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Moundbuilder senior guard collects shoes

By Cale Eirich
Staff Reporter

For some of us what we wear on our feet may be an afterthought, but for the sneakerheads of the world, what they lace up on their feet is a passion.

Just take a moment to contemplate how many shoes you have in your closet at this moment. Even if you don't know the number off the top of your head, the number is usually not overwhelming. For Jason Allen, sports management senior, it is hard to keep track of the exact amount of sneakers he owns.

"My overall collection I have about 50, maybe 60 (shoes)," said Allen. "I've lost count after a while."

The sheer number of his collection made the decision on which shoes to bring to Southwestern from his hometown, Chicago, difficult, explained Allen.

"You only get four bags, and 50 lbs. per bag," he said. "I have to take in consideration that I'm bringing clothes, so shoes have to be less of a priority for me even though that's hard to do."

With the difficulties of traveling with his shoe collection, Allen managed to bring about 20 pairs, from his coveted Pradas to the baby-blue Kyrie 3s he rocks on the court. With all his shoes and limited space to pack them, it's a given that Jason is going to regret not bring a pair or two.

"I have a pair of Jordan 11s back at the house that I should have brought and I can't wait until I go home to get them," said Allen.

Allen began collecting shoes when he was 17 years old, motivated by his brothers who also had love of sneakers.

"Growing up, my mom only bought us one pair of shoes that we had to keep up for a couple of months until we got another pair," he said. "Every time I see a shoe I like now, I just buy it if I have the money."

From a young age, Allen has taken a serious interest in the



Cale Eirich/The Collegian

Jason Allen, sports management senior, shows off his massive shoe collection.

way his footwear looks.

"For me, I want my shoes to last," Allen explained. "Now I have a couple of creases in these (pointing to his Maroon Air Force Ones), I get so upset about it."

As a kid, Allen would ball up socks and put them in his shoes to prevent creasing, and he continues to take care of his shoes periodically by using a toothbrush and soap to clean them every couple of weeks. He has two pairs of Prada shoes, one of which cost \$375.

Allen explained that when

looking for shoes he keeps an eye out for sales and deals that he can capitalize on. "It's always a good feeling to get new shoes."

One of his favorite sensations is opening the box, removing the paper, and smelling that new shoe smell, and with basketball season looming, Allen's mind is fixated on shoes, plotting the next pair he will wear on the court.

"I'm looking at different basketball shoes right now because it's basketball season," said Allen. "I'm more of low-top guy rather than high-top."

Moving forward, Allen only sees his passion for shoes and his collection growing. "It'll get to a certain point where I'll get married and have kids and I'll have to put these types of things on the backburner," said Allen. "But I'll still have a decent amount of shoes."

Allen is at the pinnacle of his passion for collecting shoes, and he will continue to show soul through his soles.

Cale Eirich is a junior majoring in communication. You may contact him at cale.eirich@sckans.edu.