

Donald J. Sunderlage Biography



Donald James Sunderlage - Class of 1947 - b. December 20, 1929 d. July 15, 1961 From the EHS Yearbook: Student Council 1; Basketball.

Don Sunderlage was one of the greatest basketball players to ever graduate from Elgin High School. Don was the leading scorer on Elgin High School's conference championship team in 1946-1947. His 359 points that year set a then Elgin High School record for most points in a season.

A 6'1", 180 lb guard he was born in Roselle, Illinois. Sunderlage played collegiately at the University of Illinois, earning the Chicago Tribune Silver Basketball award in 1951. He was the most valuable player in the Big Ten Conference in 1951 while at the University of Illinois. That year Illinois finished third in the NCAA tournament. Also, in 1951, Sunderlage was named second team All-American by Helms and the Sporting News and third-team All-American by United Press International and Converse.

From 1953 to 1955, he played in the National Basketball Association as a member of the Milwaukee Hawks and the Minneapolis Lakers. He was drafted and selected by the Philadelphia Warriors in the first round (9th pick overall) of 1951 NBA Draft. He played in 113 games and averaged 7.7 points, with 2 assists, a field goal percentage of 32.6 and a free throw percentage of 73.2 per game in his career and represented the Hawks at the 1954 NBA All-Star Game.

On July 15, 1961, Sunderlage died following a car accident in Lake Geneva WI at age 31.