

First In History: Women's Tennis Team

For the first time in history, Belmont Abbey College is adding to its varsity sports program a women's tennis team.

The program began late in March. Mo Daniels, coach, who is assisting Mike Reidy with both the men's and women's program, started the program when senior student Barbara Sweeney displayed interest in getting a program under way.

"This is the first year for a girls' varsity tennis team. We play a good schedule for a first-year program, with Davidson College J. V.'s on the schedule, as well as Lenoir-Rhyne College. It is a tough enough schedule for a first-year team," commented Daniels.

"We have four freshmen, one junior and one senior. The interest among the girls participating is high, and that gives us a broad base to build on. This is the foundation for a really great program," Daniels continued.

Daniels went on to say that "Barbara Sweeney is a real catalyst. She is one of our co-captains. Barbara Owens is the other. If it was not for their efforts, there would be no women's tennis program at the college.

"We haven't won a match so far this year," said Daniels.

"Even though we haven't won, I am very pleased with the way things have been going. It is a tough job getting a varsity tennis program going on the college level.

"We are getting the program

off the ground," Daniels concluded. "The interest is good. If there weren't any interest, there would not be any team build on. This is the foundation for a really great program," Daniels continued.



IN THE SCRUM READY to fight for the ball are Alumni vs. today's rugby team game, and Tom Tony Dittmier (right), organizer of the Abbey Harmon (center).

Team Sees Rough Start

Belmont Abbey College's men's varsity tennis team is off to a very rough start this season.

Mo Daniels, a student in the Recreation Department at the College, has taken over the coaching duties for Mike Reidy while Reidy completes his Doctorate in Recreation.

"We haven't won any mat-

ches so far," commented Daniels. "We have had unusually bad luck this year. We lost our two top players. T. J. Reilly, who was undefeated in conference play his freshman and sophomore years, became academically ineligible in January. He played number one seed for us. Ed Perry is not eligible either. He was number two. He is still in school and is practicing daily with us.

"We have had to develop a new program this year," Daniels went on. "We had no interest in the program in past years because of the condition of the facilities. Since they have resurfaced the courts, we have the interest. Now we must concentrate on building the program.

"Practice sessions are a must as well as instructional sessions," Daniels continued.

"The players we have are interested in the program. We also have five possible recruits that are excellent players who we hope to have out next year.

"We have a good program going now and I'm pleased with the progress so far. Spike Reilly, T. J.'s brother, is undefeated in NAIA play this year. John March, a freshman, is 2-2 in NAIA play. A fine feat for a freshman.

"I'm pleased with the program so far this season," Daniels concluded. "Coach Reidy and I knew it would be a tough season; our major goal was to develop a program and attract future players. I feel that we have done both."

Soccer

BAC Team Defeats Alumni

Belmont Abbey College's soccer field was the site of a recent rugby game between alumni of Maryland, Washington, D. C., Virginia and North Carolina, versus the college's rugby team.

B.A.C. students won the match, 29-10.

It is hoped the game can become an annual event, to be played on Washington's Birthday weekend on the soccer field at the college. This year's event was coordinated by Tony Dittmeier ('71), now living in Springfield, Va. In addition to alumni who regularly play rugby for home teams, several inexperienced players participated in the recent event here.

According to Dittmeier, interest is high among alumni in the metropolitan Washington area in rugby. The annual weekend here would be centered around the Saturday afternoon rugby game.

For further information about the annual event, contact Dittmeier at 7310 Leesville Road, Springfield, Va. 22151.



TONY PITTMER jumps against Abbey captain Bob Delaney in a line out for possession of the ball.



LEAVING THE field at half-time are (l. to r.) Phil Coyne, Paul Wilson, Frank DeLuca, and Tom Harmon.