

Basketball Team Has High Hopes for '79-80 Season

The Crusaders of Belmont Abbey College under the direction of head coach Bobby Hussey who is entering his eighth year as the Abbey mentor, have high hopes of bettering last season's campaign in which the team made their first appearance in the NAIA District 26 Play-offs and posted a 22-10 record.

With six lettermen returning, three of whom started on last year's squad, and one of the most impressive groups of new recruits to be gathered at the college in many seasons, Belmont Abbey College looks to be a top contender in their district.

Seniors Billy Holmgard, a 6'6" forward from Phoenix, Az., who averaged 17.4 points and 9.2 rebounds per game last season, and Reggie Holmes, a 6'8" center from Sumter, S.C., who worked his way into the starting line-up by hitting 8.3 points per game and grabbing 8 rebounds, will provide the interior with an effective one-two punch.

Also beefing up the board work and displaying an allusive offensive touch will be returnee David Kershaw, a 6'4" forward from Wellford, S.C., who scored 17.1 points and collected 6.1 rebounds per game.

Forwards John Picinich, a 6'6" sophomore from Dumont, N.J., and Greg Howard, a 6'4" sophomore from Burlington, N.J., also return from last year's squad to add some experienced depth. Howard is also expected to see some action as a big guard when needed.

Coach Hussey has selected two new freshmen recruits to blend in with the strong front line for the coming season. Jess Stout, a highly recruited 6'8" center from Holmdel, N.J., averaged 24 points and 14 rebounds per game while playing his senior year at Holmdel High School under Coach Al Longo. Stout is performing well in pre-season drills and is complimented by Hussey who said, "Jess is one of the hardest working big men I have ever coached; he should fit into our program exceptionally well."

Also new to the Crusader program is John Magierowski, a 6'6" forward from Watchung, N.J. While at Watchung Hills Regional High School, Magierowski averaged 16 points and 12 rebounds per game.

Following the graduation of Lawrence Carter and Mike Littlejohn from last year's squad, the Crusaders may face a bit of a rebuilding year in the backcourt. With only two guards, Jere Campbell, a 6'1" junior from Belmar, N.J., and Stan Parker, a 5'10" junior from Hillsborough, N.C., returning this season, Hussey has directed much of his recruiting efforts toward adding some depth to this area of the Crusaders' game.

Campbell and Parker will be joined by Frank Pickett, a 6'0"

junior from Le Grange, Ga. Pickett comes to the Abbey as a junior college transfer student from Truett-McConnell Junior College. While at Truett-McConnell, Pickett averaged 15.3 points and 4 assists per game and is a hopeful to provide leadership in the backcourt this coming season.

An impressive group of freshmen will also be vying for an opportunity in the backcourt. Dempsey Cohen, who averaged 25.6 points per game and 8 assists while at Grier High School under Coach Melvin Gooden, is a top candidate at guard along with Ricky Rickman of Asheville, N.C., who averaged 24 points per game and 5 assists while playing for coach Eddie Miller of Enka High School.

Todd Holland is another prospect in the backcourt. Holland averaged 16 points per game and 5 assists while playing for coach Eddie Miller of Enka High School.

Hussey commented on this coming season for the Crusaders, "This year's success will depend greatly on the ability of the new players coming into the program to establish themselves as effective ballplayers. Our strength under the boards and our inside offensive game appear to be our major assets, yet the effectiveness to which our inside game can play will be determined by the ability of the backcourt to jell into a solid unit."

"Last season we won many one and two point victories due to our experience as a total team which not only includes player ability but also the awareness of what to do in the clutch situations. This experience is the type of thing which can make the difference between a 15-15 season and a 22-10 season."

"We have as usual a very strong schedule within our district as well as two very strong NCAA Division One teams. Certainly Iona College of New York will be among the top competitors ever for the Abbey."

"Basically, our success will depend upon the ability of our players to accept and develop the concepts of team play," concluded the Crusader head coach.

The Belmont Abbey College golf team, led by veteran coach Fr. Martin Hayes, O.S.B., is now playing a fall schedule of tournaments in preparation for NAIA District 26 action this coming spring. At this point in fall play, senior Clyde Arrowood and sophomore Dennis Stokes are leading the Crusader linksmen in tourney action.

In the Belmont Abbey College Fall Classic, which was played September 21 at Gallagher Trails Golf Course in Dallas,

1979-80 Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Nov. 24	UNC-Asheville	Belmont, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
28	Friendship	Belmont, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 1	Wingate	Wingate, N.C.	2:30 p.m.
5-8	WBTV Carolina Classic	Belmont, N.C.	4:00 p.m.
12	Livingstone	Salisbury, N.C.	8:00 p.m.
14-20	Exams		
15	Augusta	Belmont, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
21	St. Peter's College	Jersey City, N.J.	8:00 p.m.
23	Iona College	New Rochelle, N.Y.	2:00 p.m.
29	Augusta	Augusta, Ga.	8:00 p.m.
Jan. 3	Livingstone	Belmont, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
5	Catawba	Salisbury, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
8	St. Andrews	Belmont, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
11	J.C. Smith	Charlotte, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
12	Open		
15	Pfeiffer	Belmont, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
19	Atlantic Christian	Belmont, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
22	Mars Hill	Mars Hill, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
24	Catawba	Belmont, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
26	Voorhees	Belmont, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
28	Elon	Belmont, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
30	UNC-Asheville	Asheville, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 2	Wingate	Belmont, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
4	Pfeiffer	Misenheimer, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
7	Lenoir-Rhyne	Belmont, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
9	Atlantic Christian	Wilson, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
14	Elon	Burlington, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
16	J.C. Smith	Belmont, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
18	Mars Hill	Belmont, N.C.	7:30 p.m.
21	Lenoir-Rhyne	Hickory, N.C.	8:00 p.m.
23	Allen University	Belmont, N.C.	7:30 p.m.

Abbey Tennis Team Prepares For Spring Play In NAIA District 26

The Belmont Abbey College tennis team, in preparation for NAIA District 26 spring action, is busy at work polishing its skill in scrimmage matches and pre-season tournaments.

Head coach Mike Reidy, who is entering his tenth year at the head position of the Crusader's program, is intently studying his personnel in anticipation of the coming season.

"We will definitely miss standout T.J. Reilly who worked as our first seeded player and earned the 'Most Valuable Player' award for last year's squad," Reidy commented. "He was our only loss due to graduation, but he leaves a large gap to be filled. However, I do feel that our rising players have matured greatly and are eager for a chance to prove themselves - again."

Returning to head the 1980 campaign for the Crusaders are senior Steve Reilly, younger brother of T.J. Reilly, and junior Roger Martin. Reilly, who was nagged by injuries last season and compiled a 10-6

singles play record, and Martin, who netted a 13-4 singles record, are the two contenders for first and second seeds. Both players are performing well in pre-season play and look to be developing a friendly rivalry of constructive competition.

In addition to Reilly and Martin, junior Andy Doris will be returning to the Crusader program. Doris, who was hampered last season by back trouble, hopes to return to his winning form which he displayed in his freshman year at the Abbey.

Sophomores Scott Davis, who had a singles record of 7-10 last year, and Kevin Burke, who posted a 13-4 singles record last season, are also top candidates for the coming campaign. Doris, Davis and Burke will probably hold the third, fourth and fifth seeds although their order is still undetermined.

Three players, juniors Herb Hunter and Dennis Nobles and freshman Mike Sijon, will be vying for the final position in the top six seeds. Hunter and

Nobles are returnees from last year's squad, while Sijon is entering the Abbey after attending J.L. Mann High School in Greenville, S.C., last year.

Doubles teams for this coming season appear at this point to consist of Reilly and Martin at the first seed, Davis and Burke at the second seed and a combination of Davis and Nobles, Hunter or Sijon competing in the third-seeded doubles position.

Despite the fact that Reilly and Martin have never participated as a doubles team, their abilities are blending together well in pre-season play, and they should prove to be an effective team when district action begins in the spring. Davis and Burke, who are entering their third year as a doubles team which carries back as far as their senior year at Hunter Huss High School of Gastonia, N.C., should also be strong again this season. The third-seeded doubles team is still in question with positions not yet filled.

Coach Reidy comments on the 1980 campaign, "We hope to equal or better last season's 13-4 record. I feel this group of young men have the potential to attain that goal. Our ability is comparable to last year's squad, while our depth is somewhat better this year with the maturity and experience gained by our returning players. I feel we have the strongest non-scholarship college tennis team in the district or the state for that matter. We can compete with the best of NAIA District 26 teams and make an impressive showing."

Linksmen See Fall Action

N.C., the Crusaders finished fifth out of seven teams. The team scores ran as such: UNC-Charlotte -372, USC-Spartanburg -373, Gardner-Webb College -374, Limestone College -388, Belmont Abbey College -402, Wingate College -403, and Catawba College -404.

In the individual scores, Arrowood of the Abbey placed fourth in the low five men for the tournament. The talented senior scored a round of 72 strokes which was par for the

course.

The Crusader linksmen will be facing action again as they travel to Spartanburg, S.C., to participate in the University of South Carolina at Spartanburg Fall Classic, and Shelby, N.C., to play in the Gardner-Webb College Fall Tournament.

Coach Hayes is pleased with his team's early showing and looks for the Crusaders to be a competitive squad in NAIA District 26 spring play.