

## Michael & Nancy McKibben

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### For immediate release:

## **From Homeschool to Medical School (via Beechcroft and Harvard)**

*Max McKibben enters Medical School at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland*

CLEVELAND (July 16, 2007) -- In an impressive ceremony at Cleveland's Severance Hall on Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, Harvard and Beechcroft graduate Maxim James McKibben and 145 classmates received the white coats that mark the beginning of their medical school studies at Case Western Reserve University. Max, who worked in Boston for two years after graduation for Trinity Partners, a consulting firm for pharmaceutical companies, recently moved to Cleveland Heights in anticipation of his new career as a med student.

Max graduated as valedictorian of his Beechcroft High School class in 2001 and with honors in biology in 2005 from Harvard University, where he played offensive left tackle for a Harvard football team that twice won the Ivy League championship with undefeated seasons. Max was homeschooled up to high school.

Attending the ceremony were his parents, Michael and Nancy McKibben of Columbus, his sisters, Carrie Fletemeyer of Tempe, Arizona, Susanna McKibben of Chicago, and Rose and Holly McKibben of Columbus, as well as brother Justin, grandmother Dorothy Hoovler of Delaware, Ohio, and girlfriend Elizabeth Kreter of Boston.

Max begins classes today, and for his clinical work will be wearing the white coat that his high school football coach, Thomas Dunlap, once predicted for him. Coach Dunlap told *The Columbus Dispatch* back in 2001, "I don't think some people in the Midwest understand what a big deal it is going to Harvard," he said. "I can absolutely close my eyes and envision Max McKibben walking down the Harvard halls with a lab coat on. As an educator or a coach, it's a real feather in your cap to say that you helped produce a young man of this caliber."<sup>1</sup> Coach Dunlap's words proved prophetic. During his last two years at Harvard Max worked for the world-renowned chemical biologist Stuart L. Schreiber, Ph.D., and was included meaningfully in his cutting-edge small molecule research.<sup>2</sup> Max, indeed, walked the halls of Harvard in a white lab coat. Yesterday he donned a second one at Case Western Reserve University Medical School.

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### **About Case Western Reserve School of Medicine**

Since its founding in 1843, the School of Medicine has been at the forefront of medical education and research. Already a leading educational institution for more than a century, in 1952 the School of Medicine initiated the most advanced medical curriculum in the country, integrating the basic and clinical sciences, focusing on organ systems, and featuring an introduction to patients in the first year. The School of Medicine is one of only three schools in history to receive a flawless accreditation report from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the authority that grants accreditation to U.S. and Canadian M.D. programs. The School of Medicine consistently ranks in the Top 25 and collaborates closely in programs and research with The Cleveland Clinic. Online: < <http://casemed.case.edu/>>.

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Student Doctor Max McKibben



<sup>1</sup> "GRADES LEAD PLAYER FROM BEECHCROFT TO HARVARD", *The Columbus Dispatch*: Sports, February 9, 2001.

<sup>2</sup> Online: < [http://www.broad.harvard.edu/chembio/lab\\_schreiber/sciOver/index.html](http://www.broad.harvard.edu/chembio/lab_schreiber/sciOver/index.html)>.