

Basketball team starts '83-'84 season this month

By Linda McCarty

Capitol Campus' basketball team has recorded two decisive wins in their first two games this season.

In the season opener last Friday night, the Lion's tallied 68 points against Valley Forge Bible College's 32.

Bill Ochall was the Lion's high scorer with 21 points.

The team won its second game by a 40-point margin over Lancaster Bible College on Tuesday, winning by the score of 67-27.

Bill Ochall again topped the team's scoring list with 21 points.

The wins mark the beginning of a challenging season for Capitol which will see the Lion's competing with only seven eligible players.

"We definitely have our work cut out for us," said Charlie Bowen, coach of the Capitol Lions, "but we're going to do the best with what we've got."

Bowen, who will begin his second season as coach of the Capitol Lions and tenth overall as a basketball coach, feels the team can improve its 4-20 record of last season. He will be assisted by Charlie Stokes, a former Penn State Capitol basketball player who played the past two seasons at Capitol.

The Lions have four returning lettermen: Juan Roach and Brian Gauger (co-captains) playing guard positions, and Greg Dreisbach and Bob Zalno at the forward and center positions, respectively.

Completing the squad of eligible players are Bill Ochall, a top recruit from Anne Arundel Junior

College, and Barry Richards, according to Bowen.

Three others; Bill Styche, John Thomas, and Joe Nichols, are planned to be added to the roster in January.

Faced with a small squad in early season, the team has planned tactics accordingly.

Said co-captain Brian Gauger, "One of our plans we call 'Kiss' -- 'Keep it simple, stupid.'"

Co-captain Juan Roach elaborates, "It means that we'll probably stick with a few basic plays and work them well."

"And," said Gauger, "we've got to be in extremely good physical condition."

Bowen, who said he would have preferred a squad of 12 players, is disappointed that more Capitol students did not come out for the team.

"Many who are interested in playing basketball give me the reason they can't because of studies. While we stress that studies are most important, you can do both," Bowen said.

"It's also difficult to attract recruits. Of the eight players recruited last Spring, only four decided to come. Usually they will choose a better basketball school that has more to offer."

Despite drawbacks, the squad is "setting goals for a winning season," according to Gauger.

Bowen said one of the goals this season is to have more fans attend the games.

"Not only from the college, but we would also like to get a town following," Bowen said.

The Capitol Lions will have a 25 game schedule, finishing the season with the Keystone Athletic Conference Tournament and the N.A.I.A. District "A" semi-finals.

Schedules for the Lions' season will be placed throughout the town at various stores and restaurants.

The team will travel to Swarthmore College on Saturday and return for a home game against Cabrini College next Tuesday night.

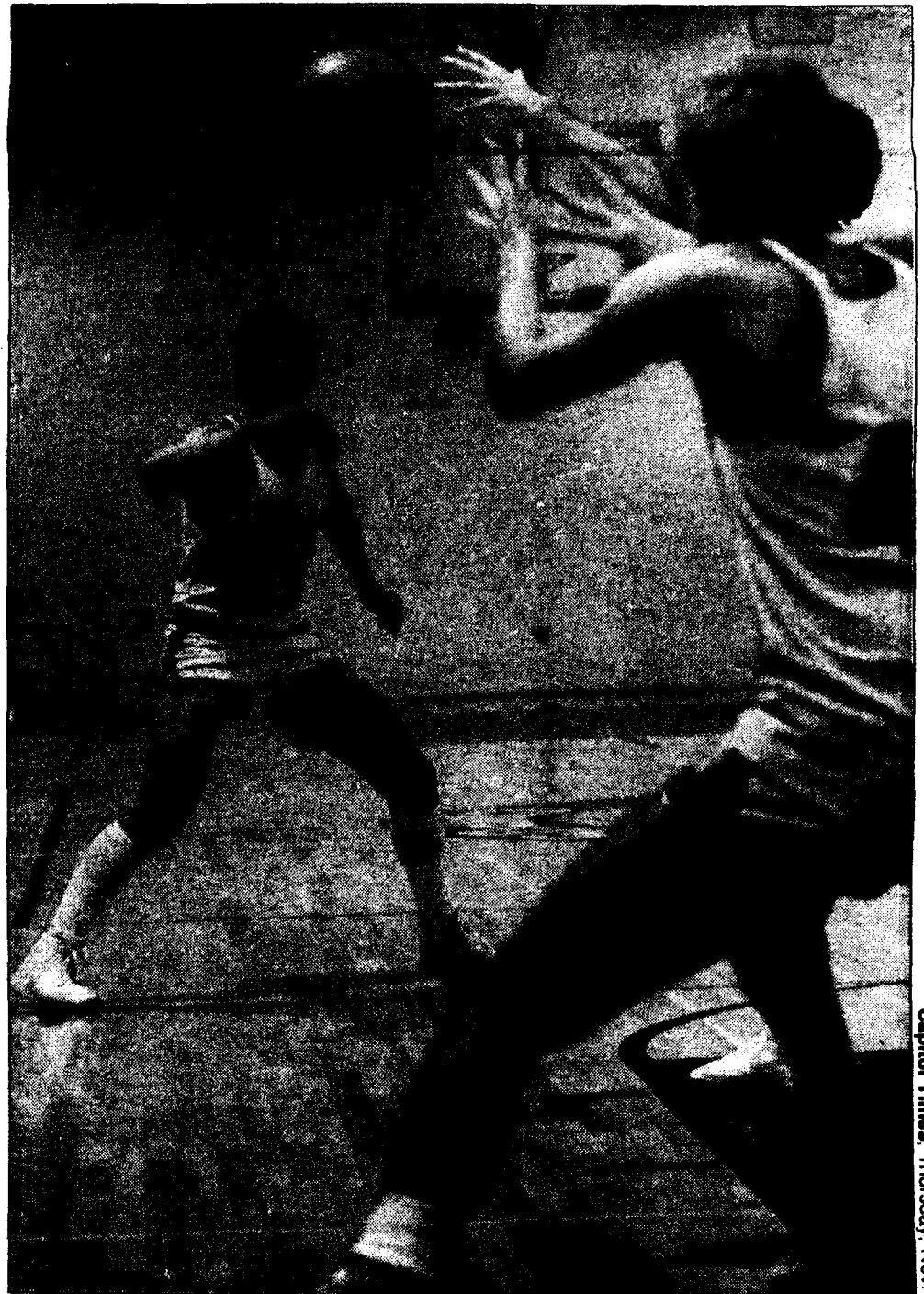


Lion's co-captain Brian Gauger (20) drives for a lay-up against a Valley Forge defender.



Photos by Jerry Treatly

Coach Charlie Bowen takes advantage of a time-out to give quick instructions to the Capitol squad during their 68-31 win over Valley Forge Christian College on November 11.



Capitol's Barry Richards (40) passes off to a teammate in foreground during last Friday's game.