

= Bill Bradley =

William Warren " Bill " Bradley (born July 28 , 1943) is an American Hall of Fame basketball player , Rhodes scholar , and former three @-@ term Democratic U.S. Senator from New Jersey . He ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic Party 's nomination for President in the 2000 election .

Bradley was born and raised in Crystal City , Missouri , a suburb of St. Louis , and excelled at basketball from an early age . He was a member of the Boy Scouts , did well academically and was an all @-@ county and all @-@ state basketball player in high school . He was offered 75 college scholarships , but declined them all to attend Princeton University . He earned a gold medal as a member of the 1964 Olympic basketball team and was the NCAA Player of the Year in 1965 , when Princeton finished third in the NCAA Tournament . After graduating in 1965 , he attended Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship , delaying a decision for two years on whether or not to play in the National Basketball Association (NBA) .

While at Oxford , Bradley played one season of professional basketball in Europe , and eventually decided to join the New York Knicks in the 1967 ? 68 season , after serving six months in the Air Force Reserve . He spent his entire ten @-@ year professional basketball career playing for the Knicks , winning two championship titles . Retiring in 1977 , he ran for a seat in the United States Senate the following year , from his adopted home state of New Jersey . He was re @-@ elected in 1984 and 1990 , left the Senate in 1997 , and was an unsuccessful candidate for the 2000 Democratic presidential nomination .

Bradley is the author of seven non @-@ fiction books , most recently We Can All Do Better , and hosts a weekly radio show , American Voices , on Sirius Satellite Radio . He is a corporate director of Starbucks and a partner at investment bank Allen & Company in New York City .

In 2008 Bradley was inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame .

= = Early life = =

Bradley was born on July 28 , 1943 in Crystal City , Missouri , the only child of Warren (d . 1994) , who despite leaving high school after a year had become a bank president , and Susan " Susie " (née Crowe) Bradley (d . 1995) , a teacher and former high school @-@ basketball player . Politicians and politics were standard dinner @-@ table topics in Bradley 's childhood , and he described his father as a " solid Republican " who was an elector for Thomas E. Dewey in the 1948 presidential election . An active Boy Scout , he became an Eagle Scout and member of the Order of the Arrow .

Bradley began playing basketball at the age of nine . He was a star at Crystal City High School , where he scored 3 @, @ 068 points in his scholastic career , was twice named All @-@ American , and was elected to the Missouri Association of Student Councils . He received 75 college scholarship offers , although he applied to only five schools and only scored a 485 out of 800 on the Verbal portion of the SAT , which ? despite being likely in the top third of all test takers that year ? normally would have caused selective schools like Princeton University to reject him .

Bradley 's basketball ability benefited from his height ? 5 ' 9 " in the 7th grade , 6 ' 1 " in the 8th grade , and his adult size of 6 ' 5 " by the age of 15 ? and unusually wide peripheral vision , which he worked to improve by focusing on faraway objects while walking . During his high school years , Bradley maintained a rigorous practice schedule , a habit he carried through college . He would work on the court for " three and a half hours every day after school , nine to five on Saturday , one @-@ thirty to five on Sunday , and , in the summer , about three hours a day . He put ten pounds of lead slivers in his sneakers , set up chairs as opponents and dribbled in a slalom fashion around them , and wore eyeglass frames that had a piece of cardboard taped to them so that he could not see the floor , for " a good dribbler never looks at the ball . "

= = Basketball = =

== College ==

Considered the top high school player in the country , Bradley initially chose to attend Duke University in the fall of 1961 . However , after breaking his foot in the summer of 1961 during a baseball game and thinking about his college decision outside of basketball , Bradley decided to enroll at Princeton due to its record in preparing students for government or United States Foreign Service work . He had been awarded a scholarship at Duke , but not at Princeton ; the Ivy League does not allow its members to award athletic scholarships , and Bradley 's family 's wealth disqualified him from receiving financial aid .

Bradley 's childhood hero Dick Kazmaier had won the Heisman Trophy at Princeton , and he wore # 42 in his honor . In his freshman year , Bradley averaged more than 30 points per game for the freshman team , at one point making 57 consecutive free throws , breaking a record set by a member of the NBA 's Syracuse Nationals . The following year , as a sophomore , he was a varsity starter in Butch van Breda Kolff 's first year as coach of the Tigers .

In his sophomore year Bradley scored 40 points in an 82 ? 81 loss to St. Joseph 's and was named to The Sporting News All @-@ American first team in early 1963 . The coach of the St. Louis Hawks believed he was ready to play professional basketball . The AP and United Press International polls both put Bradley on the second team , establishing him as the top sophomore player in the country ; Bradley also hit .316 as a first baseman for the baseball team . The following year The Sporting News again named him to its All @-@ American team as its only junior , and as its player of the year . At the Olympic basketball trials in April 1964 , Bradley played guard instead of his usual forward position but was still a top performer . He was one of three chosen unanimously for the Olympic team , the youngest chosen , and the only undergraduate . The Olympic team won its sixth consecutive gold medal .

As a senior and team captain in the 1964 ? 1965 season , Bradley became a household name . Only the third tallest on his team , but called " easily the No. 1 player in college basketball today " , " the best amateur basketball player in the United States " , and " The White Oscar Robertson " , he scored 41 points in an 80 ? 78 loss to Michigan and their star player Cazzie Russell in the 1964 ECAC Holiday Basketball Final at Madison Square Garden , then led Princeton to the NCAA Final Four after defeating heavy favorite Providence and Jimmy Walker by 40 points . The team then lost to Michigan in the semifinals , but Bradley scored a record 58 points in the consolation game to lead the team to victory against Wichita State and earn himself the Final Four MVP . In total , Bradley scored 2 @, @ 503 points at Princeton , averaging 30 @.@ 2 points per game . He was awarded the 1965 James E. Sullivan Award , presented annually to the United States ' top amateur athlete , the first basketball player to win the honor , and the second Princeton student to win the award , after runner Bill Bonthron in 1934 .

Bradley holds a number of Ivy League career records , including total and average points (1 @, @ 253 / 29 @.@ 83 , respectively) , and free throws made and attempted (409 / 468 , 87 @.@ 4 %) . Ivy League season records he holds similarly include total and average points (464 / 33 @.@ 14 , 1964) and most free throws made (153 in 170 attempts , 90 @.@ 0 % , 1962 ? 1963) . He also holds the career point record at Princeton and many other school records , including the top ten slots in the category of total points scored in a game , but likely could have scored many more points if he had not insisted so often on passing the ball , in what his coaches called " Bradley 's hope passes " , to inferior teammates closer to the basket ; he only emphasized his own scoring when Princeton was behind or , as during the Wichita State game , his teammates forced Bradley to shoot by returning passes to him . Van Breda Kolff often encouraged Bradley to be more of a " one on one " player , stating that " Bill is not hungry . At least ninety percent of the time , when he gets the ball , he is looking for a pass . "

Van Breda Kolff described Bradley as " not the most physical player . Others can run faster and jump higher . The difference ... is self @-@ discipline . " At Princeton he had three to four hours of classes and four hours of basketball practice daily , studied an average of seven hours each weekday and up to 24 more hours each weekend , frequently spoke for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes around the country , and taught Sunday School at the local Presbyterian Church . When

practicing he did not move from a location on the court unless he made at least ten of 13 shots , and could detect whether a basket was an inch too low from the regulation ten feet .

Improving from his mediocre freshman grades , Bradley graduated magna cum laude after writing his senior thesis about Harry S. Truman 's 1940 United States Senate campaign , titled " On That Record I Stand " , and received a Rhodes Scholarship at Worcester College , University of Oxford . His tenure at Princeton was the subject of Pulitzer Prize @-@ winning author John McPhee 's January 23 , 1965 article " A Sense of Where You Are " in The New Yorker , which McPhee expanded into a book of the same name . The title came from Bradley 's explanation for his ability to repeatedly throw a basketball over his shoulder and into the basket while looking away from it .

= = = Professional = = =

Bradley 's graduation year , 1965 , was the last year that the NBA 's territorial rule was in effect , which gave professional teams first rights to draft players who attended college within 50 miles of the team . The New York Knicks ? one mile closer to Princeton than the Philadelphia 76ers ? drafted Bradley as a territorial pick in the 1965 draft , but he did not sign a contract with the team immediately . While studying Politics , Philosophy , and Economics at Oxford , he commuted to Italy to play professional basketball in the Lega Basket Serie A for Olimpia Milano during the 1965 ? 66 season , where the team won a European Champions Cup .

Bradley dropped out of Oxford two months prior to graduation in April 1967 , to go into the Air Force Reserves . After serving six months active duty as an officer (the requirement was four years active duty) , he joined the New York Knicks in December 1967 . The following year Oxford let Bradley take " special exams " and he graduated Oxford in 1968 . (On March 6 , 1967 , Lyndon B. Johnson in a Special Message to the Congress on Selective Service , declared that he would be issuing an Executive Order that no deferments for post @-@ graduate study be granted in the future , except for those men pursuing medical and dental courses .)

In Bradley 's rookie season , he joined the team late , having also missed the entire preseason . He was placed in the back court , although he had spent his high school and college careers as a forward . Both he and the team did not do well , and in the following season , he was returned to the forward slot . Then , in his third season , the Knicks won their first @-@ ever NBA championship , followed by the second in the 1972 ? 73 season , when he made the only All @-@ Star Game appearance of his career . Over 742 NBA games ? all with the Knicks ? Bradley scored a total of 9 @,@ 217 points , an average of 12 @.@ 4 points per game , with his best season average being 16 @.@ 1 points per game in the 1972 ? 73 season . Bradley also averaged 3 @.@ 4 assists per game .

During his NBA career , Bradley used his fame on the court to explore social as well as political issues , meeting with journalists , government officials , academics , businesspeople , and social activists . He also worked as an assistant to the director of the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington , D.C. , and as a teacher in the street academies of Harlem . In 1976 , he also became an author by publishing Life on the Run . Using a 20 @-@ day stretch of time during one season as the main focus of the book , he chronicled his experiences in the NBA and the people he met along the way . He noted in the book that he had initially signed only a four @-@ year contract , and that he was uncomfortable using his celebrity status to earn extra money endorsing products as other players did .

Retiring from basketball in 1977 , he was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1983 , along with teammate Dave DeBusschere . In 1984 , the Knicks retired his number 24 jersey ; he was the fourth player so honored by the Knicks , after Willis Reed , Walt Frazier , and DeBusschere . He is one of only two players , along with Manu Ginóbili , to have won a Euroleague title , an NBA championship , and an Olympic gold medal .

= = Politics = =

Politics was a frequent subject of discussion in the Bradley household , and some of his relatives

held local and county political offices . He majored in history at Princeton , and was present in the Senate chamber when the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed . Van Breda Kolff and many others who knew him predicted that Bradley would be Governor of Missouri , or President , by 40 . He spent his time at Oxford focusing on European political and economic history . In 1978 , he said that congressman Mo Udall , himself a former professional basketball player , had told him ten years earlier that professional sports could help prepare him for politics , depending on what he did with his non @-@ playing time .

= = = U.S. Senate = = =

After four years of political campaigning for Democratic candidates around New Jersey , Bradley decided in the summer of 1977 to run for the Senate himself , coinciding with his retirement from the Knicks . He felt his time had been well @-@ spent in " paying his dues " . The seat was held by liberal Republican and four @-@ term incumbent Clifford P. Case . Case lost the primary election to anti @-@ tax conservative Jeffrey Bell , who , like Bradley , was 34 years old as the campaign season began . Bradley won the seat in the general election with about 56 percent of the vote . During the campaign , Yale football player John Spagnola was Bradley 's bodyguard and driver .

In the Senate , Bradley acquired a reputation for being somewhat aloof and was thought of as a " policy wonk " , specializing in complex reform initiatives . Among these was the 1986 overhaul of the federal tax code , co @-@ sponsored with Dick Gephardt , which reduced the tax rate schedule to just two brackets , 15 percent and 28 percent , and eliminated many kinds of deductions . Domestic policy initiatives that Bradley led or was associated with included reform of child support enforcement ; legislation concerning lead @-@ related children 's health problems ; the Earned Income Tax Credit ; campaign finance reform ; a re @-@ apportioning of California water rights ; and federal budget reform to reduce the deficit , which included , in 1981 , supporting Reagan 's spending cuts but opposing his parallel tax cut package , one of only three senators to take this position . He sponsored the Freedom Support Act , an exchange program between the republics of the former Soviet Union and the United States .

Bradley was re @-@ elected in 1984 with 65 percent of the vote against Montclair mayor Mary V. Mochary . In 1988 , he was encouraged to seek the Democratic nomination for President , but he declined to enter the race , saying that he would know when he was ready . In 1990 , a controversy over a state income tax increase ? on which he refused to take a position ? and his proposal on merit pay for teachers , which led the NJEA to support his opponent , turned his once @-@ obscure rival for the Senate , Christine Todd Whitman , into a viable candidate , and Bradley won by only a slim margin . In 1995 , he announced he would not run for re @-@ election , publicly declaring American politics " broken . "

While he was a senator , Bradley walked the beaches from Cape May to Sandy Hook , a four @-@ day , 127 @-@ mile trip each Labor Day weekend , to assess beach and ocean conditions and talk with constituents . Bradley was criticized for neglecting constituent services while in office .

= = = Presidential candidate = = =

Bradley ran in the 2000 presidential primaries , opposing incumbent Vice President Al Gore for his party 's nomination . Bradley campaigned as the liberal alternative to Gore , taking positions to the left of Gore on a number of issues , including universal health care , gun control , and campaign finance reform . On the issue of taxes , Bradley trumpeted his sponsorship of the Tax Reform Act of 1986 , which had significantly cut tax rates while abolishing dozens of loopholes . He voiced his belief that the best possible tax code would be one with low rates and no loopholes , but he refused to rule out the idea of raising taxes to pay for his health care program , calling the idea of such a pledge " dishonest " .

On public education , he proposed to make over \$ 2 billion in block grants available to each state every year . He further promised to bring 60 @,@ 000 new teachers into the education system in hard @-@ to @-@ staff areas over ten years by offering college scholarships to anyone who agreed

to become a teacher after graduating ; Gore offered a similar proposal .

Bradley also made child poverty a significant issue in his campaign . He promised to address the minimum wage , expand the Earned Income Tax Credit , allow single parents on welfare to keep their child support payments , make the Dependent Care Tax Credit refundable , build support homes for pregnant teenagers , enroll 400 @, @ 000 more children in Head Start , and increase the availability of food stamps .

Although Gore was considered the party favorite , Bradley received a number of high @-@ profile endorsements , including senators Paul Wellstone , Bob Kerrey , and Daniel Patrick Moynihan ; former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich ; former New York City mayor Ed Koch ; former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker ; and basketball stars Michael Jordan and Phil Jackson . Bradley and Jackson have been close friends since they were teammates playing for the New York Knicks . Jackson was a vocal supporter of Bradley 's run for the presidency and often wore his campaign button in public . He announced his acceptance of the position of head coach of the Los Angeles Lakers while Bradley was campaigning in California in 1999 , and he was a " regular draw on the Bradley money trail " during the campaign . Bradley later called it a " great honor " to be the presenter when Jackson was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2007 .

In March 2000 , after failing to win any of the first 20 primaries and caucuses in the election process , Bradley withdrew his campaign and endorsed Gore ; he ruled out the idea of running as the vice @-@ presidential candidate and did not answer questions about possible future runs for the presidency . He said that he would continue to speak out regarding his brand of politics , calling for campaign finance reform , gun control , and increased health care insurance .

= = After politics = =

Later in 2000 , Bradley was offered the chairmanship of the United States Olympic Committee , which he turned down . In September 2002 , Bradley turned down a request from New Jersey Democrats to replace Robert Torricelli on the ballot for his old Senate seat , which another former senator , Frank Lautenberg , accepted . Oxford University awarded Bradley an honorary Doctor of Civil Law (DCL) in 2003 , with a citation that described him in part as " ... an outstandingly distinguished athlete , a weighty pillar of the Senate , and still a powerful advocate of the weak ... " . In 2007 Bradley was awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award . This award is given in recognition of community service more than 25 years after a scout first earns the Eagle badge .

In January 2004 , Bradley and Gore both endorsed Howard Dean for President in the 2004 Democratic primaries . In January 2008 , Bradley announced that he was supporting Barack Obama in the 2008 Democratic primary . He campaigned for Obama and appeared on political news shows as a surrogate . Bradley 's name was mentioned as a possible replacement for Tom Daschle as nominee for Secretary of Health and Human Services in the Obama administration after Daschle withdrew from consideration ; the position went to Kansas governor Kathleen Sebelius . He has occasionally been involved in political matters , most recently consulting the Senate Finance Committee on tax reform along with former colleague Bob Packwood

He has worked as a corporate consultant and investment banker . He has been a managing director of Allen & Company LLC , since 2001 , was chief outside advisor to McKinsey & Company 's nonprofit division , the McKinsey Global Institute , from 2001 to 2004 , and is a member of the board of directors of QuinStreet and Starbucks and the private company Raydiance . Bradley is a senior advisor to the private equity firm Catterton Partners . Bill Bradley is also a board member of DonorsChoose.org , an online charity that connects individuals to classrooms in need . He is also the Chair of the Advisory Council for Acumen Fund , a non @-@ profit global venture fund that uses entrepreneurial approaches to solve the problems of global poverty . Bradley is also a Co @-@ Chair for the Advisory Board of Issue One , a non @-@ profit whose goal is to reduce the influence of money in American politics .

= = Personal life = =

Bradley married Ernestine (née Misslbeck) Schlant , a German @-@ born professor of comparative literature , in 1974 . She has a daughter , Stephanie , from a previous marriage , and they have one daughter , Theresa Anne . Bradley and Schlant divorced in 2007 , and he lives with former LBJ Library director Betty Sue Flowers .

= = Published works = =

Bradley , Bill We Can All Do Better (Vanguard Press , May 8 , 2012) ISBN 978 @-@ 1593157296

Bradley , Bill The New American Story (Random House , 2007) ISBN 978 @-@ 1400065073

Bradley , Bill The Journey from Here (Artisan , 2000) ISBN 1 @-@ 579651658

Bradley , Bill Values of the Game (Artisan , 1998) ISBN 1 @-@ 57965116X

Bradley , Bill Time Present , Time Past : A Memoir (Alfred A. Knopf , 1996) ISBN 978 @-@ 0679444886

Bradley , Bill Life on the Run (Bantam Books , 1977) ISBN 0 @-@ 553110551