advancing to the second round of the tournament.

“These five games are one of the unique aspects of our tournament,” said Gary Stewart, President of Eracism. “Student-athletes have an opportunity to raise a trophy and advance to the second round. It also gives players, fans, and the media an opportunity to learn more about some of the legends of our game like Zelmo Beaty, Travis Grant, Marques Haynes, Cleo Hill and Willis Reed. These men were giants in the history of the game.”

Known as the “Machine Gun,” Travis Grant starred on three consecutive NAIA National Championship teams in four seasons at Kentucky State University (1968-72).

He earned his nickname in the opening game of his college career. After sitting out the first half against Campbell College, Grant made 10 consecutive shots in the second half. As a sophomore he set a school single-game record with 75 points and averaged 35.4 per game while shooting a ridiculous 70% from the field.

Grant set, and still holds, numerous NAIA tournament records, including: most career points (518); highest points-per-game average (34.5); most points in a single tournament (213, in 1972); and most points in a single game (60, against Minot State (N.D.) in 1972).

"Back in that era, the NAIA tournament was very well-respected," Grant told ESPN.com in 2008. "It would sell out every year and there were always top NBA draft choices playing for the title. It wasn't like it is now. It was recognized as some of the best competition going."

Grant and his teammates were the best basketball team in the state of Kentucky in the early 1970s. "Sometimes, on Sundays, we'd make the trip over to Lexington to play some pickup games there (against the University of Kentucky team) in their rec center. There was no question that we were the better team," he said.

He never shot less than 60 percent in any of his four seasons. As a senior he averaged 39.5 points per game and became the first small college player to win the Lapchick Trophy for College Basketball Player of the Year award. He graduated as the all-time and all-division scoring leader in college basketball history with 4,045 points.

The Los Angeles Lakers drafted Grant in the first round of the NBA Draft in 1972. He played alongside Wilt Chamberlain, Gail Goodrich, Pat Riley and Jerry West. From 1973-76, Grant played for several franchises in the American Basketball Association.

After retiring from pro basketball, Grant earned his undergraduate and master's degree from West Georgia University and spent 30 years as a teacher, coach and administrator.

The Travis Grant Award will be presented annually to the player with the highest per-game scoring average.

