

# MMC

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said. "If you combined my stats (MMC and DMACC), I had 58 home runs, over 200 RBI. That would have been awesome.

"I have nothing but great things to say about Mount Marty. It was one of the best decisions I've ever made."

The summer after his senior year, Jensen played for the Huron Heaters, a team in the now-defunct North Central League, batting .284 at the plate and going 3-5 with a 2.45 ERA in 80 2/3 innings on the mound.

"I thought that I was going to be drafted, but going to Huron was an opportunity to continue to play and get paid for it," Jensen said. "The manager there (Glenn Gulliver) had played with the Orioles in their World Series year (1983), right next to Cal Ripken. I learned a lot from him."

Over the winter, he signed with the Sioux Falls Canaries of the Northern League, but life got in the way.

"I signed a contract on Jan. 31, 1995, with the idea that when (wife) Teresa and I talked about it, we'd said we would give each other three years to pursue our dreams," Jensen said. "My father-in-law suggested I interview for a job with the insurance company he worked for, just to introduce myself and get a foot in the door for when I was done playing."

That interview turned into a job offer, making that \$1,200-a-month salary offer from the Canaries seem much less appealing.

"I decided that maybe it was time to come to the realization that there might have been a reason I wasn't drafted. There aren't a lot of pitchers that are 5-9, 5-10, in Major League Baseball," Jensen said. "I decided I would rather give up the game than have the game give up on me. I would have loved to have seen if I could have made it, but I have no regrets."

Jensen and the former Teresa Ellis, a standout volleyball player for MMC during the same years he was a Lancer, have been married 17 years and have three children, ages 14, 12 and 9. Both older children are girls, and Jensen has enjoyed coaching their softball teams. They also play volleyball, like their mother.

"I enjoy coaching softball," he noted. "It keeps me in the game."

However brief, Jensen's time at MMC left a mark on the Lancer program that won't soon be erased.

"He was the total package," Tereshinski said. "He added to that momentum of Mount Marty baseball. He helped put us into another level."

## MICHELLE PFEIFFER

The career of this Madison, Neb., native turned on a suggestion by a head coach who didn't recruit her and was only at Mount Marty for one year.

Michelle Pfeiffer came into the MMC track and field program after being recruited by then-head coach and current Wayne State coach Marlon Brink.

"I liked that it was a smaller school, a Catholic school," she said. "My high school track coach was the one who sold me on (MMC) because his old track coach was Coach Brink's dad."

Larry Buffington, now a physical education teacher and coach at Gayville-Volin High School, saw the tall, athletic Pfeiffer and felt she could be more than just a jumper and a sprinter. Part of that came from his days at Dakota Wesleyan and coaching against the great Rollie Greeno (Jamestown College).

"My desire and passion for the multi-events came from coaching against Rollie Greeno," Buffington said. "I saw how long she was and how well she jumped and felt she would be a great multi-eventer."

The pentathlon consists of five events: 100-meter high hurdles, long jump, shot put, high jump and an 800 meter run. Outdoors, women compete in the heptathlon, which adds a 200-meter run and the javelin throw and spreads the events out over two days.

While Pfeiffer had competed in some of those events, her slender frame made some questions Buffington's idea.

"A lot of people thought I was nuts. They said, 'You know she'd have to throw the shot put, right,'" he said. "But I told them that, if she can throw herself 18 feet in the long jump, she can throw a shot put over 30 (feet). And, while I was there, she threw it over 34."

Pfeiffer also found success in several individual events early, provisionally qualifying for nationals in the 100 hurdles the first time she competed in that event, and earning NAIA All-American status in the long jump her sophomore year.

After not competing in multi-events as a sophomore under a different coach, Pfeiffer came back to that event as a junior under coach Jim Miner and found her greatest success. She set school records in both the pentathlon (3,389 points) and heptathlon (4,598 points) and was a national runner-up in the heptathlon.

"She developed into a fantastic competitor," Miner said. "She ended up being one of the best I'd ever coached."

Even though an injury slowed her down her senior year, she still improved her heptathlon (4,685 points) record and finished sixth at nationals.

"I really had higher goals my senior year," Pfeiffer said. "The hurdles were just a horrible race for me that day, but I ended up pulling out sixth."

Pfeiffer finished her career with four All-American honors, four All-America Scholar Athlete honors and 19 school records, 13 of which she still holds. She earned all-Great Plains Athletic Conference honors in 14 events, and was GPAC Female Athlete of the Year for both indoor and outdoor seasons.

"I saw a lot of records coming in, some marks that I had reached in high school," Pfeiffer said. "But I had no idea that I would be able to reach some of the random ones. I never hurdled in high school. I hadn't high jumped since eighth grade."

After graduating, Pfeiffer stayed at Mount Marty as a part-time admissions rep and track coach.

"I think she could be a great college track coach if that's where she decided to go," Miner said. "She could coach jumps, sprints, even distance."

She also continued to compete, winning the 800-meter run in the heptathlon at the 2005 Drake Relays.

"I continued to train for two years after graduation, because I had the desire to do more."

Pfeiffer hung up her spikes after the 2006 season to focus on her new job in the admissions department at Concordia University in Seward, Neb. She is now the assistant director of undergraduate recruitment for the university, and credits her time at Mount Marty for sending her

on that career path.

"If I wouldn't have gone to Mount Marty, I wouldn't have even known (working as an admissions counselor) was an option," she said. "Mount Marty, being a small school, helps students come into their own as a person and as a professional."

## CHRIS ORR

Chris Orr came to Mount Marty with very little defensive experience. By the time she left, her defensive skills had caught up to her significant offensive talents.

Orr graduated in the top five on the Lancer women's basketball charts in points, rebounds, assists and steals, and remains the only woman listed in the top 10 in all four of those categories.

Growing up in Cherokee, Iowa, Orr had played 6-on-6 basketball, which has three offensive and three defensive players on the floor per team. Players

did not cross half-court, so they either played just offense or just defense.

"I was an offensive player for most of my career," she said. "I only played 5-on-5 one year in high school."

Orr spent her senior year at Scotus High School in Columbus, Neb., where she caught the attention of Lancer coach Kevin Lein, a MMC Hall of Famer.

"Chris had such an upside from an athletic standpoint, her size and skill at a wing were the biggest basketball selling points, but more than that — Chris is an outstanding person from a great family and incredibly intelligent," Lein said. "She was such an analyst of the game, very self-critical and always looking to improve."

Though she had several schools looking at her, Orr felt she fit right in with the Lancers.

"When I came and scrimmaged with the players and I toured the campus, I liked what I saw," she said. "I liked the small campus, and I was impressed with

their chemistry and biology programs."

Orr started as a freshman on a team that included another Lancer Hall of Famer, Jane (Fraser) Bies.

"Lein was an amazing recruiter," she said. "We had a lot of good young players: Jane Fraser, Libby Szlanda, Peggy Freeman... I thought I fit in well from the get-go."

Part of what helped Orr fit in on the floor was her instincts on the court.

"I don't believe I ever saw her, in high school or during the time I was her coach, take a bad shot," Lein said. "She paired terrific instincts with supreme smarts and selfishness to make her team and her teammates better at every practice and in every game."

Current MMC athletic director Chuck Iverson took over the Lancer women's basketball program in Orr's senior year, inheriting a polished and extremely intelligent player.

"When I took over the (coaching) job, I had never coached women's basket-

ball before," he said. "When I saw Chris, my thought was, 'This girl can play like a guy.'"

Orr also helped bring stability to a program that, at the time, was on its third coach in three years. Patricia Mickow had served as the team coach in 1990-91.

"She had three different coaches, which is not an easy situation," Iverson said. "She was a very positive, steady-influence, a great leader."

Orr helped lead the Lancers to four Southeast Sub-District titles and two IOKOTA Conference titles, twice earning all-conference honors. Besides the four main categories, she also still ranks in the top 10 in field goal percentage, free throw percentage, three-pointers made and games played.

But Iverson felt her impact was more than on a box score.

"A lot of the things she did for the team didn't show up in the stats," he said. "She probably could have taught

me and, in a lot of ways, she probably did.

"I wish I would have had her (as a player) for four years. I was fortunate to have her for one."

Orr also maintained a 4.0 grade-point average and, under today's criteria, would have easily been a two-time All-America Scholar Athlete. That designation was chosen by a committee in the early 1990s, and she was overlooked.

"She was the ultimate academic All-American," Iverson said. "She was an outstanding basketball player with a 4.0."

Orr continued her education after Mount Marty, attending the University of South Dakota School of Medicine, and is now a doctor at the Vancouver Clinic in Vancouver, Wash. She and her husband, Nicholas Clarke, M.D., and their daughter Alexa live in Portland, Ore.

"I got a great education at Mount Marty, and that definitely prepared me for medical school," she noted.

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