



CROSSROADS

Belmont Abbey College

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Abbey Hosts WFL Hornets

Football fans throughout the Carolinas are becoming steady visitors to Belmont Abbey now that the new Charlotte Hornets of the World Football League are using the Abbey for their training and practice facilities.

The Charlotte team has been using the baseball field as a practice site since Monday, October 7th and will continue to do so at least through the remainder of the current football season. If the present situation proves suitable to both parties, it

will be continued on a permanent basis including pre-season training starting in June 1975.

This development resulted from the efforts of Abbey president, Father John Bradley, who contacted the

Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and offered BAC facilities for the Hornets' use, upon their arrival in Charlotte. Representatives of the then New York Stars visited the Abbey campus and were most impressed.

The Charlotte players have taken over the large P.E. locker room, and the former visiting team dressing room has been converted into a training room. The team's campus office is located upstairs in the Wheeler Center, in what had been the weight training room. Weight lifting equipment has been relocated in the vacant area beside the basketball floor.

One of the bottom floor storerooms is now the Hornets' equipment room, where an impressive inventory of material needed to operate a pro football team is presided over by Mike "Tiger" Ferraro and Mike Ferraro, Jr., the only father-son equipment manager team in pro football. Their job includes not only ordering and maintaining helmets, pads, dummies, shoes, balls, uniforms and countless other essentials, but also such things as doing laundry, taking care of equipment and personnel during games, and, in Tiger's words,

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Charlotte Hornets have workout on Abbey baseball field.

Increases Shown

Enrollment Study Brings Smiles

With enrollment worries prevalent at most private colleges and universities, a 21 per cent increase in total student enrollment since the fall of 1972 has given Belmont Abbey officials something to smile about. The number of full-time students has also risen from 533 two years ago to today's 609, a growth of 14 per cent.

Growth in total enrollment has resulted, to a large extent, from an influx of coeds to the campus since the Abbey first began accepting women as resident

students in the fall of 1973. Belmont Abbey's first year of resident coeducation brought 104 women to the college. According to just released enrollment figures for the Fall semester, the number has increased by 73 per cent compared to a 6.9 per cent increase in male students.

The ability to keep the students they already have is still another contributing factor to the Abbey's bullish enrollment picture. Ninety-one per cent of all eligible students returned

to Belmont Abbey this fall, as compared to only 73 per cent in the fall of 1972 and 85 per cent a year later.

Commuters are adding new dimensions to the future of the college, as they now comprise almost one-third of the total student body. This growth has come about steadily during the past several years, beginning in 1972 when they were outnumbered by resident students by 3.5 to one. The margin has been cut to only two to one, as the percentage of day

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Thomas New VP

John C. Thomas has joined Belmont Abbey as Vice President for Development, Public Relations and Alumni Affairs. He will also serve on the Administrative Committee, the Budget Committee, and the Committee in charge of planning the Abbey's Centennial in 1976.

The Thomases, including wife Jerry and six of their nine children, live in Charlotte, where Thomas has been Vice President of Marketing for Kar-Kare Corporation. All the family are active members of St. Gabriel's parish. In addition to being co-presidents of the Home-School Association, the Thomases teach CCD and he is a member of the Parish Advisory Board.

The family came to Charlotte from Cincinnati, where Thomas was with Northlich, Stolley, Inc. advertising agency and then became Director of Advertising and Sales Promotion for Philip Carey Company, a major building materials manufacturer.

A native of Greensburg, Indiana, Thomas holds a BA from the University of Notre Dame. He is a 1965 Dale Carnegie graduate, and completed the AMA Advanced Industrial Advertising course in 1966.

A dedicated hard worker, Thomas has already launched a number of projects and is making plans for more, several of which have to do with alumni and the alumni newspaper.



JOHN C. THOMAS

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