

Out of Bounds

JASON SNYDER

1998 never to be forgotten

With each passing year, it seems as though there is some special event that captures the hearts of many Americans. 1998 was just that and more, which will undoubtedly go down in history as one of (if not) the greatest year in sports.

'98 was special not only because of the achievements of its athletes and organizations, but because those events brought into the spotlight the magic of years past. With records being broken and teams vying for greatness, much attention was also focused on the great events in history that many of us never had the pleasure to see.

Just as we hear about the 1927 Yankees and the 1975 Cincinnati Reds, so will the baseball enthusiasts of future years hear about the 1998 New York Yankees. Unquestionably the most dominant team in sports this past year, the Yankees didn't leave any questions unanswered in their quest for greatness. 114 regular season wins, 125 total wins, a 4-0 World Series sweep of the San Diego Padres are deserving enough of future recognition. But when the commentators of the 21st century begin to talk about the most consistent lineup in baseball history, the '98 Yankees stand alone. From the top to the bottom, these Yanks go unmatched.

Although the NBA didn't necessarily stay in the graces of fans, it did start out that way. There will always be the memory of the greed of players that forced the 1998 NBA Lockout, but the end of the Chicago Bulls' dynasty should overshadow that as the NBA's shining moment of '98. Their six championships in eight years place them in history as one of the greatest dynasties. Sure the Celtics of the late 1950s and early '60s won eight straight and could be considered the greatest, but these Bulls' individual championship teams are without a doubt, the most consistently great.

In that championship, Michael Jordan put an exclamation point on his career. Trailing with 40 seconds remaining, Jordan scored on a lay-up, stole the ball from Karl Malone and nailed the game winner with only seconds remaining. The final shot and the entire career of Michael Jordan brings emotion to anyone that truly understands his importance to the game of basketball. He followed in the footsteps of Jerry West, Oscar Robertson, Magic and Larry, but

his shoes will never be filled. He is excellence, and that excellence couldn't possibly be matched.

In football, the year belonged to the Denver Broncos. Their Super Bowl upset of the Green Bay Packers not only gave John Elway his championship ring, but it also will be remembered as the year that the AFC broke the 14 year winning streak of the NFC. That win brought into the spotlight the 1984 Los Angeles Raiders who were the last AFC

Cup Championship.

Before I mention the obvious, there has to be recognition for golf's Mark O'Meara who won the Masters and the British Open; Jana Novotna who finally won her Wimbledon Title as well as the Detroit Red Wings who held up the Stanley Cup in a quiet year for hockey. Overshadowed in baseball, but hopefully never forgotten will be the perfect game by David Wells, 20 strikeouts by rookie

Kerry Wood, dominance by AL Cy Young winner Roger Clemens and the end of the Cal Ripken streak at 2,632. Hopefully to be forgotten will be the baseball umpire's blown calls in the playoffs and the NFL officials' bloopers throughout the season. Boxing is undoubtedly a dying sport, as not

much was heard about throughout 1998. The biggest event there was the man to blame for impairing the hearing of the boxing world as Mike Tyson was reinstated.

The story of 1998 that will never be forgotten was...? Surprise!! Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa. Number 70 for McGwire and 66 for Sosa will go down in history. But the future fans will never know the deeper significance of the "Home Run Chase of '98." To them it will just be another record to be broken, but for those of us that went along for the ride, we know the story behind the numbers. The press conferences, sold out stadiums, the story of Roger Maris and Babe Ruth, the emergence of two men that went from good ball players to good friends to role models to record breakers to home run kings. The ride will never be forgotten and the emotion might never be matched. McGwire and Sosa gave America a summer of a lifetime.

Someday the stories of '98 will become legendary. So don't forget the Home Run Chase of '98, or the '98 Yankees. Always remember Jordan's concluding heroics that helped the Bulls' dynasty culminate with a championship. The quote, "This one's for John" will be mentioned just as Harry Carey's "Holy Cow" is mentioned now. Keep '98 in your mind, because just as we heard about the past heroes, so will the future fans hear of these moments. But only we truly have the pleasure to understand what these moments were really about.

Snyder is the sports editor for the Beacon. Out of Bounds appears weekly on this page.



team to win the championship. But perhaps the most talked about team of the past was the 1972 Miami Dolphins. With the Broncos threatening the only undefeated season in NFL history, the '72 Dolphins began to be recognized. And as the Giant upset took place to move the Broncos to 13-1, the champagne glasses were up, and the Dolphins' immortality was saved. But as future teams make their bid for perfection, there will be some talk of the 1998 Denver Broncos.

College football wasn't so much recognized as having a year with a dominant team as much as a dominant player. Ricky Williams put his name in the record books as he passed Pittsburgh's Tony Dorsett for yards in his career. But the emotion of the accomplishments of Williams didn't surface until he received the Doak Walker award for the second straight year. As Walker became ill and Williams grew closer to the man behind the award, it began to have more meaning. With the death of Walker weighing on the mind of Williams, the moment on the stage as he received the award will be as memorable as the day that he received the Heisman.

The Winston Cup Series of auto racing also featured historic feats as the season started with Dale Earnhardt finally winning the elusive Daytona 500. He proved that greatness is measured in championships, but careers for racers aren't complete without a win in the Super Bowl of Racing, the Daytona 500. Just as Earnhardt began the season memorably, so did Jeff Gordon conclude the season. With a win at the final race of the season, Gordon tied "The King" Richard Petty for wins in a season. It also saw him carry home the Winston

Behrend Soccer Wrap-up

By Matt Buser
staff writer

The Behrend men's and women's soccer teams each enjoyed a great deal of success this season. Both set school records for wins in a season, the men with 13 and the women with 15, despite playing exceptionally strong schedules.

The Behrend men finished the season 13-9. For the third consecutive year, the team earned a ranking in the NCAA Division III, North East Regional Poll.

"This team had great chemistry," Assistant Coach Chuck Baranich said.

"They really were a great group of guys. I enjoyed coaching them and really just being around them."

"This season was a total team effort," Baranich continued. "The freshmen contributed and the upperclassmen played like we expected. One thing about this team, they had character, and they played hard every game from start to finish."

The team loses only two seniors, so expect them to be even more competitive next year.

The Behrend women enjoyed the finest season in the program's four years of existence. The team finished at 15-3-3, hosted and won the AMCC

Conference Tournament, and received a second straight bid to the ECAC Mid-Atlantic Region Tournament. The women did not lose a conference game for the second straight year, and received a first-ever Great Lakes Regional Ranking.

"What made this team special was that, even though we accomplished a lot last year, we wanted to do even more, and we were able to," Assistant Coach Melissa Eging said of the season. "We didn't have one specific go-to player, everyone contributed, and the players we have coming back are dedicated to improving again."

PACK THE GYM NIGHT

Saturday, January 16

Erie Hall

BEHREND vs. FROSTBURG

Women - 6:00

Men - 8:00

WIN A PIZZA PARTY
FOR YOUR FLOOR

Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week

Name: Chris Hughes
Sport: Men's Basketball
Class: Junior
Position: Center
Date: January 4 - January 11

Chris Hughes, a junior center on the men's basketball team, has been named the Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week. Hughes made strong contributions to the men's first place finish at the Behrend Classic this past weekend.

Hughes started the week joining three other Lions in double-figures as Behrend soundly defeated Thiel College. He finished the game with 12 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists and one block.

In tournament action, Hughes played consistently well in both of Behrend's wins at the Classic. He scored 11 points, including shooting 7 for 9 from the free throw line. In the championship game on December 9, Hughes scored a game high 17 points as Behrend defeated St. John Fisher, 74-61. He also pulled down seven rebounds and dished off three assists. His solid play in both games earned him a spot on the All-Tournament Team.

Entering conference play last night against Lake Erie, Hughes will be an integral part of the Lions' AMCC success.

Hughes is a transfer from Clarion University.

The Behrend Classifieds

To the editor in chief,
You are doing a
great job and keep up the
good work.

MOM

Oliver,

I want to come home.

Dele

Liz,

I need my key.

Rose

Students and employees of Penn State Behrend are invited to submit a free classified ad in *The Beacon*. Types of ads may include personal messages and items for sale. Maximum classified length is 25 words. Persons who submit ads must state their affiliation with Behrend. Classifieds are meant for individual use. Official notices and group events should be submitted to the Calendar editor. Businesses must pay regular advertising rates. *The Beacon* can not guarantee the publication of all classified submitted for space purposes. Classifieds should be sent to the Classified editor at *The Beacon*, Reed Building or dropped off at *The Beacon* offices, or sent to behrcoll4@aol.com. Deadline for submission for publication in that week's paper is Monday at 5:00PM.

INTRAMURAL ROUNDUP

Intramurals

SPRING 1999

Ping Pong Singles and Doubles

Singles - Men and Women, Doubles - Men, Women and Coed

Registration Deadline: January 9th at 4:00 p.m.

Recreation

3-Point Shootout

Registration Deadline: January 22

Event will be held on Tuesday, January 26 at 7:30

Spring semester Intramural schedules are available in the IM office and on the Reed and Erie Hall IM boards.