

Mckie says he is a winner because he was raised that way

► *Bj Mckie talks about his success as part of the Gamecock basketball team, and how he got there. The Gamecocks will play Arkansas at 8 p.m. tonight on J-P Sports and University of Florida at 7 p.m. Saturday on AM 560.*

staff writer **WILLIAM FOLKS**

Bjorn Aubrey Mckie will never wear the championship ring he won last season when the Gamecock basketball team claimed the University of South Carolina's first-ever Southeastern Conference title.

It's not that he lost it, it's just the hard-earned symbol of excellence, a precious, lifetime moment of outstanding achievement, won't even fit onto Bj's finger. But it does fit nicely somewhere else: on the ring finger of his father, Bernard Mckie.

"There's nothing more important than family," Bernard once said. "When all else fails, that's the one place you

can turn. It's paramount to have that."

With that in mind, Bernard and his wife, Beverly, have done much more than just raise a great basketball player. They have brought up a humble, uncompromising young man whose selflessness and self-respect is truly beyond reproach.

He is a superstar, a sure-fire NBA prospect, a nationally acclaimed shooting guard who may be the most talented basketball player to ever set foot in Frank McGuire Arena. But because of his shy, modest demeanor and unassuming personality, you'd never know it if you met him off the court.

"Bj is quite honestly my hero," Bernhard said. "We've always had a spe-



MCKIE

cial relationship in that I really appreciate him being the type of kid that he is because as parents, that's made our job easier. I think it's the ultimate when a kid says, 'Hey, I've worked hard for this but I realize the work that my dad and my mom have put in, and I want to give my dad this ring.' And within the next breath he said, 'Mom, the next time we win it, I'm giving it to you.' That just shows you how unselfish he is, as a person and as a player."

Bj said his parents' support has meant everything to him.

"They're two of my best friends as well as my parents," Bj said. "They always tell me that if I dropped basketball tomorrow they would still love me just as much, and they're always there for me whether it's a good or bad situation, leading me in the right direction, guiding me, giving me constructive criticism when needed."

"They've meant so much to me, and they've always given me their support and their understanding."

A native of Irmo., Bj's decision to come to school at Carolina ranks as one of the defining moments in the evolution of Gamecock basketball under coach Eddie Fogler. His first season at USC, he broke the school's freshman scoring record, which was held by NBA Hall-of-Famer Alex English.

As a sophomore, Bj led the Gamecocks in scoring and was named first-team All-SEC as well as honorable mention All-America.

So far this season, he has averaged 17.5 points per game and ranks among the SEC's leaders in nearly every offensive category.

But Bj's numbers will never tell the whole story.



To watch him play is oftentimes an exercise in suspended disbelief as he twists and contorts his 6-foot-2-inch frame in mid-air several times a game to launch one of his dizzying array of shots.

He plays the game with a gracefulness and control seldom seen at the college level; whether it be gliding through the lane for a layup, slamming

home a fast-break dunk, or launching his potent jump shots from behind the 3-point arc.

Bj's mother, Beverly Mckie, has a special insight on South Carolina's resident superhero.

"He used to love Superman," recalls Beverly, "and he was always running. When he was little he would get me to pin a towel around his neck, and then he would take off running down the hall."

"One day I remember he was just running, running, running really fast and I told him, 'Bj, stop it. That's just enough. You need to stop.' Well he stopped, turned around and said 'Okay, Lois.'"

Her son laughs when confronted with the story.

"I was just a little kid with a whole lot of energy," Bj said.

In many ways, Bj Mckie still is.

PIZZA BISTRO ROCKS

We Deliver To The USC Campus! Kitchen & Delivery Always Open Late!
Open:
11:00 a.m. 'till 2:00 a.m.
561-0800

Check Out Our **SPECIALS!**

- Mon.** Customer Appreciation Night Drink Specials
- Tues.** Ladies Night \$1 off All Drinks for the Ladies After 10 p.m.
- Wed.** James Bond Night Shaken - Not Stirred - Specials and Cigars All Night Long After 10 p.m.
- Thurs.** College Night \$3.50 Pitchers of Beer with College ID. Other Drink Specials
- Sun.** KARAOKE 8 p.m. 'till Midnight

Live Bands!! This Week:
The Crude Earles
Feb. 20th & 21st

Also in February
Barefoot Brothers Feb. 27
Crash Andrews Feb. 28

• 725 Broad River Road @ Greystone •

If you are under the age of 21, it is against the law to buy alcoholic beverages. All ABC regulations enforced.

THURSDAY!

College Night

18 & Up admitted.
FREE sodas to anyone under 21!

50¢ Draft \$2 Drink Specials

NIGHT WORKS DANCE CLUB

805 Harden Street
For More Information call 252-8352

IF YOU ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 21, IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO PURCHASE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. ALL ABC REGULATIONS ENFORCED.

Take a Test Drive

GMAT GRE
LSAT MCAT

If you took the test today, how would you score?
Come find out.

Call today to reserve your seat!
This Saturday, 9 am
Gambrell Hall

Tickets \$5. All proceeds to Golden Key. Come by the table in front of Russell House 10am-2pm this week!

KAPLAN

1-800-KAP-TEST
www.kaplan.com

*COURSE NAMES are registered trademarks of their respective owners

Bring a friend and **Win** a prize

WE'RE JUMPIN' AGAIN!
JOIN ROCK 93.5 F.M.
AT
COLLEGE PARK

THE CAROLINA CUP RACES

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH, 1998

SPRINGDALE RACE COURSE
CAMDEN, SOUTH CAROLINA

FOR TICKETS CALL (803) 432-6513
SPECIAL PRICE \$10.00 BEFORE MARCH 20

Aerobics and Fitness

Friday, February 20, 1998
8:00-9:00 PM

Blatt PE Center Aerobics Studio

Step and Sculpt Aerobics

Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced steppers welcome

- FREE WITH VALID USC ID AND SIGNED AEROBICS WAIVER (waivers will be completed at the event)

This is a great opportunity to get started on a fitness plan for Spring Break! Let this program be the beginning of an active and healthy lifestyle. To enroll in the aerobics program, participants need to pay \$10 and sign a waiver. Once you take this class, you will want to make aerobics a part of your daily workout. For more information or questions, call 777-5261.

Sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha and Campus Recreation

CHARACTERS CONCERT & DANCE CLUB

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.characteronline.com

CONCERT CLUB

THURSDAY, FEB. 19TH

THE TINBENDERS and OCTOBER CHORUS

THURSDAY, FEB. 26TH

TOKYO JOE

FRIDAY, FEB. 27TH

THE O'KAYSIONS

THURSDAY, MAR. 5TH

BUCKDANCER'S CHOICE

SATURDAY, MAR. 7TH

CHRONIC

THURSDAY, MAR. 12TH

25 FT. STANLY

DANCE CLUB

WEDNESDAYS

HIP-HOP DANCE PARTY!

with "The Scientist" 10 p.m.-3 a.m. • 18 or older

THURSDAYS

COLLEGE NIGHT DANCE PARTY!

Featuring a fun mix of your favorite party music and crazy contests! 9 p.m.-3 a.m. • 18 or older

FRIDAYS

ALL REQUEST LADIES NIGHT DANCE PARTY!

9 p.m.-3 a.m. • 21 or older

SATURDAYS

WILD WEEKEND DANCE PARTY!

Featuring today's best top 40 and club dance music! 9 p.m.-2 a.m. • 18 or older

Characters • 577 St. Andrews Rd. • 561-9977

GOOD LUCK TO ALL THOSE GREEKS RUNNING FOR OFFICE!

Senate	
Brandon Whitacre	ΔΥ
Tommy Gremillion	ΣΑΕ
Brian Capps	TKE
Leroy York	ΑΦΑ
Freeman Humes	ΑΦΑ
Nolan Boseman	ΑΦΑ
Rico Reed	ΑΦΑ
Allen Brown	ΚΑΨ
Scott Lucas	ΣΝ
Eric Cooper	ΚΑΨ
Malik Husser	ΚΑΨ
John Thompson	ΑΦΑ
Martin White	ΑΦΑ
Pete Wallace	ΦΔΘ
Schuyler Mims	ΚΑΘ
Kimberly Boan	ΔΔΔ
Leslie Shed	ΚΚΓ
Courtney Stangrey	ΑΔΠ
Denisha Hendricks	ΖΦΒ
Ketra Thomas	ΔΔΔ
Summar Ford	ΚΔ
Kathy VanNostrand	ΚΑΘ

President

Kim Dickerson ΔΔΔ

Zerrel Hall ΑΦΑ

Vice President

Chris Dorsel ΑΤΩ

Treasurer

Suzanne Newman ΧΩ

REMEMBER ELECTION DAY IS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Sponsored by Sorority and Fraternity Council