

MIKE KEECH

# BENCH TALK

The 1969-70 basketball season came to a close for the Knights with Tuesday's District 29 tournament loss to Campbell. The Blue Machine's final record was 17-9.

It all began in late October and the Knights suffered from a lack of valuable conditioning time because the Harris Courts were in a state of repair. As it turned out the faulty gym floor was not ready until January 10th forcing the Knights to play their first six games on their opponent's courts.

After three straight defeats the hoopsters rebounded with victories in their next four outings, all against conference rivals. The Knight attack was carried by the consistent play of guards Gary Gredlein and John Turner. Gredlein's ball hawking and aggressive defensive play combined with Turner's consistent shooting and the rebounding of Craig Hannas were vital in their early season victories.

The latter portion of January found the hoopsters in a mild slump and they ended the month with a .500 slate of 7-7. It appeared that the team suffered from a split personality as the looked invincible in some games but failed to maintain this success formula on the road.

February characterized the entire Knight season as it began with the team reacting top form and ended with agonizing defeat in tournament competition at Lynchburg. The hoopsters

completed the regular season winning seven of their eight contests. This late season success was due largely to the fine play of raleigh senior Brent Rhue. Rhue reached his physical peak and became a regular starter. He joined Hannas bolstering the Knights rebounding strength and inside offensive attack and was instrumental in igniting the fastbreak with Gredlein and Turner.

The Knights entered the DIAC Tournament as the regular season conference victors. The road jinx returned, however, and tournament host Lynchburg upset its favored Knight's in the semi-final round.

Spencer Boyd's hoopsters performed admirably after a slow start. Selecting an MVP is an impossible chore as the Knight's major weapon was certainly their balanced attack. The starting five, Gredlein, Turner, Rhue, Hannas, and Gary Linn all averaged in double figures for the season. In fact, it seemed that with each game a different player provided the spark for victory. Tony Fernandez, Ven Johnson, and Joe Long turned in valuable substitute and occasional spot start performances for the hoopsters. Freshmen Richie Robinson, Stuart Eutsler, and Miles Weaver saw limited action but showed potential for the future.

It seems fitting to note that both Turner and Rhue ended their SA basketball careers with their best season performances in varsity competition.

## Keglers Led By Bryan

St. Andrews rallied from far behind to tie Conference leader, Lynchburg, 2-2 in an action packed match Tuesday night. Led by Sophomore John Bryan, the bowlers won the second and third games to salvage a tie after being routed in the first game by the strong Lynchburg five. Captain Ralph Nesbit, Margo Ligon, Rick Skutch, and Chuck Hardesty helped lead the comeback. Conference Individual leader, Bart Fugler paced the Hornets as he rolled a 540 series. This match brings the Knights record to 19-17.

Although this year's record is a far cry from last year's record setting 34-6, the 1969-1970 keggers have turned in commendable performances. The average team score is 836 which is only 14 pins less than that of the Conference Champions of 168-69. A stronger league is one reason for the troubles and the loss of Jeff Erickson is another. Jeff scored highly in average, high game, and high series categories with scores of 180 (second in conference), 215 (sixth in conference) and 573 (fourth in conference) respectively.

John Bryan has done well in filling the vacancy as John carries the seventh average in the conference in 175. He has rolled a 234 game and a 568 series. Behind John in average respectively are Ralph Nesbit, Margo Ligon, Rick Skutch, Chuck Hardesty, Greg Mathieson, Mark Kleber, Rusty Wolfe, Laurie Dow, and Don Wilhoite.



CO-CAPTAIN JOHN TURNER scores one of the many baskets he contributed to the Knights cause in his final season at S.A.!!

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## Turner Selected On

### All District Team

Captain John Turner of St. Andrews is one of 11 players named to the All-District basketball team of NAIA District 29. Names of the all-star team were announced by District Chairman Rufus Hackney, St. Andrews athletic director. Certificates were presented during half-time of the Elizabeth City-Pembroke State game during the District 29 tournament to select a representative for the NAIA national tournament.

The 6-2 senior from Virginia Beach, Va., led his teammates at St. Andrews in total points with 370 in 26 games for a 14.2 average. He was also most accurate Knight with a 52 per cent average in field goals and 77 per cent on free throws.

Campbell College and Elizabeth City State each placed two men on the honor squad and Campbell Coach Danny Roberts

was voted "Coach of the Year". Campbell's Cordell Wise and Allen McRae and Elizabeth City's Israel Oliver and Mike Gale were elected.

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