UNLEASHING THE ZOO

Men’s basketball opens season tonight

By Laura Sass
Executive Editor

Although the men's basketball team's preseason rank is eighth out of 10 in the Metro-Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC), Head Coach Don Harnum isn't worried.

"I think the team is a little bit insulted," he said. "But I think that it will motivate them. We know we've gotten better but the league has gotten better too."

Freshman Willie Dingle said that the ranking was a motivating factor.

"It tells us what the other coaches are thinking about us," he said. "I don't know if we are going to do better, but we are going to try."

Last year, after winning the regular season, the Broncs finished seventh out of 10.

"We are a much better team, top to bottom," said Harnum. "We are more physical, older and deeper."

Junior center Steve Castleberry said that he thinks the team will do better this year.

"We have our guards back and we are definitely a better team," he said. A problem with last year's team, according to Harnum, was its youth or, more accurately, its inexperience.

"We weren't a real physical team, but we've addressed that," he said. "The two ways to address problems are player development and recruiting. We've made them stronger, smarter and more mature. As far as recruitment goes, we've gotten older, more physical players to help us in the battles under the net."

Harnum said that the team's improvement does not guarantee easy games.

"We have a very challenging schedule ahead of us," he said. "The league is on an upswing. We've gotten better, but we have to get a lot better for it to show in our win-loss record."

Harnum also mentioned the length of the basketball season as a possible obstacle.

"We have the longest season on campus," he said. "We start in November and we go until March. Sometimes the biggest obstacle is yourself and being ready to play every day."

Harnum said that this year's team is stronger in many ways.

"Last year many of our freshmen and sophomores were forced into roles that they probably weren't ready for," he said. "That's somewhat why we struggled. But that's going to pay off for us this year. They're a real physical team, but we've addressed that," he said. "The two ways to address problems are player development and recruiting. We've made them stronger, smarter and more mature. As far as recruitment goes, we've gotten older, more physical players to help us in the battles under the net."

Harnum said that the team's improvement does not guarantee easy games.

"We have a very challenging schedule ahead of us," he said. "The league is on an upswing. We've gotten better, but we have to get a lot better for it to show in our win-loss record."

Harnum also mentioned the length of the basketball season as a possible obstacle.

"We have the longest season on campus," he said. "We start in November and we go until March. Sometimes the biggest obstacle is yourself and being ready to play every day."

Harnum said that this year's team is stronger in many ways.

"Last year many of our freshmen and sophomores were forced into roles that they probably weren't ready for," he said. "That's somewhat why we struggled. But that's going to pay off for us this year. They're..."