



CROSSROADS

Belmont Abbey College

VOLUME V, NUMBER THREE

BELMONT, NORTH CAROLINA 28012

APRIL, 1977



Dudko Resigns After Ten Years Of Coaching

Stanley Dudko, nine-time Coach of the Year of District 26 of the N.A.I.A., has resigned as coach of Belmont Abbey College's soccer team.

Dudko, whose record is 120-47-12, said he resigned "not over one particular reason, but because of the time element being so great; I only have so much time and so many things to do. I have to establish priorities. Teaching Business Administration and Economics, plus coaching soccer, consumed too much time.

"I took soccer as a 365-day a year job—not three months. Fr. (John P.) Bradley (president of Belmont Abbey College) tried to twist my arm to change my mind, but my decision is firm."

Dudko's resignation becomes effective at the end of this semester. A replacement has not been found. Applicants will be considered until June. Applications should be made to Fr. Raphael Bridge, O.S.B., athletics moderator.

Dudko was named soccer coach of the Crusaders 10 years ago. His teams have taken the district championship nine times, and have been runners-up in the N.A.I.A. regional tournament five times, and received a berth at the national tournament in 1967.

Twenty-two Abbey players have been named to the N.A.I.A. All-South team and two have made N.A.I.A. All-American in the past 10 years. The Crusaders' 1976 record is 14-3, and they won their district and were runners-up in the regional tournament.

Dudko, 43, is a native of Rowno, Poland. He received an A.B. degree from Belmont Abbey College, did graduate work at the University of North Carolina and received his M. A. degree in Economics from Auburn University.

He began his teaching career at Charlotte Catholic High School and Central Piedmont Community College, and in 1963 he returned to Belmont Abbey College, where he joined the Department of Business and Economics. He is presently Assistant Professor in the department.

In March 1971 Abbot Edmund McCaffrey, O.S.B., then chancellor of the college, announced that Pope Paul VI had bestowed upon Dudko the papal knighthood of the Order of St. Gregory the Great. This was granted in recognition for his loyal services to the church as a Catholic layman.

State Tuition Grants Ruled Constitutional

A panel of three judges ruled recently in Charlotte that tuition grants from the state of North Carolina to students at Belmont Abbey College and another private, church-related college are constitutional.

The judges said state aid to B.A.C. does not violate First Amendment separation of church and state because the college is not "pervasively sectarian," or operating primarily to promote religion.

Had the judges ruled otherwise, state aid to the 38 private colleges in North Carolina now receiving the aid would have been discontinued. All of the 38 are church-related.

In the case, heard December 1, 1976 before Clement Haynsworth, chief judge of the U. S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, and U. S. District Judges James McMillan and Woodrow Wilson Jones, the state and the private colleges contended the aid serves a secular purpose—education. The reasoning was that private college tuition costs have risen to the point that state schools would be overburdened with students if the state didn't help pay private tuitions.

The suit was filed by Michael Smith, a former Pfeiffer College professor, with the support of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, a national organization headquartered in Maryland. Smith contended the state aid was unconstitutional because "it encourages students to attend colleges where they will be influenced to become or remain religious." The suit challenged the constitutionality of three state laws permitting the disbursement of state money to private colleges.

In addition to Belmont Abbey College and Pfeiffer College, defendants included the state's University Board of Governors and the N. C. Education Assistance Authority, which administers the aid.

Although all 38 private colleges are church-related, Smith did not contend that any except Belmont Abbey College and Pfeiffer College are pervasively sectarian.

The judges, in a unanimous, unsigned opinion, ruled B.A.C. and Pfeiffer, a Methodist college, are sectarian in organization and structure, but are not sectarian in operation. "The evidence shows them to be liberal arts colleges functioning in the liberal arts tradition. They are not engaged in proselytizing (recruiting to religion) students or anyone else."

Judge McMillan found that B.A.C. and Pfeiffer, "despite their many trappings and insignia of religious orientation," are not "pervasively sectarian."

North Carolina provided 8.6 million in aid covering partial tuition for about 23,000 private college students last year. The state pays \$200 each toward tuition for all North Carolina resident students, and operates two aid programs for financially needy private students.

The opinion states that "Belmont Abbey College offers a broad liberal arts undergraduate program, with curriculum requirements to insure to each student a rather broad exposure. There are twenty-three academic departments, with permissible concentrations in sixteen. Theology is not one of the sixteen departments in which a student may seek a major.

"Each student is required to take two courses in the Department of Theology. Three of the courses offered in that department, however, are not

primarily concerned with the Christian religion. One is a comparative study of major world religions, while two others are concerned with ancient religions and mythology, though attention is given to their influence upon the Old Testament and Christianity. In 1975-76, a course in the Islamic religion was offered and taught by an Islamic Moslem. Moreover, the theology requirement can be fulfilled by transfer credits from other colleges, including public institutions. Finally, other courses concentrating primarily or entirely upon Christianity were taught as academic disciplines in which there was no appearance of an attempt to persuade the student to accept either Christian or Catholic doctrines.

"There is no requirement that students attend religious services. The College has no rule against prayer in classrooms, and on rare occasions members of the faculty have opened classes with prayer. The norm, however, is that religion is not injected into the classroom, and when it is the subject of study in the Theology Department, the tone is that of the academician and not that of a spreader of the Gospel."

BAC Plans FAA Credit

Acting upon a request from the Federal Aviation Administration, Belmont Abbey College will initiate a program next academic year to award academic credit to controllers and technicians who have completed the required FAA training course.

"It is a program which attempts to recognize in terms of college level credit, the professional training received by controller personnel and technicians of the FAA," explained Fr. James Solari, O.S.B., Academic Dean of the college.

The program will allow 30, one full academic year, free-elective credits for those interested in working actively toward an undergraduate degree.

Fr. James sees most applicants working in the field of business, although there is no limitation on major choice. It will be necessary, after earning these 30 credits, that the candidate fulfill the core and major program requirements, including all upper-level requirements.

The FAA training program consists of a period of intensive study at the training center in Oklahoma, followed by three years of in-service training in the field. Qualification for an FAA position then comes after actual working experience. These positions are ranked equally with the GS-12 level on the Civil Service Register.

Mercer University in Atlanta has a similar program, and Belmont Abbey College has several others which allow the more mature student who has been working the opportunity to earn an undergraduate degree without quitting work, or negating that experience by beginning at the entrance level of college freshmen.

The Life Experience Credit Program grants up to 30 credits for life experience of different sorts. There is a credit program for registered nurses who have received their licenses from non-credited programs which recognizes the learning

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