



1976 Rugby Team

Rugby is Here to Stay

For decades Americans have looked upon the game of rugby as a form of self-torture that only crazy fools like the British could be interested in. After all, what type of normal intelligent human being would become involved in this unearthly mixture of soccer and football? Recently, forty Abbey students have decided to answer that question. Not only has it proven to be an interesting experience, but it appears that this wild English sport is here to stay on the Abbey campus.

Last semester Norman Berube, Kevin Farrell, and Bob Delaney got together and decided they wanted to play rugby. Berube was the only experienced player, having learned the game at McLean High School in McLean, Virginia. The three of them came across Jeff Gueller of Gastonia, he had learned the game in Africa, played for one of the local Charlotte clubs, but had to quit because of bad knees. He agreed to volunteer his time as coach, eventually he would even start to play again, bad knees and all. From there on the club has had pretty smooth sailing.

Forty players originally signed up to play. All members will play and there will be no cuts from the squad. It took a number of practice sessions on the soccer field to indoctrinate the guys into the rules and strategies of the game.

The club is open to all Belmont Abbey students and alumni. Because the group gets no funding from the school and is a private club, all of the revenue must come from the members. The cost to

each individual is 5 dollars for dues and 15 dollars for the colorful orange and red jerseys.

Besides a lack of external funding, the only other problem that has arisen is that our club cannot schedule a home game.

The soccer field can't be used because the goal post for the rugby team can't be put in. The only other capable area that the club has discovered is

the fenced in baseball field. However, a local high school team has been given priority over the college kids because they rent out the field for their home games.

Once these difficulties are straightened out the club will definitely prove to be a great asset to the campus and the community. There is one thing for sure, it will be a long time before this club fizzles out.

Belgasse, Mosadak

Soussi Brothers Named All-American

It was recently announced that brothers Belgasse and Mosadak Soussi have been named to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics 1975 All-American soccer squad.

Both had been previously named, for the third time, to the NAIA All-District 26 and All-South squads.

The duo has been instrumental in leading Belmont Abbey to two District championships during the previous three years as well as advancing to the finals of the regionals during 1973 and 1974. Belmont Abbey was upset in this year's District championship finals by Pfeiffer, 2-1 in overtime, breaking an

eight-year District championship winning streak.

Belgasse Soussi became Belmont Abbey's career scoring leader with 54 goals following his sophomore season and his current total now stands at 84 goals. During each of his three seasons, he has been among the NAIA's top 5 in goals scored, finishing

second during his sophomore season.

In addition to being named three times to the All-District and All-South teams, Belgasse has been Belmont Abbey's Most Valuable Player for the previous two seasons and received the Intercollegiate Soccer Football Association award as its top scorer in 1974.

During this year's Warren Wilson Indoor Soccer Games, Belgasse led the Crusaders to the championship through the loser's bracket as he scored 18 goals.

A defensive specialist, Mosadak Soussi has scored 18 career goals for Belmont Abbey. In addition to the All-District and All-South

awards, Mosadak was the Most Valuable Player in the 1974 District Tournament.

The awards serve to heighten excitement for Belmont Abbey's soccer future as both return next season along with freshman brother Fikri who was also an outstanding player on this year's team.

Indoor Soccer Abbey Gains Crown at Warren Wilson

Belmont Abbey's soccer team, playing in five consecutive matches on Sunday, February 17th, swept through the loser's bracket to capture the championship of the Warren Wilson College Indoor Soccer games.

On Friday's opening day matches, Belmont Abbey managed to advance via a 4-1 win over the Hot Spurs of Atlanta. Mosadak Soussi scored two goals for the Crusaders to lead the way. Belgasse Soussi and Ernesto DeLima each added goals in that win, also.

Belmont Abbey gained a bit of revenge Saturday when they trounced Pfeiffer, 8-3. Pfeiffer had earlier defeated Belmont Abbey in the NAIA District 26 championship match and halted the Crusaders' string of District 26 titles at nine straight. Belgasse Soussi scored six goals in that match, while Moore Asouzu and Bandar Rashid each added goals.

Belmont Abbey also defeated Erskine Saturday, 4-2, as Bandar Rashid, Mosadak Soussi, Belgasse Soussi and Moore Asouzu scored one goal a piece for the Crusaders.

Belmont Abbey was thrown into the loser's bracket Sunday morning when the Old Timers, a team made up of former collegiate and professional stars now in the coaching ranks, shut out the Crusaders, 2-0.

The Crusaders then began their marathon run at the championship, whipping host Warren Wilson, 6-2; Alderson Broadus, 4-2; and Chapel Hill, 5-3, in setting up the stage for a final two-game showdown with the Old Timers.

Playing in do-or-die situations both times, Belmont Abbey defeated the Old Timers, 3-1, and 3-2, as brothers Belgasse and Fikri Soussi did all the scoring with Belgasse scoring two goals in each game and Fikri, the other pair.



Two members of the Belmont Abbey soccer team, Bill (center) and Mosadak (right) Soussi are congratulated by Crusaders coach Stanley Dudko (left) for their selection to the 1975 NAIA ALL AMERICAN TEAM.