



Speaking of Sports

A million years ago when I was starting out in journalism, I had visions of becoming a sports reporter. I imagine many other young people who love athletics and have a penchant for writing think about doing the same. Somewhere along the line, though, my ambition strayed and I took a different path. It happens to a lot of us. That's life.

But a few do stick to their dreams. Chris Korman, former reporter, columnist, and sports editor for *The Herald-Times* is one of those. So in August when I read that Chris was leaving the *H-T* for bigger pastures at *The Baltimore Sun*, I got in touch. What was it like covering sports every day for a living? What was it like doing it in Bloomington? And more to the point, what was it like covering the most tumultuous time in IU sports history: the Kelvin Sampson era?

I asked Chris to reflect on his years at the *H-T* for me and for *Bloom* readers. His response is on page 90. It's always an adventure for an editor to assign a story when he has very little idea of what he's going to get back. This was one of those times.

What surprised me most about the story Chris turned in was his desire to put athletics in perspective. Yes, he loves sports, but in terms of importance, he feels, it "don't amount to a hill of beans in this crazy world..." (to quote Humphrey Bogart). As Chris points out, there are people making far greater contribu-

tions to society than players, coaches, and athletic directors. Yet those other folks get less attention, adulation, prestige, and money. That's the way it is in this crazy country and in sports-mad Bloomington. Read the story, I think you will find it fascinating.

Also in this issue is our second installment of "One Fine Day in Bloomington." The first appeared in our October/November 2008 issue and chronicled a summer Saturday. This time around, we chose a fall day. In the future, we plan to complete the cycle with spring and winter photo essays.

I couldn't be more pleased with the contributions from our readers. Many started taking pictures before dawn and continued photographing late into the night. Collectively, their work does more than show the way we live, it captures the spirit of Bloomington—the joy, the generosity, the camaraderie, and the good feelings we have about our town. What you find on these pages is just a sample of our readers' work; there are hundreds more excellent photographs on our website, magbloom.com.

Also in this issue is the feature "To Give & to Receive" on page 96, a little holiday fun in which an assortment of Bloomingtonians share with you the gifts they want and the places where they like to shop.

Finally, from all of us at *Bloom Magazine*, we wish you a joyful holiday season and good things in the New Year.

Malcolm Abrams
editor and publisher