

## SPORTS FORUM

U of Iowa dean:  
Many athletes  
gain success

By N. WILLIAM HINES

While applauding Chuck Hartlieb's well-rounded collegiate achievements as he was named 1989 recipient of the Robert F. Ray Award at the University of Iowa, I began thinking how unfair the adverse national publicity surrounding the Chicago trial of **Norby Walters** and **Lloyd Bloom** was to University of Iowa student-athletes.

The suggestion in the coverage of the trial that the lackluster academic performance of **Ronnie Harmon** and **Devon Mitchell** is in any way typical of varsity student-athletes at Iowa would be ludicrous, if it were not for the fact that it appears many **Iowans** and others uncritically accept whatever twist the media choose to put on such a "bad news" story.

Chuck Hartlieb is a wonderful counter example, but he is by no means an isolated one.

## GUEST OPINION

In my many years on the faculty of the U of I College of Law, I have had the pleasure of teaching a large number of former varsity athletes who have enjoyed notable success, first in law school and later in the legal profession. The long list of former Iowa football stars associated with the Iowa Law School certainly would be headed by such legendary heroes as Duke Slater and Nile Kinnick.

But the strong case for the academic prowess of law students who also earned fame on the football field does not rest on ancient history. Currently in the Law College, we have three young men whom I would match in academic accomplishments against students in any graduate or professional school.

## Two Iowa-Grown Examples

Graduating next month at the top of his law school class is Bruce Kittle from Cedar Falls, who was a starting offensive tackle on Hayden Fry's first bowl teams and later a graduate assistant coach of the Hawkeyes. In recognition of his outstanding law school record, Kittle has been selected to serve as a law clerk next year to Judge Donald P. Lay, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

A standout member of the second-year law class is Kyle Crowe from Ankeny, formerly a starting safety on the Hawkeye football team. Crowe recently was named editor-in-chief of the Iowa Law Review. This is one of the most prestigious honors in the Law College as it signifies more than academic achievement, it demands excellence in writing and demonstrated leadership.

But wait, you may say, Kittle and Crowe are native Iowans who enjoyed the benefits of the state's strong primary and secondary schools. What of black players like **Harmon** and **Mitchell**, who came less-advantaged backgrounds where educational values are not emphasized as in Iowa?

## A 'Less-Advantaged' Example

My third example is second-year student Ajili Hodari, whose law school success is documented by his recent selection for membership in the Iowa Law Review and election last month by fellow classmates as president of the Iowa Student Bar Association. Hodari played football at Michigan State in the early 1970s under the name of Wilt Martin, where he earned all-conference recognition as a defensive end and was selected for the East-West All Star game.

After graduating from college, Hodari began researching his African tribal roots and legally adopted his ancestral name for his own family — consisting of his wife and five children, ages five through 13. After earning a master's degree in business at age 38, Hodari quit a promising business career to start law school at Iowa. Here he quickly won the unqualified admiration of his classmates and faculty for his spirited classroom work and his extraordinary contributions to the professional life of the college.

I have no doubt that all three of these fine young men will make their special marks in the legal profession.

Next time you hear a tasteless joke about college football players and academics, I hope the achievements of these three outstanding law school students will come to mind. To generalize from the misadventures of a few athletes, who have failed to make the most of their academic opportunities, does a serious injustice to the many student athletes — like Hartlieb, Kittle, Crowe and Hodari — who achieve excellence both on the playing field and in the classroom.

N. William Hines is dean of the College of Law at the University of Iowa.

## Kareem: 20 years of thrills

The big issues  
of his life are  
still on his mind

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LOS ANGELES, CALIF. — Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is one of the best-read men in sports. Throughout his career, his mind and his life have been as occupied with issues as with basketball.

He's spent more than 20 years in quiet conflict with the powers that be — his 1968 boycott of the Olympics, his 1971 conversion to Islam, his almost paranoid insistence on personal privacy.

In recent weeks, as his fans said farewell and as he learned the depth of respect they hold for him, he has mellowed noticeably — even showing deep emotion at the celebration held for him after his last regular season home game in Los Angeles.

Recent interviews indicate he still has much on his mind and that society has not heard the last of him. Among the issues concerning him:

## EDUCATION

"Of all the things I've noticed about why underprivileged people remain underprivileged, it has so much to do with lack of education. Literacy is the key. Education has been the key for most minorities in depressed circumstances.

"But American blacks don't seem to believe in that — and it's because even after so many of us have become qualified with education, we still are denied access because of our race. But now that situation is changing — slowly — and I'd like to help the change."

## RACISM

Asked if he feels racism continues to exist, Abdul-Jabbar laughed sarcastically, but explained: "Legally, we have the means to fight it now. That's key. But most definitely it's still there. I don't think people are as complacent about it now. They do seem to understand that it is illegal and immoral and wrong. Even if they don't believe it, racists do seem to know they would encounter some people who would fight their point of view."

## ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY

"Islam is a very personal thing. I never did it to be political. I did it because I couldn't reconcile myself to the Christian ideology anymore. I didn't do it to tweak society's nose, either. It was a reaction to what I found out about the Catholics and Christians, their involvement in the slave trade, their destruction of cultures and suppression of people throughout the world. Those were the things that moved me to become a Moslem.

"Islamic morality is based on the Judeo-Christian mold. Those are our fundamental beliefs also, there's a lot more in common between what Islam is about and what the Jews and Christians practice than is evident. All the problems have to do with political situations."

## WOMEN

Although known to have exotic taste in women, Abdul-Jabbar insists he's no ladies' man. In fact, he says there are times when he can't even get a date.

"Of course, it's always tough to get dates with the person you really want to get a date with," he said. "Everybody has that problem. I get turned down all the time — just recently, as a matter of fact. A lot of women are intimidated by me. Sure, they find me fascinating, and that's a plus, but my size and the whole exotic thing about me are a minus. Sometimes I can work it to my advantage, but the fact that I've had this career really has taken up most of my time.

"Everybody has their preferences — and I know I have mine — but I find I don't spend a whole lot of time chasing skirts."

## MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Abdul-Jabbar said that after one failed marriage and a second relationship that ended unhappily, he has no plans to get remarried.

"It's a formidable thing. Let's just say as a mature adult I recognize how difficult that situation is. As much as I'd like to share my life with another person, I recognize how hard it is. What do they say? Caveat emptor."

But he remains a doting father to his four children — daughters Sultana and Habiba and sons Kareem and Amir — and has tried to instill in them a sense of right and wrong.

"I try to make them understand that the world, such as it is, is something they will have to contend with," he said. "It's their battle. It's my generation's too, but we haven't done a very good job obviously. They'll have to take over for us."

## THE WORLD'S FUTURE

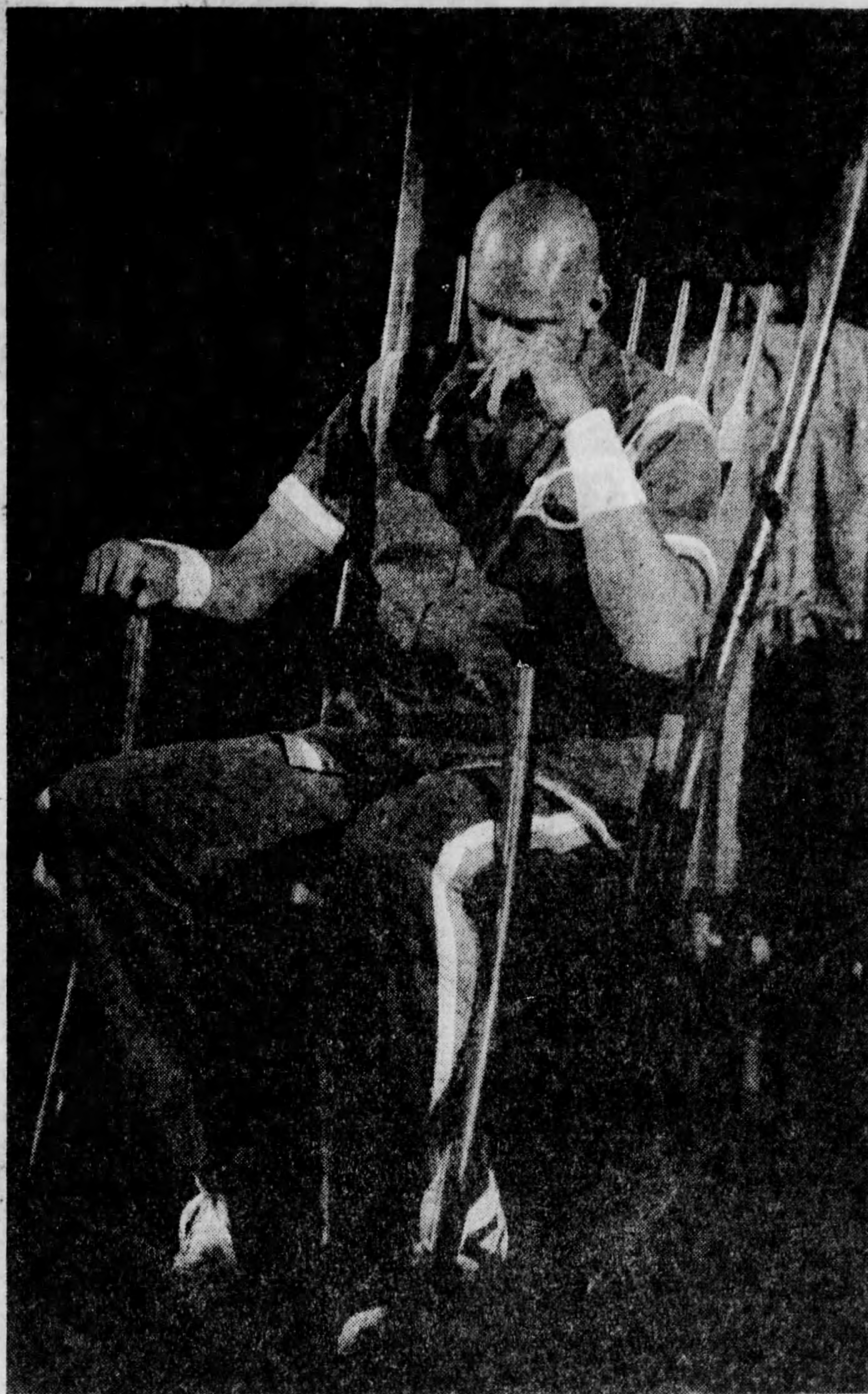
"I despair a lot for this world. Every now and then there's a ray of hope, like the recent events in the Soviet Union, where they have come away from their imperial aims and are talking sense and peace. That's a great thing to see. I never thought I'd see that. The whole thing about turning away from nuclear proliferation, I hope that continues. Those are the rays of hope.

"But you see the bad things with the environment, it's just going down the drain, and that's depressing. Ethically, morally, I don't know that it's not too late for this world."

## HIS FUTURE

So what's a 7-foot 2-inch man to do when his height is no longer required to make a living? Well, Kareem intends to pursue a new career in film. He doesn't expect the same sensational success in his second career, be it acting, producing or broadcasting. But associates predict he will find a way to influence the entertainment field, too.

He especially wants to explore acting, to venture beyond the bit comedy parts he has played. And he plans to shoot a video — an exercise video for men over 40.



Kareem Abdul-Jabbar wipes a tear during ceremonies at his final regular season home game.

You love him or hate him —  
and the love's often qualified

By JANE BURNS

What a joke, said the TV crew member who was packing up for a night of work that would include yet another tribute to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. What a waste of time, she said. He doesn't deserve this.

Dr. J deserved all the tributes, she said. What a nice guy. Kareem? He should have just quietly retired like he originally planned. I was appalled by this arcane view. Partly because I had spent \$250 to fly off to see the Kareem ceremony and partly because these opposite opinions were coming from my own sister. I couldn't figure out why she was so vehement in her disapproval of the tour, particularly of Kareem himself.

This was the guy we grew up watching on TV. This was the guy who led the Milwaukee Bucks to the NBA championship. Maybe somewhere along the line Mom told us never to trust a bald man with goggles and I didn't listen.

## Love Him or Hate Him

It wasn't the kind of argument most sisters have, but it did kind of sum up the career of Kareem. You love him or you hate him, but you don't ever deny what he has done on the basketball court.

But even those who begrudgingly admit Abdul-Jabbar's basketball prowess still have to put it in a context such as "Wilt was more intimidating," "He was nothing without Oscar or Magic," "O.J. Simpson is a better actor," or "Dr. J is a nicer guy."

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar kept to himself. He whined about Milwaukee, he punched out Kent Benson and consistently complained of a lack of respect. He didn't want the trappings of a professional athlete's life but he did make a nice little pittance for his work on the basketball court.

Professional athletes do have a responsibility to their public, what they do has every right to be scrutinized and critiqued. It's part of the job definition; it's no big secret that it comes with the territory. If you want privacy and solitude, open a ski shop in El Paso, Texas. Just don't become a professional athlete and say "Leave me alone."

That's what Kareem did, although he mellowed in recent years. And while million-dollar athletes shouldn't get so whiny when people are curious about them, there are times when the performance, the career stands on its own merits.

Kareem's did. Why not honor the NBA's all-time leading scorer, a guy who was MVP six times, who led his teams to six NBA championships and has the ability to (sort of) run up and down the court with guys half his age?

## Some Strange Gifts

That said, the "Kareem — what a guy" tour began to rank right up there with "Where's the beef?" in the overkill department. At first I felt sorry for his teammates. Then I began to feel sorry for Kareem. What is he going to do with this stuff?

He got three compact disc players. Then again, maybe he has three homes.

He got a wheelbarrow full of jazz compact discs and the entire catalog of Warner Brothers jazz compact discs. This man can't afford his own records?

He got a Harley Davidson motorcycle. I look forward to hearing about Kareem blaz-

ing down the Santa Monica Freeway hollering "Eat my dust."

From Utah, he got a rattlesnake belt with "Kareem" stitched on it, some cowboy boots and a cowboy hat. Fortunately he also got a vintage 1888 shotgun, so he can shoot anyone who laughs at him in the outfit.

He got two different sets of conga drums. Yeah, I heard that jamming with Sheila E. was one of his post-retirement goals.

And from the L.A. Clippers, he got a personalized surfboard. Hang ten, dude.

So the big guy's going to stroll off into the sunset as soon as the Lakers are out of the playoffs. He says he may go off to a deserted island and leave the questions for the ages.

Questions like was Wilt was more intimidating? Without Oscar or Magic, would Kareem have been another Ernie Banks? Or the question of who was nicer, Kareem or Dr. J?

But in the grand scheme of things Kareem's a young man, with time for another career, time to put another argument to rest. There's still a chance to be a better actor than O.J. Simpson, or maybe even Alex Karras.

Jane Burns is The Register's first-assistant sports editor.

Kareem means 'generous'  
and Jabbar means 'powerful'

By DOUG CRESS

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LOS ANGELES, CALIF. — A few things you probably didn't know about Kareem Abdul-Jabbar:

**NAME DEFINITION:** Kareem ("generous"), Abdul ("servant for Allah"), Jabbar ("powerful").

**BOYHOOD IDOL:** Jackie Robinson.

**FAVORITE BOOK:** "That's tough, but I like 'Smiley's People,' 'Shogun' and 'A Tale of Two Cities.'"

**PERSON MOST ADMIRED:** Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam (AD 570-632).

**NICEST MOSQUE EVER VISITED:** Suleymaniye Cami in Istanbul, Turkey.

**FAVORITE RECORD:** "I have too many favorites, but here are three: Thelonus Monk's 'Town Hall Concert,' John Coltrane's 'Giant Steps,' Miles Davis' 'ESP.'"

**SHOE SIZE:** 17.

**VACATION HOME:** Kauai, Hawaii.

**FAVORITE MOVIE:** "The Maltese Falcon," or sometimes I'll throw on 'The Big Sleep.' I have them both on video."

**FAVORITE FOOD:** Thai food.

**FAVORITE RESTAURANT:** "Keo's (Thai) Restaurant in Honolulu, Hawaii. I've been there many times."

**FAVORITE NBA ARENA:** "I like some of the newer places like Auburn Hills (Detroit) and the Bradley Center (Milwaukee), places with good lighting and good floors. I also like the Boston Garden, if only because it reminds me of the old Madison Square Garden. I feel at home there. I think they were designed by the same people."

**WORST NBA ARENA:** "The worst place I've ever played was in downtown Cleveland (at the Cleveland Arena) in the Cavaliers'

10 memories top  
his all-time list  
of great moments

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LOS ANGELES, CALIF. — Kareem Abdul-Jabbar has played in the NBA for 20 years. Twenty years! And in those years he has given the sports world enough great moments to last a lifetime.

The record books show, after his final regular season game this year and before going into his last NBA playoff, that Kareem's 38,387 career points are an all-time high. So are his 1,560 games, his 57,362 minutes, his 15,837 field goals, his 3,189 blocked shots, and his six MVP awards.

Here are his choices for the 10 major moments in his career:

**WINNING THE NBA TITLE IN 1985:** That was achieved when the Lakers beat Boston in six games (4-2) in the NBA Finals. The Lakers had been humiliated in Game 1. But Abdul-Jabbar dominated the final five games and silenced critics who were calling him ancient and worthless. It was also in this series that he emerged as a great on-court team leader.

**WINNING THE NCAA TITLE IN 1968:** That was accomplished when UCLA defeated North Carolina, 78-55. In those days, he played under his birth name, Lew Alcindor.

**SETTING NBA ALL-TIME RECORDS FOR SCORING AND GAMES PLAYED:** Abdul-Jabbar treasures these more for their statement on his productivity than for the particular moment they were achieved. He broke the scoring record, held by Wilt Chamberlain, with his classic sky hook shot on April 5, 1984, against Utah in Las Vegas.

**THE 1971 NBA TITLE:** With the Milwaukee Bucks, this was his first pro championship and came in a sweep of the Baltimore Bullets. It marked a successful transition from college to pro ball, and demonstrated to him the remarkable demands of the NBA lifestyle.

**WINNING TWO MVP TROPHIES IN 1971:** Abdul-Jabbar won his first of six regular-season MVP awards and the first of two playoff MVP trophies. Highly aware of the expectations heaped upon him in Milwaukee, the awards were tangible proof of his worth. Regardless of what others thought and wrote, he said he was personally satisfied with his play early on.

**BEATING BOSTON IN GAME 6 OF THE 1974 PLAYOFFS:** Milwaukee's triumph came at Boston in double-overtime. Said Abdul-Jabbar: "That was a great game, tight all the way. We were down one with seven seconds left. ... I felt as if everything was moving in slow motion and all power was mine." Taking the inbound pass, he dribbled to the baseline and lofted a hook shot to win it. Boston won the title in Game 7.

**WINNING THE 1980 NBA TITLE:** It was his first in nine years and a welcome shot of success at age 33. Playing for high-caliber Los Angeles teams aided his battle against the "monotony and stress that destroy a player's desire past 30." His most triumphant moment of the series came in Game 5, when he twisted his ankle badly but had it taped and went back on the court to lead the Lakers' victory. The injury, one of the few in his career, forced him to miss the final game in Philadelphia.

**WINNING SIX MVP AWARDS:** His six (1971-72-74-76-77-79) in the NBA is unprecedented. To him, it is another strong reflection on his dominance and durability.

**BEING NAMED 1985 SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR:** The award, given by Sports Illustrated, culminated his finest year as a team leader, and recognized the efforts he had made since 1980 to reveal the person within the 7-2 NBA center.

**WINNING BACK-TO-BACK TITLES:** The Lakers accomplished this with NBA titles in 1987 and '88. Abdul-Jabbar said: "That was special. That was more a thing for the whole organization. As a team, we all got involved in it. No one individual did it all by himself. ... Those kinds of things mean more to me than the individual honors."

first few years. The lighting stunk, the floor was bad, and if you were in the shower and someone flushed the toilet, you got scalded."

**FAVORITE ACTOR:** Robert DeNiro.

**FAVORITE ACTRESS:** Meryl Streep.

**FAVORITE HEAD-SHAVING IMPLEMENTS:** Twin-blade razors and Nair.

**DIVERSIONS:** Yoga, windsurfing.

**FAVORITE AIRLINES:** "It all depends, but two stick out. Philippine Airlines had like a dorm in it with a bed. You could knock out four hours of sleep right there. The other is Singapore Airlines; no dorm, but it had about four feet of leg room and the seat folded out flat. The worst is Lufthansa."

**FAVORITE CARTOON:** "The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show."

**FAVORITE CITY:** Paris.

**DREAM AUTOMOBILE:** Porsche 356.

**FAVORITE JUNK FOOD:** Although he refuses to admit to a weakness for airport chili dogs — "They're turkey dogs" — Abdul-Jabbar does have one vice: "I eat a lot of nachos."

**TOUGHEST DEFENDER:** Nate Thurmond (Philadelphia Warriors, Chicago Bulls, Golden State Warriors, 1963-77).

**DREAM DATE:** Sophia Loren.

**PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO CONVERSE WITH:** Imhotep (Egyptian architect who designed Egyptian Pyramids in 2800 BC and was later deified as the God of Medicine.)

**FAVORITE CHARITIES:** RIF (Reading Is Fundamental) and the Retinitis Pigmentosa Foundation.

**MOVIE CREDITS:** "Game of Death" (with Bruce Lee), "Airplane" (with Peter Graves et al.), "Fletch" (with Chevy Chase), "Troop Beverly Hills" (with Shelley Long).

## LETTERS

My wife, Maritia, and I have attended the Drake Relays for several years. In April 1988, while attending the Relays, we produced a son. We felt it was only fitting we name our son Drake.

We're proud parents who wanted to share this intimate moment with the people of the Des Moines area, and with Drake Relay fans to tell them how important the Relays have been to our family. Drake will be attending his first Drake Relays this year. — Ronn Griffith, proud papa, 1839 13th St., Des Moines.

As the day approached for Robbie Knievel's motorcycle jump at Caesar's Palace, father Evel lamented, "It's a much tougher thing on me. Anyone who is a father knows what I'm going through."

I know what you mean. You try to set a positive example for your son, and look what happens — he risks his life on some lame-brained stunt.

Unfortunately, someone will end up getting killed before this Evel foolishness stops. — Mark Gries, 520 Ontario, Storm Lake.