

Out of Bounds

Modest in his mind, a legend in ours

For years, Michael Jordan advertised the Nike phrase "Just Do It." His playing career best exemplified that. But with his retirement last week, it's time for Michael to live by a different phrase. He can no longer show people his greatness on the court. The argument of whether or not he is the greatest basketball player in history, now can only be argued through the numbers and video tapes. To fans that watched him play, they know the answer. But to those that didn't and to the future fans, there needs to be more of an argument. And what better than for M.J. himself to assure his superiority. It's time to "Just Say It, Michael!"; "I am the greatest!"

We've heard Wilt Chamberlain say it. We've heard Oscar Robertson imply it; "No one's going to ever know who's the greatest basketball player. I think I'm the greatest - look at my record." It would be interesting to hear what Jordan had to say in response to that. Hopefully someday when today's young stars begin to claim their greatness, Jordan will remind them where they came from. As Michael paid tribute to the greats before him, so will the future have to pay tribute to the man that brought so much to the game of basketball.

For people that didn't witness Jordan's greatness, it is difficult to put into words the talent that he had. Numbers alone tell of his accomplishments, but the style and competitive spirit of the man build on his legend. Just looking at his stats wouldn't give you the whole picture. In fact, one picture

wouldn't show you the ability. The only way to truly understand his greatness would have been to witness it for yourself. Every game was a highlight reel, every move was memorable, and every championship had to bring emotion to any fan that realized the importance of that trophy to that man. It could be said now, that emotion could be brought to any fan that realizes the importance of that man to that trophy.



We are a couple weeks away from a new era in the NBA. But there is no question that the league will never be the same. With Jordan gone, there is much doubt that there will ever be as much attention towards the league. Instead of modest role models, the league is being destroyed by greedy and arrogant players. The NBA can only pray for "the next Michael Jordan."

"The next Michael Jordan?!" Nothing infuriates me more than that statement. The NBA and its fans need to stop fooling themselves. You don't come across a new Michael Jordan every year, but it seems as though there is always some player given that title annually before they even step onto a professional basketball court. The league continues to make stars out of players that aren't. Fake Kobe Bryant as the most recent example. How can a man that doesn't even start for a mediocre

team be considered the next M.J.? Jordan never came off the bench, except for the 1992 Dream Team for the simple reason that Chuck Daly wanted to rotate the line-up. That Dream Team was called the greatest team ever assembled in the world, the 1997-98 L.A. Lakers weren't even the best team in the NBA's Western Conference.

So before you begin to say "the next Michael Jordan," think about what that title means. Ask yourself if that player really has the talent, creativity, all-around skills, role-model status, competitiveness, and the importance to the game as Jordan did.

The basketball youth of America have always uttered the phrase, "I want to be like Mike." Who wouldn't? To the youth, that meant playing basketball like him, but to any human being, that means to be great at something; to be at the highest level of your interest. In that case, everybody "wants to be like Mike." That phrase by Gatorade gave people a dream and a goal to be the best that they can be. The gift of giving people that hope may even be more important than the gift of playing basketball. To change the lives of millions of people like Jordan did can never be matched.

I can't put on paper his creativity or importance; but his numbers? I could share a few. When I say a few, I mean only a glimpse of his overall accomplishments. 10 scoring titles, Rookie of the Year in 1984-85, Defensive Player of the Year in 1987-88, most

JASON SNYDER

BEHREND BRIEFS

Rupp named women's assistant soccer coach

Former Penn State Behrend soccer standout Mary Ann Rupp was named as the women's soccer assistant coach this past Friday. Rupp will join head coach Dan Perritano in the Lions' quest to repeat as Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference Champions.

Rupp is a three-time team MVP for Behrend as she sparked the Lions to a 35-15-3 record in her three years of competing. She was a key part in beginning women's soccer at Behrend as she led the Lions' club team to a 6-0 record in her first year.

In her career at Behrend, Rupp also was well recognized for her individual accomplishments. She is the leader for saves in a career with 208 and also is the leader for shutouts in a season and a career. She places second for most games played in a Behrend uniform with 48.

Rupp laid the foundation for the women's soccer program at Behrend as she was instrumental in the Lady Lions' first ever AMCC championship and ECAC postseason appearance.

Good digs up national recognition

Behrend volleyball star Mary Good received national recognition for her performance on the Lions' 1998 volleyball team. Good ranked 12th in NCAA Division III for digs per game with 4.82.

Good also broke the school record for digs in a season with 545, previously held by her sister Amy Good who had 414 in 1995. Mary Good now has 741 career digs in her first two seasons as she tracks down Amy's record, 1,088 for a career.

Good was also named the 1997 Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference "Rookie of the Year" as a freshman and was named to the All-Conference Team in 1998.

Penn State Behrend Baseball Clinic

The Penn State Behrend baseball team will be holding their fourth annual Boys' Baseball Clinic on February 20, 1999. "Baseball 101: The Fundamentals" will focus on the fundamentals of baseball such as hitting, bunting, baserunning, sliding, infield and outfield, pitching, catching and the importance of being a student-athlete.

The clinic will instruct 6-11 year olds with the 6-8 year olds scheduled from 8:00-11:30 p.m. and the 9-11 year olds from 1:00-4:30 p.m. in Erie Hall.

The participants will be instructed by Behrend baseball coach Paul Benim, assistant coaches Marc Burchanowski and Matt Palisin and the 27 members of the Behrend baseball team.

Participants will receive a clinic t-shirt along with a chance for game jerseys, baseballs and items from minor and major league baseball teams.

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

STUDENT ORGANIZATION NIGHT



Lady Lions
vs.
Washington and
Jefferson



Erie Hall 6:00 p.m.

Win a Pizza Party for your organization!

The Behrend Classifieds

Bullseye!

Looking for an opportunity to own your own business without any of the typical hassles? You've hit the bullseye! We require no inventory, no delivery, no quotas and no experience. For more information, call today.
814-881-5797
814-873-0836

SPRING BREAK 99!

Cancun * Nassau * Jamaica
Travel Free and make lots of Cash!
Top reps are offered on-site staff jobs.
All-Inclusive Deals, 32 hours FREE Drinks
Special Discounts up to \$100 per person
Lowest price Guaranteed. Call now for details!
www.classtravel.com 800/838-6411

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.

Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week

Name: Erin Phillips
Sport: Women's Basketball
Class: Freshman
Position: Forward
Date: January 11 - January 18

Erin Phillips, a freshman forward, has been named the Housing and Food Service Athlete of the Week. Phillips helped lead the Behrend Lions to a 2-0 week in the first round of AMCC play.

On Wednesday, Phillips was perfect from the floor on 7 x 7 shooting in the romp over the Storm. Phillips earned 14 points and three rebounds. Saturday night, the Behrend Lions welcomed Frostburg State to Erie Hall and Phillips played big. She had a game high 17 rebounds and added 13 points, two assists and two steals.

"Erin works very hard for us," said head coach Roz Fornari. "She is constantly improving and challenges herself to be better everyday. Erin was a key factor in both our conference wins this week."

On the year, Phillips is averaging 11.3 ppg and 6.2 rpg. She also shoots a team-high 57% from the field while making 34 of 45 (76%) from the charity-stripe.

Phillips is a graduate of McDowell High School.

INTRAMURAL ROUNDUP

Intramurals

Ping Pong Singles and Doubles
Singles - Men and Women, Doubles - Men, Women, and Coed
Registration Deadline: **January 29th** at 4:00

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.

