

## HOUSTON MALLETTE | PEPPERDINE BASKETBALL Ø<ßÀ

What's up everybody I'm Houston Millet I'm a junior at Pepperdine University and I play men's basketball there Yeah Um I would say growing up I played uh multiple sports up until high school I played three sports So I played basketball I played baseball I played football Um I played soccer but it was mostly basketball baseball and football up until brown Um uh high school uh time I'd say probably my biggest mentor in my life for sure is my dad Um my dad's been with me every step of the way He played division one college football so he kind of knew athletics um in a very bright way Um He also worked in collegiate athletics especially growing up So I was able to see um he worked at uh UC Berkeley So Cal and when I was younger like I remember my first game going there I saw Justin Cobbs hit like this step back game winning three to beat uh uh Arizona Um when they had like Aaron Gordon K Tarzi and Gabe York and all those guys So I got to watch that game That was my first ever college basketball moment And I'd say from that point on I knew for sure that that's what I wanted to do And then once I got into high school um I was around you know a lot of great guys my first year being a freshman at sale Um I got to learn from like coach Bill Mellis who's won a million games in high school coach foster coach job you know coach Brown coach JB like all those guys Um I got to learn so much um from them And then guys like uh the twins the mcclanahan twins taught me a lot like them being good players And then I end up moving down to Southern California Uh my dad got a job at UC Riverside and that's when I met the greatest coach I've ever played for one of my biggest supporters Um and someone who's taught me so much about basketball and life in general Um Him and my dad are incredibly close and the three of us are close and we call ourselves the three man weave My dad always says this thing called like chop wood Carry Water Um It's a book He read it I honestly I need to read it I haven't read it yet But um he always told me about that like in life you need to chop wood keep keep keep hammering the ax at the wood keep you know keeping the same precision the same consistency and you're not gonna knock the whole tree down um one time but once you keep going and you keep going and you keep uh hacking at it every day Like you start to build habits and you start to sack days They always told me that it's not gonna matter Like the accolades you've done how many points you've scored

Um you know how many fans you may have Like that's not what people are gonna remember People are gonna remember the way you treated them So how you treat people and the way you made people feel and the impact you've had on people is more important than anything And I've kind of taken that perspective throughout my whole life Um And in the sport I play it's honestly it's not about necessarily the wins and losses or it's not necessarily about how many points you can score Like it's about how you made people feel My recruitment process was was honestly kind of crazy Um I uh officially got my first offer the first ever day of my sophomore year from uh Shante Leggins coach He coaches now at University of Portland who we play twice a year Honestly the biggest reason why I believe schools recruiting me was the person I am and the energy I had So how recruiting worked at my school we would practice at like 6 a.m. And so my whole thing I'm a morning person So once I get to that gym and regardless if there were coaches there or not like with the coaches when they were there what they saw was someone who had like emphatic energy at like 530 in the morning someone who was just kind of screaming his head off incredibly intense energetic just wanting to play and compete at such an early morning which uh I mean a lot of people don't do and I think that's kind of what grabbed the attention Um I also think um you know my ability to shoot the ball I think they they like that I could shoot I could pass I mean I was 65 So I was kind of a bigger guard I know a lot of schools didn't really like me because I wasn't the best vertical athlete And I'm I also wasn't the biggest like when I started high school I was 559 100 and £36 I graduated high school at like 100 and £65 So I know they weren't that interested in that Um but I think it mostly it was just kind of like the person I am and how I played and how I was able to lead and impact my teammates and compete and make sure that like there was just a relentless attitude to get better every day And I think those were kind of the conversations we had and kind of what they fell in love after that the ball kinda got rolling I kinda got more offers After that I started playing with West Coast Elite uh Under Armour Association team We started traveling Um It was kind of cool because you got to sit you got to play in front of like coach Calipari and all these big time like college coaching names that only you can dream of like coach K things of that nature And so it kinda it kinda just you know spiraled and kinda went on and then um I originally committed to Penn State University um at a high school that's where I originally committed to And um when I committed there I committed to Coach Chambers Um I think in May of my junior year May of

2020 I end up getting a call from my dad and my dad tells me that I need to go talk with my high school coach in the car and like some serious news happened So he called me because athletic director from Penn State Sandy Barber who is hired my dad at CAL So they're lifelong friends She called him and said that he's going Pat Chambers is going to like resign like he was forced force rec resignation like that So I remember being in the car being really upset and heartbroken and it's COVID right So like all these guys are now getting their fifth like another year of college eligibility So it's it's really trying to figure out like almost like holy crap Like I have a week to kind of sign and decide where I'm gonna go And so I remember calling Coach Romar um at at Pepperdine Who's awesome I love coach Romar I called him and we had a lot like a long standing relationship He's recruited me ever since my sophomore year and we I remember us talking and he was just like um that they they had a spot available and then um you know I I was very interested and I told him I wanted to go I remember when I got to Pepperdine um and I practiced all summer I didn't think I was gonna play like honestly I didn't think I was gonna play And then I ended up getting put in I was like the first guy off the bench in our first ever game And then after that I kinda didn't look back and I got to play I had to experience a lot of things a lot of guys got hurt towards later the year So my role even increased my freshman year Um and it was kind of like a whirlwind and I think like the biggest things I took in from college is it's it's a lot a lot different than any kind of basketball Like it's a lot different from high school and it's a lot different from like the NBA and professional basketball The biggest thing in college is like how solid can you be How consistent can you be and just trying to do everything right The margin for error in college is so crazy small like in order to win a game um which I think is interesting One of the biggest things I had to do in the off season was like eat some more because I came in I think I like 160 like I was playing at like 165 so I'd eat put on weight and then you know just get better at everything And for the kids out there that are watching this this could be my biggest advice to you ever It's not basically it's not about like how much skills you have Like just do the fundamentals and practice the fundamentals Like if you're gonna go into a gym one of the best shots to shoot And I think like most of the shots that are three pointers or midrange whatever the case may be are catch and shoot like make sure you work on your catch and shoot make sure you work on one pull ups make sure you work on like a mic and drill making sure your touch is good Like focus on the little things you don't need to have a million combos Like your

James Harden like that's not the most important thing Like even guys at that level have such a good foundation of fundamentals that they're able to do that So make sure your fundamentals are good and constantly work at that and then just build that over time and then make sure your energy is good Like you always wanna have good emphatic energy that those things will kind of separate you you just gotta you just gotta love it man You gotta be obsessed with it And I think that's that's kind of what separates like the better players embrace your journey and embrace who you are for one Those are important everybody's journey is different Like I was in a top you know 25 top 50 guy I was always kind of like ranked in the one fifties And I'm not saying not to pay attention to that but I'm saying like those rankings and stuff in my opinion are BS like what matters is when you come on that court what you do once you're on that court once your name once you are between those lines your name your ranking goes out the window Once you get to college all that stuff goes out the window it does not matter So just you know stack days like be the best you can be if you're trying to be a division one player and play at the division one level The biggest thing is how consistent can you be How can you separate yourself from the other 99% of kids out there What are you going to do every day that separates it So me it was like I wanted to live in the gym and I just obsessed over basketball I loved basketball You know we have this thing at Pepperdine it's called a 95 jersey and you get the 95 jersey because it's basically all the things you did to help the team win that don't involve scoring And basically his message is you can still impact the basketball game without scoring So that's what I would say you know work on your fundamentals love basketball just approach it with a good attitude and go up there and try to be the best you can