

SPORTS

Abbey Cagers Ready

The Belmont Abbey Crusaders enjoyed their third consecutive .500 or better season under Coach Bob Hussey last year. In 1973-74, the squad tied the record for most wins at the Abbey with 17 victories and 12 losses.

With a complete squad of returning lettermen and the addition of good height, the Crusaders look to be one of the most competitive teams in NAIA District 26 again this year.

Senior leadership and a bumper crop of outstanding freshmen will add also new dimensions to the Belmont Abbey attack this season.

Five seniors who were all starters at one time or another last year head the list of returning veterans. Carl Bell, a NAIA All-American candidate, returns after leading the Crusaders in scoring last season at a 20.2 point-per-game clip. The 6-5 leaper from Reidsville was named to the All-District 26 team in both his sophomore and junior years and was Honorable Mention All-American in his sophomore year.

Gary Silver, a 6-1 guard, returns for his senior campaign after

scoring at nearly 10 points per contest last year. Julian Miller, a 6-1 backcourt man, and Mike Bona, a 6-6 wing man, are also seniors this season.

Rick McClure, an outstanding junior college transfer from Brevard College, was injured for the better part of last season and will hopefully return at full speed this year.

Curtis Carter, a 6-6 junior, returns after two years in a starting role along with Steve Delaney (6-0), Craig Leach (6-2), James Monroe (6-4), Clint Bryant (6-4), Craig Wink (6-3), and Mike Thombs (6-1).

Considering the fact that a lack of rebounding was a key factor last year, Coach Hussey went after some of the finest big men in the country to add backboard strength. The tallest of the tall is Glen Tambon of New York City at 6-10.

Backing Tambon will be Gene Reed of Parsippany, N.J. at 6-8, Desmond Dennis of Washington, D.C. at 6-7 and Terry Comer of Robbins, N.C. at 6-6. Paul Carver of Archbishop Molloy of New York and Bobby Moran of

Bethesda, Md. will add depth to the Crusader backcourt.

Coach Hussey said, "This being my fourth year at Belmont Abbey, seeing our first year recruits as seniors, gives me great confidence. We will be looking for more scoring and better field goal percentage from our backcourt of Silver, McClure and Miller. Bell, Carter, and Bona must provide more rebounding strength. Our overall style of play will be basically the same as past years. High percentage offense, outstanding defense and overall team play will be important factors."

Coach Hussey points to the possibility of fielding an outstanding ball club this season. "How quickly we come together as a team and how quickly our freshmen learn the system will be key factors. Even with an improved team, it might be difficult to improve on 17 wins due to a continued upgraded schedule which includes Catholic University and Mt. St. Mary's in a trip to Washington, D.C., plus strong Seton Hall University, one of the NIT teams."



This was one of Belgassem Al Soussi's three goals in the Crusaders' 4-3 Homecoming victory.

Soccer Team Wins Seven Straight

Following an opening loss to the University of North Carolina, the Belmont Abbey College soccer team has posted seven straight victories. They are looking optimistically toward their 8th consecutive district title and a berth in the regional playoffs to determine positions in the N.A.I.A. national tournament.

After losing 5-0 at Chapel Hill, the Abbey squeezed by St. Andrews, 4-3, and Elon 2-1. The team then embarked on a hot streak, outscoring the next five opponents by a combined score of 33 to 1.

Co-captain Belgassem Al Soussi, last year's 32-goal scorer, is again the standout offensively with 17 goals tallied so far. Second in scoring is Khalid Al Khalifa with 8 scores. Coach Stanley Dudko describes Khalifa as the Abbey's "secret weapon," citing deceptive speed as his greatest asset. Randy Schambach, the other Crusader co-captain, has four goals to his credit. Although obviously adept at the forward scoring positions, Soussi and Schambach have been, according to Coach Dudko, "more useful at the mid-field positions, because of their ability to set up plays and make accurate passes." Dudko's offense generally relies on short passing, and "give and go" type plays, occasionally utilizing long direct passes to set up a quick score.

In addition to Soussi, Schambach and Khalifa,

team leaders include Chris Antwi, Eddie Mancheno, and Mosadak Al Soussi, Belgassem's younger brother. These six players form the nucleus around which the team play revolves.

A pleasant surprise has been the performance of freshman Mike Lynski, already a three goal scorer. Dudko describes him as "tough and aggressive, a good passer."

Goalie Frank Munchinski and the Abbey defense have allowed only one goal in the last four matches. Though Munchinski was sidelined by illness for the Western Carolina game, Schambach filled in at the goal position, blocking an early penalty kick, and reserve goalie Bill Kitusky played well in the UNC-Asheville match.

As Crossroads goes to press, the Abbey booters are readying to meet High Point College at High Point on Saturday, October 26th. High Point currently posts the same overall record as the Abbey and the Crusaders have to win this match to secure first seeding in the district tourney. The final regular season contest pits Abbey against Davidson College, October 29th at the Abbey. The Wildcats are a powerful soccer club and should provide an exciting regular season finish.

The district play-offs will be held November 9-12. If the Crusaders win they will advance to the

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Senior Abbey Crusaders with Coach Bobby Hussey prepare for a strong showing this season. Kneeling are Rick McClure, Gary Silver, and Julian Miller. Standing are Carl Bell, Hussey, and Mike Bona.