

SPORTS

7-6 Record Ends Season

The 1977 edition of the Belmont Abbey College soccer team closed with a 7-6 record under first-year head coach George Kennedy.

"We had a lot of new guys playing this year," commented Kennedy, who came to Belmont Abbey after a successful tenure at Florida's Bishop Kenney High School and as an assistant with the Tampa Bay Rowdies of the North American Soccer League. "I was pleased with the results. The guys really worked hard.

"We started the season with only one senior on the squad," Kennedy continued. "We had two but defensive man Tony Stouff's was injured in a pre-season drill and was lost for the season. Anytime you have a very young team you need as many experienced players as you can get. Losing Tony had to hurt." Stouff's was a three-year starter for the Crusaders.

"When you consider the schedule that we played our record was not that bad," Kennedy elaborated. "UNC-Chapel Hill and Appalachian were both on our schedule. These two schools were among the top five teams all season long in the rankings for the South.

Appalachian played Clemson, who is ranked number one in the nation, in a very close game. That gives you an idea of the caliber of soccer we play here."

Injuries also hurt the Crusaders, Goalie Tim Carter, a freshman from Charlotte, suffered a concussion, missing the last five games of the Crusaders played with minor injuries throughout the season.

The Crusaders displayed poise in several wins over the course of the season, downing St. Andrews 4-3, UNC-Charlotte 2-1, UNC-Greensboro 6-1, Catawba 5-0 and Elon 4-0.

"Soccer is unlike other sports. With a young squad in some sports, you can call time-out and settle them down. There are no time-outs in soccer. That made it very difficult to settle them down.

"I was really proud of the way the guys hung in all season. They kept the spirit up and really worked hard. Sometimes, when the going gets tough, people tend to give up. That's easy. Not our team, they hung in and were fighters. They were really dedicated."

Besides Carter, the Crusaders had several other impressive newcomers in the line-up. William "Chip" Smith, a freshman, did an excellent job on offense. Butch Brown also did a good job. Back again next year will be Fekri Soussi, who had several multi-goal games.

The only loss to graduate will be Khalid Khalifa.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
Jan. 4	Gardner-Webb	Charlotte Coliseum
7	Catawba	Away
9	Castleton State (Vt.)	Home
12	Barber-Scotia	Home
14	USC-Spartanburg	Away
16	Atlantic Christian	Home
18	UNC-Asheville	Away
21	Pfeiffer	Away
23	Augusta (Ga.)	Away
26	Catawba	Home
28	USC-Aiken	Home
30	Elon	Away
Feb. 4	Heritage (Fla.)	Home
6	USC-Aiken	Away
9	Lenoir Rhyne	Away
11	Augusta (Ga.)	Home
13	Methodist	Home
16	Seton Hall	Away
18	UNC-Asheville	Home
22	Elon	Home
25	Central Wesleyan	Away
March 2	Lenoir Rhyne	Home

+ ALL HOME GAMES WILL BE PLAYED AT 7:30 p.m.

Charlotte Coliseum Site of Jan. 4 Clash

Belmont Abbey College basketball will return to the Charlotte Coliseum Wednesday evening, Jan. 4 at 7 p.m.

The Crusaders will meet rival Gardner-Webb in the first game of a double-header. Davidson takes on Marshal University at 9 p.m.

An alumni reception will follow the game in the Hospitality Room of the Coliseum.

Tickets are \$3 and \$5 and can be purchased at all Abbey home games or from the Athletic Department at the College during the week.



HERE ARE THE 1977-78 Crusaders! Left to right: Coach Bobby Hussey, Stan Parker, Mike Littlejohn, David Kershaw, Greg Leslie, Desmond Webb, Lenoir-Rhyne and Catawba ahead, as well as Seton Hall in a non-district game.

Cagers Score Upset

The Belmont Abbey College basketball team chalked up its first win of the 1977-78 season with a 75-67 win over Old Dominion in Norfolk.

Junior college transfer Lawrence Carter led the way for the Crusaders, pumping in 26 points, eight of them coming from the free throw stripe, as Belmont Abbey utilized a patient style of play in the game. His only miss from the stripe came in the first half. He hit eight consecutive ones in the second half.

The Crusaders trailed at the half, 24-22, and trailed by as many as seven points early in the second half, before Carter and crew went to work.

Sophomore Billy Holmgaard was second highest scorer for the Crusaders, with 20 points. He also hauled in eight rebounds. Freshman David Kershaw added 15 more points and seven rebounds.

"I was very pleased with the way we played," commented Coach Bobby Hussey, who is entering his seventh season at the helm. "We made a few mistakes, but we made up for them. I am happy for the team; they deserved to win.

"Lawrence played the way he is supposed to play," Hussey continued. "He took control of the offense and was a leader out on the floor. I would hate to pick any certain player; it was a team effort all the way."

Old Dominion is a NCAA Division I power, and rarely loses at home.

The victory offset the season-opener loss to Johnson C. Smith at the College's Wheeler Center. The score in that one was 102-85.

Kershaw was the leading scorer for the Crusaders then, pumping in 20 points. Mike Littlejohn added 15, Holmgaard, 14, and Jack Campbell, 13.

"We were tight going into that one," commented Hussey. "I thought we might shake it after we got into the game, but we didn't.

"We shot poorly in the first half against Smith, but were only eight down at halftime. We shot even poorer in the second half and made several costly turn-overs in the beginning."

The Crusaders are on their way into their 27-game schedule. They have the tough NAIA District 26 games, against such foes as Gardner-

Webb, Lenoir-Rhyne and Catawba ahead, as well as Seton Hall in a non-district game.

"We are again playing a very tough schedule," said Hussey. "With this type of schedule, you cannot afford any type of let-

down. We will have to be on our toes the whole season.

"The win at Old Dominion demonstrates the type of basketball team we will have this season. It is going to be tough, but we can handle it," Hussey concluded.

Abbey Trip Bad; ODU Suffers

The visiting locker room in the Norfolk Scope just before game time on November 30 was not exactly the liveliest place in town. Twelve tired, hungry and stiff Belmont Abbey College basketball players prepared to meet powerful Old Dominion in front of 10,000 people.

Coach Bobby Hussey sat quietly reviewing scouting reports wondering how his travel plans had faltered. Piedmont's flight eight was to arrive at the Norfolk airport shortly after noon, giving the team more than enough time to check into their hotel and visit the Scope prior to the game. Hussey planned a light workout to shake any pre-game jitters caused by playing in a large arena, followed by a pre-game meal at 4 p.m.

However, all the well laid plans were washed out. Flight eight landed in Raleigh to pick up several passengers. The ten minute stop-over was changed to an hour delay. It was later announced that the continuation of the flight had been cancelled, due to inclement weather at Norfolk. The airline arranged for the team to be transported to Norfolk by bus. However, the buses would not leave until after three o'clock for the trip which would take at least four hours. With no guarantee of arrival time, Coach Hussey didn't want his players to sit on a bus four hours and then be expected to play against a strong Division I basketball team. After some deliberation the group from Belmont was put aboard an Eastern Airlines flight bound for Richmond, Va. Due to the fog it took two approaches to finally land. The travel-weary group then was boarded on a chartered bus to continue the trip to Norfolk. A small prepackaged snack was given to each player. Little did the Crusaders know while riding through a storm on Interstate 64 that they were now having their pre-game meal.

Throughout the day as the team carried baggage through airports and bus stops, people wondered who they were. "Belmont Who?" became the usual response when the people were told that the group consisted of the Belmont Abbey College basketball team. Most of the people wished the unheard of team well, but believed that Old Dominion would win easily.

When Ronnie Valentine, Old Dominion's All-American candidate took the opening tap into an ODU basket, the 10,000 fans rose to their feet. The crowd, anticipating another 100 point ODU performance, thought the unknown Crusaders would be no threat to their home team.

However, the ODU fans would have to wait another night. Their team which had just defeated Niagara and barely lost to St. Johns was not finding the Abbey the pushover they expected.

At half-time the Abbey was within two points. The second half was all Belmont Abbey's. The Crusaders put together a string of 14 points to take a 16 point lead. Only pressure by Old Dominion made it close at the end.

The visiting team's dressing room was somewhat different after the game. A scrappy Belmont Abbey team knew what they had just accomplished. They were savoring the thrill of his victory. As the press were speaking with Coach Hussey in the locker room, one of the players looked up and said with a smirk "Old Dominion Who?"