

PHOENIX OP-ED, continued from previous page

Heroes

was from Shelby, North Carolina and attended North Carolina State University, played first for the Denver Nuggets, then the Seattle Super-sonics. A hero to many, he became addicted to cocaine to the point where he voluntarily left professional basketball

because nobody wanted him on their team.

Most tragic of all was Len Bias, black basketball star at the University of Maryland. He had just signed with the Boston Celtics. Before he could play his first game, he died of a cocaine-induced heart attack.

We get so caught up in the need to win at all costs and to idolize and

identify with a winner that we often lose sight of the real goal, pursuing the dream. As many a hero and hero-worshiper have found out, few people remain on that pedestal forever. The money, the glory, and the fame count for nothing if the enduring qualities of human kindness, honesty, integrity, and self-pride are not there.



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- He will provide new leadership to the community.
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Sept. 26, 1989

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