

The McPherson College SPECTATOR

McPherson College, McPherson KS 67460 (USPS 509-880)

**Bulldogs end
with a win**

Story, stats, and
season wrapup.

See page 4.

February 28, 1986

Financial stability will influence Mac's future

Deanie Holloway
Staff Writer

St. John's College in Winfield is closing its doors at the end of this spring semester. The 92-year-old school had been plagued by declining enrollments and mounting deficits the past few years. Enrollment had dropped sharply — from 246 full-time students in fall 1984 to 177 in fall 1985 — and the school had accumulated a debt of about two million dollars, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and college officials said. Could that fate ever happen to McPherson College?

Some other small independent colleges are either closed now or are on a shaky financial ground. This creates a great financial and emotional impact on the college community and the local businesses as well. The closing announcement St. John's made on January 15 would cause this community of McPherson to look again at McPherson College. Just how sound is its financial profile?

The success of Module I of the McPherson College Centennial Commitment shows that the college is in a very good position and is improving daily, since Module II was launched on July 1, 1985. It also shows that the college board, trustees, alumni, and local businesses have a lot of faith in the future of McPherson College.

The goal of Module I was originally for \$7,500,000. Because of the early success of the campaign, that figure was revised upward to \$8,000,000. The final commitment total is \$8,436,641. Committed are: \$1,966,000 for Operations; \$1,475,007 for Capital; and \$4,436,323 for endowment. This is a good lead-in to Module II.

Module II campaign began July 1, 1985 and will continue until 1988, McPherson College's Centennial year. The goal for Module II is \$7,000,000. Of that amount, \$112,825 has already been committed by local business and professionals. College personnel pledged \$276,508; trustees, \$150,700; National Committee Members - 4 chairs (excluding trustees) \$483,250. Other gifts and miscellaneous sources are \$483,600, for a total already committed of \$1,505,983.

Kathy Ball, Campaign Coordinator, says the college personnel and local community are solidly supporting the aims and goals of the college. One reason for this might be the low indebtedness of the institution. Few colleges can boast of a plant value of \$18,000,000 and an indebtedness of only \$525,000. Another asset, but less tangible, is the high achievement rating ratio of doctoral degrees for McPherson College. It ranks third in the state with one of every 28.1 graduates receiving a doctorate.

The healthy financial climate of McPherson College means that students need not fear that government cutbacks will keep them from receiving the kind of personal and caring education that they can receive at a private Christian college.

McPherson College supports its students while they are working toward their degree. But after that, it needs the support of those graduates as alumni to keep the college moving along in the same sound condition that it enjoys now. Ms. Ball says that much of the support for the campaigns has come from alumni. Soon that may include each of us.



'SUMMERTREE' — Matt Robinson and Lora Coffman are featured in tonight's production of 'Summertree.' The production is a dinner theatre, with dinner at 6:30 and the show at 8:00. 'Summertree' will also be presented March 1, 2, 6, 7, and 8. Reservations for the dinner theatre are recommended.

'Summertree' To continue This week

The McPherson College Drama Department will present the production "Summertree" tonight in Brown Auditorium, and also on March 1, 2, 6, 7, and 8.

The production is a dinner theatre, with dinner being served at 6:30 and the show starting at 8:00. The show is free to students, and the dinner will cost students \$5.00. Reservations for the dinner are very much recommended.

"Summertree" is the story of the confrontation between a father and son, as they struggle with the generation gap that separates them. The story is involved with the Vietnam era, and the conflicts between right and wrong, duty and honor.

This production reflects a tremendous amount of time and effort by Matt Robinson, sr., McPherson, as "Summertree" is his senior project in acting.

"I've worked harder on this character than any character I've played before," Robinson said. "I've worked harder to make this character real."

Other "Summertree" characters include the father, played by Rick Tyler, McPherson; the soldier, played by McKinley Dedmon, soph., McPherson; the girlfriend, played by Lora Coffman, fr., So. English, IA; the mother, played by Cindy Trimmer, soph., Berthoud, Co. The little boy is portrayed by Travis Peterson, McPherson.

The play is directed by Rick and Karlene Tyler.

A threat to academic freedom?

AIA gains national following

By Gary Foulke
Editor

Some say that they are a new generation of McCarthy-like radicals. Others say that they are merely consumer activists who are concerned with a balance of viewpoints.

Either way, Accuracy in Academia has drawn fire from both the left and right, while accumulating quite a number of supporters in the process.

Accuracy in Academia is the brainchild of Reed Irvine, a right-wing political activist who is perhaps better known for his work with his other group, Accuracy in Media. Irvine, who has been described as an "ultraconservative" political activist, contends that there are some "10,000 to 20,000 Marxist professors" at colleges and universities around the country.

Thus far, AIA has accomplished little but attract publicity, ranging from "Newsweek" to the "Doonesbury" comic strip. However, AIA has produced several newsletters in recent months, but most importantly has enlisted the services of students on some 150 college campuses nationwide to monitor their courses for liberal bias and unbalance.

The August "AIM Report" spelled out the game plan for Accuracy in Academia. First, they hope to enlist the cooperation of students to identify "problem" courses. Second, they ask the students to tape or take notes of statements they believe to be in "serious error." Third, if AIA agrees that the statements are incorrect, AIA will approach the erring professor and ask that corrections be made. If the professor is unwilling, the errors will be published in existing publications and the AIA national newsletter. Finally, AIA seeks the volunteer services of senior citizens to sit in and monitor college courses, actively questioning the professor about questionable statements and providing an opposing point of view.

Malcolm Lawrence, first president of AIA, has stated that part of what he sees as a biased or inaccurate college course would be one that overly criticizes America, and doesn't give a fair shake to the capitalist system. He refutes critics' notions that AIA is a threat to academic freedom.

"Accuracy in Academia is not a threat to freedom or anything else on university campuses except inaccuracy and imbalance," Lawrence said at a speech made in Ames, IA in

Sept. 1985. "We are not targeting individual schools or professors... All we ask is that they (students) provide us with what they consider to be glaring examples of misinformation, disinformation, or lack of balance."

Part of the Criticism of AIA is the fact that a student might very well change his schedule so that he could monitor a certain professor's courses. Also, AIA provides a dilemma for professors because if they have been confronted by the AIA, they will never know if a student is taking the class to learn or to "spy" on him for the AIA.

Susan Taylor, Director of Learning Skills Center, felt that this may indeed be a threat to freedom in academics.

"Students need to evaluate ideas and be exposed to a wide range of ideas," Taylor said. "I don't think that an outside group should be able to control what is said in the classroom. Students shouldn't act as spies in the classroom — that's not the purpose of education."

"There needs to be an element of trust in the classroom," she said. Dr. Dale Goldsmith, professor of philosophy and religion, felt that

part of the problem may be in the way the teacher presents their ideas and ideologies.

"I think a big problem (in classrooms) is that professors aren't clear about their personal ideology and suppositions," Goldsmith said.

"Although this is oversimplifying it, education has two main functions, among others," he said. "The first is

that education socializes people into the system and the society. Second, real education teaches people how to think — to learn how to reveal all assumptions, discuss them and analyze them."

Dr. Leland Lengel, professor of history, felt that the group may be promoting more than just accuracy and balance in the classroom.

"I think that they are misnamed," Lengel said, "in the sense that they are more interested in publicizing a political point of view rather than promoting accuracy."

Although AIA's influence has most likely been felt more at the larger universities than at the smaller colleges, this is an issue to be considered nonetheless, by all who are concerned with the direction and purpose of higher education in the future.

News Briefs

Bloodmobile to visit college

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be stopping at McPherson College on March 11. The Bloodmobile will set up as usual in Friendship Hall, from 9:30-1:45. The event is sponsored by Circle-K.

Last time the Bloodmobile visited McPherson College, they collected over 100 pints of blood. Many of these pints were collected from first-time donors, so those donors are encouraged to continue to give again.

Human blood has a relatively short shelf life, only 35 days, so there is always a need for donors. Also, donors should keep in mind that the 45 or so minutes that are required to give blood may indeed be lifesaving for someone. Blood is needed 365 days of the year — the need never stops. So bring a friend, and donate blood together.

A 'timeless' weekend for BIG

On February 21-22 about 60 McPherson students spent approximately 16 hours getting a small taste of not having knowledge of what time it was. Headed by Herb Smith, the Brethren Identity Group became aware of how today's society puts a gigantic emphasis on time.

The history of time was discussed from its origins up to present day. Also, the group learned about the way a person perceives time according to the way a person feels or has had some type of stimulant or depressant. It's all relative, the group discovered.

"Time, or Timelessness" was the theme for the retreat, but it was also a "time" to get off campus and be in another atmosphere. It was a time of sharing, laughing, singing, playing, and getting acquainted with others who they are not able to spend "time" with.

Prof studies techniques

By Deanie Holloway
Staff Writer

Dr. John Burkholder, professor of biology, was absent from the campus during the 1985 fall semester. He took a sabbatical. According to Webster's Dictionary, to take a sabbatical is (1) to take a leave of absence or (2) to take a rest period.

Burkholder was much too busy to take time for a rest period. He traveled during September and most of October to nine of the smaller liberal arts colleges in the middle west.

The nine colleges he visited were: Grinnell (Iowa), Beloit (Wisconsin), Manchester (Indiana), Wabash (Indiana), Earlham (Indiana), Ohio Wesleyan (Ohio), Bluffton (Ohio), Iowa Wesleyan (Iowa), and Nebraska Wesleyan (Nebraska). He also visited Sonoma State University in California last summer.

On each campus Burkholder sat in science classes where he observed other methods of teaching by his colleagues. "It gave me a better appreciation than before of teaching techniques being used," he said. "I was disappointed, though in not

seeing more stimulating teaching being done."

On each campus he sat and discussed the present methods in use. Burkholder also discussed with the other professors the newer techniques now in use as well. He says, "Such a tour can only work during the time when classes are in session. You can't get nearly as much from talks or seminars in the summer."

Burkholder went on to say, "I did a considerable bit of reading and research here in McPherson. I read a lot of literature and books on the newer techniques of teaching to see how I might modify my own teaching somewhat."

"Also," Dr. Burkholder continued, "by doing something in a general way my interest is to find ways to involve the students more actively in the learning process." This may not be an easy task since the science classes are often very large.

Burkholder adds, "I appreciate the chance for taking a sabbatical but am glad to be back on campus again." The students in the past and present science classes are probably also glad that he is back.



SPADES ANYONE? — A shifty-eyed Jeff Keck plots his next move in the "nth annual" Fanny spades tournament during an early round. Twenty-four teams of partners are entered in the double-elimination tourney. Competition is getting fierce as the teams vie for the title. Cash prizes will be awarded to the first and second place teams.

Ellen Herschel/Spectator

Sports

Thiessen takes over Mac football program

By Tim Crouse
Staff Writer

McPherson College has a football program.

May that statement be known and accepted as true before speculation begins. Not that speculation is bad, it just seems more pleasant when posed on the stability of a factual statement.

Speculation happens when looking to the future, which is what the Mac football program is doing as Daniel Thiessen begins his duties as head coach.

Thiessen recognizes the possibilities his new position will involve. Having played four years and coached for three at Tabor College, he has had direct contact with the Bulldogs on the field, enough to leave an impression.

"McPherson has had a good football program," said the new Mac coach, pointing out that a "down" season doesn't tell the whole story. A 1-8 record speaks loudly, though; too loudly — sshhhh.

What is Coach Thiessen going to do?

It is not a one-two-three-hike solution. Recruiting good players and helping the returning ones improve are steps toward getting the program "on its feet," which Thiessen said is a group activity.

"It's not just the coach that makes a difference, it's everybody working together to mentally and physically improve."

Thiessen thinks that one of the difficulties will be adjusting to a new coach, which is surmountable "if all are dedicated to make it work." For the new coach, the togetherness does not stop with the nuclear team that wears the uniforms but extends beyond, to the student body, the administration and the surrounding community.

members as students in the classroom.

"I plan on working with the faculty to ensure academic excellence and having a study hall for those who need extra help." Yet, they do have a sport to play, too.

"One of the reasons they come to McPherson is their football-playing ability and they train to improve. They should work hard.

On the phone, Thiessen doesn't sound like the stereotypical monster with a loud mouth and low tolerance for sympathy, spitting tobacco juice wherever he wants. But that doesn't mean he is less qualified.

Thiessen has coaching experience, fifteen years of it, on high school and college levels, in a range of sports including basketball, baseball, tennis, track and football. He has worked with a wide variety of "kids" and with some "fine coaches."

Thiessen has substantial experience in pads, too. Aside from his four years in Tabor's offensive backfield, he spent one year as fullback and punter for St. Catherine's Rams, a farm team of the Canadian Football League. A knee injury ended his playing career and led him into coaching.

The Thiessen family of four will be leaving Reedley, CA, where the coach has been teaching physical education and serving as Director of Development at Immanuel High School.

He has already become involved with recruiting for McPherson football, working with the process that had begun here at the college and also developing his own list of names.

Having spent several years in California, Thiessen is better acquainted with the prospects in that state. Although there may be a couple Bulldogs coming from the West Coast, the coach expects to begin in McPherson and broaden out.

"We're looking at the areas where we've had success before. We also want to work a lot with the alumni of Mac and try to develop a relationship there."

Coach Thiessen likes what he knows of McPherson College, which was exemplified by his disappointment for not getting the head coach position three years ago.

"I like the direction I've seen the college going . . . the addition of the Sports Center . . . the whole campus growing." He has also had a goal to go to a smaller college setting, "to get to know the people I'm working with."

So what will the Bulldogs be doing on the football field this Fall?

"I like to throw the ball . . . to utilize the passing game," said the new coach. He also wants to "get down to the basics of the running game, to go over the fundamentals, start at the beginning and work our way up."

"I'm really looking forward to producing a quality program that everyone can be proud of," said Thiessen.

These are prime conditions for speculators.



Ellen Herschelmann/Spectator

STEADY PERFORMER — Cindi Harrison puts up a shot against St. Mary's of the Plains. The Lady Red lost this game but bounced back to win their final game at Bethel. Carol Zink received first team all-KCAC honors.

Lady Red defeat Bethel, peak as season ends

By Melissa James

The Lady Red blew away the Bethel Threshers, 80-70, in their final game of the season. The team played well on both the offensive and defensive ends of the court.

The McPherson women finished their season with a record of 7-11 in the conference and 11-14 overall. This record, however, does not give the ladies enough credit. As Coach Jill Pihl stated, "We really do have a good ball team. We just peaked too close to the end of the season, particularly in the last two games. It's really too bad the season is over."

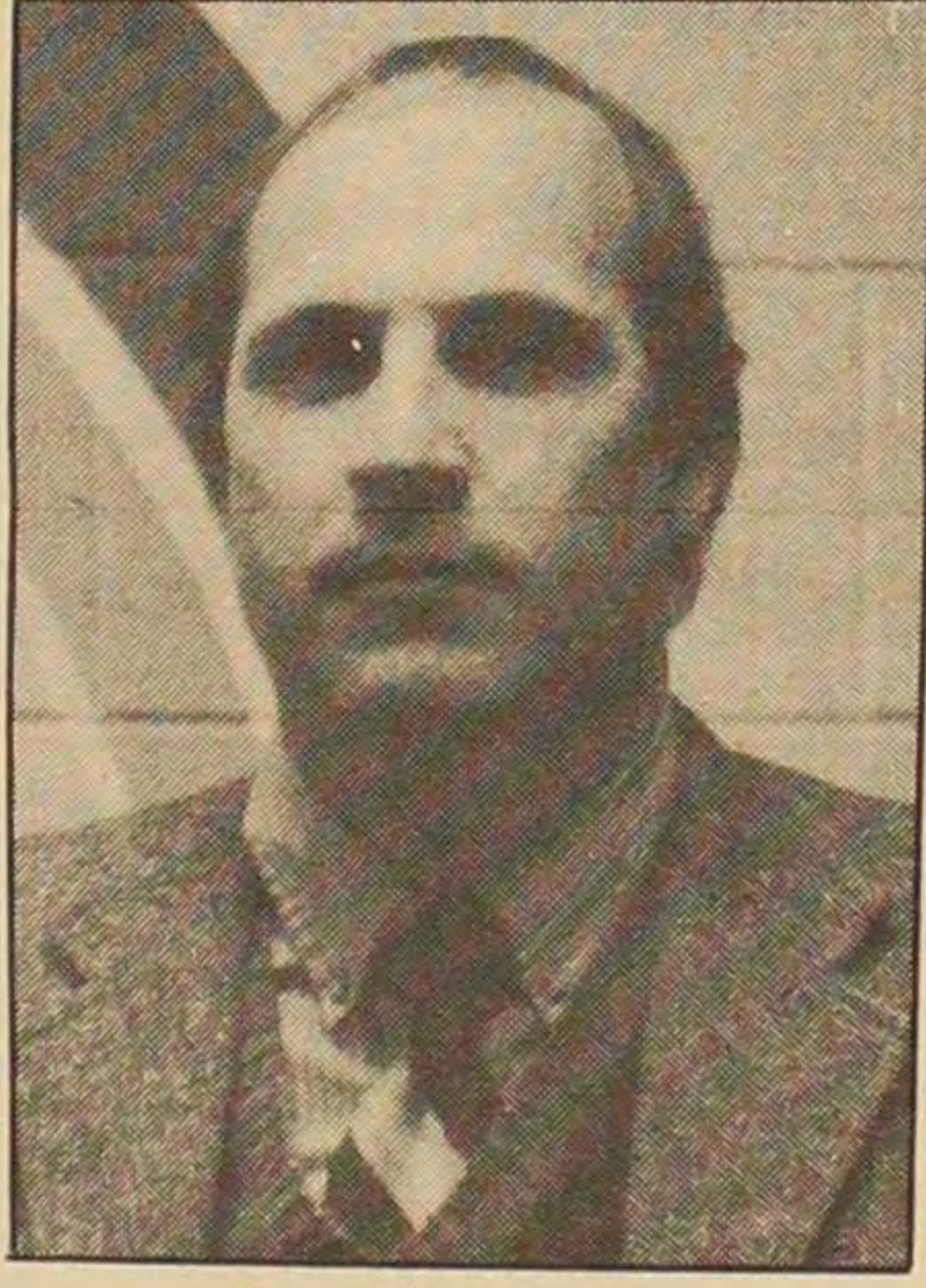
Kelly Grote and Tonya Kingery played well for their first year at the college level. Both started on occasion. "I had to keep reminding

myself that they were only freshmen and would make some mistakes, but overall they did very well," said Coach Pihl.

Carol Zink had another excellent season, leading the team in scoring and rebounding. As for all-around consistent play throughout the season, Coach Pihl said, "I think Kayla Corbett, Cindi Harrison, and Marla Wasson all did a very good job in this area."

The coaching situation for next year is unsettled. Coach Pihl said, "Right now I am at a standstill, but I would very much like to have the job back for next year."

If Coach Pihl does remain as coach of the Lady Red, she will get ready for next season by doing a lot of recruiting and preparing.

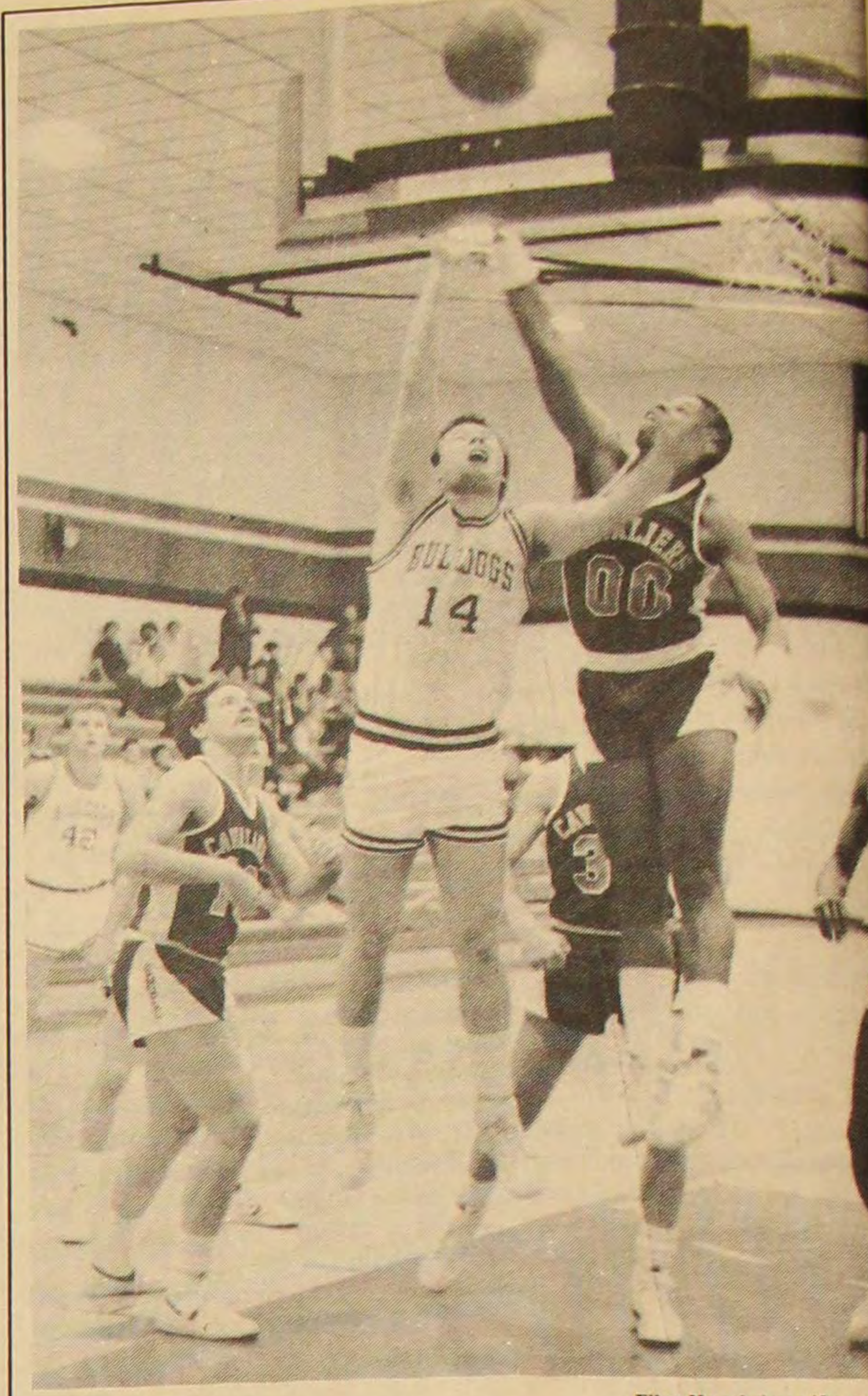


Dan Thiessen

Getting known in the community is one of Thiessen's objectives. By speaking for service organizations, he hopes to bring them into the program.

"It's basically an issue of communication." He also wants to bring the student body into the program by showing that the students' support is appreciated.

Much like his predecessor, Steven Phipps, who left the post last month, Thiessen is concerned with team



Ellen Herschelmann/Spectator

TOUGH INSIDE — All KCAC pick Kurt Kinnamon goes up strong inside in a losing effort against St. Mary. The Bulldogs ended the season on a winning note, however, defeating the Bethel Threshers. Bill Wempe was also named to the All-KCAC first team.

Bulldogs close out season

By Darren Roe
Staff Writer

The Bulldogs closed out the 1985-86 campaign on a positive note with a decisive 87-76 victory over Bethel College Saturday night in Newton. The win gave MAC a 10-14 overall record and a 5-13 record in the KCAC.

The season included many exciting games. At least six games were decided by four points or less, but unfortunately more often than not, the close games went against the Bulldogs.

Kurt Kinnamon led the Bulldogs in scoring with a 19.5 points per game average. Bill Wempe averaged just over 16 points a game. Dave Robertson averaged almost 14 points a game, and scored a career high 31 points in the season finale against Bethel. Tyrone Sims scored 11.5 points per game and led the team in steals. Mike Appel was the only starter who didn't average in double figures, but he was second on the team in rebounds, and he came up with some critical rebounds in the close games. Wempe led the team in rebounding and Kinnamon led the team in assists.

The team averaged 78.6 points per game, and gave up 78.8 points. Generally, they outscored their opponents. The Bulldogs led the KCAC in field goal percentage, shooting around fifty percent from the floor.

Though the five starters played most of each game, the Bulldogs had some excellent play from the bench. Neil Elliot came in and played some tough defense when he had to. John Crist often gave Sims and Kinnamon some much needed rest, and John Cramsey split time with Mike Appel at center and continually improved throughout the year.

Most of the team will be back next year. Elliot, Wempe and Kinnamon are the only seniors on the team bringing back, according to coach Trimmell, "A good nucleus for next season." Coming back will be juniors Sims and Robertson, sophomores Crist, Appel and Leroy Zerger, and freshmen Mark Frasier, Norman Hollis, and big man James Spexarth.

Coach Trimmell said it is too early to know what type of players the team is going to get through recruitment, but the outlook for next year is very good.

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