

Herman Jordan sets several school basketball records

By CAL BRYANT

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On Sunday, Feb. 13, Herman Jordan reached inside his locker, grabbed jersey number 33 and pulled the famed Columbia blue and white silks over his strong shoulders for the final time.

There was even a tear or two in the eyes of the Chicago native when he heard his name introduced for the final time inside the Helms Center.

But there's no reason to cry for the Chowan College senior. Instead it should be a time of celebration, a chance to pay tribute to a young man who will leave the campus as the school's all-time leading scorer while posting a field goal percentage mark that may never be equaled.

"It's clear-cut in my opinion," said 17-year Braves head coach Bob Burke, "Herman Jordan is the best player in Chowan's history as a four-year school."

There always seems to be an interesting turn of events when it comes to record-setting players and things are no different in Jordan's case.

According to Burke, Jordan came to Chowan unannounced and was one of 45 players to participate in tryouts for a spot on the 1993-94 club.

"He created a lot of curiosity among the coaching staff," recalled Burke. "He showed some early signs that led me to believe he could play."

He made the team, but wasn't in the starting lineup of the Braves' 93-94 season opener. However, three games later, he came off the bench to provide some much-needed sparks at the Christopher Newport Invitational Tournament.

"He came off the bench in that one game and he hasn't been back there since," stressed Burke.

Jordan finished his freshman season starting in 19 of the club's 23 games where he canned 160 of 226 (71 per cent) shots from the field while adding 58 free-throws for 358 total points (16.4 ppg). He also grabbed 215 rebounds for a 9.3 per game average.

Overcoming what is known throughout the athletic world as the "sophomore jinx," Jordan followed up his freshman performance by starting in all 24 games as a soph, connecting on 65 per cent (195 of 300) of his field goal efforts en route to a 483-point season (combined with his 93 charity tosses). That averaged out to a 20.1 per game scoring clip. He added 204 rebounds that season (8.5 per game).

Problems in his personal life kept Jordan off

the hardwood during the fall semester of his junior season, but he returned following the Christmas break to play in 18 games where he averaged 17.9 points and 6.9 rebounds per game, mainly on the strength of his 132 of 192 touch from the field (68.9 per cent) and collecting 125 caroms.

"Herman could be the first 2,000 point scorer in Chowan College basketball history if he was a decent free throw shooter," chuckled Burke in reference to Jordan's career 58.2 per cent accuracy from the charity stripe.

But neither his career 1,625 points, which twice include school single-game outings of 46 points, or 68.6 per cent field goal accuracy are nothing to laugh about.

"To score 46 points in a game without taking a single three-point shot is simple amazing," observed Burke of his 6'5", 225-pound center. "He may be considered small as far as standards for a college center are concerned, but the competitive heart that beats inside is larger than life."

"My goals have been to see an improvement each and every time I walk out on the floor," admitted Jordan. "I've also strived to do the other things it takes to become a team player by working on my rebounding, assists and steals and those numbers have improved because I've followed the advice and the mental toughness coach Burke has instilled in me."

If playing the "numbers game" is a reflection of that last statement, then Jordan is indeed a team player as his career numbers in those three categories respectively read: 749, 140 and 69.

Another reflection of a total team player is the respect garnered from opposing coaches.

"I know I'll like Herman much better once he trades in that Chowan uniform for street clothes," expressed Christopher Newport University head coach C. J. Woollum. "I'd have to say he's one of the best I've ever coached against. Herman is a relentless battler who always seems to find a way to defeat the defense you've designed to stop him."

North Carolina Wesleyan skipper John Thompson agreed.

"Thank goodness we don't have to see Herman Jordan again," quipped Thompson. "I knew this kid was going to be a special player the first moment I laid eyes on him. He's got such soft hands and a deadly touch around the basket. He plays much bigger than 6-5."

"There's no telling where our program might be



Herman Jordan, wearing his famous No. 33 jersey, is shown doing what he does best... beating a defender along the baseline.

right now as a four-year school if it wasn't for Herman Jordan," noted Burke. "Our philosophy as a four-year school was simply to be competitive and Herman allowed us to do that consistently all four years he's been at Chowan."

But now the collegiate curtain is being drawn on Jordan and the burning question is... what's next?

"I've got one more year in college to finish the work toward my degree," answered Jordan. "Meanwhile, I'll continue to work on my game and hopefully land a tryout with a pro team, either here in the U. S. or overseas. If I am fortunate enough to pay pro ball, the experiences of life and athletics I learned here at Chowan will have proved very helpful in reaching that goal."

Just like he helped Chowan reach theirs.

Revolution!

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make our life happier and more fulfilled. We are doing things together as a family. He is proud of me and my talents, and verbally praises me in front of other people."

When she showed this vision statement to her husband, he scoffed and stomped out of the room. Two weeks later, she moved out, realizing that she had gotten into this situation because she was living his vision of what he wanted life to be like. Her move prompted him to make some changes, changes that enabled him to help her realize her vision statement: he joined AA, became a more involved father and husband, and found a new job. Imagination is everything. Expect and those expectations will be filled. Before Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, he first spoke to God, and thanked Him for answering his prayer: then, he said "Lazarus, Come forth." His expectation was that God would do as he asked and he thanked God before the fact, not afterward. Now that is a vision statement. You too can do that when you have a clear vision of what you want. It requires a revolution in how you see yourself and what you think you are capable of.

Remember the power of language. Verbalizing your mission statement and your vision statement can make the things you want happen in your life. The idea that language is powerful is one that is common to many so-called primitive peoples, but one which the modern world has lost. These peoples preserved the idea of the magic of language. Language is one thing that sets man apart from animals and you can communicate compli-

ated ideas with it. For most of these people, the most magical and powerful aspect of language was its ability to do damage. The ancient Irish, for example, believed that you could utterly destroy someone, you could kill him, through language. This was a society in which spoken language was extremely important because it was a culture which preserved its traditions orally. Poets had to remember hundreds of poems, thousands of lines, and be able to recite them on command—and get them right. One of the classes of Irish poet was the satirist. These were professional poets who would utter maledictions, curses, for hire. The Irish believed that these poets could destroy a person by satirizing him: saying the words would make the curse come true. Some of them were so successful at this and became so powerful that the person who was to be satirized would meet them at the gate and give the satirist whatever he wanted, as much as he wanted, rather than risk the satire.

As you see, language can be a very powerful negative force. But it can also be a powerful positive one. The Gospel of John says that "In the Beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." God spoke and order was created out of chaos; God's vision of the world was fulfilled through his speaking that vision aloud. Your vision of your world also can be fulfilled. But first you have to identify it and vocalize it.

Today we honor those who have a vision of themselves as successful students and scholars, and who are fulfilling those visions. Many more of you could be among those we honor annually, by choosing to be successful, by changing your vision of who you are and what you want, by consciously changing who you are and creating a new reality for

yourself. It is not easy: old demons die hard and resist change. You must keep the new vision in mind constantly. But if you have the courage to change your vision, you will find you are capable of being ever so much more.

A couple of years ago, Dr. Lowe presented a talk in which he argued that "It all depends on your point of view." Using David and the Israeli army as examples, he suggested that David was able to succeed against Goliath because he chose to see the giant as a challenge, not as a problem. I want to borrow that idea and suggest that "It also depends on your ability to change your point of view."

Accept my invitation to join the faculty on our mutual quest. This is an exciting time for the college and it can be an exciting time for you if you choose to make it so. Find a dream and chase it.

Join the revolution.

\$150,000 for Young scholars program

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund, an independent private foundation, recently granted Chowan College \$105,000, to be awarded over the next three summers to help fund a student science enrichment program for high school students.

Twenty rising high school sophomores will be selected each year, from 34 northeastern North Carolina counties, to attend the Young Scholars Program at Chowan College. The three-week July program will be jointly sponsored by Chowan's Department of Science and the Burroughs Fund.

Students will be exposed to guest speakers offering unique perspectives and visit industries and surrounding areas of ecological interest. Hands-on activities will be conducted at Surry Nuclear Power station in Virginia and the North Carolina Marine Museum in Manteo.

The first half of the program will consist of a hands-on approach to the graphic calculator, computers, chemistry, physics and biotechnology. The latter half will include an application of learned techniques in solving basic research problems. Research projects will be available in chemistry, biology and physics. Resulting studies will be summarized in journal style and the findings presented at a symposium.