

Dixon's respected on and off the court

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by Bob Reczek

Joe Dixon doesn't mind wearing two hats. As a student or as an athlete, Dixon is able to earn the same results — respect. Down in Greencastle, Ind., Dixon the athlete stands out a little more. After all, he was recently touted DePauw University's most valuable basketball player. But Dixon the student won't let his competitive success overshadow his academic abilities.

The former Munster High School product, who still owns the field-goal percentage standard at 84 percent, really made his senior year count at DePauw. He led the Tigers in scoring (13.6) and rebounding (6.1) this year, as DePauw enjoyed its best year ever (18-7) under second-year coach Mike Steele.

"It's not something that came natural for me," Dixon told the Sun Journal yesterday. "It was an honor that was unexpected. It was probably one of the best years I had in college.

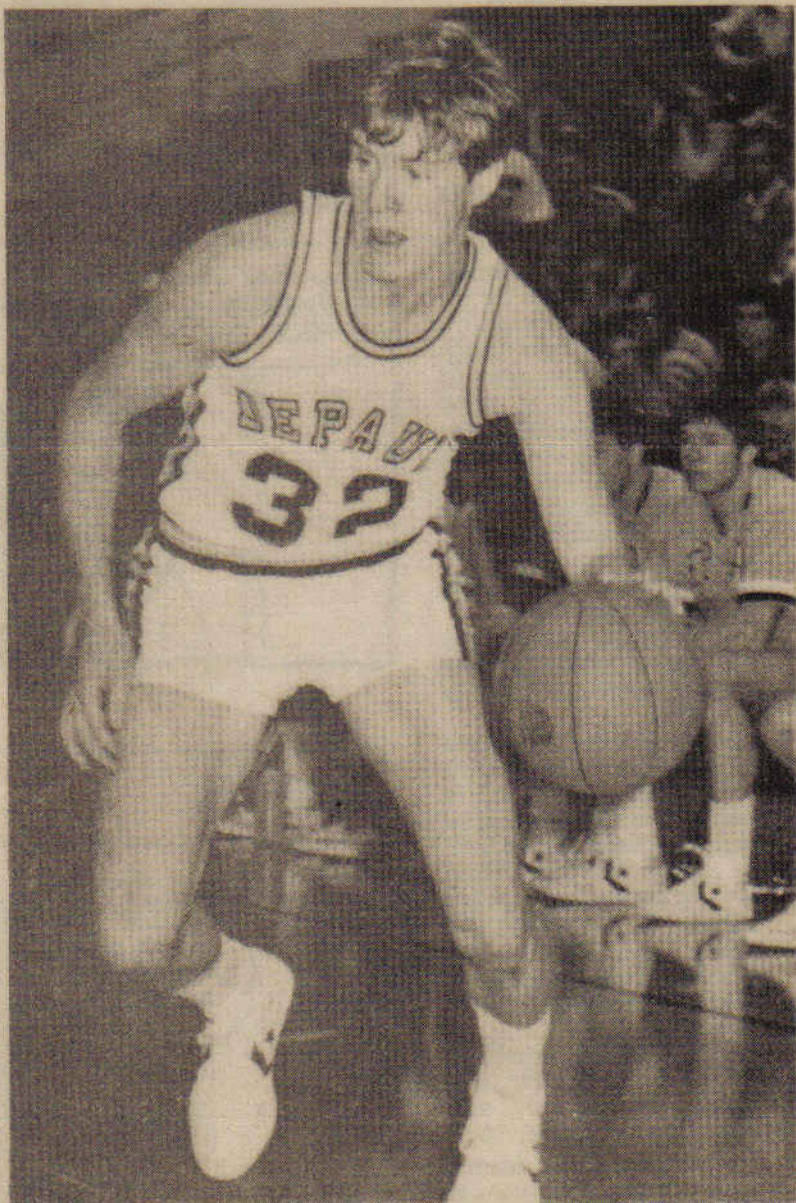
"The one thing that made it more rewarding was being able to maintain a good grade point average at DePauw." And that the economics major did, gaining a 3.5 GPA in the process. Earlier in the year, Dixon was honored for his achievements inside the classroom. He was named to the College Sports Information Directors District Four All-Academic Basketball Team, Second Unit.

Steele had nothing but praise and respect for his graduating senior.

"He's really a hard-working kid. You really can't say enough things about Joe," said Steele. "When he's a senior and he's a starter and works harder than anybody else, he makes everyone else work hard. He's just the epitome of what you'd want your kid to be."

For Steele, finding players with Dixon's dimensions will be easy to do. It's finding someone with Dixon's leadership and determination that'll give the young coach a challenge.

"It's not hard to replace a 6-3 forward," Steele explained. "They come a dime a dozen. It's hard to



Most valuable

Former Munster student Joe Dixon turned out to be DePauw University's ace in the hole. The 6-5 senior forward was chosen this year's most valuable player by Tiger coach Mike Steele. Dixon led DePauw in scoring (13.6) and rebounding (6.1). He was also named to the College Sports Information Directors District Four All-Academic Basketball Team, Second Unit. Dixon is an economics major.

replace a kid that has the heart and desire that Joe has."

During the season, Dixon was mainly a force on defense. His assignment was simple — stop the other team's best player. And

despite his 6-3 height, Dixon did the job, over and over again.

In addition to his other accomplishments, Dixon was chosen as one of the Tigers' captains for the 1982-83 campaign.