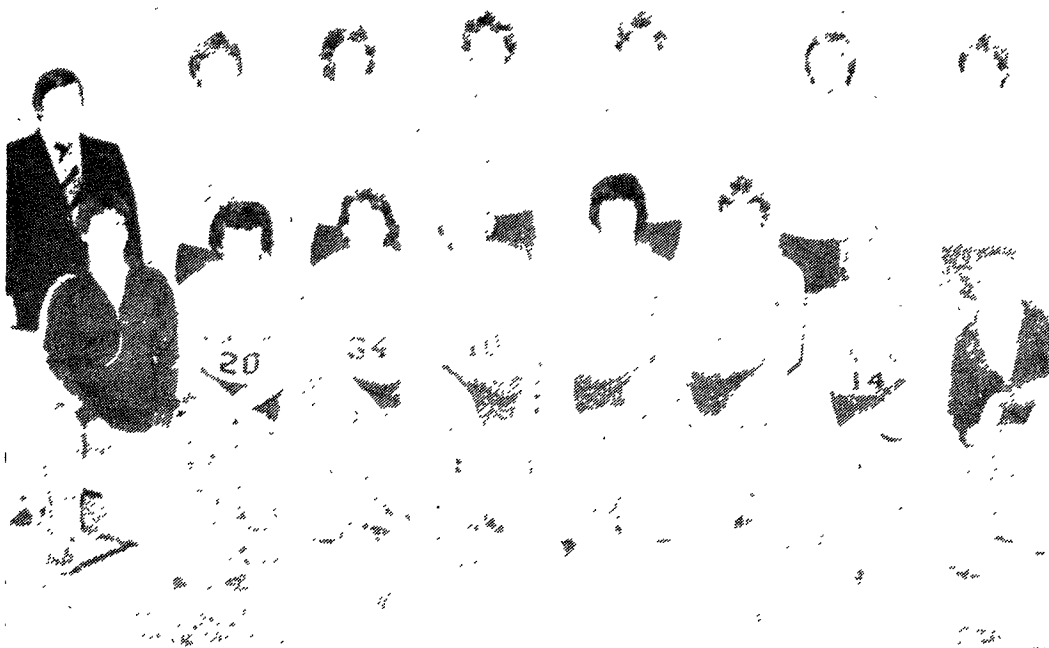


Sports



The Highacres Basketball Squad is hopeful of a continued good season as they pose with their new uniforms.

Basketball Squad Acquires Talent

By Jim Dino
Collegian Sports Editor

This year's Highacres Basketball Squad has three things going for it on the road to success: an abundance of talent, both returning and new (most especially, an abundance of tall men, something sorely lacking last season); and more school spirit and pride that the team has maintained.

Last year's squad posted the first losing record in recent years, with a 7-win, 13-loss overall record and a league record of 4 wins and 8 losses. Some injuries to key players, like guard Dave Stepanski, who was counted on to give some punch in the backcourt, hurt the squad. However, the most important problem centered on a lack of height, the most serious drought in that area in several years. The squad possessed only one man of height, with some others coming in a little over six feet. That problem has been remedied for this year, and that factor plus the amount of overall talent on the squad spells success in preseason outlooks.

The front line on this year's squad has considerably more talent than that of last season. At center, 6'4" freshman Todd Creasy was a starting forward on the Central Columbia team that was runner-up in the eastern part of the state with a 37-4 record. Also on the scene is Dan Minier, who played his high school ball at Montoursville, and stands 6'3".

A blend of talented returnees along with talented newcomers spells the rest of the front line, the forwards. Rex Weirick is a returning starter from last year who averaged 10 points per game and who has good jumping ability for his 6'1" height. Greg Palmieri is also returning from last year. Greg acted as a swingman last season and will also be counted on heavily this year. John Galasieski is a New York City product who also brings some height to the scene coming in at 6'2". Joe Bruno was a starting forward on the Hazleton High team that went to the District 11 Finals before bowing to Bethlehem Freedom in 1976. At only 6'0", Joe also possesses great jumping ability which allows him to be an excellent rebounder with the baseline shot being his forte.

The backcourt has number and talent.

Returning from last year are Dave Stepanski, who would have contributed more but was on the injury shelf for three-fourths of the season, and Brian Imperiale, a good playmaker who should also contribute. Joe Boyle also returns with his well-known hustling style of play.

Newcomers to the squad are equally impressive, if not more so. Heading the list is Joe Simpson, who played on the Central Columbia team along with Todd Creasy, setting some school records and affording Honorable Mention in the Susquehanna Valley League. Nick Young comes from Crestwood High as their leading scorer. Ron Kurzo comes from Marian High where he excelled in defense with the defense-conscious Colts. Ron was injured most of his senior year, but also will be counted on heavily.

A few more interesting bits of information include a new trailer for the team, and media coverage. The new trainer is well-known Alfie Bartlinski, who is a trainer with athletic teams throughout the Hazleton Area School District. Alfie has an associate degree from the University of Kansas in Sports Medicine. He also served as a trainer in the Kansas City Royals organization for a few years. His present occupation is as owner of the Clothes Bin clothing store in the Valmont Shopping Plaza. A valuable addition to Highacres basketball success, no doubt.

Media coverage of the home games is brewing on two fronts for the Condors. A new club on Hazleton Campus, known as H.A.V.E. (Highacres Video Engineering) will be utilizing videotape equipment of Instructional Services to videotape the games, and plans are in the works to air the tapes on Mountain City Cable TV Channel 12 in Hazleton. There is also the strong possibility that WACM Radio in Freeland (FM-103) will be airing the games over their facilities.

New colors, team nickname, trainer, the good possibility of extended media coverage, but most important, an abundance of talent, should bring more team spirit and pride to 1977 Highacres Basketball and make a winning season for the Condors.

Women's Volleyball Enjoys Successful Season

By Jim Dino
Collegian Sports Editor

Perennially just a mediocre team, the 1977 edition of Women's Volleyball is enjoying a successful season. Although they didn't reach the playoffs, the Condors were in it up until the matches of October 22, the next-to-the last week of competition. Coach Deidre Jago commented that the number of wins are the highest since she began to coach the squad some six years ago. At this writing, the record stands at 4 wins and 3 losses, with one more week (two more matches) to go. The hopes of finishing somewhere high in the standings is a very good possibility. The following are the members of the squad: Sharon Mirsky, Ben Havens, Lisa Lathropt, Jance Manice McNelis+, Wendy Heddings, Pam Callear, Margaret Duff, Mary Welsh, Clove Scoviak, Kathy Dukan+, and Sharon Wilkinson.

The team has several noteworthy distinctions other than being the most successful team in recent years. This year marked the first time Hazleton campus defeated Ogontz campus, one of the tougher squads they had to face within the CCAC. Again, hearty congratulations to Coach Jago and the members of the squad for their success in the highly competitive sport of power volleyball.

+Denotes Sophomore status

Fusina Throwing Less, Enjoying It More

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa.—Penn State quarterback Chuck Fusina has been throwing the ball less often, but enjoying it more in recent weeks.

Fusina, who ranks among the national leaders in both passing and total offense, is the catalyst of a Penn State offense that has averaged 425 yards per game while helping the Nittany Lions win seven of their first eight starts.

The 6-1, 199-pound junior from McKees Rocks, Pa., has completed 95 of his 161 passes (59 per cent) for 1,511 yards and 10 touchdowns. He has been intercepted four times. He has averaged 9.4 yards for every pass thrown and 15.9 yards per completion.

The Lion quarterback passed for more than 200 yards in three straight games early in the season this year, but he threw only 14 passes in a 49-28 rout of West Virginia two weeks ago and tried only 11 passes as the Lions blasted Miami, 49-7, last week.

"Hopefully, we won't have to throw as much as we were earlier in the season," Fusina says. "I think the main factor in our offensive success has been the balance we have had between our passing and running. I don't care if I throw 11 times or 20 as long as we are moving the ball, but 20 passes a game seems about right to me."

Fusina completed seven of his 11 passes

Continued on page 7

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