

The Cadet Courier

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A New Era on the Court

Jordan Miller's journey as the girl's basketball new head coach

A new voice is echoing through the gym this girl's basketball season as Jordan Miller takes over as head coach of the team, bringing renewed energy, bold goals, and a fresh start to the team. This huge responsibility has entered the scene and will continue to grow for years to come.

Jordan Miller has a significant background in Basketball. This is his 9th year coaching and only 1st year as

head coach. Throughout high school and college, he has been around exceptional people to get him where he is now.

"I played basketball in High School and was a member of 3 state tournament teams. After high school, I went to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and was a Student Manager for the Men's Basketball team for 5 years," Miller said.

When he moved to West Point, he took over as a coach for his sister's 5th and 6th grade team. This helped him with knowledge in basketball and coaching, which prepared

him to take on this responsibility.

"The funny thing is I don't think you can be fully prepared to be a head coach until you're in the position of being head coach," Miller mentioned.

Miller also talked about how being around previous coaches really pushed him to do his best. He learned so much from coaches like Coach Theis and Coach Shepard on how to lead a high school program.

"Our goal at the beginning of the season was to live by our standards of Resilience, Integrity, and Energy," Miller stated.

Miller talked about how the girls have done a phenomenal job of living up to these standards, not only in practice but also game days. He mentions how proud he is of their hard work, dedication and significant energy to get better. They have had a very difficult schedule this season and to see their team's resilience and integrity has been inspiring.

"We have a great group of kids and I love coming to the gym everyday and feeding off their energy," Miller mentioned.

Miller enjoys being the head coach. His favorite part is the practices. Being around the team while having a good time,

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helps him thrive. Miller loves to see the team and have a good time, while still working extremely hard.

“I also really enjoy seeing the progress and development we have made throughout the season and seeing that translate into game situations,” Miller said.

Just like he wants his players to improve, he also wants to improve as a coach. To him, everyday is a day to get better and if everyone is trying to improve at least 1% it will lead to success. To get to this success, he listens to coaching podcasts, reading books and articles about leadership and watching basketball in his free time.

As the season continues, the girls basketball team is already seeing the impact of Jordan Miller’s leadership on the court. With the focus on teamwork and growth, the program grows to a confident program. As the games unfold, the team looks ahead with determination and ready to improve under new guidance.

Burtis in the Building

Burtis takes on middle school head coach position

First year High school teacher Noah Burtis took the head coach position for middle

school cross country. On top of having his first full year of teaching, this is also his first year of also being a head coach.

Burtis has been running ever since 2011, where he ran cross country and track in middle school. He really enjoyed running, so he continued to do it throughout high school and even college. After completing college, he stopped training as seriously as he did in college, but he continued to run casually. He has also ran two marathons as of now, and he hopes to continue running marathons in the future.

He has experience with coaching dating further back than just this year. He got some experience with coaching right after high school, and he continued to coach moving to Sidney to help with cross country and track. In both of these occurrences, he had always coached middle school.

When asked how his experience was coaching the Cadet Cross Country team, he responded, “It was overall very good, it was in some ways a learning experience, just because it was my first head coaching job, there was kinda a lot to learn just for myself as a



“I did a gap year after high school, during that I was a volunteer XC coach for my high school there. When I was in Sidney I was an assistant cross country coach, and also a middle school track coach for Sidney,” stated Noah Burtis.

coach, I’m really excited for the future, and hoping to expand the program and improve.”

Being a first year head coach for a team brought some little challenges for Burtis. Despite this, he learned from the experience, and he will

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continue to do so in the future, when he continues to coach.

The middle school team's practice starts out with an ordinary warm up; Burtis uses the same one that the high school team does. He tries to make it closer to what the high schoolers do in order to make that jump from middle school to high school much easier. Then typically on Mondays they have a workout day consisting of speedwork, Tuesdays are easier, longer runs, Wednesdays is pre-meet so fifteen minutes plus strides, Thursdays is always race day, and Fridays is a cool down day. Middle school has an option to run on the weekends too if they would like to.

"I hope to see more middle schoolers in the team, and I hope for them to gain a passion for running, and continue to run even in high school. I hope for them to second hand help the high school team, by training them and preparing them for high school to make the numbers bigger in high school," stated Burtis.

He wants to see the middle school runners enjoy this sport and to continue to run throughout their time in school. The goal for middle school is to get these students ready for high school and for them to hopefully enjoy the

program enough to do it in the future.

Overall Burtis has had a great first year as the middle school cross country head coach. He has sparked running for individuals in the team. He works hard for the program, and he hopes for the team to grow bigger next year.

Sinners

An Unforgettable, Bloodthirsty Ride Through 1930s Mississippi

As someone who has followed Ryan Coogler's career since his debut with "Fruitvale Station," I've always looked forward to his films. Coogler has an incredible ability to tell powerful and emotional stories, often focusing on the struggles and triumphs of marginalized communities. His work on "Creed" and "Black Panther" solidified him as one of the most talented directors of our time. Given his impressive track record, I was eagerly anticipating "Sinners," but, sadly, it fell flat for me.

The film follows a group of young adults who get entangled in a web of crime and moral dilemmas. Right from the start, the concept had potential. I was excited to see how Coogler would tackle themes of youth rebellion and the search for identity in a

world that's constantly pressuring you to conform. However, as the movie unfolded, I found myself struggling to connect to the characters and the story itself.



One of the most disappointing aspects of "Sinners" was its character development. Coogler is known for crafting rich, multi-dimensional characters; think of the depth of Michael B. Jordan's performances in "Creed" and "Black Panther." But in "Sinners," I felt like the characters were flat and stereotypical. They seemed more like caricatures than real people. Instead of feeling their struggles and triumphs, I found myself wishing for more nuanced storytelling. For

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instance, there's a character who gets pulled into crime, but instead of exploring the motivations behind his choices, the film took a surface-level approach. It felt like a missed opportunity, and I couldn't help but feel let down.

Another area that fell short was the pacing of the film. Coogler typically knows how to build tension and maintain momentum, but "Sinners" dragged in several places. Certain scenes felt unnecessarily long, and at times, I checked my watch, hoping for something exciting to happen. When the climax finally hit, it felt rushed and lacked the emotional payoff that I had been waiting for. It was as if the film was afraid to take risks, opting instead for predictable plot twists that left me uninspired.

Additionally, the cinematography, which I expected to be breathtaking given Coogler's previous visual achievements, felt average at best. There were some interesting shots here and there, but they didn't elevate the storytelling or enhance the overall feel of the film. I kept longing for the visual poetry we saw in "Black Panther," where every shot was meticulously crafted to reflect the rich culture and heritage it

represented. With "Sinners," the visuals didn't do justice to the emotional weight of the story, which was frustrating to see.

I also noticed that the soundtrack, which usually accompanies Coogler's films beautifully, was somewhat lackluster. The music seemed generic and didn't resonate with the storyline or its characters. In his previous works, the music not only highlighted critical story moments but also played a significant role in building the atmosphere and emotional depth. With "Sinners," it felt like a missed chance to add another layer to the film, making it feel even more disheartening.

Some viewers might argue that "Sinners" still delivers a solid message about redemption and morality, and while I can appreciate that sentiment, it felt too clichéd for a filmmaker of Coogler's caliber. He's proven he's capable of tackling complex societal issues and weaving them seamlessly into his narratives. In "Sinners," those themes felt tagged on, making the overall experience less impactful than I had hoped.

In conclusion, while "Sinners" may find an audience, it ultimately left me

disappointed as a longtime fan of Ryan Coogler's work. I went in expecting a thought-provoking and emotionally rich film that would stick with me long after the credits rolled, but instead, I came out feeling let down. I still believe Coogler has immense talent and potential—I just hope his next project returns him to the path where his previous films have thrived. So, if you're a big fan of Coogler like I am, "Sinners" might not be what you're looking for. Hopefully, in the future, he'll bounce back stronger than ever because, let's face it, we all need more compelling stories from him.

End of an Era

Porsche's WEC withdrawal leaves questions in the world of motorsport

When many people think of the 24 hrs of Le Mans, most of the time they think of the big three; Audi, Toyota, and Porsche. However, the scene is changing with a big announcement from Porsche at the end of last year. Effective at the end of the 2025 World Endurance Championship season (WEC), they would be dropping out for the foreseeable future. Participating in the main event of the WEC, the 24 Hours of Le

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Mans, for over 74 years, the German team dominated the field with over 19 wins at the coveted race. Although the German company stated that they would be dropping out of WEC, they also stated that they would continue to participate in Formula E with hopes of gaining knowledge on the electric side of racing and also the North American based endurance series, IMSA.

"Our participation in IMSA with the hybrid 963 remains a factory programme, and we will also continue to be active in GT racing," stated VP of Porsche Motorsport, Thomas Laudenbech. "Our trio of drive system types therefore also continues in motorsport. Electrification remains a key pillar of Porsche's powertrain strategy, both on the road and on the racetrack."

The 963 has been struggling to win Porsche's 20th Le Mans 24 hrs victory and has been the only other car besides the 908 to fall short of Le Mans glory. However, the main reason given for the termination of the Porsche WEC program was due to budgetary issues. This is a result of the full dive that the Porsche company made into EVs. Which proved to be a grave mistake as the market

showed that the demand for



EVs was not high.

However, Laudenbech states that, "there is a great deal of technological knowledge currently being gained in electric motorsport, and our electric sports cars for the road benefit from that. We do not want to diminish those gains in knowledge."

In addition, the LMDh spot left empty by Porsche will be filled by Genesis with their hypercar in this year's WEC season along with Ford and McLaren entering the hypercar grid in 2027.

Before the official announcement of Porsche's withdrawal from WEC, questions were asked if the team would be running a third factory car along with the number 6 Porsche and number 7 Porsche. However, as said, the team did eventually announce their overall removal of the 963 from the entire grid following the 2025 season, which included Proton Racing. Due to this, Proton Racing has

now removed their focus away from the hypercar class and instead have decided to run a Ford Mustang LMGT3 for the 2026 season.

IMSA is now Porsche's main interest as they state that the racing series plays into their North American market for their production cars, which have been lacking in sales and demand recently. Porsche's two biggest markets are the United States and China where China's market has recently seen a decline in the premium and luxury aspect. In the US, import tariffs have been placing extreme amounts of pressure onto the automotive industry.

Porsche betting all their chips on IMSA and FE plays into the sales of their production cars. IMSA for advertising the brand in one of the largest of their markets most lacking at the moment and FE to help the brand learn more about electric components for their road and track cars. So although the legacy of Porsche will be gone from their most legendary race, the 24hrs of Le Mans, it's all business at the end of the day and sales are what dictates if a brand stays in a racing series or not.

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Expensive Dreams

Personal dreams don't always equal financial dreams.

Growing up, my mother always worked at the dairy, and my dad was a stay-at-home, well, dad. Even though my dad has a company that is in the field of construction, he's only got four employees, so he'll work on a project every now and then. But other than that, he usually provides for us by taking care of me and my two younger sisters, which I absolutely know is such an amazing experience to go through. Every. Single. Day. As the eldest daughter, I have always dreamed of being the first to succeed career-wise. Whether they were realistic or not, well, I guess we'll find out.

When I was young, I aspired to be what every other girl wanted to be: a singer. I sang in the shower, I sang in concerts, and I sang karaoke. I sang almost everywhere I went, and I enjoyed it. Until I finally met my worst enemy in middle school: stage fright. I realized if I couldn't conquer stage fright, how could I ever be a singer? Well the answer was clear. You simply can't. I probably should've faced my fear, and who knows? Maybe there's still time to do so, but regardless, I

took the easy way out, and I found something else to pursue.

If it wasn't very clear, I love writing. When I started reading books, I saw the endless stories that ceased to amaze me. Then I thought, well, why can't I write my own? I started making short stories, and I absolutely loved the process. I immediately started dreaming that I would be a best-selling author, maybe even win a nobel prize, and I'd be drowning in stacks of money.

They were immediately destroyed when I searched up the salary of an author. I strived for 90,000-100,000 salaries, and only a few lucky gems achieved such a feat, so it wasn't guaranteed that I would live the best life I wanted to live. I know it shouldn't matter, but salary means a lot to me. With the way I want to live, I need the salary to attain such a possibility. The only option left was to look elsewhere.

If it hasn't struck yet, I have a variety of things I could consider as a career. One of those options is criminal justice. I've always watched documentaries about ruthless murders, and vile kidnappings ever since I became a big girl and it stopped scaring me. With every case I devoured, I always thought the process in which they caught such an evil force

was interesting. From brutal, endless interviews to adrenaline-filled high-speed chases, I lived for it all, and I wanted to be a part of that journey. I could hit a case that would involve the most notorious killer, and I would even talk to one face-to-face. Then, with a big finale, I would see them thrown in the place they belong: prison. As of now, I haven't found a con for this path, other than, you guessed it: the salary.

So, the most important question is silently asked: Would I rather live a life where I enjoy my job, but face the consequence of having financial absence, or do I live a life where I hate what I do, but say it surrounded by money? My mom says, "You should be happy," and my dad says, "Take the money!" With such valuable input, I've continuously pondered this question every time I think about my career and what path I want to take. While most say to live a life where you love your job, I also would love to live a life where I don't worry financially. I know I am still a sophomore, and I shouldn't think too hard about it just yet, but for now, I'll dream of the life I could potentially live.