

SPORTS

The big cheese

by Paul D. Young
Collegian Staff

Following the resignation of first-year coach Joe Shapiro last month, the Penn-State Behrend's men's basketball team found itself under the tutelage of yet another first-year mentor, Chris Gilmartin.

Upon accepting the position, 22 year-old Gilmartin unwittingly became the youngest active men's head basketball coach in the NCAA.

"I did not expect it (the resignation) at all," said Gilmartin, "(but) it's a challenge that I welcome."

The immediate challenge for both the new boss and the team was the Muskingum Tournament which came only a few days after the coaching transition.

"I give credit to the players. They handled it with class-direct credit to Coach Shapiro," remarked Gilmartin.

Gilmartin, a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin believes that his age is both his biggest asset and his biggest weakness.

Though others may label him as too young and inexperienced, Gilmartin believes that his youth

allows him to be more in tune with the "modern day player."

"I am able to relate to the players and they can relate to me," explained the enthusiastic coach.

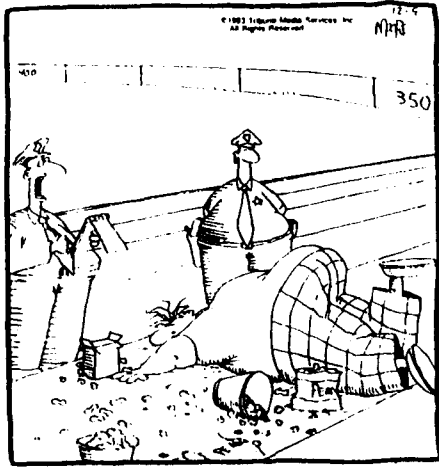
Gilmartin's resume does include a couple of affiliations with top-notch organizations, namely the University of Wisconsin and the Milwaukee Bucks, where he interned. "I've been around some great basketball minds," commented the new Lions' tutor.

To his credit, Gilmartin recognizes the need to improve his coaching knowledge. "I still have loads to learn, but there's not a better way than sitting in the seat!"

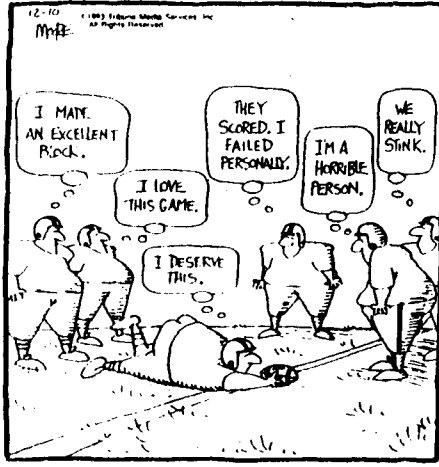
Gilmartin's immediate goal is to complete the current season as successfully as possible. As far as future plans are concerned, basketball is a career choice for the young coach.

"There is nothing I enjoy more than being around basketball," added Gilmartin.

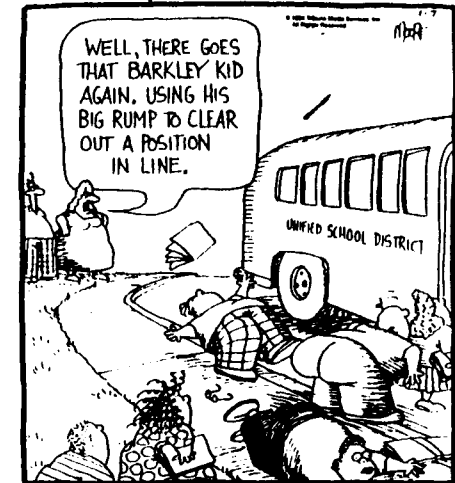
That love for the game of basketball could very well be the main ingredient for a recipe of success for the Lions' new coach.



"Well, Higgins, he's dead as a mackerel. But look at all this food: Popcorn, peanuts, Cracker Jack ... I doubt this guy cared if he ever got back."



College of Positive Self-Image 7, University of Low Self-Esteem 0.



Charles Barkley - the formative years



Inevitably - and in spite of the Dramamine - too many players became ill, forcing Coach Filbin to abandon his motion offense.

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Say it ain't so Joe

by Greg Kristen
Collegian Staff

Ring out the old year and bring in the new year. That is what the Behrend Lions' basketball program has done with its coaches.

On December 18 Joe Shapiro

met with the Athletic Department and resigned as head coach of the Penn State-Behrend Lions. Assistant Coach Chris Gilmartin has taken over and will be the interim coach for the rest of this season.

Herb Lauffer, athletic director said, "there were personal

reasons and he had reason to resign. After we talked about it, it was an irreversible thing. It wasn't something that I could make any changes in as far as his opinion and his feelings."

Since his resignation in December, Shapiro has gone back to West Virginia Wesleyan (Dec. 22) and has taken over his old job as assistant coach.

As for next season, the Behrend Lions are advertising in NCAA hoops their coaching position available for next year.

Top gun

by Ilya Belkin
Collegian Staff

This week's Athlete of the Week comes to us from the men's basketball team. Byron Thorne, a fourth year player, has been having his best season ever. Thorne, a swingman has been averaging 23.3 points and 6.5 rebounds a game so far this

season.

Even though the team is having a pretty tough season so far (off to an 3-11 start), Byron is on pace to break some college records at Behrend. Byron needs only 70 more points to become the #5 all-time scorer, and became #3 all time on Tuesday in assists with 272. With only 12 more free throws he will become #6 all-time at Behrend college.

New basketball coach Chris Gilmartin describes Byron "as someone who is very easy to coach, and is a great influence on a young team like ours."

Byron is a senior from Pittsburgh, PA where he played basketball at Vincentian High School. In fact, he has been playing basketball practically all his life.

He is an MIS major and loves to hang out with his friends in his free time. Asked what he thinks about this year's team, Byron said, "We have a group of young, talented guys. We've had a few very close losses and really have not been blown out. They are all young, but they will get better."

Byron will finish out his final season here at Behrend this year. However, that won't be before he makes himself one of the best players to have ever played here.

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