Mars Hill Cagers: Season Outlook



Seasing a community goodwill visit, Men's Basketball players Pete Baldini and Steve bring a cheer to André, a patient in Memorial Mission Hospital in

Hill soccer team wrapped up season with losses to Lime-Catawba college.

traveled to Limestone for half of a back-to-back duel le Lions lost 8-0. The first half e match was of the defense" holding Limestone to goals. This was one of the bethalf performances by the season. The offense, which plagued by position changes all was unable to score in either

half proved to be fatal for they gave up three quick they gave up the on to seal the victory. Mike Was "Yellow carded" for stepfront of the Limestone goal Uring one of the goalie's kicks. Hill's one of the goals of of Carlos started Catawba. The Lions started disiastically, but were quickly Henson, and few chances to score, but miss-

The Lions got fired up in the second half, but not by the play of their soccer. Several Catawba players made sarcastic remarks which lead to several physical incidents. The Catawba starting halfback was put in as goalie because "he wanted a rest." Lion Mike Butler received a yellow card and the goalie a red card (expulsion from game and next league game) after Butler ran into the keeper following a shot. The keeper returned the push which led to the cards. "He was a smart-butt and I wanted to put him into his place. It was a good call; I was guilty," commented Butler. Coach Coates quickly regained order and the Lions finished the game without another incident.

Although this has been a dismal season, the Lions realize it was the first. As Coach Coates put it, "It was a learning experience." The Lions will do some off season training in the spring and maybe join a private indoor league this winter.

The coach and team would like to for their support during the season. Special thanks goes out to the "Golden Pride" for their help with morale.

lenge the best in the nation.

trict 26.

the rebuilding process.

their schedule. Although the final record sidered contenders," stated Ronai. was 9-20, it does not give justice to the second shots. Considering the fact that ball Players" coming just to see them. three to four freshmen were nearly al- The Team has worked hard this year record could have easily been 20-9.

will be their depth. Ronai's recruiting ef- ment and fun!

With eight returning lettermen and forts have been fruitful. He started his some highly talented recruits, the 1983 - recruiting for the 1983 - 84 season in Ju-84 season promises to be an exciting one ly of 1982. His first priority was to bring for the Lions. Third year head coach in experienced players to complement Bob Ronai looks for his team to chal- his young team. Ronai's recruiting style has not only brought experienced play-The Lions will play their first game ers for the present season, but when against defending NAIA national questioned about some of the freshmen, champs, the Cougars of the College of Ronai stated, "Some of the freshmen Charleston. And, if that isn't enough, will develop their skills this year in hopes the Lions will take on USC-Spartanburg of contributing more effectively down (1981-82 NAIA nation champions) and the road." This year's new faces include Western Carolina (one of the leading four junior college transfers, each of contenders in the NCAA Southern Con- whom can give the Lions immediate help ference), not to mention the tough com- in different areas. Two freshmen are petition among the independents of Dis- coming in with probably the most potential of any recruits to come to Mars Hill Ronai is a firm believer in the theory in a long time. "We feel our recruiting that to get quality players, you must play class has filled a 'need in our program the quality teams and a look at the up- and with our program and with our recoming schedule proves that he and his turning lettermen, we should continue to cagers are not taking the easy way out in improve. But, improvement will only come as a result of the dedication of our Last year's squad, virtually all rook- players. Realistically, we are still, at ies, challenged the best of the teams on least, a good year away from being con-

So far this year, the Lions have faced success of the team. The Lions were Carson-Newman during the scrimmagyoung and inexperienced in clutch situa- es, each team winning three halves each. tions and, therefore, six games were lost The Lions have also been spreading by less than four points (all in the last good will and smiles across the faces of third of the season). The Lions im- the elderly and sick when they visit area proved steadily throughout the season. hospitals and nursing homes. The visits The last half of the season, almost every have brought happiness to children in game was taken to the wire with a total the pediatrics wards especially, as the of eleven games lost in overtime or last children love the idea of "Real Basket-

ways on the court and the Lions were and hopes of student support are the plagued with injury and sickness, their concerns of both the basketball team and the Mars Hill community. Please get One of the Lions' strengths this year involved, this will be a year of excite-



PHOTO BY DAVID WACHTER

thank the administration, and students Lion fullback Jeff Morgan readies himself for the duel of the feet as a Catawba forward tries to score on goalie Kirk Palmer.

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Lady Lions

next victims

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