



# MORT HILL



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## *2018 SANTA BARBARA COURT OF CHAMPIONS INDUCTEE*

Mortimer Crenshaw Hill Jr. was the first University of California Santa Barbara Gauchos basketball player to enter and play in the NBA. Mort was born in Glendale, California on October 24, 1922. He played for the Gauchos from 1939-43. During that four-year term, he teamed up with fellow Gauchos and Court of Champions inductee Lowell Stewart to help lead the team to the semifinals of the 1941 NAIA Men's Divisional I Basketball Tournament in Kansas City, Kansas. This was a 32 team field national event.

After graduating from UCSB, Mort continued his basketball endeavors, joining the St. Louis Blues of the Pro Basketball Independent League. He was a member of the team in both 1945-46 and 1946-47. During that second season, he advanced to the NBL, which later became the NBA and performed with the Syracuse Nationals. Feeling the fever for hoops, Mort continued his play with Worcester of the New England Basketball League. He played for the 11-13 win-loss club in 1946-47 and played his final professional season with the same Worcester squad in 1947-48 at which the NEBL ceased league operations on December 15, 1947. This ended Mort's professional basketball career.

The Player Report, a weekly basketball analysis on professional players said this about the 6 foot 1 inch, 175 pound Hill: "Mort Hill is a good dribbler with the ability to score the open mid-range or outside shot if he is not pressured by the defender. He is always looking for the open teammate to pass to for a quality shot. Defensively, he stays low to the floor and will steal the ball if his opponent does not protect the sphere. He also is known for his hustle in getting back to the defensive end of the floor quickly".

Longtime NBA Head Coach Alex Hannum also commented about Hill; "Mortie is feisty and has a nose for the ball. He also has a nice, nifty shooting touch that must be respected by all defenders on the floor."

On October 6, 1977, at the age of 54, Mortimer Crenshaw Hill, Jr. passed away.

### Professional Career:

1945-47 St. Louis Blues (Pro Basketball Independent League)  
No records available

1946-47 Syracuse Nationals (National Basketball League)  
Games played: 3 FGM: 1 FTM: 0 Points: 2 Average: 0.7

1946-48 Worcester (New England Basketball League)