

St. Andrews Riders Aim For National Title

by Communications & Marketing

As St. Andrews Presbyterian College shoots for a national title in equestrian competition, it will be spotlighted on the riding scene as it hosts the IHSA National Championship in May.

Four years in a row St. Andrews' equestrian team has been at the national championships of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association and the National Riding Council. Each year St. Andrews, Sweet Briar College (Va.) and the University of Virginia have been the top finishers at the NRC Championships.

With essentially the same teams that finished third in those two competitions last year, St. Andrews will enter the 1987-88 season. The college will defend its boast as home to the best riding program in North Carolina.

"We expect tough competition from U.Va. and Sweet Briar, as

competition and 3-4 overall. Their next game is at home against Greensboro College Saturday.

always, but there might be room for a North Carolina school at the top this year," said director of the riding program Shelby French.

Returning riders include: Katie Martin, a junior from Winston-Salem, N.C., who was the highest overall scorer for St. Andrews at the ANRC nationals. Other key returners include senior Margaret Fuller, sophomore Beth White and senior Cyndi Adams.

Fuller, from Mountain Lakes, N.J., finished 5th at the ANRC nationals last year. At the IHSA nationals, Cyndi Adams finished 2nd in high point beginner stock seat equitation.

"I'm real excited about what this team did last year and what it is capable of doing this year," French said. "A national championship is always a possibility."

With a little luck, 1987-88 could be a year of dreams fulfilled for

the St. Andrews equestrian program. Beginning with a centered riding clinic on Oct. 3, St. Andrews will play host to many riding events at Singing Wood Farm in Laurinburg.

"Between the Riding Club and the equestrian team, we'll be kept busy throughout the fall," said French.

All of this preparation is an effort to ready the team for the nationals in the spring.

"Hosting the IHSA national championship in May is a really big undertaking for us," said French. "We're expecting about 400 people from all over the country, excluding spectators."

Sports

Sports Briefs

The St. Andrews Lady Knights volleyball team defeated Methodist College Wednesday night, 15-12, 15-11, 15-7. Diana Jones had 14 offensive assists and Kristin Mosher had 12 assists. The Lady Knights are 3-1 in DIAC competition and 16-5 overall. Their next match will be at N.C. Wesleyan on Friday.

The St. Andrews Soccer team defeated Averett College 3-2 Wednesday. It was the Knights first conference soccer victory in five years. SA had 14 shots on goal with scores by Will Whitehead, Greg Dorsey and Phil Nolette. The Knight booters are 1-2 in DIAC

Booters Place 4th In Carolina Classic

by Ren Townsend

St. Andrews hosted the 4th Annual Carolina Classic Soccer Tournament and dropped games to Francis Marion College and Coker College over the weekend. This was the first year that the Tournament was held at St. Andrews.

The kick-off game pitted Pembroke State University against Coker College. With a 1-1 tie at the end of regulation time, Pembroke went on to win the game in overtime shoot-out by scoring 4 more goals against Coker, who managed to score only 3. The final score was Pembroke 5, Coker 4. Coker head coach Tim Riggs said that an unusually designed play allowed Coker to tie PSU late in the game: "The play is called the High Pressure Even play," Griggs said. "In man-to-man coverage, we move the sweeper back. You take the risk of getting scored on, but there is a chance of you scoring."

Early in the 1st half of Saturday's game against Francis Marion, Senior Matt Wilson went down with an injury. "The goalie came out from guarding the net, and his knee hit me in the thigh," Wilson said. "After he hit me, I kicked the ball at the goal." That kick almost scored. Wilson was taken to the hospital and says he has a badly bruised thigh. St. Andrews never recovered from The loss of their captain, and was defeated 1-0.

In Sunday's consolation round game between Coker and St. Andrews, Mike Torres helped Coker strike first, scoring the game's first goal at the 16:06 mark. Before the half ended Torres would score again (36:45) to give Coker a 2-0 lead at the end of the half.

The Knights looked like a new team in the second half. Freshman Chris Wallace narrowed the gap to within a point with a goal at the 17:30 mark of the second half. St. Andrews was on the verge of scoring again as time expired. St Andrews head coach Lorenzo Canalis feels that the team can play better than they did in the tournament. "We did not play up to our potential." Canalis said, "Our biggest problem was when Matty went down, no one stepped into a leadership position."

PSU came out firing in the championship game. Alex Gaines scored at just 1:08 in the match. Eagles head coach Mike Shaeffer felt that the timing of that goal was very important. "That goal took FMC off stride," Shaeffer said. "It was more a case of them making a mistake than us making a good play." Jimmy Mask added another goal for PSU at the 23:50 point giving his team a 2-0 lead at half-time.

Dave Sklair put FMC back into the game with a goal early after play resumed. Only 3:07 had passed when the Patriots got their first and only goal. PSU hung on to win the match and the tournament with a 2-1 victory. "This is the second year in a row that we have won this tournament." Shaeffer said, "It feels good...the competition gets tougher every year."

Eleven players were named to the All-Tournament Team: Walter Krauss and Chris Walker, St. Andrews; Mike Torres and Mike Wallace, Coker; Dave Sklair, Charlie Haines, and Andy Roxburgh, FMC; and Jimmy Myers (tournament MVP), Steve Gaines, Mark Honeycutt, and Richie Whisnant, PSU.

Fall Baseball Underway

by Doug Dawson

As the fall season arrives on the St. Andrews campus, so do many familiar sights: the leaves turning from green to brown, students crowded around T.V. screens watching football, the mercury dropping steadily, and our soccer team taking the field.

One sight that many may find out of place is the St. Andrews baseball team practicing in the autumn sun. Although the season is still months away, the Knights are hard at work in hopes of avenging last year's disappointing season.

Having only eight returning players out of a total of thirty-six candidates, one of the Knights' main problems is inexperience. To better prepare the new players, first year head coach Gary Swanson has set up a six game exhibition schedule against area schools.

Each game will run from nine to fourteen innings with no statistics or standings being recorded. No starting team has been set for these scrimmages, for, as Coach Swanson said, "Each position is there for the taking. Everyone will get a chance." He will use these practice games to help determine the 1988 Knights varsity baseball team, but those who fall short will still have their chance; for the first time St. Andrews will field a J.V. team.

At the end of this "mini-season", the Knights will take part in the first annual St. Andrews World Series. This event, which takes place from Oct. 28 through Nov. 7, gives the Knights a chance to compete against each other.

The players will divide into two teams (which they will pick and coach). They will play a best out of nine series, with the losers treating the winners to a pizza party.

While Coach Swanson feels

that this series will be fun and exciting for his players, he also sees it as an important step in developing a winning team.

Coach Swanson also sees this series as a chance for the team to develop into the tight-knit unit that is an integral part of the successful coaching style he brings to St. Andrews. What he is looking for is not a team full of stars, but rather a team player, someone who is willing to work hard for success.

In these early days, he sees a solid pitching staff and team that is fundamentally sound. What he feels is most promising about this team is their enthusiasm about the long hard hours they put in practicing. "I'm really happy with the players' attitudes. It makes coaching fun. I hope that good things come of this team because they deserve it," Swanson said. He went on to say that this year's team was "the hardest working team I've ever coached."

The players too have much to say about the work they've put in. Freshman Dane Gordon, an outfielder from St. Simons Island, Ga. feels that the team's strength lies in its unity. "We have a real desire to succeed and Coach Swanson is doing some job of driving us to overachieve. He pays attention to the little things that make a team good." Gordon said. He only hopes that the student body can respond with the same enthusiasm that the team has, and asks for filled stands during these games.

In the wake of last year's less than successful season, there are many questions unanswered about the St. Andrews baseball team. As the season slowly but steadily approaches, fans can be assured of one thing: no matter what the final standings are, both the team and the coach will have given it their best shot, and if the amount of effort is any measure of success, the Knights will be no less than champions.