

Have you noticed all of *the GOAT* talk lately? “He’s the GOAT.” “She’s the GOAT.” Really? An Olympic gymnast has even gone so far as to wear a flashy goat charm on her necklace to remind everyone – and perhaps even herself – of her greatness. But who is actually the Greatest of All Time? We have lots of choices.

One of the more ludicrous ones is former NFL football coach Bill Belichick – the guy who rode the coattails of Tom Brady (another GOAT by the way) to fame and fortune. This same man claims the dubious honor of having a steady girlfriend the age of a granddaughter! His latest outrage involves landing the head football coaching position at the University of North Carolina and dragging his two sons into sweetheart jobs there. Together they proceeded to lead UNC to a disastrous season. If that wasn’t enough, he’s also using his dubious relationship with this young lady to spawn a brand of jewelry trademarked “Gold Digger.”

On a more rational note, many pick Michael Jordan as the greatest basketball player of all time and one of the greatest athletes as well. Cassius Clay boasted “I am the greatest” as he changed his name to Muhammad Ali and fought his way to the top of the heavyweight boxing world. But we know pride comes before the fall (Proverbs 16:18). After a decade or so, his body began giving out. A few years later, he announced he had Parkinson's Syndrome – which severely hampered his ability to speak and move and eventually took his life.

History has many who claimed greatness and even deity. Augustus Caesar, Alexander the Great, Pharaoh of Egypt, and Nebuchadnezzar all espoused greatness and most sought worship. Could one of these men qualify as the GOAT?

While each of these sports stars and world leaders show a glimmer of greatness, they fall far short of that of the first husband and wife – created perfect in every way. All of the powerful, robust, virile, healthy, handsome, masculine, and intelligent men owe their genetics to this first man. All of the beautiful, alluring, charming, radiant, gracious, feminine, and brilliant women owe their genetics to this first woman. And speaking of *genes*, this was the year of the great *jeans* campaign. Certainly, Sydney can thank mother Eve for whatever beauty she has – despite it being only a faint, fleeting shadow of what embodied that incomparable first woman.

From a physical perspective Adam and Eve win the GOAT title hands down. But there remains one greater. He’s the King of Kings and LORD of LORDS (Revelation 19:16). We celebrate Him each year at Christmas and the glorious truth of the Gospel that He died for our sins, was buried, and rose from the dead. He offers all who believe in Him the free gift of eternal life (John 3:16). The eternal Lamb of God is the one and only Greatest of All Time.

But wait! There’s more. As Adam had Eve, the last Adam also has His Bride. As Adam and Eve became one flesh, Jesus Christ and His Bride will share a oneness in Him (John 14:20). His Bride will take His name and be clothed in His righteousness. He will give her a special name and a perfect body. They will walk and eat together. She will sit at His side on His throne. As every knee will bow to Him, so will He make His enemies bow to her. (Revelation 2:17–3:21)

So the next time you hear *the GOAT* bandied around, remember our first human parents and our Savior Jesus Christ, and know that as His Bride and in Him we become the Greatest of All Time.

Merry Christmas!

(Christmas letters online at ronharrod.com/christian/christmas-letters)