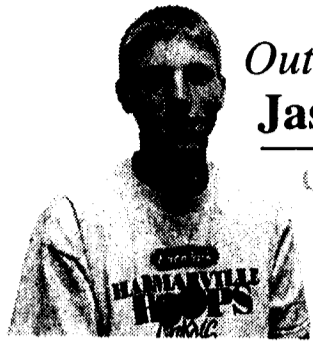


The NBA: dying young



Out of Bounds
Jason Snyder
editor-in-chief

Ten years ago, the National Basketball Association looked to be the sport that would challenge the remains of a slow paced Major League Baseball, and a highly successful National Football League. Now, the NBA is struggling to keep its television spot over professional wrestling and keep its ratings up with Walker Texas Ranger and the Brady Bunch reruns.

Maybe that's overboard, but what has really happened with the NBA? It went from rising success to rising boredom, and raw talent to raw cockiness.

There are players like Allen Iverson, Kevin Garnett, and Steve Francis who would rather prance around on the basketball court as some sort of authority figure, than play modest hard-nosed hoops that the NBA once founded itself upon.

Iverson reluctantly drags his feet on defense, but suddenly goes in overdrive once the ball gets in his hands. His body language, smeared with tattoos so elaborate and symbolic, basically tell those watching him and competing with him, "my 50% effort exceeds your 110% heart." Yeah, that's really good for the principles of modesty in basketball these

days.

The problem in pro basketball escalates when you have 19-year olds competing in a level of basketball that great names like Wilt Chamberlain, Oscar Robertson, Larry, Magic and Michael have dominated for over 50 years now. An insult? You bet. This league didn't get based on overzealous athletes ready to learn about finance through their million-dollar paycheck rather than in a college classroom. It got based on an assortment of players that pushed themselves at each level that they competed so that they could get the best learning experience possible.

Fine, tell me about Kobe and Kevin Garnett. Rub in their success and tell me that they are the ones that are evolving this league to the next level. Remind me that they skipped the college level to go pro and have succeeded in doing so. But I'll tell you that their success lacks something that makes good players great.

Michael Jordan would have never reached his level without a legend from North Carolina named Dean Smith. There's an added ingredient of knowledge that you can learn in college hoops that you can't learn elsewhere. Kobe and Kevin will never learn the importance of team. College might not be necessary for individual talent, but it means the world when it comes to individual success.

Success in the NBA never used to be a result of media coverage. Today, media coverage is a prerequisite for career success. It used to be that career success

was a prerequisite for media coverage. You didn't hear anyone calling Michael Jordan "the next Oscar Robertson" when he began his career. But right now, you always hear the term "the next Michael Jordan." Athletes are being made so big through the media that these athletes know success is inevitable.

ESPN, *The Magazine*, just published an issue that profiled a seventh grader, an eighth grader, a high school freshman, a sophomore and a junior. Dwain Williams, an eighth grader from Murrieta, California had this said about him in the magazine: "Now, he's the focus of the nation's most intriguing recruiting battle, as prep schools from New York to L.A. vie for his services." This is an eighth grader! He should be bragging about making it onto the basketball page in his yearbook, not a nationally read magazine.

We wonder why athletes are skipping college for the pros? It's because they have basically been drafted before they even reach high school. It's as if we are skipping a level. We once played elementary ball for fun, high school for preparation to the professional level. Now, eighth grade is to get recruited to a top-notch high school, and high school is to get drafted.

So now we have people that aren't old enough to drive a car past midnight, driving to the hoop in front of professional recruiters. We have elementary students with more important names than their coaches, high schoolers with a different agenda

than their coaches with college athletes being left with just the remains of the of the players that weren't made by the media.

The problem with this is that the NBA players that are skipping college are lacking one thing...discipline. If you showed up to compete in a college game in a wife-beater with your hat on backwards with more gold chains around your neck than Mr. T, chances are you would be running laps until game time. If you didn't fight through a screen or pressure the ball hard enough, you would be sitting the bench.

It's not the job of NBA coaches to preach discipline or to provide dress codes. Your values are taught at the college level. You don't hear college professors giving lav passes to students so they can use the bathroom and you don't see your professors showing you how to cover your mouth when you cough. Why? Because it's something they learned in kindergarten. Why have to teach it again at a level of education that students should have already learned before?

The NBA is going downhill. It's no longer a league that values its veterans. It's a league that celebrates athletes that would rather appear in fashion magazines for their Tommy clothing and million dollar jewelry than play modest basketball. And by "modest basketball," I mean players that don't dance around for scoring a basketball and running down the court as if no one else is there besides themselves.

Snyder's sports column appears every two weeks.

Anyone interested in writing a sports editorial next semester can send a sample editorial to behrcoll2@aol.com. It should be between 600-800 words and should deal with sports nationally or here at Behrend.

THE SCOREBOARD

Behrend Scores

Women's Soccer

The women's soccer season has concluded

Men's Soccer

AMCC Tournament at Frostburg
Oct. 4 vs. La Roche W 6-0
Oct. 5 vs. Frostburg L 1-0 (OT)

Volleyball

AMCC Tournament at Frostburg
Oct. 3 vs. Pitt-Bradford W 3-1
Oct. 4 vs. Frostburg L 3-1

Cross Country

No meets were scheduled for this week.

Men's Water Polo

U.S. Southern Championships vs. Princeton L 14-0
vs. Washington and Jefferson L 12-1
vs. Johns Hopkins L 9-2

AMCC STANDINGS

(Standings as of November 6, 2000)

WOMEN'S SOCCER

School	Conference record	Overall
Penn State Behrend	5-0	16-5
La Roche	3-2	14-6
Frostburg	3-2	11-7
Pitt-Bradford	2-3	7-12
Lake Erie	2-3	7-13
Pitt-Greensburg	0-5	0-12

MEN'S SOCCER

School	Conference record	Overall
Frostburg	5-0	15-4
La Roche	4-1	6-9-2
Penn State Behrend	3-2	10-9-1
Pitt-Greensburg	2-3	8-9-2
Lake Erie	1-4	1-12
Pitt-Bradford	0-5	4-13

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

School	Conference Record	Overall
Frostburg	12-0	33-3
Penn State Behrend	10-2	15-13
Pitt-Bradford	7-4	18-11
Penn State Altoona	6-6	13-14
Pitt-Greensburg	4-8	5-18
La Roche	2-10	3-24
Lake Erie	0-12	0-12

National Football League

Games for Week 9

Sunday, November 12, 2000

1:00 PM

Chicago at Buffalo

Cincinnati at Dallas

Seattle at Jacksonville

New Orleans at Carolina

Atlanta at Detroit

Arizona at Minnesota

Baltimore at Tennessee

New England at Cleveland

4:15 PM

Miami at San Diego

St. Louis at NY Giants

Kansas City at San Francisco

Green Bay at Tampa Bay

8:35 PM

NY Jets at Indianapolis

Monday, October 30, 2000

9:00 PM

Oakland at Denver

Open: Washington

BCS Ranking

Rank	School	BCS Rating
1.	Oklahoma	2.76
2.	Florida State	6.42
3.	Miami (Fla.)	6.81
4.	Nebraska	9.67
5.	Florida	11.18
6.	Washington	14.37
7.	Oregon	15.00
8.	Virginia Tech	17.62
9.	Oregon State	17.62
10.	Purdue	23.28
11.	Kansas State	26.28
12.	Notre Dame	27.76
13.	Ohio State	28.80
14.	Mississippi State	31.06
15.	Northwestern	32.71



FILE PHOTO
Butch Davis has his Hurricanes at number 3 in the BCS.



College Basketball

Preseason AP Men's college basketball poll

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. Arizona | 9. Tennessee | 17. UCLA | 25. Iowa St. |
| 2. Duke | 10. Seton Hall | 18. Cincinnati | |
| 3. Michigan St. | 11. Florida | 19. Wisconsin | |
| 4. Stanford | 12. Kentucky | 20. Wake Forest | |
| 5. Maryland | 13. Utah | 21. Depaul | |
| 6. North Carolina | 14. Connecticut | 22. Oklahoma | |
| 7. Kansas | 15. (tie) Arkansas | 23. USC | |
| 8. Illinois | (tie) Notre Dame | 24. Virginia | |



NASCAR WINSTON CUP

Leaders as of 10/15

1. Bobby Labonte, 4805
2. Dale Earnhardt, 4587
3. Jeff Burton, 4579
4. Dale Jarrett, 4449
5. Tony Stewart, 4336
6. Ricky Rudd 4329
7. Rusty Wallace, 4280
8. Mark Martin, 4197
9. Jeff Gordon, 4050
10. Ward Burton, 3936
11. Steve Park, 3682
12. Mike Skinner, 3649
13. Johnny Benson, 3509
14. Matt Kenseth, =3473
15. Joe Nemechek, 3337

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