

# DECK the HALL

## ■ Broadcaster Doucette lends passion to new basketball shrine

STEVE MULLINS  
STAFF WRITER

POWAY — For more than 30 years, Eddie Doucette has entertained sports fans with his unique brand of broadcasting.

The Boston native and longtime Poway resident began his career in the NBA, as the first play-by-play voice of the Milwaukee Bucks. Since that time, Doucette has called action for Major League Baseball (including the Padres), professional and college football, golf, track, tennis — you name it.

Said Doucette: "I've done everything in this business except nude celebrity bowling."

Even if you've never heard of him, it's probable that you've heard some of his basketball lexicon.

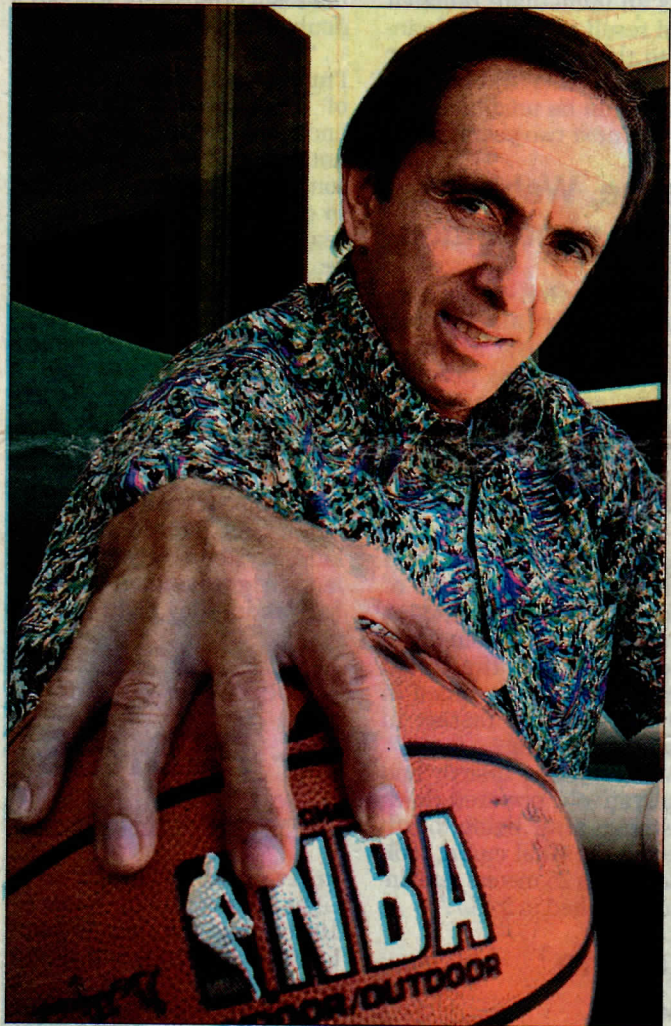
"Sky hook," "rainbow jumper," "twin towers" — they were just some of his creations.

"I came up with those sayings because I wanted to make the game of basketball as exciting to the fans as it was to me," Doucette said. "I mean, I used to get so lathered during games that afterward, I had to go into the locker room and towel off."

Last fall, Doucette got the opportunity to take his passion one step further. It began with a telephone call from David Stern, the commissioner of the NBA. Stern told Doucette he wanted to include him in the planning of the new Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, which is scheduled to open in Springfield, Mass., on July 4, 2002.

Doucette's role was to be one of research and development. He would travel to the other major halls of fame — baseball, football, hockey, rock 'n' roll — and report on the pros and cons of each.

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Broadcaster and Poway resident Eddie Doucette is giving a helping hand to the development of the new NBA Hall of Fame.

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"I can tell you, as far as the fan is concerned, this new Basketball Hall of Fame will be the ultimate sports museum," Doucette said. "It will be very contemporary, totally interactive and it will be a happening place."

"The current facility is too small, it's outdated (16 years old) and it really isn't the kind of destination spot that basketball is worthy of nowadays. The feeling was that we needed a place where you could go and take your family where it would be totally representative of the game and its roots."

The new hall will be about 80,000 square feet, double the size of the existing facility. It will be located a few hundred feet south of the current hall,

which sits alongside the Connecticut River. The main building will house a three-level museum and will be easily identified by its architecture — a giant sphere resembling a basketball going through a net.

Once inside, visitors will take an elevator to the shrine area on the third floor and work their way down. The full-size basketball court on the first level promises to be an ideal place for fantasy camps, corporate outings and college basketball clinics.

In addition to the museum, the 18½-acre plot will house a Hilton hotel, retail stores, restaurants and ample parking. The entire complex will be just a three- to four-minute stroll along the "Walk of Fame" from downtown Springfield.

"People will really get into the basketball spirit as they

walk from the center of town to the complex," said John Doleva, chief operating officer of the hall.

"There will be selected basketball insignias and identification along the way to intrigue and bait people. By the time they get to the front door of the hall, they will be in a basketball frenzy."

One man always said to be in a basketball frenzy is Doucette.

"Eddie is very creative, aggressive, and we're lucky to have him on our team," Doleva said. "He exudes passion 24 hours a day and he is our biggest cheerleader."

Said Doucette: "My involvement with the Hall of Fame is, in my way own little way, another way of trying to unite the fan with the game. I want to show them how much basketball appreciates their support."