

## Knights Edged In DIAC Final

Playing with great confidence and poise which belied their sixth seeding, St. Andrews' basketball Knights pulled off two shocking upsets and took top-seeded Methodist down to the last ten seconds before bowing 44-38 in the finals of the Dixie Conference basketball tournament at Lynchburg last weekend. The Knights, adhering throughout the tournament to Coach Tom Whiteley's four corners offensive strategy, toppled Lynchburg College in the first round 59-58, then thrashed Christopher Newport 62-52 to gain the finals.

The game against Lynchburg, which had beaten SA 96-85 and 82-72 during the regular season, was close throughout. SA overcame the Hornets' advantages in height and speed by patiently waiting for good shots. St. Andrews connected on 58.2% of their field goal attempts, a tournament record which stood for one night. The next night the Knights broke that record by hitting 61.1% against Newport. In the three tournament games St. Andrews bombarded the nets with 62 of 110 (56.4%).

The Knights got off to a seven point lead midway through the first half against Lynchburg, but fell behind by six with about five minutes left. Calmly the Blue came back, however, to capture a 33-32 halftime advantage. The score remained extremely close throughout the second half and was tied at 53 with under two minutes left. Joe Roberts' field goal gave SA a two point lead. Lynchburg pulled within one, but two clutch free throws by Alvin Leath gave St. Andrews breathing room. Mike Carducci quickly scored for Lynchburg, but a Roberts layup gave SA a three point lead. Mike Baber's meaningless field goal cut the margin to one.

Joe Roberts, the tourney's most valuable player, hit 7 of 9 field goal attempts and six of seven free throws for 20 points. Al Leath finished with 15, Al Bonds 12, and Ray Andrews 8. Bonds also led the team with eight rebounds.

Buoyed by their surprising win, the Knights blew the tall, strong Captains of Christopher Newport off the court the next night, taking a comfortable 28-22 halftime lead before exploding to an 18 point advantage late in the second half. Failure to hit free throws on the Knights' part allowed the Captains to cut the final margin to 10. The Knights won the game on the boards, outrebounding CNC

32-23. Bonds, Leath, and Andrews grabbed 19 rebounds among them in the second half alone. Bonds totalled 20 points (9-12 field goals, 2-2 free throws) and 12 rebounds in what was probably the greatest game of his St. Andrews career. Ray Andrews scored 16 points, while Roberts and Leath added 10 each.

Methodist reached the finals by romping past UNC-G 95-59 and edging Greensboro College 74-71. They were rated heavy favorites' on the basis of a 12-2 conference record in regular season action, but had a great deal of difficulty overcoming the Knights now polished offense and tenacious defense. SA jumped to a quick 9-3 lead on five points by Roberts and four by Leath. SA managed to maintain a lead throughout most of the half, expanding it to 17-11 on Bonds' three point play at 7:40. Late in the half, SA put the ball in a deep freeze, scoring only two points in the last five minutes and fifty seconds, and the Monarchs tied the score 21-21 at intermission.

Joe Roberts opened the second half with a three point play on a drive, but Methodist soon went up by three, 31-28. A short jumper by Andrews, who hit 12 of 19 in the tournament, followed by Roberts' layup and Leath's two free throws, gave the underdog Knights a 34-31 lead. Continuing the trend, Methodist ran off six straight points, after which another driving layup by Roberts cut the lead back to 37-36. With the lead late in the game, Methodist used an effective zone defense, forcing the Knights to press the attack and shoot outside. Both Bonds and Roberts missed 15-footers in the last four minutes that could have helped the Knights' cause immensely.

By playing tremendous defense, the Knights stayed within striking distance, cutting the Monarchs' lead to 40-38 at the :25 mark on Roberts jump shot. SA put on tough pressure trying to prevent Methodist from putting the ball in play, and Greg Jones fouled Bonds as he jostled for position. St. Andrews, not in a one-and-one situation, gained the ball out of bonds. With 11 seconds remaining Leath was double teamed and was called for travelling. Greg Jones hit four free throws to set up Methodist's second straight tournament title.

St. Andrews finished its season with a 9-15 record.

Baseball - SA Vs.  
Francis Marion Here  
Saturday At 2 P.M.



### Roberts: MVP

Junior guard Joe Roberts of St. Andrews was named Most Valuable Player in the Dixie Conference tournament at Lynchburg last weekend. Roberts, a six-foot transfer student from Lebanon, Indiana, led the Knights to an unexpected second place finish in the tournament.

Roberts led SA in scoring with 48 points in the three games, and in assists with eleven. His contribution, however, cannot be measured by statistics alone. Joe, known as an aggressive defensive player, repeatedly hounded opposing guards with his quick hands and excellent balance. Offensively, he was the man who had to bring the ball upcourt, sometimes against a full court press. He handled this assignment virtually flawlessly.

SA's sophomore forward Albert Bonds was also named to the All-Tournament team. Bonds scored 37 points in the tourney and pulled down 23 rebounds, including 10 in the second half against the tall Christopher Newport team. Like Roberts, Bonds hit about 60% of his field goal attempts. Others named to the All-Tournament team were Craig Knight and Don Bouler of Methodist and Clarence Caldwell of Greensboro College.

Bonds was also named to the second team regular season All-Conference team, it was disclosed at the tournament site. It was the second consecutive year that second team honors have been awarded to Bonds by rival coaches. SA's Ray Andrews received honorable mention in this balloting.

### Thinclads Outclassed

Andy Crowell cleared 11 feet in the pole vault, scoring two points for SA in an indoor track meet Monday at Lynchburg. His leap enabled the Knights to beat Campbell and Atlantic Christian which had one and no points respectively. Pembroke State won the seven team affair with Norfolk State second.

Coach Ed Crain's Braves boasted the meet's most outstanding performer in distance star Victor Elk, who won both the miles and two mile. Elk ran the two mile in 9:17. Pembroke's David Phillips, a Laurinburg native, cleared 6'10" in winning the high jump. The pole vault was won at 14 feet by Martin of Pembroke.

Jacob Houge had a good run in the 600, crossing in 1:22.7. Despite this time he failed to reach the final. Billy Parker just missed qualifying for the triple jump final.

Coach Kinne commented that the team did about as well as could be expected and stressed the stiff competition in the meet. These men want to improve their marks and no doubt will do so as the season progresses.

## GLANCING AT SPORTS

BILL WILMOT

Last weekend the St. Andrews cagers put on a splendidly poised performance in the DIAC tournament, thus going a long way toward annulling much of the criticism coming from this and other sources throughout the season. Proven especially false was the assessment that they had no self-confidence and would always choke in a close game. By winning a 59-58 verdict on Lynchburg's home court, SA achieved what Coach Whiteley called the "mushroom effect." The win gave the Knights a new confidence in themselves, as individuals and more importantly as a team, and in the four corners offense with which they were so successful.

Whiteley, often criticized for his lack of game plan, developed a strong and complete strategy for this tournament, and stuck by it all the way. The Knights, who had worked on the four corners attack throughout the year in practice but only used it in one game (against Warren Wilson) accepted it wholeheartedly and executed it superbly in the tourney, knowing they had nothing to lose. The results were spectacular. "Nobody expected us to run the four corners," said Whiteley. "So the first night when we ran it we were successful with it. Maybe people thought we were playing over our heads, but we came right back the next night and would have won big if we'd hit our free throws." The Knights won big enough, defeating Newport 62-52.

Whiteley set up his four corners offense with either Leath or Bonds, whichever one was guarded by the weaker defensive player (usually Leath), in the middle, around the free throw circle. Roberts and Haddix were the outside cornermen, with Andrews and Bonds (or Leath) along the baseline. The play which worked most often was set up as follows: Robert would begin to cut toward the basket and get the ball from Leath. If an opening existed, as was the case surprisingly often, he would drive for a layup. If all alleys were closed he would return the ball to Leath, who had by this time rotated away from the basket. If, as he drove, Roberts was picked up by a defender from the side, he would pass to the open man, Bonds or Andrews, for a short jump shot. Despite the numerous passes necessary in a four corners offense, the Knights committed only 13 turnovers in each game.

Roberts played extremely well during the tournament, and certainly accumulated excellent credentials which led to his MVP award. He led SA in scoring and assists, and brought the ball upcourt against some strong pressure. Whiteley emphasized that the success was due to a team effort. "Everybody did his job and did it well. Haddix did a great job on defense. Bonds played the best defense he's played all year. He played well on both ends. Bonds, Andrews and Leath did just a super job on the boards." Al Leath pointed out that it was the Knights' strong, mistake free defense, alternating from zone to man-to-man in different situations, which kept the team in the tournament until the end.

By playing up to their potential, by playing together as a team and by waiting for high percentage shots, the Knights managed to salvage a great deal of respectability after a disappointing season. They did this by keeping the faith—or regaining it—in their coach and in themselves. Significantly, the two wins could be the catalyst to turn the St. Andrews athletic program around. The program once among the strongest in the district, has gone disturbingly downhill in the last five years, reaching a low point in the 1973 calendar year as the basketball and baseball teams won two games apiece and the soccer team failed to qualify for the district playoffs. Needless to say, things didn't appear to be getting any better, with or without Dean Arnold's sympathy. But the success at Lynchburg can't help but impress prospects, who see that St. Andrews does indeed have some latent potential. With one or two big men, SA could easily be up near the top of the conference standings within a couple of years. This and the anticipated revival of the baseball team could have a very important effect on the future of varsity athletics here. Before you dismiss this paragraph as a pipe dream, remember that surrealistic optimism can be amazingly accurate sometimes.

## Bowling Tourney Here Friday

Last Friday at Lynchburg, the bowling team prepped for this week's conference and district action, finishing with a 22 point third place effort to wrap up a cumulative second place in the final regular season standings. The Knights totalled 103 points for the season, 13 behind Methodist's league leaders. Lynchburg, which won on its home lanes, swept past N.C. Wesleyan into third place overall at 70½ points.

Wes Campbell played an important role for the Knights, averaging 193. SA's team scores were very commendable including an 885. Jim Herring picked up a 3-7 split. However, Lynchburg, sparked by Bill Smith and Steve Wiley got most of the good breaks. An indication of the Knights' more consistent shooting can be seen in the fact that most averages went

up. SA, with four men now averaging 170 or better, hosts the Dixie and District 29 competition this weekend. To the winner goes a trip to the nationals in Kansas City. Coach Blackwell expects the district winner to be one of the Dixie Conference's top three. The Knights will have a definite chance to move up and possibly win it this year, as they will be on their home lanes and have been scoring well recently. These men have other special incentives, not the least of which will be to top the basketballers fine showing.

Friday the action begins at 4:00 while the first session Saturday starts with the doubles play at 8:00 a.m. with competition continuing through late afternoon. Students are welcome to attend.

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