



Michael Frazier

“Overpowering presence”

Life around the rim began for Michael Frazier as a freshman varsity Pirate and a long range trey from the baseline of great significance that became folklore in the 100th year of boys’ basketball at Charlestown.

Frazier calmly knocked down the famed 3-pointer versus Silver Creek at the buzzer of the 1997 Jeffersonville Sectional in the last of the single-class post-season tournaments in Hoosier high school history.

The Creekers had built what appeared to be a comfy-lead with less than two minutes showing on the clock in the final stanza. But the Pirates chiseled the score down by some sharp shooting from Kenny Routh and Mike Prichard to take the game in overtime. Both teams traded buckets to lead in the extra frame until the Dragons made a couple of free throws with less than 0.5 seconds left to put them out in front by one.

The Pirates quickly took the ball across midcourt and fired a pass to underclassman Michael Frazier---who had been inserted in the game for the first time---as time ticked to 0.2 seconds. Frazier let loose from the left baseline a searing long range trey that sailed in the hoop as the buzzer sounded giving the Pirates one of the biggest upsets at the Jeffersonville Sectional!

The ’97 Pirates would go on to win another big upset over highly ranked Jeffersonville in the championship game, and Frazier would go on to making more history for the Pirates basketball program. He would have an integral part in winning back-to-back sectionals at Charlestown---only the second¹ time in its lengthy hoops program.

Frazier ended with 1,458 career points, and among his numerous single-scoring records, he still ranks as the all-time leader with 284 assists and holds the record for the highest career point average of any player for the Pirates, maintaining an average 20.8 points per game during his four year stint.

Undeniably, Michael Frazier, who was given the nickname “Money” by his teammates, had a strong presence with his shooting arm during the seasons of 1997-2000.

(You can read more on Michael Frazier and other outstanding Pirates in “Pirates of the Hardwood” and “The Pirates – Centennial Basketball 1917-2017” books by Chuck E. Ledbetter, Sr.)



Michael Frazier - one of the heroes of the 1997 Jeffersonville Sectional – (Photograph courtesy of Coach Ben D. Ledbetter, Jr.)

¹ Coach John E. Wood’s Pirates of 1975 and 1976 were the first to reach that milestone at Charlestown.