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XAVIER TO RETIRE BRIAN GRANT'S JERSEY IN SATURDAY CEREMONY **Retired NBA Star's Foundation Focuses on Supporting Parkinson's Disease Patients**

(Cincinnati, OH) ----- On Saturday, January 22, 2011, Xavier University will retire former NBA power forward and 1994 XU graduate Brian Grant's number in a ceremony during the 3pm Xavier game against Temple. When Grant's number "33" hangs from the Cintas Center's rafters, he joins an elite team of only four men's basketball players who have received this honor at Xavier.

"I have amazing memories of playing basketball for Xavier now made much sweeter with this recognition," said Grant. "I am humbled and honored to have my jersey number retired."

As Xavier's fourth all-time leading rebounder (1,080) and ninth all-time leading scorer (1,719), Grant holds the school career record for field goal percentage (.594) for players who played at least three years. Grant, two-time Midwestern Collegiate Conference Player of the Year, earned national honors from the Associated Press and *Basketball Times*. During his career, Xavier won MCC regular season championships in 1991, 1993 and 1994, the 1991 MCC Tournament Championship, NCAA Tournament Second Round appearances in 1991 and 1993 and an NIT Quarterfinalist appearance in 1994.



Additionally, Grant will reunite on Saturday with his former Xavier teammate and current XU head coach Chris Mack. The two played together for three seasons at Xavier.

As part of the Grant jersey retirement event on Saturday, the team will wear throwback uniforms. After the game, the jerseys will be up for auction on GoXavier.com. The auction benefits the Brian Grant Foundation. (Per NCAA rules, the players' names on the back will be removed before they're auctioned.)



As the 1994 NBA Draft selection at eighth overall by Sacramento, Grant is the highest selected professional basketball player in school history. Winner of the NBA's 1998-1999 J. Walter Kennedy Citizenship Award honoring an NBA player or coach for outstanding service and dedication to the community, he was a leader and role model during his 12-year NBA career in Sacramento, Portland, Miami, Los Angeles and Phoenix. Grant appeared in the NBA Playoffs seven times.

About The Brian Grant Foundation

Established in 2010, the Brian Grant Foundation supports efforts to build awareness and education of Parkinson's disease in order to increase earlier diagnosis, support those newly diagnosed, educate patients and their families, and provide a viable forum for people affected by Parkinson's. Grant was diagnosed in November of 2008 at age 36 with young onset Parkinson's disease. Since, he has become an advocate for finding a cure and an inspiration for those living with PD.

This summer, Grant will once again host a two-day celebrity gala and golf tournament **SHAKE IT TILL WE MAKE IT** on Sunday, July 31 and Monday, August 1 in Portland, OR to raise money for his Parkinson's foundation. In 2010, the first annual **SHAKE IT TILL WE MAKE IT** proceeds of \$350,000 were donated to the Michael J. Fox Foundation, the leading source of financing for Parkinson's research to speed a cure. www.shakeittillwemakeit.com

About Parkinson's disease

Parkinson's disease is a chronic, degenerative neurological disorder that affects one in 100 people over age 60. While advancing age remains the greatest risk factor, PD can strike people even under age 30 and some have been diagnosed as young as 18. Recent research indicates at least one million people in the United States, and more than five million worldwide, have Parkinson's.

To Access Event Video & Photos

Please contact Xavier University: Colin Waters, Sports Information Assistant/Web Coordinator
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