

SPORTS

Volleyball Team Still Strong

by Jane Neily
Sports Editor

Last year the Lady Lion volleyball team finished their season with a superior record and a place in the national tournament. This year, despite several changes within the team, the Lady Lions have a chance at another good year. Coach Janet Cone sees some definite strengthes within the team that will work to their advantage.

Teamwork is a particular strength Coach Cone feels could be the key to the team's success this season. This year's team is minus a few outstanding players including: LaVonda Wagner, Denise Grough and AJ Thomas. However, within the team there remains enough talent to fill in for these loses. But combining the talents of individuals and making it work together will be extremely important for the Lady Lions.

Consistent setters, experience, and the player's knowledge of the game are other strong points for the team. Cindy Hodge, who is probably the best setter in the district, will be returning to the team as a Junior. Returning Senior and Co-captain, Carol Loftin, will also contribute to the team as a strong setter/passers. Freshman setter Monica Savage could prove to be another asset.

Along with Hodge and Loftin, Senior and Co-captain, Jackie Moody, will add her experience and knowledge of the game as a passer/hitter. Junior Rebecca Ward and Sophomore Melanie Wright will be valuable hitters. Junior, Kim Longhouser will be important as a passer/hitter along with a promising Freshman Carol Christopher, a passer/hitter. These players should provide eight experienced players with which to lead the team. The Lady Lions also boast several newcomers who may prove to be important in the immediate or near future. They include: strong server, Kim McKinney and three passers; Cindy Lolley, Wendy Epley and Pam Graham.

The Lady Lions caught a glimpse of themselves recently in a scrimmage against Anderson College where they were victorious in five out of five games. Coach Cone hopes this will be an indication of how the team will perform this season as they try to defend their District 26 title against such tough teams as High Point, Guilford and rival UNC-A. Players and coach as well, are excited about their team and anxious to start the regular season. "I could not have found a better group of young women to coach as my first college volleyball coaching experience." --Coach Cone

Karen Murphree: Women's Tennis Coach

by Jane Neily
Sports Editor

For forty-two years, Dr. Virginia Hart had directed the women's tennis team at Mars Hill College. This past spring, however, Dr. Hart announced her retirement from coaching. Soon afterward, acting on Dr. Hart's recommendation, Mars Hill College athletic department signed Karen Murphree, originally from Greenville, S.C., to take over the team.

Murphree, although she has never coached a team before, is, nonetheless, eminently qualified for the position. She has been playing tennis since she was eight years old. She played on the boy's team in high school because there was not a girl's team. After emerging as this team's top player, Murphree went on to play on scholarship at Winthrop College. She later gained certification as a USPTA teaching professional under

Dennis Van DeMeer, one of the top teaching professionals in the United States. Murphree has used her expertise teaching at a racquet club, clinics and she continues to give private lessons to junior players.

Murphree's knowledge and philosophy of the game and also, her enthusiasm, should prove valuable to her as a coach and to the team, as they work toward having a successful season. Murphree's ability to work with players to develop new shots and add varied strategies to their games should produce noticeable improvement in the team. Coach Murphree believes in developing aggressive serve and volley players. She realizes that today's game requires a player who can take control of the match. Murphree hopes to pass this philosophy, and a great deal of hard work and enthusiasm on to the team.

Diversions

by D. J. Lourcey
Copy Editor

Mars Hill has a wide variety of sports ranging from football to tennis, but one such sport is coming into existence around the Mars Hill campus and that is the exciting sport of cycling.

More and more students are emerging with bicycles this year than ever before. One student, Tim Brewer, has taken the sport very seriously. Tim is a transfer student from Carey, North Carolina, and he is now attending Mars Hill College with a very special goal in mind. This goal that Tim has trained so hard for is the 1987 Olympid Festival which is to be held in Raleigh, North Carolina, from July 17-26. Tim will be racing amongst the best cyclers from all over the country including such Olympic hopefuls as national champ Dave Laduc.

"...the mountains are an ideal place for me to train."

Many other state champs who are hoping to make it to the Olympic trials later on in the year will also be present.

The race will include road racing which is 100 miles around the perimeter of Raleigh, the Criterium which is a closed circuit race about 25 miles long, and track racing which is held in the Veladrom in downtown Raleigh.

Tim has been training excessively hard for this upcoming festival. "The mountains are an ideal place for me to train. It is helping me out a great deal." He plans on taking time out from Mars Hill to train at North Carolina State University. We wish you the very best, Tim.

Tim Aike

by Chris Martire
Staff Writer

Even though most football players work very hard in the off season to get in shape, their work is minimal compared to what senior guard, Tim Aiken must endure as he fulfills his sur obligation in the National Guard.

While most of his teammates are in dream land, he starts out at 4:00 with a three mile run. After his morning run, Aiken either reports to the room or to the range for maneuvers. "Sometimes we would have to secure an area and I would get thrown through a window of a building and secure it," Aiken said.

"I play every play like it's my last, and I always do the best I can."

When Aiken was finally finished his assignment, he would have a few hours to himself, but even then his dedication to football would take over.

While the others were relaxing in the bunks, Aiken was out lifting weights. "That's where the discipline that I learned in the Guard paid off. I only had a short time to lift weights, so I would cram three hours worth of exercises in an hour and a half worth of work," Aiken said. Lights went out at 9:00 on base and Aiken would report to work just before they did. But his clothes weren't over yet. "I had to iron my uniform and get it ready to go for the next day while the rest of the troop was asleep," he said.

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