

Larry Rothen photo

Derrick Chievous' lighthearted approach to life belies his serious approach to school. He came to Mizzou not only to win a Big Eight basketball championship, but also to get an education.

# CHIEVOUS on CAMPUS

By BO ROBERTS

As Derrick Chievous strutted into the Hearnes Center training room singing, his head bobbed to and fro with every note.

The funny smiles and facial expressions that most Missouri basketball fans are used to seeing were omnipresent. Present, too, was the Curad bandage, a trademark stuck somewhere on his body since high school.

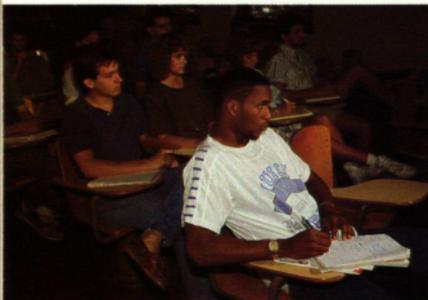
That's the way the one known as Band-Aid is. Laughing at himself, laughing at others and, most definitely, laughing at life.

He was led down a straight-and-narrow path by his mother, JoAnn

Holcomb, in Jamaica, N.Y. Since then, he has taken his own road. The back road to his Mizzou classes, the expressway to Tiger scoring records.

The lure to Missouri was the School of Journalism. The result will turn out to be a degree in sociology in the spring. But for the Tigers' basketball program, the catch has been Derrick Chievous.

Chievous is second only to Steve Stipanovich in being the most highly recruited basketball player ever to join the Missouri program. And last season he broke Stipo's all-time scoring record with 1,879 career points.



Larry Boehm photo



In the classroom, Derrick Chievous carries a 2.61 grade-point average. He will graduate in May 1988 with an AB in sociology. On the basketball court, Chievous carried a 24.1 points-per-game average, good enough to lead the Big Eight last year.

Now, he is a preseason all-America in *Playboy* and *Street & Smith* magazines.

Although he's also been featured in *Sports Illustrated* and *The Sporting News*, Chievous remains a man of privacy, one of moods. He walks the back way to class to avoid others.

"I came here to get a (Big Eight Championship) ring and a degree," Chievous says. "I've got the ring. Now it's time to get the degree." He also would like to do something else he's never accomplished: win a first-round game in a national postseason tournament.

When he thought of which college to attend following his senior year at Holy Cross High School in Jamaica, it was educational opportunities that were the most important consideration for the 16-year-old.

"I came to Missouri, well, first because of the Journalism School," says Chievous. "Then, after I was here, I'm not gonna say I didn't make the grades, but I had to take another route. A different approach."

That approach was a sociology degree with an emphasis on communications courses. He's on schedule to receive the degree in four years—when he's still 20.

"As I look at it, sociology is like political science," Chievous says. "It broadens my horizon to where I can do anything. My mother is like that. I want to be like her and do everything."

Holcomb worked as a nurses' aide and beautician to put her son through Holy Cross, a private high school.

Maybe that's why Chievous takes little for granted. His grade-point average is 2.61, and Chievous says entrance into the School of Journalism was possible despite his being short of the required 3.0.

"They said I could get in on a minority thing," Chievous says. "I'm not a minority, I'm a majority. I wasn't into that. I wanted to be like everyone else."

And thus the sociology route. Although he avoids others on Campus and the press after most games, Chievous takes on a different personality in class.

"When I'm in class, I raise my hand a lot," Chievous says. "In high school they told me if you raise your hand a lot, they'll always remember the last hand."

"He's not afraid to answer questions," says Dr. Billy Cumbie, Chievous' biology professor. "He might not get them right all the time, but he'll try."

"He can really do anything he sets his mind to as far as academics. Most students wouldn't volunteer, but he sure would."

"He was particularly enjoyable," says Dr. James Brown, who taught Chievous' course in human sexuality. "He expressed himself clearly. Students didn't get to see how he could write, but he was wonderful. He had a lot of insight and diversity."

Although most people on Campus know who Chievous is, he says an athletic status has had nothing to do with his success in the classroom.

"There are a lot of teachers who don't care if you're an athlete or what," Chievous says. "You're a student, and that's the way I like it to be. I had a lot of teachers who weren't interested in sports. When I came to express my opinion, I didn't want it to be where teachers thought I was just being some kind of smart-aleck athlete."

Both Cumbie and Brown never got that impression. They do think that it's hard not to be aware of his presence in class.

"You're aware of him," Cumbie says. "I'm a sports fan. I've watched him ever since he's been here."

"I didn't try to treat him any differently than the other students. I wanted him to learn like everyone else. I think the students respect his right to be a student like they are."

"He's so well-known, it took Derrick a while to open up in class," Brown says. "It was a risk on his part. People, like the media, are always watching him. We just needed a class trust and once we got that, the class went smoothly."

Chievous says he usually talks up in class because the subjects interest him.

"I give a lot of input because it's everyday life," Chievous says. "I'll talk about things that revolve around everyday life."

After class though, he almost becomes a hermit. There might be an occasional movie or party—and there are several girlfriends. But, for the most part, he keeps to himself. As he says, he just came to get a degree.

"I don't really know what's going on (on Campus)," Chievous says. "I take the back way to class and then

when class is over, I go back home. I avoid all that 'Yo, what's up?' I only do that with my teammates."

Don't you feel like you're missing out on Campus life?

"No, that's not why I came here. I came here to get a degree. I told my mother that I wanted to get a degree."

With plans for a career in sports broadcasting, he already has a leg up on most of the competition.

Last season on television's *The Norm Stewart Show*, the coach and his wife, producer Virginia, gave Chievous an opportunity to have his own segment called "Band-Aid's Corner."

"With the opportunity that Coach Stewart and his wife gave me, the School of Journalism would have just been extra work," Chievous says. "I might have been restricted there. On the show, they just say, 'Get loose, D.'"

Stewart believes his basketball star has shown some personal and professional growth as a result of the show. "He's helped the show, too," says Stewart. "People like to see us feature Tiger players through Derrick's interviews."

"The way I look at it," says Chievous, "I'm doing better than anybody in the J-School because I've had a chance to do a show."

The man Chievous would like to emulate is ESPN's Roy Firestone, who has a half-hour show in which he interviews top athletes and sports personalities.

"What happened last year is that coach would grab me and say, 'Do your thing,'" Chievous says.

"After watching a lot of people, like Roy Firestone, I'll be better prepared this year. I'll have the opportunities to do what I want to do. I hope we get to go to the parks, like Douglass Park and the projects, and hang out like Al McGuire would do it. That's the way it ought to be."

Sometimes, the way things should be and the reality of a situation are two different things. Take Chievous' experience at the Pan-American Games tryouts this summer.

Newspapers across the country claimed he had overslept for a game in the final day of the prestigious tryouts. He was called "Sleepy Floyd" and "One Who Flew Over the Coo-Coo, Coo-Coo's Nest." Chievous didn't mind. He also didn't let many know that he slept because of dehydration.

"When I was out there playing, this

trainer from Georgetown University kept saying, 'Take water. Take water.' But I wouldn't. I'd say, 'I haven't played very much. I'm used to 40 minutes.' Also, I wasn't really eating. I didn't like the food, so I'd eat cake and drink soda pop.

"The last game I played, I got dehydrated. People knew I was going to go back to the room and sleep. The trainer knew and my roommates knew."

And the reason for letting everyone think you were just being lazy?

"I let Coach Stewart know beforehand that I didn't want to go up there," Chievous says. "When I was going full strength, I was killing every-

body up there. A lot of NBA scouts up there know damn well what I can do. I didn't feel like I was doing it all for nothing."

Although Chievous seems a sure bet to be picked in the first round of next year's National Basketball Association draft, he keeps any thoughts about a professional playing career to himself. The same holds true for any plans he might have for trying out for the 1988 Olympic team. Still, the publicity of oversleeping during the Pan-American tryouts caught the eye of many.

"I got big publicity," Chievous says. "My mother had big four-page articles on me. *The New York Post*, the *Daily News*, they had pictures and everything."

That's why he didn't contradict the stories. He got big publicity. That's the way Derrick Chievous is.

"My mother always told me that when people talk about you, that means you're important. When they stop, it means you have work to do." □

## Preseason Plaudits

Not only is Derrick Chievous a preseason all-America, the Tiger basketball team and Big Eight Conference also are drawing considerable preseason attention. Once known only as a football league, the Big Eight now is nationally respected in both sports.

Mizzou generally is picked to repeat as Big Eight Conference champs and has a lot of support for a top-10 position nationally.

Coach Norm Stewart, the winningest coach in Tiger history and No. 6 nationally, returns his entire starting lineup from last season's 24-10, NCAA tourney team and adds a group of talented newcomers who are expected to challenge for top spots this season.

Chievous, a second-team all-America in 1986-87, will become the first Tiger to score more than 2,000 career points. With improved backcourt depth this year, the 6-7 senior figures to work his scoring magic mostly from the baseline.

Leading the guard corps is 6-2 senior Lynn Hardy, who already holds the Missouri career record for steals. Lee Coward, 6-1, moved into the starting lineup during the latter part of his freshman year and responded by beating Kansas twice with last-season jumpers. Also contending for time will be 6-5 junior Byron Irvin, a transfer from Arkansas, and 6-4 sophomore John McIntyre, a transfer from the University of Detroit.

Stewart has plenty of possible combinations on the inside. Nathan Buntin, 6-9, was the second-leading scorer last season as a freshman; swingman sophomore Mike Sandbothe, 6-8, tied Hardy as the assist leader and played on the Big Eight all-star team that toured China this summer; and 6-8 Greg Church, 7-1 Gary Leonard and 6-9 Bradd Sutton all started at some time last season.

Adding to the chemistry is 6-10 freshman Doug Smith, the latest of Stewart's Detroit imports who was the Most Valuable Player at the national junior AAU Tournament this summer in Jacksonville, Fla.

Stewart enters his 21st season at Mizzou needing 19 wins to surpass the 400-victory milestone in Missouri and 22 wins to notch his 500th career victory. With the talent on hand, those goals do not appear out of reach for the 1986-87 Big Eight Coach of the Year.

### TIGER SCHEDULE

Nov. 20	Czechoslovakian National Team
Dec. 4-5	Show-Me Classic (Alcorn State, Eastern Michigan, North Texas State) at Drake
Dec. 8	at Memphis State
Dec. 12	Virginia Tech
Dec. 15	Illinois at St. Louis
Dec. 22	San Jose State
Dec. 28	Alabama State
Jan. 2	Tulsa
Jan. 4	at Southern Illinois-Carbondale
Jan. 6	Maryland
Jan. 9	at Kansas (RAYCOM-TV)
Jan. 16	at Nebraska (RAYCOM-TV)
Jan. 20	Chicago State
Jan. 23	Iowa State (RAYCOM-TV)
Jan. 30	at Oklahoma State
Feb. 3	Colorado
Feb. 6	at Oklahoma (RAYCOM-TV)
Feb. 9	Kansas State
Feb. 11	Nebraska
Feb. 13	at Nevada-Las Vegas (CBS-TV)
Feb. 17	at Iowa State (ESPN-TV)
Feb. 21	Oklahoma State (RAYCOM-TV)
Feb. 24	at Colorado
Feb. 27	Kansas (RAYCOM-TV)
March 3	Oklahoma (ESPN-TV)
March 5	at Kansas State (RAYCOM-TV)
March 11-13	Big Eight Tournament at Kansas City