

# Knights On Winning Streak

By CHUCK BOOKER

"I think we'll go out and play well, and I think we'll win all of those games."

Those were the confident words of St. Andrews Head Basketball Coach Doug Riley prior to the most successful week any Knight team has experienced in the realm of sports this school season. Coach Riley was speaking of the week of Jan. 21-26, during which three crucial home conference games were to be played. True to the mentor's words, the Knights won all three games, upping their Dixie Conference record to a first-place 7-2 mark and their overall record to 10-6.

Game one on a Tuesday night saw St. Andrews edge a favored UNC-Greensboro squad, 53-52, in what Coach Riley termed the "best win" in his three years at this college.

"We had a big one last year, against Francis Marion, but this is such a big win in the Dixie Conference for us," Riley said.

In upsetting UNC-Greensboro, St. Andrews surged to victory behind a late scoring spree by sophomore forward Dick Gilbert. Gilbert scored 12 of the final 18 Knight points, including five straight jump shots for the last ten points St. Andrews tallied all evening.

No player on either team scored for the last 2:05 in the contest, and the Knights'

George Melton came down with a big defensive rebound with only two seconds remaining to clinch the thriller.

"Melton got one of the biggest rebounds of his career," Riley remarked after the game. "I'll never forget him above the rim, pulling that thing down. That's the highest I've seen George jump."

In coming off their biggest win this season, the Knights suffered a mental and physical letdown two nights later in playing a much weaker opponent, visiting Methodist College. It took an incredible offensive performance by guard Will Peterson and unusual luck for St. Andrews to come from behind and win, 62-61.

Where Gilbert left off Tuesday night, Peterson took over on Thursday night against Methodist. With the Knights down by 13 with 6:15 remaining, "Pee Wee" tallied 16 of St. Andrews' 20 points to the finish, including the winning bucket with 0:01 left on a driving, one-hand shot that straddled the rim before dropping through the bucket.

The former Dixie Conference Player of the Week was not the sole reason the Knights came out on top. The fact that Methodist missed three free throw opportunities in the final 17 seconds greatly aided St.

Andrews' comeback in what one fan termed "the worst exciting game of the year."

After two down-to-the-wire, heart-pounding finishes, the Knights gave themselves and their fans somewhat of a rest Saturday night as they breezed to an 86-63 laughter over Greensboro College. Led by the shooting of Peterson and fellow guard Andy Jones, St. Andrews streaked to a 26-16 lead at the end of the first half.

The biggest story of the game, however, did not come until the outcome of the game was no longer in doubt.

Up by 20 points with about 11 minutes left to play, the St. Andrews fans went beserk as popular junior guard Jim Smith made his first significant appearance in a game in nearly three years. Accompanied by standing ovations on every successful shot, "Smitty" proceeded to sink four of nine from the floor and four of four from the charity stripe for a near-game high of 12 points.

Amidst all of the excitement and hoopla surrounding the three games, Coach Riley tried to keep the situation in proper perspective.

"We really haven't done anything," he said prior to the Methodist game. "I keep telling my players success isn't a journey, it's a destination, and we have not reached our destination yet."

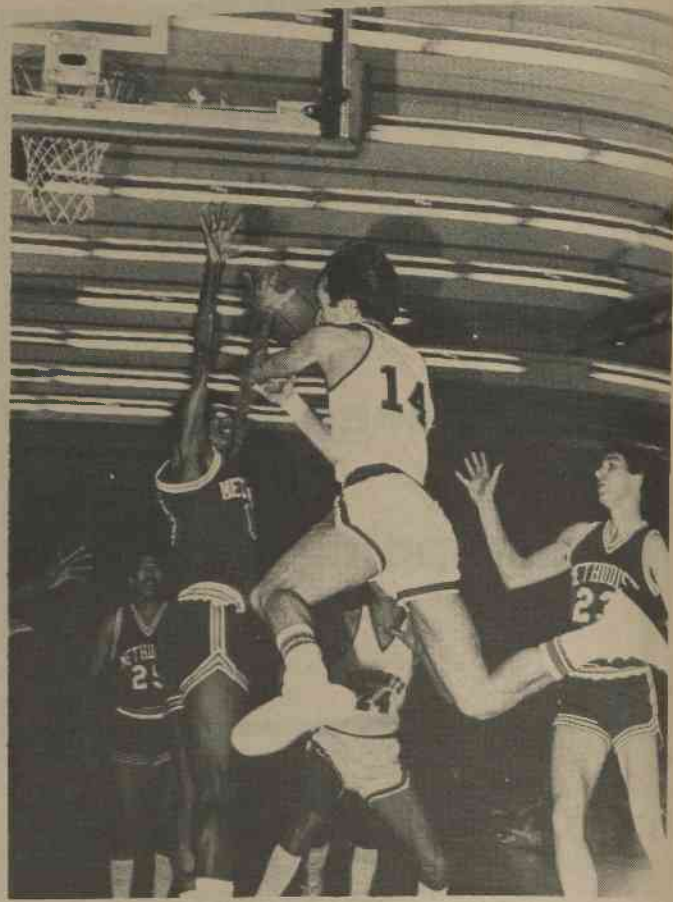


Photo by Larry Graham

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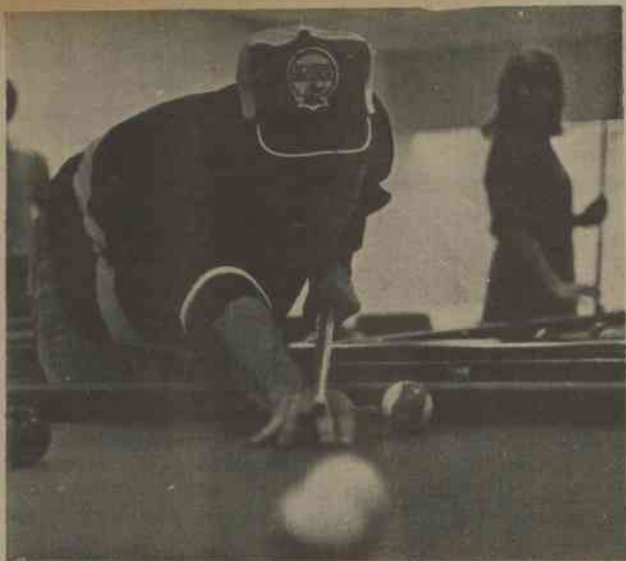


Photo by Steven Rogers

## Intramural Up-Date

By JIM SMITH

The continuing saga of intramural sports continued this week with two sports already completed, one still in the process of taking place, and another being postponed till spring term.

The ping-pong intramurals ended Monday with Jim Smith defeating Monty Hatchell in the finals. Earlier last week, Hatchell had defeated Doug Pearson and

Smith had defeated Joe Cornelius to reach the finals.

The pool tournament ended Monday also with Tony Odum defeating Mike Breeden in the finals. Mike had defeated Vince Bufonte and Tony had beaten Jim Lebetzner to reach the finals.

The racquet ball intramurals have no results yet and the coed bowling tournament will continue after winter break.

## Lady Knights Down Hornets

By DENISE DALTON

The Lady Knights loss to Davidson College and their defeat over Greensboro College last week now sets their overall game win/loss record at 6-6 in Division III.

The St. Andrews' Knights hosted the Greensboro Hornets last Monday evening (Jan. 21) in a game that the Lady Knights controlled to the end, winning with a score of 69-43. The Knights advantage lay not only in the use of home court, but the inexperience of the Hornets in their first year with Division II, allowed the Lady Knights to perform better than their competition. Both teams shot about evenly from the field, but the Knights had an overwhelming 83 percent of their free throws connect, while the Hornets connected on only 29 percent.

Last Thursday night the Lady Knights lost a difficult game to the Davidson College Wildcats, 57-62. St. Andrews played a better first half than Davidson, leading at halftime with a score of 31-25. However, the Knights usual better play in the second half did not occur that night. The Lady Knights coach, David Myers, said he could not pinpoint the exact reason why, except that "... Davidson simply played a better second half."

Throughout the game, the Knights executed their plays well and rebounded enough balls to gain a number of shots. But they did not shoot well enough during the last 15 minutes of the game to catch up. This advantage allowed the Wildcats to complete their winning score 57-62.

A 5'4" Davidson guard named Kirby Owen was a valuable player that night as she gained 27 points, 15 of

which were made from the foul line. The Lady Knights high scorer in both games last week was Catherine Armstrong, who scored 25 points in the Davidson matchup alone.

The next home game for the Lady Knights will be played against Methodist College on February 11.

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