

Sports

Give us the shirts!



Photo by J. Billingsley

Intramural 3-on-3 basketball was decided on reading day, Wed., Dec. 12 with a single elimination tournament held in the auxiliary gym of Boshamer Gymnasium. The men's final went down to the wire, with Hypnotized Minds winning at the buzzer on a layup by Nick MacKinnon.



Photo by J. Billingsley

Winter sports would aid strategic plan

by Joseph Chilton
Managing Editor

It's winter sports time in Transylvania County again, and for all the BC sports fans out there, that means an opportunity to watch basketball or....well, basketball.

I'm not saying that there is anything wrong with the great sport that gave us *Hoosiers*, baggy shorts, and topic of conversation for approximately one third of the dialogue in Spike Lee movies, but basketball has a monopoly on BC's winter sports offerings that is approaching Microsoft-level proportions.

Granted, Brevard's climate does put limitations on the type of winter sports that BC could offer. It would probably be difficult to field a hockey team because of the fact that the nearest competition is four states away. We also would have trouble fielding a cross-country skiing team, as the weather this December has

been more appropriate for beach volleyball than for trekking through the snow.

There are, however, several winter sports that are participated in by many high school athletes in this region; sports that if Brevard College were to add them would attract these athletes and supply the school with a significant increase in student population. (As well as the tuition money that accompanies new students.)

The sport that would be most feasible to add would be wrestling. While the South Atlantic Conference does not recognize wrestling, there are plenty of NCAA Division II schools nearby, including some SAC members who compete in wrestling as independents.

In NCAA Division II, schools are allowed to allot nine scholarships for their wrestling team. The average college wrestling team has about 40 members. These numbers suggest that by adding a wrestling program BC would top 700 students and

approximately \$800,000 in tuition would be added to the school budget annually.

While wrestling is the most logical option, swimming and diving are also winter sports that could be added in order to help boost enrollment. (Remember that pool we have? We could actually use it instead of letting it become a graveyard for football cleats and intramural equipment.)

This year students have heard about Brevard College's "strategic plan" that will cause the school to grow to over 1,000 students over and over, as if mentioning the plan more often than Rudy Giuliani mentions 9/11 will magically cause the Admissions Department to receive a 400% increase in applications.

The fact that Brevard College is a liberal arts school nestled in the mountains of Western North Carolina is a major selling point for the school. Unfortunately, that is also a major selling point for Mars Hill Col-

lege, Montreat College, and Lees-McRae College.

If the college is to grow to the enrollment numbers given in the "strategic plan", it is necessary to add programs that these other schools don't have. The fact that almost 100 football players attend Brevard College despite there being only 18 scholarships available is a testament to the fact that prospective students are willing to pay \$26,000 a year to attend a private institution rather than a much more affordable public one if they are given the chance to play a sport they love at the collegiate level. The school just has to expand the athletic department to give more students the opportunity to do so.

The Clarion needs writers to cover basketball. E-mail Clarion@brevard.edu if interested.