# The Legacy of the Jordan Shoe

## 23 years of Dominance in the Shoe World

**Quintiene Campbell**
Staff Writer

In 1984 a highflying rookie from North Carolina signed a multi year contract with what then was an upcoming shoe company, Nike. This kid was Michael Jordan, who didn't even wear Nike shoes and had to be convinced by his parents to sign with the company. This turned out to be a great decision; the shoe was an instant hit. Jordan's first shoe was so hot that it was banned from the NBA.

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Jordan had to pay a five thousand dollar fine for each game he wore the Air Jordan One. The shoe was released in 1985 kicking off not only the greatest legacy in sneakers, but also the greatest legacy in basketball history.

With one of the best marketing campaigns ever and the game's best player, the Jordan shoe sales soared quickly, becoming the best selling shoe Nike has ever produced.

There was a craze around the world about the man and the shoe. Kids from the U.S. to China saying," I want to be like Mike," and Spike Lee asking that famous question "Mike is it the shoes?" and Mike's famous answer, "No Mars, it's not the shoes."

However with success comes controversy and Michael Jordan had his share. With the shoes in high demand and the high prices, a lot of kids who craved the shoe couldn't afford them.

In Chicago two kids were robbed and killed for their Air Jordan shoe in 1998. Most of the criticism was placed on Jordan because he was the face of the shoe. Then came more controversy when allegations came up that the Jordan shoe was being made in under paid sweatshops in China. These allegations came up to be false when Michael Jordan took the time to visit one of the factories that was rumored to be a sweatshop. He once again answered his critics.

People have always ridiculed Jordan for the price of his shoes. It is very rare to see an Air Jordan shoe not sell out which means we still love them and we are willing to pay one fifty and beyond and wait in lines as long as school hallways to get a pair.

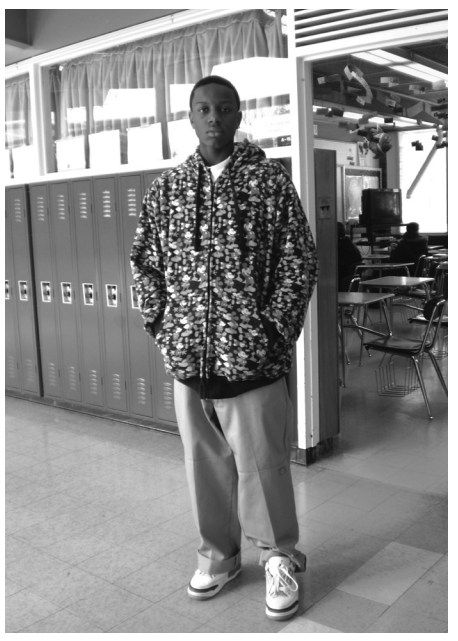
Over the years the Jordan shoe has dominated and outsold all competitors. He has reshaped and set the bar so high you would need his hops to touch it.

"His shoes are timeless and they have a certain swag and smoothness about them that makes millions crave them," Loy Norrix senior Daniel Byene said.

The Jordan shoe is a part of our culture. It makes us feel like we have a part of him with us like we can do the things he did on the court. It gives us confidence.

This year is the twenty-third anniversary of the Jordan shoe, which is coincidently the number of Jordan's legendary jersey number, and he is still changing the game each year the Jordan shoe drops. This year is rumored to be the end of the Jordan number series. Which means there will be no more leaked pictures of the shoe months before they come out and fans crying about weather or not Jordan is losing his style.

"I just want this shoe to be a reflection of what I do on the court for it to be just as great and loved as I am," said Michael Jordan.



CHELSEA GLASHEEN / KNIGHT LIFE
**Sophomore Jeff Hoskins shows off his Air Jordan 3s. These shoes came out in 1988 and are Michael Jordan's favorite shoe.**

# Norrix Students Show Off Their Air Jordans

**Air Jordan 5s**

**Air Jordan 8 Lows**

**Air Jordan Fusions**

**Air Jordan 3s**


## What a New Voter Should Know

**If you Register at School or through The Registration Form**

- Your first vote must be in person (not absentee) in Kalamazoo

**If you Register at The Secretary of State or City Clerk's Office**

- There is nothing more that you need to do before voting in November

**Absentee voting**

- If you plan to be someplace other than Kalamazoo come November, you must personally pick up an absentee ballot form from the City Clerk's office
- Make sure you file for an absentee ballot if you will be away at college, but still living at home


# Why I Joined the Marines

**Mateo Hernandez**
Staff Writer

Most may not be aware that I am a Marine. Whenever this subject comes up, the first reaction I usually get is, "Why?" Most are curious as to what I am doing now, what I will be doing in the future, and all the details of my commitment to this great country.

First of all, I joined the Marines for many reasons that I am not able to put into words. At first I was only thinking of joining some branch just to get extra money for college. I am a tough guy, and I figured that it wouldn't be too bad. After about a year I started to seriously think about it. It started to seem like something I could actually do for a living.

One day at Loy Norrix the Marines had their recruiting table up. I went over and talked to Sergeant Meier and Staff Sergeant Floures. They were very friendly and told me about their once a week "warrior training," and told me I could stop by and see what it is like sometime.

I was too scared to ever go see what the "warrior training" was like until the beginning of this school year. What the Marines do is a two and a half hour workout every Thursday. They start off warming up with stretches, pushups, and jumping jacks, followed by running. Afterwards they usually play basketball, dodge ball, or learn martial arts. Then on the third Saturday of every month, we usually do something fun, like paintball, rock climbing, or bowling. I love the work outs and the Saturday events. It was then that I set my future in motion. I told Sergeant Meier that I wanted to be a Marine.

The next step was going to take the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) test, a test that covers just about every subject from mechanics to math. Your score determines what kind of job you are able to perform in whatever service you join. This test is not just for Marines, but for all armed services. I scored a 68 and the national average is a 42. The higher you score, the more jobs are available to you. For instance, if you score in the 90's, more counter intelligence jobs are open, and if you score below a 30, then you may only be eligible to be infantry.

Next I got to choose my job from a list. I chose a Small Arms Repair Technician. This job includes repairing guns, such as rifles, pistols, and includes ballistics testing. I also get to handle the newest weapons.

The next step was to go up to the MEPS (Military Entrance Processing Station) center in Lansing to take physical tests and fill out forms. I went there after school one day. I returned the next day a Marine.

On September 27, 2007 at approximately 12:30 pm I swore to protect the ". . . constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic . . ." in front of a Marine corp. flag and a United States flag. I did this because I want to serve my country and because of the sense of belonging I get from the Marines.

Why did I join the Marines? Because they are the best. They are more physically demanding than any other service. The army gives you $20,000 just to join, then $20,000 more if you agree to ship out early. Many ask, "Why didn't you join the Army then?" My answer is because I didn't join for money. This was why I was first thinking of joining, but in the end money was not what I wanted. I joined to serve, and I feel that to serve to the best of my ability, I have to go through the toughest training. My sergeants made sure I knew that any other service pays me more, but I assured them that I wanted to be one of "The Few, The Proud, The Marines." To join they had me get up on a table and shout "I want to be a Marine."

I will serve for eight years; four inactive, four active. I go to boot camp June 2, four days after I leave Loy Norrix. I do not even get to walk at graduation, but that does not bother me because this is what I chose. I go to boot camp for 13 weeks. Then I go to college, and the next summer I go back for my job training. I am a reserve unit, but personally I would rather be on the front line right now protecting this country and its citizens.

## Marine Corp. Facts

- The Marines are the only service that has a uniform with high collars. The reason for the high collars is because they used to wear leather collars to protect their necks from sword slashes.
- The Marine Corp. Emblem (the eagle, globe, and anchor) was adopted in 1868. The globe stands for world wide sevice, the anchor stand for naval traditions, and the Eagle represents our nation.
- The Marines got the nickname "Devil Dogs" from World War I, while fighting the Germans at Bellue Wood because of their fierceness, courage, and persistant attacks. The Germans called them "Teufelhunden" (Devil Dog)
- The Marine Corp. motto "Semper Fidelis" was adopted in 1883. It is Latin meaning "Always Faithful."