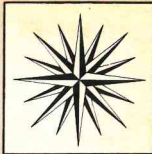


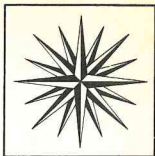
Beyond Sports



Buzz Aldrin



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From Sports to the Moon

The President of the United States was on the telephone. It was a long-distance call from Washington, D.C. to the Sea of Tranquility on the moon.

President Nixon: "Hello, Neil and Buzz. I am talking to you from the Oval Room at the White House. And this certainly has to be the most historic telephone call ever made. I just can't tell you how proud we all are of you... Because of what you have done, the heavens have become a part of man's world..."

The day was July 20, 1969. Minutes before, Colonel Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. had exclaimed, "Beautiful, beautiful," as he stepped on the moon's surface, the second man in history to do so. The first had been Neil Armstrong, only minutes earlier.

Whether on earth or literally "out of this world," Buzz Aldrin early in life had shown signs of being one who knew where he was going and how to get there. He was born in Montclair, N.J., in 1930. Sports had always been a big part of Buzz's life, and at Montclair High School in New Jersey, he excelled not only in academics, but also in football and pole-vaulting.

In his senior year, 5'9", 165-lb Buzz

played center. At a time when few centers did so, Buzz used one hand for centering the ball, even on punts. The Montclair eleven won every game in the 1947 season and the state championship. Buzz proved himself as an offensive player and stood out as a pass defender and an astute reader of the opposition's plays. In track he repeatedly topped 11' in the pole vault, with his best height 11'6" for a tie for first at the Newark Invitation.

The summer of '47, 17-year-old Buzz went off to West Point, New York, home of the U.S. Military Academy. Too small for varsity football, he concentrated on pole-vaulting—that is, when he wasn't studying. At the end of his first year, Buzz was No. 1 in his class.

As a vaulter, he soared to a top height of 13'8", $\frac{1}{8}$ shy of the West Point Field House record—at a time when fiberglass poles, like trips to the moon, were not yet fashionable.

Buzz Aldrin graduated No. 3 in his class in 1951 and moved on to Bryan Field, Tex., where he won his Air Force Wings. Eighteen years later, the ex-pole-vaulter and his companions took the greatest leap of all mankind—to the moon.

A giant leap for mankind