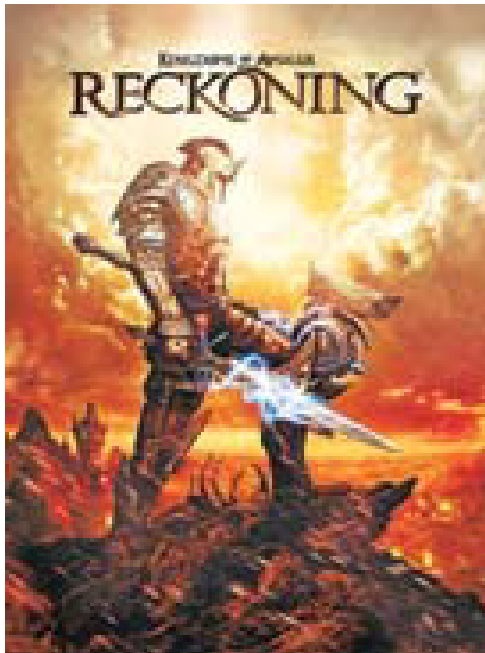




# SIDELINES

## FANTASY ACE

The release of *Kingdoms of Amalur: Reckoning* [reckoning.com, \$59.99, PS3/Xbox 360/PC] on Feb. 7 marks the end of a six-year journey for 38 Studios founder and chairman **Curt Schilling**. The six-time All-Star pitcher, who retired in 2007, was a gamer throughout his 20-year MLB career. [His *World of Warcraft* sessions with former Red Sox teammates J.D. Drew and Coco Crisp were epic.] So he says it was a natural fit to invest \$30 million to create 38 Studios in 2006. "I wanted to take a shot at being the best in the world at something else," Schilling says. 38 Studios spent its first three years establishing its vision, which included hiring best-selling fantasy writer R.A. Salvatore and comic book icon Todd McFarlane to write story lines. In 2009, the company purchased Big Huge Games to serve as its development arm, which sped up the creation process. Together, the staff of 400 created *Reckoning*, a role-playing game that mixes hand-to-hand combat with fantasy-world exploration, all immersed in 10,000 years of history. Despite Schilling's sports background, the company expects to stay within the fantasy genre; its second title, *Copernicus*, is in development. "We all grow up believing in fantasy as children," Schilling says. "And I don't think we ever grow out of it." —KYLE STACK



## A BRONCS TALE

In his latest college hoops diary, coach Ryan Marks invites you to take a peek inside UTPA's friendly confines.

Five road games in five states. That's how the Broncs and I spent the heart of January. There was the feisty young Cal State Bakersfield fan chanting "Warm up the bus" behind our bench on Jan. 7 ... while we were ahead. And how can I forget the referee at Air Force two nights later who challenged me to identify one bad call despite a 22-2 free throw disparity? We always welcome our return to Rio Grande Valley, but man, I've never been more ecstatic about a homestand at the UTPA Fieldhouse than our upcoming six-game stretch through Feb. 18.

Built in 1969, our recently refurbished 2,500-seat facility possesses some cozy—and quirky—comforts. For instance, after my pregame instructions, the team must funnel into a larger public locker room, where they often encounter the opposing team, refs and a handful of naked professors who have just finished swimming in the adjoining pool. Following that awkwardness, we continue down a narrow corridor to the court as the pep band plays what everyone assumes is our fight song. [Heck, I did for two and a half years.] Actually, though, it's "La Adelita," a folk/love song from the Mexican Revolution.

As for attendance, the Bronc Zoo student group isn't consistently in full force, but you can bet the Winter Texan section will be buzzin'. These retirees and semi-retirees are largely from the Midwest; they make their yearly pilgrimages to our little slice of paradise so they can escape the cold. Still, they've become our most avid supporters. Well, next to university president Dr. Robert Nelsen, whose battle cry of "Go Broncs" is heard above the cheers of roughly 700 other fans. Oh, and if you want a hot dog, we've got good ones—at the concession-stand trailer outside. [Don't worry, it rarely rains here.]

So sure, you'll instantly know you're not in Kansas' Allen Fieldhouse anymore. But to us, there's no place like home.

Follow Coach on Twitter: @CoachRyanMarks



### THE MAG MINUTE

**JORDAN TAYLOR, WISCONSIN GUARD**

**What do you wish you had more time for?** Mario Kart. I get to play only about two hours a week because I'm so busy with school and basketball. I'd like to spend a third of my time playing Mario Kart and the rest playing basketball, with sleep sneaking in there.

**What's your most irrational fear?** I hate coming into a dark house. I get nervous that someone will jump out and scare me. I've probably watched one too many scary movies.

**Whom would you want to play you in your biopic?** Jamie Foxx. He can do it all—he acts and sings, he's got Grammys and he's smooth.

**What's your guilty pleasure?** *Friends*. There are a few guys on the team who watch it a lot. My favorite character is Monica. She's funny because she's a spaz.