

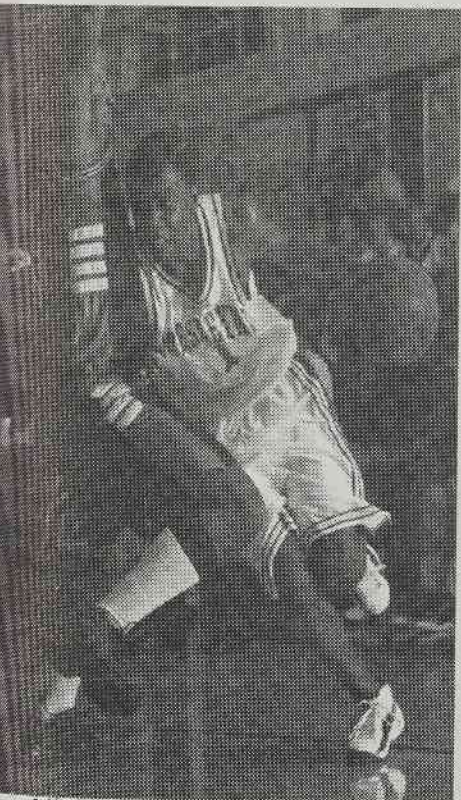
SPORTS

Bishops Hoops Season Opens With Exhibition Against Canadians

On Friday November 14th The North Carolina Wesleyan Battling Bishops tipped off the 2003-2004 Season with a 90 to 69 Victory, in an exhibition game against Sheridan College Bruins (Oakville, Ontario, Canada). The Bishops who are the USA Southern Conference # 1 preseason pick and ranked # 14 nationally by the Basketball Times, were led in scoring by Senior Ryan Sinclair, with 23 points including a devastating long range performance, going 5 of 6 from the three-point line. All-South Region performer Keith Sudler and Preseason All-American Bradley Blue had 15 points apiece. Bobby Jenkins dished out 10 assists while Donta Jenkins pulled down 12 boards to go with his eight points.

Sheridan came south with a storied tradition in men's basketball. The Bruins who have won their conference tournament four of the last five years have won their league's regular season five consecutive years. They were the National Champions in 1985 and 1990. Sheridan, who has already played eight games stand 6-2 on the season, including their own Bash Tournament Championship.

Source: Renny Taylor, North Carolina Wesleyan Sports



All-American Bradley Blue



BATTLING BISHOPS

"Football" from page 1

For the record, who was the driving force behind the introduction of football here?

IN - Well, it's a bit of all of them. Certainly when I came, I had heard that there was some desire for a football program. I at first was skeptical about it. I thought football was something that was going to cost a lot of money. I began to talk to the other Presidents that I met, Presidents in our conference, and from other schools and they all explained to me how Division III football works. Far from being something that cost money, it brings in a lot of revenue. I looked at the school and saw that athletics played an important role here as it does at most small schools, Division III schools. Students like to come here because of athletics. If it weren't for the students that come here on two or three of our athletics programs, this college wouldn't exist. The athletes, I discovered, are students that come and stay far more than our other students. We have retention issues, the students on the teams tend to stay around, they tend to do academically better here, all in all it seemed like a good idea, so I became a real supporter for it, and I became a driving force.

RF - *How long and extensive of an investigating process went into making the decision to go ahead with the program?*

IN - We looked at a number of other schools, we put a study together of the other schools that had done it, we were the last school in our conference. I talked to two or three of the Presidents to get information as to what they did to prepare, what was there business plan, among other things. I talked to other schools with athletics programs, Division III schools, why they had done it, what were the issues, what were the advantages, were there any disadvantages? The study took quite a bit of time because the board wasn't going to approve it unless they were convinced. In the past the board had been sold a number of "good stories" that turned out to be disasters. They made us do our homework. We put together a full study based on other schools experiences, and it took several months. There was a lot of information and made the decision, based on that, to move forward.

RF - *Where are the funds coming from to field the team?*

IN - The initial funding is coming from external fundraising. We have thus far a little over \$200,000. We hope to have at least \$250,000 for this year. It's all coming from externally raised money. There's been a great deal of support from the community for this. Football is the most expensive sport that we will have, but its nothing like what people think. This is something we had to discuss with the board, we had to put all the numbers together. Football will cost, to operate, roughly \$300,000 a year, something up to \$300,000, probably less actually, somewhere between \$250,000 and \$300,000. These are figures we put together as well as received from other schools. We will get 100 new students we wouldn't otherwise have. That provides quite a large surplus. Revenue from 100 students, after discounts and so on and so forth, is \$1,000,000. That's 100 times \$10,000. Football will cost \$250,000 to \$300,000, there's \$700,000 above and beyond.

RF - *What justification is there for a football team, when many students are concerned with shortages in areas like increased technology in classrooms, increasing class offerings, adding new faculty, conditions of residence halls, library renovations and so on?*

IN - It provides quite a large surplus. So when we see that students are concerned with shortages and faculty are concerned with shortages, this is one of the ways we can help deal with those shortages. Like most small colleges we are enrollment driven. Half of our students are in the Adult Degree Program on campus, fully half of our students. Those students are really subsidizing the cost of on campus programs. The on campus program here at Wesleyan College does not come close to paying for itself. Without the extra revenue from the ADP, the campus would close. We have to find ways to bring students in, we have to find ways to bring revenue in. With the revenue from football, you can appoint more faculty members, you can put more money into the library, you can put more money into support staff, you can do those things that are necessary. You can provide funds to help this campus sustain itself.

RF - *What long-term effects are expected on campus from the football program?*

IN - It depends on how you want to look at it. There are those who say you get big "football thugs". There are

those who say it will create a wonderful atmosphere, a Saturday atmosphere that will help provide activities to help students to stay here on the weekends. I keep saying if we bring in thugs, its because we bring in thugs. I have no expectation of that. The issue isn't, will we have more testosterone in, yes. Are there ways to deal with it, yes. I'd like to see further expansion beyond football; Women's field hockey or lacrosse, things like that to attract more students. Coaches want student's who can succeed. That's the history of this college. Our students who succeed here, the overwhelming majority are adults in the off campus program and athletes in the on campus program.

RF - *One of the rumors around campus is that many students did not return this year and others plan to transfer because they believe that the school is moving away from an academic focus and toward athletics. Would you comment on that?*

IN - I think that's 120% unfounded, students who did not come back this year, did not come back because they flunked out. I have not heard of one such student and I don't believe it for a moment. Somebody might want to float any rumor around but I would be very surprised if that were the case. Colleges are nothing but rumor mills. There are always naysayers, there are always those who don't want athletics. You'll never satisfy all the naysayers but I think those who will actually look at this, I think there's a lot of excitement on campus.

RF - *If you could say something that might ease the concerns some have about the inclusion of football at Wesleyan, what would it be?*

IN - I have never heard one student say anything to me, I've never heard one fear and I don't know what those fears are. All I have heard, from students, is this is going to be great! I've heard it from some faculty members. I've been in Universities all my life and I've never seen a situation where there aren't faculty who oppose athletics. All I can say to allay the fears of those is to watch and see what happens. When I came here two years ago, this college was in very difficult shape. We are now beyond that. We are now in the planning for growth in size and quality, so for those who fear change, all I can say is just observe what's going on. Some will applaud it, some will oppose it, most will soldier on. That's the nature of people and that's the nature of colleges.

A IM Interview with Drew Martin

By Forget Carter

With this being only my second personal interview, sophomore Drew Martin - who's a Forward on the soccer team - and I talked quite impersonally. Talking on the wonderful invention of AOL Instant Messenger, Drew and I began our question and answer session.

FC - In your opinion how do you think this year's team compares to last years team?

DM - Well earlier in the season it looked as if we were going to be too young to compete and wouldn't be able to be as good as last year, but the team has come together and we made it into the conference tournament which was something we didn't do last season.

FC - Coach Jason Kilby said that he selected the players not only based on skill but also their ability to play well with the others on field...do you think that this strategy has helped you out?

DM - Yes, he has brought in a lot of talent, we are starting to play better as a team and a lot of the freshmen are stepping up and playing well.

FC - Speaking of the freshman, you have lot of people on your team this year, much more than last and all of them didn't get playing time, how do you justify the reasons for this?

DM - Coach wants to win, he puts the players on the field that play hard in practice and want to win in the games.