

# Soccer Team Boasts 16-5 Record

Belmont Abbey College soccer coach George Kennedy has completed his second season at the helm of the Abbey's soccer program after posting 16 wins and 5 losses as a season record.

Coach Kennedy's team, which is composed primarily of underclassmen, out scored their opponents as a whole by 43 goals. They allowed only 22 goals to be scored against them while scoring 65 goals for the Abbey's cause.

The Crusaders' defensive ball pressure and the fine play of goalie Matt Kennedy, who had 85 saves and nine shutouts for the season, proved too tough for most teams to penetrate.

Leading those who were responsible for the Abbey's 60 goals was Tony Suarez, who scored 19 goals in 19 games. Others who aided in scoring were Frank Lawson with nine goals, Melchor Palomo with seven, Gino Leon with six and Dave Pierce with five goals.

Head coach George Kennedy gives the following account of the 1978 season:

## Catawba - Sept. 5 - Score: BAC 9 - Catawba 0

"This was our opening team. We didn't play, but we managed to play the entire team. We did much experimenting with positions and tactics. We finally used a pass back to draw their defense out to us so we would have room for our shots. Tony Suarez scored two goals and had one assist."

## Winthrop - Sept. 12 - Score: BAC 4 - Winthrop 1

"We were organized in this game and began to come together as a team. We allowed only 17 shots at the goal, but we were still not adjusted to the pressure of a fast paced game or stopping a reckless opponent. We changed tactics at half time and began to take our time and focus on ball control. We played much better with this adjustment. Melchor Palomo scored two goals, while Tony Suarez and Dave Pierce each had two assists."

## F.I.T. - Sept. 15 - Score: BAC 9 - F.I.T. 1

"Our guys played great and totally dominated the game in every respect. I managed to play the whole team against a well skilled team which lacked only discipline and fitness to be a winning team. Tony Suarez scored three goals, while Gino Leon and Frank Lawson added two goals each."

## UNC - Asheville - Sept. 16 - Score: BAC 3 - UNC-A 0

"This was the first time we showed some composure under pressure, but we did not maintain it for the entire game. Overall, our defense was organized, but our attack wasted many opportunities at the goal. I was pleased that we held them to only four shots at the goal. Dave Pierce, Rick Hansen and Tony Suarez scored for the Abbey."

## UNCC - Sept. 19 - Score: BAC 2 - UNCC 1

"This was our first overtime game, and the pressure was up. Our goal keeper Matt Kennedy was injured and rushed to the hospital. The team found it hard to demonstrate composure because of pressure and the bad officiating. Rock Robinson scored for the Abbey and Tony Suarez put in the overtime goal."

## St. Andrews - Sept. 20 - Score: BAC 2 - St. Andrews 0

"Both teams played very well this game. Good passing and control by St. Andrews forced our defense to play intelligently. We played through the pressure and were

able to move into our offense and keep our ball control steady. We finally found their weakness in the middle as Matt Kennedy and Gino Leon scored goals."

## Clemson - Sept. 25 - Score: BAC 0 - Clemson 1

"We were very organized this game, especially our defense. The organization and discipline with which we played seem to panic the players of Clemson.

"Clemson's Coach, Dr. Ibrahim labeled us as one of the best coached teams Clemson faced. Also, Flavio Sabello, a scout for the New York Cosmos, complimented the Abbey's players by saying, 'The game was the best I've seen Clemson play in the last seven years, and Belmont Abbey College proved to be a most formidable opponent. The game could have gone either way.'

"Despite all these compliments, I still feel that we needed to play with more killer instinct while on the attack. We missed opportunities when we had them (Clemson) on the run."

NOTE: Clemson was ranked second in the United States and scored their only goal on a free kick.

## Jacksonville University - Sept. 29 - Score: BAC 3 - J.U. 2

"This was our first game of the Emory Invitational, and we were up against a tough Jacksonville team which was ranked fourth in the South and possessed two All-American players.

"After going out at the half down 2 - 1, we came back with a super team effort and managed to pull out a 3-2 victory with a goal by Tony Suarez with 21 seconds left on the clock.

"This great win, which gave the players a much needed shot of confidence, enabled us to win the tournament. Tony Suarez led the Abbey with two goals."

## Emory College - Sept. 30 - Score: BAC 2 - Emory 0

"We won our first tournament by defeating Emory with two goals scored by Tony Suarez and Frank Lawson. The team played well against a highly motivated opponent."

## Toccoa Falls - Oct. 6 - Score: BAC 7 - Toccoa 0

"We defeated Toccoa Falls with a good balance of scoring as six of our players made the scoring chart. Toccoa was weak with injuries, and we dominated even though we did not play well. Our offense amassed a total of 50 at the goal, while our defense gave up only three at the goal of our opponents."

## Pfeiffer - Oct. 7 - Score: BAC 1 - Pfeiffer 0

"This was a nice game as we posted a shutout over Pfeiffer at their homecoming. Tony Suarez scored the only goal on an assist by David Pierce. Richard Rice came in for injured Matt Kennedy and did a fine job as goal keeper. The team was mentally ready and shut out all distractions for the first time all season."

## Lenoir-Rhyne - Oct. 9 - Score: BAC 2 - L-R 1

"The team did not play well, but we completely dominated the game. Our offense totaled 56 shots at the goal with Frank Lawson, scoring on an assist from Matt Kennedy, and Mel Palomo, assisted by Rick Hansen, accounting for the Abbey scores."

## Rollins College - Oct. 13 - Score: BAC 0 - Rollins 6

"This was game one of our Florida tour, which proved to be a nightmare. There were many reasons why we lost. We could not score, our strong points of

organization broke down enabling Rollins to penetrate and score, the players were at each other's throats and mentally, we were not experienced to handle that kind of pressure."

## University of Tampa - Oct. 14 - Score: BAC 0 - U.T. 2

"Again we were defeated in our second game of the tour. We had hoped the players could make the adjustments which would be needed to win, but again we were shut out and allowed a weaker team to beat us."

## Embry-Riddle-Aeronautical - Oct. 15 - Score: BAC 2 - E.R. 3

"This was our third game in three days, and the players were weary. Morale seemed higher, but we still lost. We did finally manage to score after two shutouts, but we were still playing poorly. We returned home to find our record of 11-1 had dilapidated to a record of 11-4. We had a team meeting, discussed our problems and focused on winning our last four district games."

## Baptist College - Oct. 20 - Score: BAC 5 - Baptist 0

"This was our first game back home. We had resolved the Florida problems and were now ready to play. Our defense held Baptist to only three goal shots, while our offense accumulated 29 goal shots. Scott Byrum led the scorers with two goals while Gino Leon, Melchor Palomo and Frank Lawson each added one goal."

## Elon College - Oct. 26 - Score: BAC 8 - Elon 0

"We completely dominated this game. Frank Lawson led all scorers with only three goals, followed by Tony Suarez with two."

## Warren Wilson - Oct. 28 - Score: BAC 2 - Warren Wilson 0

"We had never beaten Warren Wilson in soccer. We were all ready to play as a team, and the guys played one of their best controlled games. Tony Suarez and Dave Pierce scored for the Abbey, and Tony Suarez was named the 'Pepsi Cola Player of the Game.'"

## Campbell College - Nov. 4 - Score: BAC 4 - Campbell 0

"This was our best game all season. We had an even mixture of steady control and surprising scores and were able to defeat Campbell at their homecoming. Dave Pierce and Tony Suarez each scored two goals in the final district game of the season. District play-offs began with the Abbey's record at 15-4."

## Guilford - Nov. 8 - Score: BAC 3 - Guilford 2

"Guilford was the defending District 26 champion, and we were the top seeded team. It was a very tough game which went into triple overtime (sudden death). In the 118th minute of play, Greg Heilman rocketed a loose ball deflected by Tony Suarez to score the final goal and send BAC into the finals of the District 26 play-offs."

## Pfeiffer - Nov. 11 - Score: BAC 1 - Pfeiffer 2

"The team had no excuse. We played hard and gave it our best efforts but just couldn't put the ball into the net. We had the opportunities, but just couldn't capitalize on them."

Belmont Abbey's season was the most successful ever and with most of the team returning to next year's squad, the Crusaders are anxious to begin the '79 season, so anxious that they are already practicing with indoor games, weights and full matches.

# Mrs. Belmont Celebrates 100th Birthday

by MRS. JANE FREEMAN

On December 13, Mrs. August Belmont of New York City celebrated her 100th birthday. The citizens of Belmont and those associated with Belmont Abbey College take a special interest in knowing that the daughter-in-law of the first August Belmont has carried the name of Belmont as proudly as the town. The town of Belmont takes pride in its association with one of America's foremost families.

Abbot Leo Haid, the first Abbot of Mary-Help-of-

Christians Abbey, was a friend of the Belmont family. Not long after Abbot Leo arrived, the name of the town was changed from Garibaldi to Belmont in honor of the benefactors. The name of the college was changed to Belmont Abbey College in 1913, and the Monastery is popularly referred to as Belmont Abbey.

Mrs. Eleanor Belmont (nee Robson) was born in Wigan, Lancashire, England. She came to the United States with her mother before the turn of the

century, and made her stage debut in San Francisco. She starred in many successful plays in the early 1900's - "Merely Mary Ann," "The Dawn of Tomorrow," "She Stoops to Conquer," and "Fabric of Memory." George Bernard Shaw is reported to have been captivated by her portrayal of Mary Ann, and wrote Major Barbara for her. Unfortunately, she never played the part.

Eleanor Robson married

Major August Belmont in 1910 and retired from the stage. But the love for the performing arts never died! She and her husband were regular opera attendees. Major Belmont served on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Opera from 1906 until his death in 1924. Mrs. Belmont was elected to the Board of Directors in 1933. She gave herself tirelessly to the founding and nurturing of the Metropolitan Opera Guild, and is credited by Laurence Lovett with having "saved the

Metropolitan Opera." Many local people know of Mrs. Belmont through the Texaco broadcasts on Saturday afternoons on WCGC, Belmont's radio station.

The legendary Mrs. Belmont has been outstanding in many fields: the arts, philanthropy, and public speaking. She was the first woman to deliver a commencement address at New York University (1924) and the first woman passenger in an airplane (1911).