

What exactly is a Coot?

At St. Andrews they are the stuff of legend and lore. In the 26-year history of this college, a strange bird called the coot has called the lake home --- until two years ago.

Coots, or officially the American coot or Blue Peter, have black heads and bodies covered in a mixture of blue and brown plumage. The birds, which breed from a range covering Canada to New Jersey, winter in the coastal regions of North Carolina.

Apparently changing migration patterns had taken the coots away from St. Andrews and Lake Moore. But this fall several of the coots have returned to the lake, joining an assortment of ducks, geese, egrets and herons which live here.

"They are really bizarre creatures," said coot lover Dr. Neal Bushoven. "They don't really seem to fly, they just sort of skim across the lake chasing each other and acting crazy."

The coots are so much a part of St. Andrews life that at one point there was a movement among the students to give the name to the school's athletic teams. So instead of the Knights, the teams

would be the St. Andrews Coots, Bushoven said.

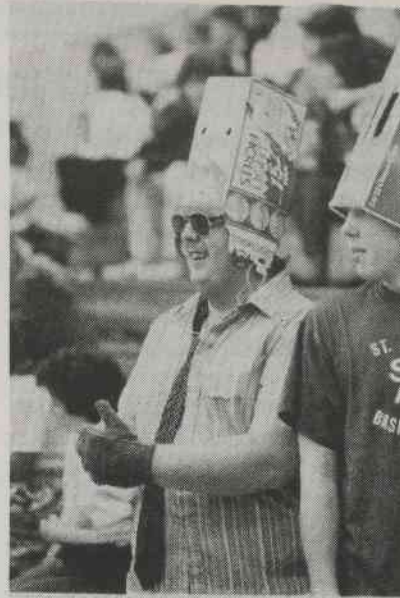
The coots have become the unofficial mascot of the St. Andrews volleyball team ever since one of the team members had to catch one for a class project. "We had a science major on the team (about 1980) who had to band one of the coots for a class project," said head volleyball coach JoAnn Williams.

"She would run through the mud around the lake in her volleyball shoes trying to catch one of the coots with a butterfly net," Williams said. "It really did get to be a joke, so the girls picked the coots as our mascot."

"And she never did catch any of the coots."

Another mark of the deep attachment between St. Andrews and its coots is shown by the "Blue Coot" impression under which the college's press has published some of its books. The affection runs so deep that alumni get together for "Coot gatherings."

Current students seem just as happy that the coots have returned. "It wasn't the same without them," Bushoven said.



Is this a Coot?
Photo by Rooney Coffman

Soccer Six-Aside Tournney a Big Success

By Myla Garren
Sports Editor

The First Annual St. Andrews Six-Aside Co-Ed Intramural Indoor Soccer Tournament took place last weekend with apparent success, according to soccer coach Lorenzo Canalis. Canalis was responsible for organizing the tournament, along with his new assistant coach, Doug Silver, team captain Walter Krauss, and team members John Roberts and Mark Skerlak.

The tournament lasted all day Saturday with 8 teams, each with at least one girl; 2 groups of four, competing in

twenty-minute matches round-robin style; and single elimination play-off. Each team played at least three guaranteed matches, with 4 advancing to the play-offs. The winning teams, Canalis' team, consisted of coaches and faculty. All other teams consisted of the student body, 3 varsity soccer players being the maximum number per team.

Competition was "really keen" according to Canalis, heightened as the tournament progressed. The play-off teams included:

Team 1: L. Canalis, B. Bearbaum, D. Peck, R. Carter, M. Powell, B. Dougherty, and Nordine;

Team 6: G. Garrison, M. Wilson, J. Costello, D. Hinkle, D. Schmidt, and A. Fraser;

Team 8: Perry, Elkin, Mason, Jack, Silver and Wade; and

Team 2: G. Albero, M. Skerlak, K. Deal, H. Wingate, A. Vaughan, and G. Kever.

At 5:00 team 1 defeated team 6 in a close and exciting match. Trophies were presented to the winning teams.

The soccer team is currently practicing everyday by weightlifting three days a week, playing mini-soccer twice a week, and by playing indoors on the weekends.

The new assistant coach, Silver, has also been working with the team in preparation for next fall. He is an ASU graduate and a music teacher in Bennettesville.

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"Mystery" best describes track

St. Andrews track and field team could have a qualifier for the NCAA Division III championships or first-year coach Gordy Scoles could see his Knights at the bottom of the Dixie Conference heap. It's a mystery that only a middle distance runner from London, England can solve. That mystery man is Cajatan Chukwulozie.

Chukwulozie has recorded running times of :47.93 in the 400 meters and 1:53.5 in the 800 meters. To qualify for the NCAA Division III track and field championships, a runner has to run :48.20 in the 400 meters.

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Freshman sprinter John Thomas returns to the team after a series of consistant performances for the Knights' cross country team in the fall. Ken Fellenstein, a triple and high jumper, will also compete for the Knights. Erick Payne, a sophomore, will throw discus and shot for the team.

Women's tennis team returns four

The womens tennis team opened a 16-match season at home March 9 against Haverford College. Coach Williams predicts that the Lady Knights should finish in the top quarter of their conference.

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Returning for the lady netters are Judy Baxter, Diana Jones, Kristi Kluegel and Karen Kessinger. Two Japanese exchange students, Kanako Fudamoto and Wakana Fukuyama, will also be playing for St. Andrews. Transfer student Lissa Norton will complete the core of players with which Williams expects to win.

Canalis recruits "Trinidad Three"

In the midst of his second recruiting campaign at St. Andrews, Lorenzo Canalis has three soccer players who are enrolling for the spring semester. The "Trinidad Three" will add an exotic element to St. Andrews soccer. The three, Colin McDavid, Jeffrey Maynard and Elias Jack, all come from Trinidad in the West Indies.

Sports
Briefs



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