

Cagers Optimistic



READER photo by Mark W. Clauser
Capitol's basketball coach Dan Phillips.

By Kathy Kern

Basketball. Whether the competition is collegiate or pro, the game combines split-second accuracy with strength and finesse. The players must be ready, willing, and able to play intensely for the ball and to let their competition know it. With these thoughts in mind, Head Coach Dan Phillips is preparing his Capitol team for a competitive schedule of play this season. Coach Phillips, who has been on the basketball coaching staff here for four years, is beginning his second season as head coach of the Capitol Campus Nittany Lions. He brings his coaching experience from Bishop McDevitt High in Harrisburg where he is presently a faculty member.

The head coach anticipates this season's play to be very competitive with "a tough schedule all around." This is Capitol's second season in the N.A.I.A. league (National Association of Inter-collegiate Athletics), and the team will play District 19 schools which include

Messiah College, Spring Garden College, Eastern, and Philadelphia Pharmacy, a league powerhouse. The coach notes that a win here in this league is a big win, with Philadelphia Pharmacy leading the challenge.

This year is also the inauguration season of the Keystone Athletic Conference. Five colleges are members of this conference, including Beaver, Cabrini, Misericordia, Alvernia, and Capitol Campus. A tournament for this conference is slated for November 28-29 at Averett College in Danville, Virginia.

A post-season tournament for all five of the Keystone Conference teams will be held here at Capitol, a school which was instrumental in getting the conference established.

Despite a rough schedule ahead, the former Bishop McDevitt coach is enthusiastic. He says that with a number of intense Capitol players on the floor who want the ball, "There is no reason why we wouldn't be confident."

The head coach admits that Capitol is at a disadvantage with most other schools when it comes to player selection. Because Capitol is exclusively a two-year, upper-division campus, there are no freshmen or sophomores on the team, yet other schools can recruit players as freshmen straight out of high school. For the first time, however, Capitol Campus did participate in the recruitment of players for this season during the end of the last school year.

Despite the above disadvantages, Capitol will have several strong players on the floor this season.

Three returning senior lettermen, Jackie Wilson, Bobby Hassel, and Ron Kuzo, along with Bloomsburg State College transfer Dave Shannon, will give the Penn State Capitol Campus Nittany Lions the experience it takes to play competitive roundball.

Juniors Barry Cummings, Bruno Tucci, Jim Flattery, and Bobby Hume will also be players to watch for in the coming season.

Rounding out this season's coaching staff will be assistants Jim Natale, a former Penn Crest High School coach, and Steve Frank. The experience of Coach Natale and the enthusiasm of Coach Frank will add to the overall color of the team.

It is important to note here that this is the first year Capitol has two assistants on the coaching staff -- a sign, according to Coach Phillips, that the Capitol Campus basketball program is improving.

Whether Capitol will have a primarily offensive or defensive team this season is hard to predict.

According to the head coach, the team seems to be moving in the offensive direction. "We are better offensively than defensively at this point," he added, also offering that time strengthens all aspects of the game.

As for the basketball program itself, the second-year head coach is anxious to present Capitol to the competition.

"We'll be much more competitive this year than we were last year," he said.

The coach is also anxious to present his team to the Capitol Campus students. With new uniforms, warmups, and obvious talent, the team is more than ready to play for the students.

Coach Phillips admits that student participation in the basketball program has been sparse over the past few years, yet he, his staff, and team and enthusiastic in hoping for more student involvement this year.

So, how about it? The season begins on November 17 with Capitol's first home game on November 19 against Spring Garden College, followed by 15 more home games scheduled throughout the season.

The coaching staff and team would like the students' support, and one way to show support is to cheer the team on at the game.

Try it! It might become a good habit!

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS

1. Siesta
5. Hold out
9. Be in debt
12. Swearword
13. "— each life some rain must fall"
14. Bled, as dye
15. Public letter writer
17. Available: 2 wds.
19. Excelled
20. Armada
21. Pot
23. Face part
26. Exploit
28. Area in N. Michigan
29. Chartered
30. As far as
31. Visit: 3 wds.

DOWN

33. The Pelican State: abbr.
34. "Flow gently, sweet —"
36. Electric unit
37. Shade tree
38. Risible sound: hyph. wd.
39. Dull gray
41. Homeric work
43. Less youthful
46. Home state of Dorothy of Oz
48. Bid
49. Wapiti
50. Pinochle play
52. Bacchante's "Whee!"
53. Da
54. Soft, white cheese
55. — for, summon

DOWN

1. Flag maker
2. Apiece
3. Backhand or forehand
4. "To — own self be true"
5. Golf ball's position
6. For each
7. Moved quietly
8. Amend color
9. W. J. Bryan, for one
10. Pale
11. Upshot
16. Backs as a winner: 2 wds.
18. Film skating queen
20. Knocked down
22. Child
24. Deal in
25. Round, red cheese
26. Western State
27. Living-room piece
29. Persisted: 2 wds.
31. Soccer scores
32. Vast expanse
35. Considers
37. Salad plant
39. Device making intense light beams
40. Leprechauns
42. Poetic foot
44. — jacket or collar
45. Oboe, for one
46. Low island
47. Beer's cousin
48. Cyprinoid fish
51. Brooklyn's site: abbr.

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John Reutter displays the tailgating atmosphere at All U-Day festivities.



READER photo by Harry H. Moyer
WSDC members J.R., Joe, Kathy, and Eric celebrate during All U-day.

Middletown Lanes

944-9991

WEDNESDAY- Campus League Nite

**Ball drilling services, Bags,
Shoes and Accessories**