

# Crusaders Off And Running

## 4-4 Record

With eight games under their belt of experience, the Crusaders of Belmont Abbey College post a misleading record of four wins and four losses.

After shooting their way to two victories in the Thanksgiving Double-Header over J.C. Smith by a score of 96-67 and Coastal Carolina College by a score of 75-71, Coach Bobby Hussey's Crusaders suffered three consecutive defeats at the hands of some very formidable opponents. Early season road games with two powerful Wisconsin teams resulted in setbacks of 99-74 to the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and a loss of 70-56 to Marquette University, a team which is ranked seventeenth nationally.

The third defeat of the Abbey's season came from Gardner-Webb College in the Charlotte Coliseum by a score of 92-72.

With their record at 2-3, the Crusaders entered the WBTU Carolina Classic. Coach Hussey's squad captured a second place finish by defeating Catawba College by a score of 74-70 and Lenoir-Rhyne by a score of 72-70 before suffering a two-point loss at the hands of Gardner-Webb in the championship game by a score of 81-79.

**1st game:** In the Thanksgiving Double-Header, the Abbey's opening game performance earned the team a 96-67 victory as David Kershaw led the Crusaders with 23 points, while Mike Littlejohn added 19 and Lawrence Carter sank 18.

**2nd game:** Also in the Thanksgiving Double-Header, the second game of the Abbey's season placed the Crusaders against a strong Coastal Carolina team. Belmont Abbey College pulled out a 75-71 victory as four men hit double figures for the Crusaders. Carter paced all scoring with 22 points, while Littlejohn hit 13 and Kershaw and freshman John Picinich both added 12.

But as the Crusaders traveled far north to play the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and Marquette University, the team ran into more trouble than just foul weather.

**3rd game:** In the first game of the road trip, the Abbey was defeated by the University of Wisconsin by a score of 99-74 as standout forward David Kershaw was limited to only first quarter action by an ankle injury. Littlejohn and Carter carried the scoring duties with 19 and 18 points respectively as Reggie Holmes added 16 and Picinich reached 10 points.

**4th game:** After adjusting to the huge Wisconsin crowds and the chilling weather, Hussey's squad took on the nationally ranked Marquette University. As the first half of play ended with Belmont Abbey College leading by a score 30-26, all talk of underdogs and soft touch opening games had painfully been swallowed by the Marquette forces.

Hopes of defeating the Warriors were still present with seven minutes remaining on the clock as the Abbey held a two point lead. However, as the game reached an end, the Crusaders were defeated by a score of 70-56.

Littlejohn hit eight field goals and went four for four at the free throw line to lead the Abbey with 20 points. Other double figure men for the Crusaders were Carter and Holmes with 10 points each.

**5th game:** Upon returning from the Wisconsin trip, the Abbey shot it out with Gardner-Webb in a WBTU Carolina Classic preview game which was played in the Charlotte Coliseum. A poor field goal shooting percentage resulted in a 92-72 defeat for the Crusaders.

Leading scorers for the Abbey were Kershaw with 16, Carter with 14, Littlejohn with 13 and Picinich with 10 points.

On Dec. 7, 8, and 9 Belmont Abbey College hosted the fourth annual Carolina Classic.

**6th game:** In first round tournament action, Belmont Abbey won a thrilling 74-70 victory over Catawba College. Billy Holmgaard returned to the Crusader line-up after recovering from an acute case of mononucleosis to contribute 12 points. David Kershaw led the Abbey with 20 points as Carter scored 16 and Littlejohn added 12 points.

**7th game:** The Crusaders advanced to round two of the Carolina Classic to play Lenoir-Rhyne, the team which was runner-up in the previous season's tournament.

After a close game in which the lead changed hands nearly as many times as the ball was brought up court, the Crusaders pulled out to win by a score of 72-70. Holmgaard led all scorers with 16 points. Other double figure men for the Abbey were Kershaw with 15, Carter and Littlejohn with 12 and Jimmy Crawford with 11 points.

**8th game:** In the championship game of the WBTU Carolina Classic Tournament, which was televised by WBTU and CBS, the Crusaders of Belmont Abbey faced the Bulldogs of Gardner-Webb.

The championship game lived up to its expectation. The nip and tuck battle was won by Gardner-Webb 81-79. After erasing a five point Gardner-Webb half-time lead, the two continued the "pressure cooker" until the final buzzer. Kershaw led all scorers with 24 points, Carter added 20 and Holmgaard 19. The Abbey played very well in a game that could have gone either way.

Billy Holmgaard and Lawrence Carter were named to the WBTU Carolina Classic All-Tournament Team. This was the second time Holmgaard, a junior who played his high school basketball in Westwood, NJ, had been honored. Carter, a senior from Halifax, displayed fine poise and leadership along with long range shooting during the tournament.



Seated, left to right, are Jere Campbell, Lawrence Carter, Stan Parker, Mike Littlejohn, Jamie Tomlinson. Standing, left to right, are head coach Bobby Hussey, David Kershaw, Greg Howard, Greg Leslie, Reggie Holmes, John Picinich, Jimmy Crawford, Billy Holmgaard and assistant coach Lin Hollowell.

## 1978-79 Basketball Schedule

Friday, December 29	Augusta Tournament	Augusta, GA.
Saturday, December 30	Augusta Tournament	Augusta, GA.
Wednesday, January 3	Elon	Burlington, N.C.
Saturday, January 6	Catawba	Home
Tuesday, January 9	Livingstone	Salisbury, N.C.
Saturday, January 13	Central Wesleyan	Home
Monday, January 15	Wingate	Away 8 p.m.
Wednesday, January 17	UNC-Asheville	Home
Saturday, January 20	Atlantic Christian	Wilson, N.C.
Monday, January 22	Livingstone	Home
Thursday, January 25	Catawba	Salisbury, N.C.
Saturday, January 27	Atlantic Christian	Home
Monday, January 29	Elon	Home
Saturday, February 3	Wingate	Home
Thursday, February 8	Lenoir Rhyne	Home
Saturday, February 10	Augusta	Home
Monday, February 12	Pfeiffer	Home
Wednesday, February 14	Barber-Scotia	Concord, N.C.
Saturday, February 17	UNC-Asheville	Asheville, N.C.
Thursday, February 22	Lenoir Rhyne	Away

All home games begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Wheeler Center.



Senior Jimmy Crawford in action during an early season home game.

### Are Abbey Basketball Scores In Your Area Papers?

During the basketball season "out of state" alumni tell us that the Belmont Abbey College basketball game scores are not appearing in their area newspapers. The game scores are sent to both the UPI (United Press International) and AP (Associated Press). If the Abbey scores are not appearing in your area newspaper, it is probably because the sports editor is choosing not to use the Abbey scores. A few phone calls from area alumni expressing interest in the printing of the Belmont Abbey College scores could change that.