

The Spot - January 30

January 30, 2008

Campus in National Spotlight, Student Voices, Jaguars Sports, Campus Safety, Black History Month

Duration

5:53

Transcript

[K. Christopher] This is the January 30th edition of IUPUI's The Spot. I'm Kaitlyn Christopher.

The campus has been in the national spotlight this past week, thanks to the efforts of Men's Basketball head coach Ron Hunter. During last Thursday's game against Oakland, Coach Hunter coached barefoot to raise awareness of the 300 million people without shoes in Africa and around the world. Hunter appeared on ESPN several times and was named the "Person of the Week" by ABC News. Take a look at some of the coverage:

[National Coverage] You don't have to play basketball, or even like it, to know that shoes are a big part of the game. Who hasn't heard of Air Jordans? But shoes played a bigger part than ever last night, when Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, that's IUPUI for short, took the floor against Oakland.

We will turn to the "barefoot coach" now in Indiana. The latest accomplishment, not so much on the hardwood, but a mission to help bring shoes to children in Africa.

The head coach of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, or IUPUI's, basketball team will go shoeless during Thursday's game against Oakland.

We told you last week, Ron Hunter is the head coach at IUPUI, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, and he's the basketball coach there and there going to play a game tonight against Oakland University. Ron Hunter is going to coach the game tonight in his bare feet, he will not be wearing shoes. He's doing this to raise awareness for needy children, and he's doing this in support of a charity called Samaritan's Feet.

[K. Christopher] Coach Hunter originally hoped to raise 40,000 pairs of shoes, but surpassed 110,000 by the game.

This week, we're launching a new segment in the spot called Student Voices. Each week, we'll speak to students about a hot topic. This week, we asked what you think about Ron Hunter's efforts:

[Jennifer Olson] I think it's really neat what he's doing to make an impact on kids over in Africa, and I think it'll be neat to see how many people get involved and what it does, and what changes it makes, and I'm really excited about it.

[Heath Racine] He came to us three days ago and was telling us about it. I think it's such a great cause, you don't really see the impact of what's going on over there, and he's actually taking them

there personally, which I think is kinda cool. You take advantage of that we have shoes and how people don't. So I love it, how he's doing it, and even that he's doing what he preaches.

That's something people take for granted. In other countries, they don't have that commodity, they don't have that there - those shoes, that resource. So I think it's awesome thing what he's doing to give shoes to people who need it.

[K. Christopher] The Jags did beat Oakland 82-69, with senior Austin Montgomery contributing 20 points. Both the men and women faced IPFW in the Jungle Saturday. The women fell 50 to 68, and the men won 77 to 59. George Hill scored 33 points in the game, and earned the Summit League's player of the week. Last Monday, the women faced Oakland in The Jungle. Senior Christina Cunningham hit the game winning basket and the Jags won 64-61.

This Thursday, the campus begins Black History month. Everyone is invited to the celebration from 11:30 - 12:30 in the first floor of the Campus Center. The Spot spoke with officers from the Black Student Union to get their perspectives on Black History Month.

[Jackie Ivy] Black History Month, to me, it means everything to me, because this is the time when we have a chance - we meaning African-Americans - to actually express our culture more up front. We can express it through music, language, how we dress, how we look, it just mean's everything. It's my culture and it's me.

[Courtney Robertson] The Black Student Union, every February, has several events that we do to highlight the month. So I'm looking forward to a lot of the events. Two in particular that I'm really looking forward to are "Images in Black" and another event that I particularly enjoy is "Soul Cinema". It's an event where we pick a film with an all-black cast, of course, that kinda portrays or depicts the life of black people. This year we're showing the movie Claudine, starring Diane Carroll, I believe. It's just about an African-American mom's struggle as a single parent, living in the ghetto, having to depend on welfare but not necessarily wanting to, but trying to make the best life that she can and provide the best way that she can for her family.

[K. Christopher] The Spot will report on events throughout the month. You can also check out more events at the Black Student Union website.

Another campus tradition happened this past weekend. Evening of the Arts is put on by School of Medicine students. The event raises funds to support clinics providing free health care services to the homeless and working poor of Indianapolis. Students, faculty, and staff performed at the fundraiser, held in the Crispus Attucks auditorium.

Finally, the campus is making lots of changes to help improve your safety. Whether you're driving on campus or trying to cross Michigan and New York streets, do your part to keep campus safe. You've noticed the new crosswalks, warning signs and flashing lights. Drivers need to obey the speed limits and watch for pedestrians at the crosswalks, and pedestrians need to do their part too. When crossing the street, always cross at marked crossings, pay attention to the "walk" and "don't walk" signals, and make eye contact with drivers to ensure they see you. Over the next several weeks, campus and Indianapolis police will be stepping up patrols, so be safe.

That's the spot for this week. Check it out each week on our podcast at jagtv.iupui.edu.