



letters

from alumni and friends

Remembering Jimmy V

Thanks for the recent article "The Legacy of Jimmy V," about Jim Valvano (RC'67), his battle with cancer, and the fund-raising foundation run by his friend and former teammate Bob Lloyd (RC'67).

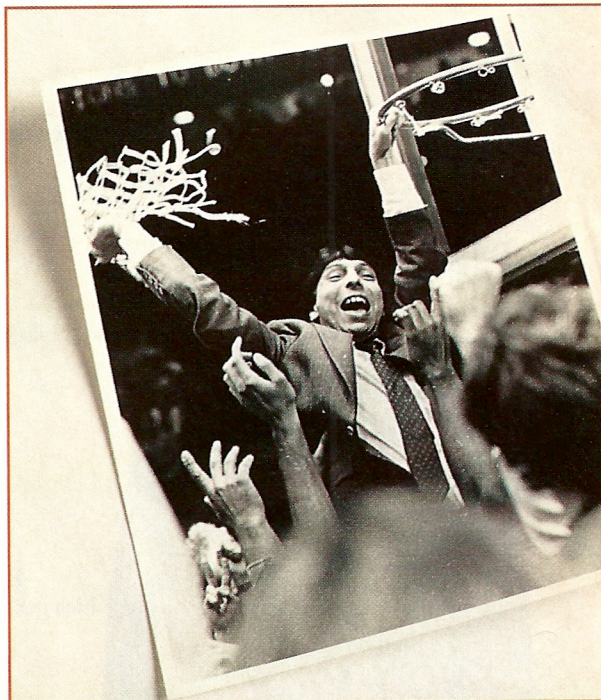
There are two moments that I clearly remember during my brief time as a player with Jim Valvano's freshman basketball team in 1968-69 at Rutgers. Each epitomizes to me who he was and what he valued in life. During one of our practices he told us how much fun it was to be a winner by relating an event that unfolded [in his playing days] when Rutgers beat Princeton at Princeton. Apparently, when the team bus arrived at Stonier Hall, a large crowd of cheering students met it. Coach told us that from inside the bus, he could see that each player who emerged from the bus was carried off by the enthusiastic Rutgers fans. Wanting to make sure he fully experienced the moment, he opened the emergency exit so that after he was carried off the first time he could scramble back onto the bus and be carried off again. The message was clear: Enjoy and share in each other's success, particularly if you work hard for it. Life is more fun as a winner.

Success as far as he was concerned went hand in hand with effort. We were playing at Lehigh and losing and it was half time. He was very unhappy with our performance, and he told us that he was not going to be a failure in his career because we did not want to work hard enough. I don't think we won that game, but in looking back it is clear that he already knew what

his life's work would be. As a player, a coach, a broadcaster, a father, a husband, or a friend, he always wanted to be the best, and he wanted those around him to do their best. The last and most important pass that Bob Lloyd received from Jim Valvano wasn't on a basketball court. Good luck, Bob. Jim chose you because you are a winner.

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Thanks very much for the article on Jim Valvano. It was wonderful. What a heartwarming story of the



friendship between two teammates, Jim Valvano and Bob Lloyd. The article brought back great and cherished memories. I think of Jim often, and I, too, have a copy of the words from Jim, "When my eyes open each day and my feet touch the floor, I thank God for the day I have and say 'Let's go get 'em.' "

Photograph by Nick Romanenko

He was and is an inspiration to so many, many people, and I believe this article will touch many more.

BILL FOSTER
FORMER RUTGERS BASKETBALL COACH
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I was very moved by the article "The Legacy of Jimmy V" in the Summer 1999 issue. I have worked in the health-care industry since 1978 and have been a registered nurse since 1984. I lost both my parents to cancer. I am amazed at the lack of progress in treating this condition, from both a diagnostic and a treatment standpoint. As I reached the close of the article, I felt helpless, thinking about how cancer has affected my life and my professional practice. I thought, as I reached the end of the text, that there would be some information on how to contact the V Foundation for Cancer Research. I would like to help.

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Editor's Note: The V Foundation for Cancer Research, founded by Jim Valvano in 1993, is a nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable organization that raises funds for cancer research and works to heighten awareness of the disease. The foundation can be reached by writing to The V Foundation for Cancer Research, 1201 Walnut Street, Suite 202, Cary, North Carolina, 27511 or by calling 1-800-4-JIMMY V. The foundation also maintains a Website at <<http://www.jimmyv.org>>.

Another View

As the parent of a Rutgers graduate, I am appalled at the selection of Jimmy Valvano as your cover story. He is the poster boy for everything that is wrong with collegiate sports. To hold him up as a role model is ridiculous.

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Rutgers Magazine encourages letters to the editor regarding the stories covered in its pages.
Write to: Editor, Rutgers Magazine,
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Letters may be edited to space and for clarity.

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