

SPORTS



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Pictured are members of the 1975 Belmont Abbey College tennis team. Kneeling left to right are Craig Sharpe, Chris Walker, and Paul Harrell. Standing left to right are Mark Reese, Leo Fuller, Moe Daniel, and T.J. Reilly.

Tennis Team Best In Years

Expectations for this season's Belmont Abbey tennis team are the highest they've been in several years. The Crusaders have participated in six matches to date, have a 2-4 overall record and are 2-2 in District 26 action, beating Lenoir Rhyne twice by scores of 8-1 and 9-0 while dropping close matches to Limestone and Catawba by identical 4-5 scores.

"We should have the best tennis team we've ever had at the Abbey," says Crusader coach Mike Reidy. "This is the first time we've had a full squad and the competition has helped build some real enthusiasm and team spirit. From what we've seen to date, it should result in our best season ever."

The Crusaders' winning ways come after 0-9 and 1-8 seasons the last two years. In 1972 Belmont Abbey posted their best season ever, going 9-8.

The Crusaders have T.J. Reilly of St. Petersburg, Florida, playing in the number one singles spot. Reilly, a freshman, was ranked seventh among 18-year-olds in Florida competition last year. He has missed one match, but is 3-0 in District 26 play.

Returning to the tennis team after a year's layoff is senior Leo Fuller of Mount Holly, North

Carolina. Fuller played the number one singles position for the Crusaders in 1973. He has also amassed a 3-0 district mark.

Paul Harrell, a sophomore from Winchester, Virginia, is manning the number three singles position for Belmont Abbey this season. His district slate is even at 2-2.

Moe Daniel, a transfer student from nearby Gaston College, has been seeing action in the number four singles position. Daniel, who only took the game up seriously 1½ years ago, has the best record on the team with a 4-2 overall mark and is 4-0 in district competition.

Playing in the number five singles position has been Chris Walker. The freshman from Spruce Pine, North Carolina, has a 3-1 record in district play.

The number six spot has seen equal duty between two players. Gary Silver of Riverdale, Maryland, a basketball standout for the Abbey, has a 2-1 record while Mark Reese, Alexandria, Virginia, is 1-2 in the same spot.

Craig Sharpe, Charlotte, North Carolina, has also seen duty for the Crusaders, playing in the number three position. Sharpe has lost both of the matches that he has

participated in to date.

Other members of the squad are Dervin Bradford, Columbia, South Carolina; Gus Pena, Homestead, Florida; and Lisa Dorman, Fort Myers, Florida.

In doubles play, Reilly and Harrell have been playing number one most of the season while the number two team has been made up of Fuller and Sharpe. Make-up of the third team has varied among the other players.

Netmen Finish 16-14

After seeing their record dip as low as 8-12, the Crusaders rebounded to win their last five games in a row and eight of their last 10, sparked by Belmont Abbey's Mr. Everything, Carl Bell.

Although Bell's shoes will be hard to fill, the Crusaders' outlook will be bright for next season as they return a host of players who either started or saw a considerable amount of action. The lone senior on the Crusader squad next season will be Curtis Carter, a 6'6" post man. He was the leading rebounder for Belmont Abbey this year, bringing in 10.4 rebounds per game. Carter was also the team's number two

scorer with 13.7 points per game.

A host of freshmen will also be returning, including a pair of starters, point guard Bobby Moran and Belmont Abbey's first possible All-American candidate, Desmond Dennis. Dennis can best be described as awesome. The 6'7½" 225-pounder was the team's third leading scorer and rebounder, averaging 10.7 points and 7.1 rebounds per game. A very strong and quick leaper, Dennis has almost unlimited potential.

Pushing for other starting positions will be freshmen Derrick Gabriel and Glenn Tambon, and junior Steve Delaney.

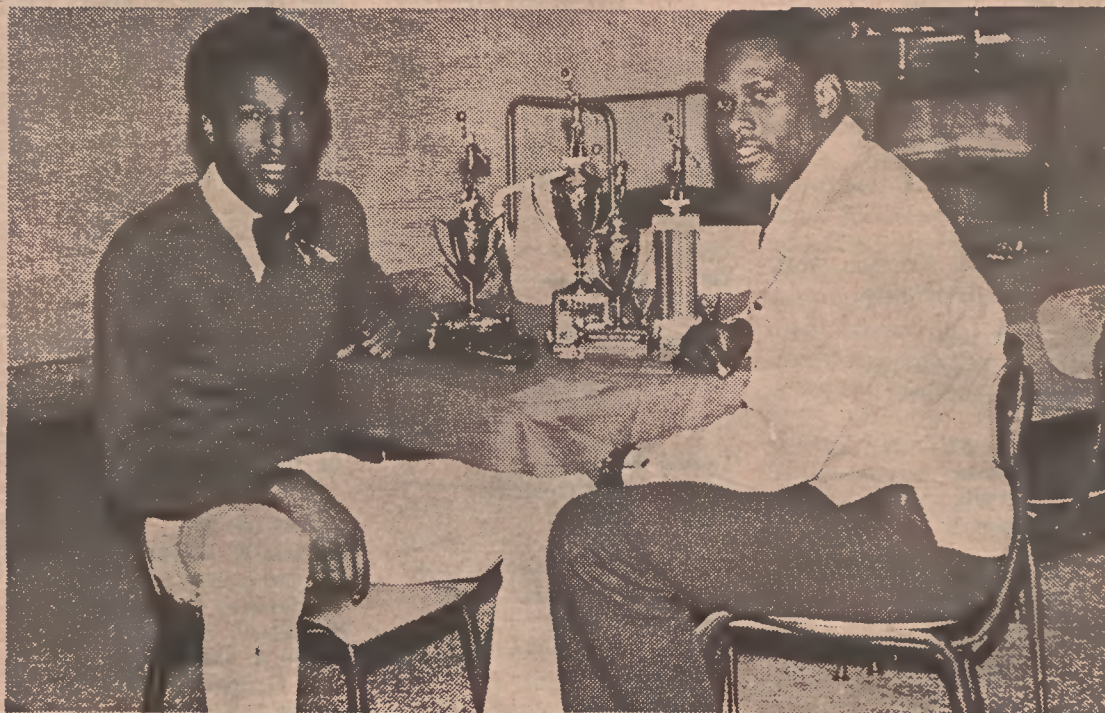
Award Winners Named At All-Sports Banquet

Belmont Abbey College held its annual All-Sports Banquet in the campus dining room on April 14, honoring the top athletes in each of the intercollegiate sports the Abbey sponsors. Joe Dean, National Promotion Manager of Converse Rubber Company, was the guest speaker.

Two members of the Abbey basketball team captured the major awards. Carl Bell, all-time scoring leader at Belmont Abbey, was the recipient of the Marty Thomas Award which goes to the Abbey's most

outstanding gentleman athlete. The Michael A. Nalls, Sr. Memorial Award went to Desmond Dennis as the school's outstanding freshman athlete.

Most Valuable Players trophies were also awarded in soccer and tennis. Belgassem (Bill) Soussi, leading scorer on Belmont Abbey's 1974 district champion soccer team, and T.J. Reilly, freshman tennis sensation and Florida's seventh-ranked player, were the recipients. Bell was also named basketball MVP.



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Major award winners at Belmont Abbey's 1974-75 All-Sports Banquet were (left to right) Carl Bell, winner of the Marty Thomas Award, given to Belmont Abbey's outstanding gentleman athlete; and Desmond Dennis, recipient of the Michael A. Nalls, Sr. Memorial Award, presented to the Abbey's outstanding freshman athlete. In addition to these awards, both men were given trophies for their contribution to the basketball team.