

The News-Gazette

Ebertfest: *Mind/Game* excerpt

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CHAMPAIGN —

"*Mind/Game: The Unquiet Journey of Chamique Holdsclaw*," [is] a conventional yet fascinating documentary about the basketball player once called the female Michael Jordan.

Director Rick Goldsmith had known about Holdsclaw's career but said he didn't decide to make a documentary about her until 2012, when he read a New York Times article by Bill Rhoden about Holdsclaw's struggles with clinical depression. Later, she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

"I just thought, first of all, that it was very inspiring," he said. "I, like most people in the audience and in America, have mental illness in the family. I grew up with an uncle with schizophrenia, and I wondered why more wasn't done for him."

The documentary shows that in sports and also among African-Americans, a stigma remains about mental illness that often prevents people from seeking help.

Goldsmith said he has shown the Holdsclaw documentary to mental health experts, at a conference on suicide, a black church in Memphis, sports psychologists and at colleges and high schools. On Friday, he screened it for 50 Urbana students. He said the youths watched with "rapt attention" and asked great questions.