

# Knights Face Hornets Tonight

The SA basketball team travelled to Lynchburg last night and will meet the homestanding Hornets of Lynchburg College in the first round of the Dixie Conference basketball tournament tonight. The game will be played in Turner Gymnasium at 9:00. Other first round matches pit Methodist against UNC-G, Christopher Newport against N.C. Wesleyan, and Va. Wesleyan vs. streaking Greensboro College. Methodist won the regular season championship with a 82-74 win over Lynchburg

Tuesday. Lynchburg, VWC, and CNC tied for second and a coin flip was held to determine their opponents.

SA coach Tom Whiteley announced plans to start Al Bonds, Ray Andrews, Jim Haddix, Alvin Leath, and Joe Roberts against the taller Hornets, who whipped SA 113-62 in the tournament last year. The winner of tonight's game will play the winner of the CNC-N.C. Wesleyan contest. The tournament winner is guaranteed a spot in the upcoming District 29 tourney.

## Bowlers Hit Stride

As was suggested last week SA keglers found N.C. Wesleyan's lanes to their liking, rolling to a first place last Friday. 34 of a possible 36 points put the Knights only 81 1/2 points behind Methodist going into this week's regular season finale at Lynchburg tomorrow. Lynchburg and Methodist tied for third.

Ed McDonald, Wes Campbell, and Mark Podhorecny, in particular, ate up the Rocky Mount alleys. McDonald served notice that he wants a starting position by scoring 221 and 223 en route to a 769. Wes, not to be denied, registered opening games of 211 and 201 as he finished with 757. "Pod"'s 203 helped him post

705. All games hit the 800's with the team high being 917.

Head to head, the Knights overruled Methodist with the 917 before bowling despite a fine 885, to the winners' 952. Otherwise the Bishops' lanes held the Monarchs well in check. Against the hosts, SA split two close games but won the important total pinfall count.

Although the team bowled very well last week, Coach Blackwell still has a problem at no. 4 position which hopefully will be corrected by tournament time. However "Blackie's Army" hopes to march to the regular season title before thinking about the March 1-2 tourney.

## Women Finish 1-10

The SA women's basketball team closed out its season with a dismal 1-10 record, but improved to such an extent that Coach Jo Ann Williams has high hopes for next year's squad. The team played very well in its last four games, partly because of the return of Glen Kennedy, whose height and ability were big factors both offensively and defensively. Even more important was the increased teamwork which finally began to appear in the last four outings.

"We still have problems with the basic fundamentals," said Miss Williams. "But they've improved. They really have. They looked the best last night that they have as a team. They're learning that it's not an individual thing, it's a team effort. That's what it takes."

SA lost its last two games, to St. Mary's 30-29 and ACC 51-43. The ACC game, in which the Knights came within three with 1:40 left before committing two crucial turnovers, was a much better effort than the 56-33 thrashing administered to SA by the Bulldogs here in January. Glen Kennedy led SA with 18 points, including several baskets on beautiful lob

passes from Cindi Williams. Coach Williams called it her team's "best offensive game", even though one of her top scorers, Trish Bodle, sat out much of the contest with an injured foot. Hattie Woods led SA in the loss to St. Mary's, hitting 12 points.

The Knights' poor record comes not only from their own weaknesses but from the caliber of team which they've played. Peace, Sandhills, and ACC are rated first, third, and sixth among small college teams in North Carolina, and Francis Marion is among the top three women's teams in South Carolina.

Miss Williams saw the greatest rewards of the season in participation itself, but hoped that next year will bring more tangible successes. "If we could have started in January with the five I had on the floor last night it would have made a big difference. In fact, it made a big difference last night," she said after the ACC game. The five she referred to are Williams, Bodle, Woods, Kennedy, and Corlis Reynolds. All will be back next year.

The Knights used deadly shooting—hitting 58.3% (35 of 60) including 62.5% in the second half—to defeat North Carolina Wesleyan 75-67 in their final regular season game here Feb. 16. St. Andrews charged from a 33-29 halftime lead to a 13 point advantage midway through the second half. Alvin Leath led this spurt with five quick buckets. SA maintained a comfortable lead until the last four minutes, when an effective Wesleyan press and the Knights' poor free throw shooting allowed the Bishops to come within seven.

"We did a lot of good things," Coach Tom Whiteley commented after the game. "We shot about as well as we're gonna shoot. If you shoot like that you're gonna win. We beat them on the boards, 36-26. But we had too many turnovers." The Knights committed 27 errors, including 13 by floor leader Joe Roberts. Except for these turnovers Roberts would have had a superb night, as he led St. Andrews with 20 points, hitting 10 of 14 field goals, and dished out eight assists.

Four of the starting five shot 60% or better against N. C. Wesleyan. Besides Roberts, Leath hit 9-15 and had 19 points, Albert Bonds had 6 of 9 and 14 points, and Jim Haddix connected on 4 of 6 and finished his homecourt career with a nine-point effort.

The Knights showed perhaps their best balance of the season in this final game. Not only was scoring spread out well, rebounds were also evenly distributed. Alvin Leath, Robin Daniel, and Ray Andrews pulled down 8 apiece, with Bonds recovering 7.

In contrast to all the things they did well, the Knights shot an embarrassing 31% from the free throw line, canning only 5 of 16 attempts. A disgusting 2 of 11 performance in the second half included five misses on the front end of one and one situations.

The win brought St. Andrews' record to 7-14, and 4-10 in the conference. The Knights are firmly entrenched in sixth place, two notches up from last year's finish.

## Intramurals

Men's handball started Tuesday along with billiards. Billiard matches are to be played Tuesdays and Thursdays. Straight ball pool is the setup.

Women's basketball intramurals start Monday night. Contact Miss Williams, Trish Bodle, or your dorm manager for details. An advanced racquetball tournament for women was been set up, although dates are uncertain.

## GLANCING AT SPORTS

BILL WILMOT

St. Andrews has, obviously, no more than a miniscule chance of winning the Dixie Conference tournament at Lynchburg this weekend. Coach Whiteley is the first to admit that, pointing out that five teams—Methodist, Christopher Newport, Lynchburg, Va. Wesleyan, and Greensboro—have a better chance of taking the trophy than SA. However, Whiteley is by no means conceding tonight's game. "In a seven game series, the best team will win, but, in a single game, there's a good chance of an upset."

If SA could pull off a big upset tonight, Coach Whiteley theorized with what could be called surrealistic optimism, the win could have a "mushroom effect". In other words the team could be buoyed by its victory and go on to play just as well, better, in the semifinals and finals. Whiteley is to be commended for maintaining such an attitude, because a coach must have confidence in his team. If one coach admits defeat before the contest, there's no point in playing. The rest of us, of course, can afford to be a little bit skeptical.

Whiteley explained what SA must do to win a game in the tournament. "Against any of the top five, if we don't turn the ball over and we shoot the ball well, we've got a chance. But we've got to do these things well to make up for our weakness in offensive rebounding." Since these taller teams will get off more shots, including tap ins and layups, the Knights must make up for this by not making mistakes. They must play consistently well in all phases of the game. The prediction here is that they are not experienced enough, cohesive enough, or confident enough to do that.

Coach Whiteley hopes that by controlling the tempo of the game the Knights can offset many of their disadvantages. "We can't run with some of these teams, especially Lynchburg, because that's Lynchburg's game. Methodist's tempo is not just run, run, run. They're more deliberate. Virginia Wesleyan's whole game is built around run-and-shoot. Christopher Newport will run if they get a chance, but they're pretty disciplined too."

"If we can hold a team to 70 points or less we've got a good chance of winning. If the score's up in the 80's or 90's our chances are not so good." The Knights have worked on a four corners offense in practice this week, probably to use not in order to protect a lead but in order to slow down the tempo at selected times. If SA is to use a stall of any kind the team will have to improve their ball handling and free throw shooting.

Methodist has been the most consistent team in the Dixie Conference this year, and probably should be rated the tournament favorites. Lynchburg's home court advantage, which is considerable because of enthusiasm at that school, should be offset by the fatigue of the Hornet team, which played four games last week and also Monday and Tuesday of this week. One team to watch, according to Whiteley, is Greensboro College. "I think Greensboro College is as good as anybody we've played, and they're seeded fifth, at 7-7. I think they've got a definite chance." The Green Hornets lost a lot of close games early in the year, but in February they have defeated Lynchburg, Methodist, and Central Wesleyan.

Although Whiteley calls the tournament "a new season", none of the players to whom I've talked is very excited about it. Several are quite happy to see the season come to an end. I think all would rather see it end Saturday than Thursday, but if the Knights lose tonight there will be no tears in the locker room.

## Trackmen Open

Coach Rob Kinne's small but grimly determined track team travels to Lynchburg Monday for an indoor preseason meet. Christopher Newport and the host Hornets also represent the DIAC. Stiffest competition in this District 29 encounter is expected to be from awesome Pembroke State and Virginia State. Several other teams may send their top performers.

Kinne has entered each man in at least two events. Whether each will participate in both of his events is uncertain.

Sprinter Billy Parker starts in the 60 yard dash. Parker is

expected to try the long jump-high jump double. Weightman Jim Thwaite will throw the shot and may triple jump. Ace pole vaulter Andy Crowell is entered in his specialty as well as the high jump.

Jacob Houge plans to run the 600 and 880, while Banning Ingram and John Sosnowski will attempt to trek both the one and two mile distances.

As much as indoor racing is different from outdoor, these Knights will be competing in early evening, in contrast to most early afternoon meets. Field events begin at 4:00 p.m. with the 60 starting at 5:15.

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