

SPORTS

More than Wheaties box cover

By Chris LaFuria
sports commentary

In the vast and remarkable history of professional basketball, many players have bequeathed a legacy of superior performance. For instance, the towering hook shot of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to stun opponents proves Jabbar's marvel beyond the physical realm.

The prevailing scoring dominance of Wilt Chamberlain who once averaged 50.4 points per game an entire season will never be matched. The cutthroat rivalry of Larry Bird and Magic Johnson, the NBA's greatest two-man combat, left a lasting impression in basketball history. Each of these efforts has painted a striking and significant image on the palette known as basketball.

However, one man, just one individual human being, transcends the game of which we know. With each game, we saw this person soar, beyond imagination and, as a result, is enthroned above all other athletes. The one man who possesses the superior reign over the kingdom of basketball is Michael Jeffrey Jordan or, as his contemporaries know him, Air Jordan.

In the late 80's and early 90's, the poster on every child's wall, the jersey on every sports-lover's back, the trading card in everyone's deck and the name on the tip every basketball fan's tongue was that of Jordan. The doctor of one team's extreme makeover, Jordan piloted the Chicago Bulls to six NBA championships and was named MVP of each of them.

The list of Jordan's accomplishments is almost endless. Jordan won the NBA's Most Valuable Player five



Eastern Conference All-Star Michael Jordan dunks one-handed during the NBA All-Star game in Philadelphia on Feb. 10, 2002.

Statistics are a good way to judge the career of a basketball star, but no number or numerical value can justify the brilliance of Jordan's performances. Much of his fame is due to the intangibles that he possessed such as his determination to make the big plays and his perpetual hustle on offense and defense.

Jordan has hit a game winning shot 25 times. Only once in his career with the Bulls did he manage to score less than 10 points in a single game. He had a streak of 411 games without fouling out. All of these impressive figures have catapulted him to basketball prominence.

Beyond the game of basketball lies the true value of Jordan as an individual. After the murder of his father, James, and a short retirement, Jordan returned to the game, showing his persistence in his love for the game. The 47 times on the cover of Sports Illustrated shows his popularity among the American public.

Many people debate who will be the "next Jordan" and who will be crowned the next king of basketball. LeBron James and the pre-criminal Kobe Bryant were the candidates to take over the throne. The answer to the question of "Who will be the next Jordan is simple?" No one. Not one person can do what Jordan did for his team and for the league in which he played.

Surely there will be athletes who will challenge the numbers and statistics of Jordan, but numbers cannot measure his true value. Jordan the player, role model, spokesperson, businessman, father and hero is not only the greatest basketball player to lace up a pair of hightops, but also, even though he can't ice skate or swim, is the greatest athlete in history.

times. In his 13-year career with the Bulls, he won 10 scoring titles, 12 All-Star selections, two Slam-Dunk Titles, and nine Defensive First-Team selections. He also managed to amass a 31.5

career points per game, 37 games with more than 50 points, 11 seasons with 2,000 or more points and two gold medals with the 1984 and 1992 United States Olympic teams.

Senior Spotlight ...



Catherine Franklin
Women's Diving

Behrend Beacon: What are your plans for after graduation?

Catherine Franklin: After graduation I hope to get a job either as a television news reporter or anchor. I

am thinking about maybe being a writer for a magazine or newspaper.

BB: What is your favorite memory from your sport?

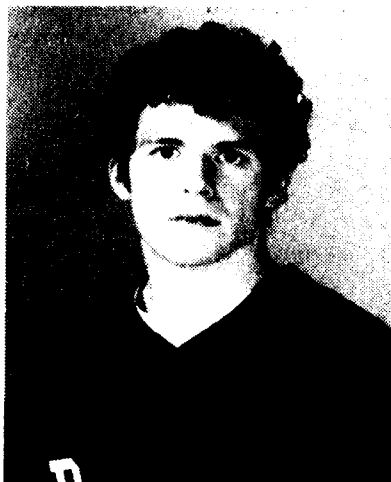
CF: My favorite memory from soccer has to be when Colleen attacked Amanda with her sandal during our trip to Ireland last summer. And also "whoop, whoop, I'm a baby penguin!" From diving it would have to be the Wooster Invitational.

BB: What will you miss most about Behrend?

CF: I'll miss the people from Behrend the most, especially my roommates Lisa and Emilia, and all of the soccer girls. I'm also going to miss May Day, power outages and Karen.

BB: What is your most embarrassing moment?

CF: My most embarrassing moment would have to be when I got car sick in the middle of Ireland, not a fun day!!



Joe Lucas
Men's Basketball

Behrend Beacon: What are your plans for after graduation?

Joe Lucas: After graduation, I would either like to get a full time job or maybe graduate school. I

am not completely sure what I want to do yet.

BB: What is your favorite memory from your sport?

JL: The NCAA tournament last year because the atmosphere and the fans were so great. Another one is the trip to Spain the summer after our freshman year the basketball team took, and also all the nights with the frosh and the hoop squad.

BB: What is your most embarrassing moment during your time at Behrend?

JL: Tell the others!

BB: What will you miss most about Behrend?

JL: All the friends I made and the whole college experience. I'll miss being part of championship basketball team.

Intramural 5 vs. 5 basketball standings

Games Through Wednesday, Jan. 19

League A

Schodt Brothers 60 Team Beam 52
Balls Deep 35 Project mayhem 33
Balls Deep 52 Team Beam 51
Cutters 49 Project Mayhem 35
Cutters 44 Outta Shape 35
Outta Shape 74 Schodt Brothers 30
Outta Shape 45 Balls Deep36
Cutters 63 Schodt Brothers 35
Team Beam 61 Project Mayhem 52

League B

Chick Magnets 41 Big Ho 39
Dream Team 54 Too Hot for TV 29

League C

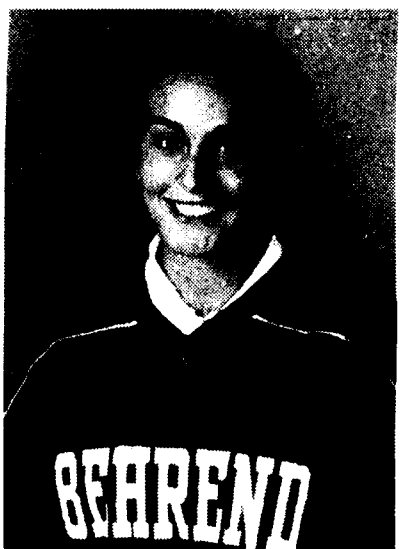
KDR 36 AK 31
KDR 32 TKE 21
KDR 28 Hicks 17
Juice 2 WBF over Chocolate
Juice 2 39 TKE 20
TOE 1 52 AK 29
TOE 1 40 Niagara 30
Sig Tau 41 Zephyrs 35
Sig Tau WBF over Chocolate
Fockin Tide 25, Meatball Sandwiches 22
Fockin Tide 41 AK 28
Meatball Sandwiches 52, Zephyrs 31
Zephyrs WBF over Chocolate
Niagara WBF over Hicks
Fockin Tide 30 Sig Tau 28
KDR 28 Niagara 27
TKE WBF over Chocolate
AK WBF over Hicks
Fockin Tide 35 TKE 28
TOE 1 54 Meatball Sandwich 28
Zephyrs 41 Juice 2 39

League D

Juice 1 WBF over Coed
TOE 2 34 Globe squatters 15
Birdmen 38 Perry 35
BAMF 29 Crimson Tide 20
Guns of Navarone 39 Meet the Fockers 28

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR PING PONG BY FRIDAY, JAN. 28

HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICES ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Nikki Pacinelli
Women's Basketball

With a running shot in the lane, junior guard Nikki Pacinelli hit a three at the buzzer to help her team take the win over Pitt-Bradford. She had 10 points and 6 rebounds in the game, which put the blue and white at 2-3 in the conference and 7-5 overall.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cheerleading prepares for annual 'Spirit Against Cancer' competition

By Brooke Dodds
staff writer

The Behrend cheerleaders are currently working on their routine for the fourth annual Becky Decker Cheerleading Competition. The event is a "Spirit Against Cancer" Dance and Cheerleading competition that will be held Feb. 12 at the Junker Center from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The event is in memory of Becky Decker, a former Behrend dance coach. All of the proceeds from the competition will be donated to the American Cancer Society. The cheerleaders will be doing an exhibition at the competition.

The girls are also working on their half time routines and have begun to work on their individual stunt team routines that they will be competing with in Cheerpowers National Cheerleading Competition which will take place at Columbus Ohio in April.

The team is trying something new where they will compete as stunt teams and not as a full squad. Each



Senior Laura Spencer during a recent basketball game.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

group consists of five girls who compete with their best stunting skills in a routine that will last one

minute to music. The competition will be judged based on difficulty, technique, sharpness, stunts, showmanship and overall presentation. At the end of the competition there will be a spirit award given by the coaches.

"Overall the squad has done a great job this year," said first year Head Coach Karen Kaluzny. "As with any team, the girls have had their ups and downs, but you just work through it the best you can. The girls have done a tremendous job and I could not ask of anymore from them and I want to wish them the best of luck at Nationals."

Kaluzny was given the head coaching position this after the squad was without one for an entire year. The team was under the advising of Athletic Director Brian Streeter with the help of senior captains.

Contact Coach Kaluzny or a cheerleading team member to find out how you can donate for the event.