

IN THIS CORNER



George Beahon

Ben Bluit is 50 years old, black, and a rookie head coach in college basketball.

Bluit walked into a bottomed out situation at Cornell University. His predecessor was bounced because of an NCAA recruiting violation — he used travel expenses to help pay application fees of prospective players. Before him, another coach was forced out after a mess of racial incidents.

Bluit went to the Ithaca situation after coaching in Chicago high schools and assisting at the University of Detroit. He inherited a basketball program that had built a five-year record of 24 wins, 101 losses.

At this writing Cornell was 4-and-9, which does not make the Big Red a howling success or even the terror of the Ivy League; but things are on the improve.

Two of those credits were achieved at the expense of Ivy opponents, and 90 points against

Columbia the other night was Cornell's highest team total in four years.

Bluit is a revolutionary in the college coaching ranks, and he isn't hiding his feelings. His idea for eliminating the hypocrisy in recruiting is likely to shake some of the NCAA brass, as well as his fellow coaches.

"Allow each college to pay \$10,000 for one Designated Ringer," says Bluit. "Put all other athletic scholarships on a financial need basis. Some schools have four or five ringers and everyone pretends not to know it. It's like Watergate and the CIA, we won't investigate our systems because we can't admit they exist. Admit the hypocrisy and let the NCAA lower the boom on anyone caught cheating. When you pretend your ideals are higher than they are, you're in trouble. That seems to be where college basketball is heading."

Ben Bluit makes good noises — on and off the court.

The NCAA wound up executive sessions earlier this month in Washington, D.C., and mostly just passed the buck on important matters. Like the issue of more money for women's sports.

Walter Byers, the head of the NCAA, was informed of a survey that showed median spending for women's athletics was only 2 per cent of the amount spent on men's programs.

Byers' reaction: "I don't think that's inadequate." Which should win him the Male Chauvinist Pig of the Decade Award.

CYO Plan in Phase II

During the first 16 months of operation, the CYO Youth Development Program has helped strengthen or restructure about 15 youth groups and has helped to establish close to 35 new ones, according to the CYO.

In addition, a variety of CYO Program Services such as Venture, Search and Reach-Out Weekends were initiated, thus completing the major part of the formative stage of CYO Youth Development.

Now CYO will move into the developmental stage or Phase II which will realign the seven CYO Regional Youth Directors into three program teams. The CYO is currently endeavoring to line up the funding to expand its inner city efforts. Each of the CYO Inner City Youth Directors will be heading up a program project. Roberto Burgos will be laying the groundwork for Project Poder which will involve an educational and recreational youth center for Latin youth. Robert Laird will be doing the spade work for the Inner City Outreach Program, which proposes the use of part-time staff to develop three resource bases for inner city youth groups.

The CYO Regional youth directors from the North, Northeast, South, Southeast and Northwest regions will become youth development "program coordinators." They are Bob Roney, Pat Larkin, Joyce Strazabosco, Greg Cavallaro and Rich Weider.

The program coordinators aim is to enable parish and neighborhood youth groups to strengthen programs, to branch out in new directions and to create a Christian atmosphere.

The first of these three services is the CYO Program Formation Process. This consists of sessions with CYO staff over a period of about a month and is geared for both beginning and already existing youth groups to enable them to get a new youth program under way or to restructure and strengthen an old one.

Second, the Youth Development program coordinators provide a number of Youth Program Services such as the CYO Resource Book, Service Theme packets, and seasonal activities

(such as Good Friday Crosswalk and Summer bike trips).

Finally, the program coordinators offer youth groups the opportunity to participate in Search, Reach-Out and Venture. These are two-day, away-from-home experiences in Christian community, group strengthening and leadership development.

To explain Phase II, the CYO staff will meet on Jan. 30 with the regional coordinators and associate coordinators of Monroe County. Any parish council, youth committee or community group wishing to have a CYO staff person make an oral or audio-visual presentation on the CYO and its programs should call the CYO at 454-2030 or 232-4590.

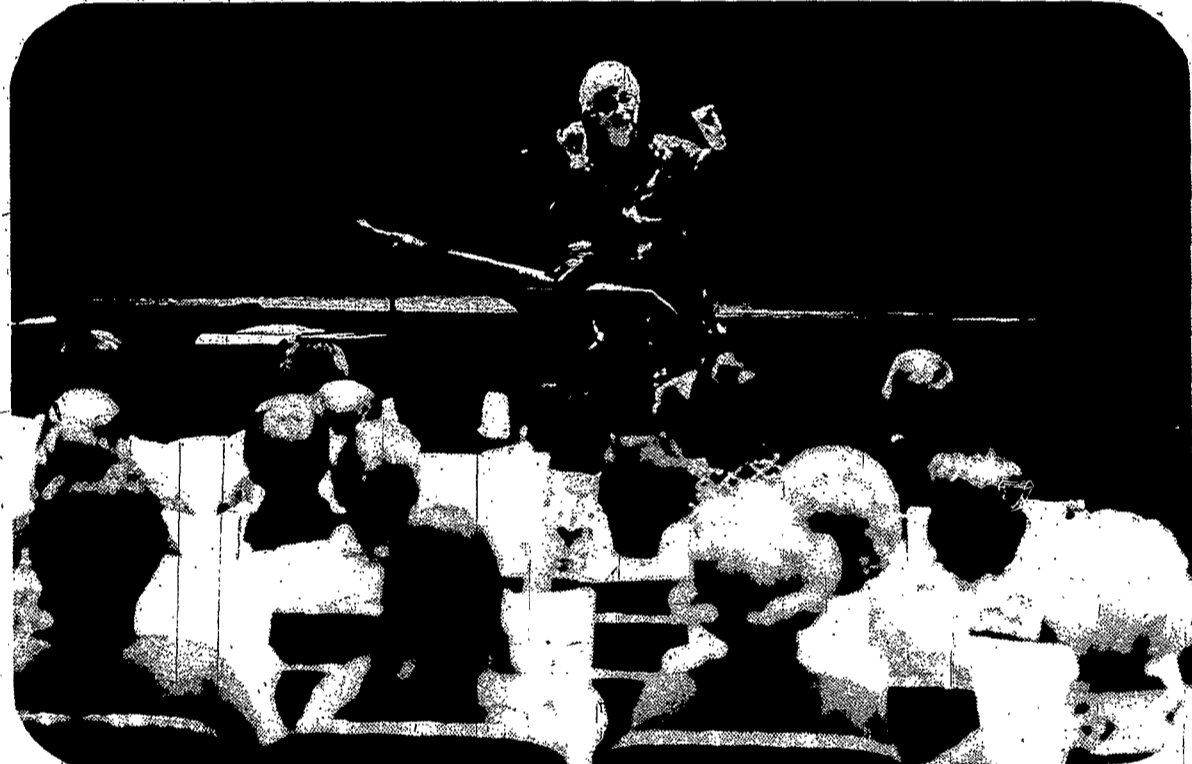
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Choirs Festival Slated for Sunday

A Catholic Church Choirs Festival, to be performed by choirs from 20 different parishes, will be presented at the Church of the Annunciation Sunday, Feb. 9, at 8 p.m.

The principal work of the evening is the Schubert Mass in G. Sister Virginia Hogan, SSJ, will conduct the choir of more than 180 voices, orchestra and organ. The organist for the evening is Thomas Donahue, a faculty member of the Eastman School of Music and organist for Old St. Mary's.

Soloists include Sister Barbara Staropoli, SSJ; Eugene Impiccini, Assumption; and Edward Rizzo, Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

The first half of the program will be a concert of motets in polyphony, and Two Canticles by Davidson. The Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir will perform these works under the direction of Don Meminger, director of music at the Cathedral.

A 15 piece volunteer orchestra

also will perform.

The event is sponsored by the Diocesan Music Commission "to give impetus, encouragement and visibility to our choirs." Organizers of the program hope the festival will become a yearly event.

Principals Workshop Set

The Diocesan Department of Education will hold a Principals' Workshop at the Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua, Feb. 12-14.

The agenda will include individual group discussions, mini-sessions on educational concerns, and will feature guest speakers, Father Alfred McBride, the religious education specialist on the staff of the National Catholic Education Association, and Father Charles Mulligan, director of the Department of Human Development.

AQ Boosters Plan Meeting

The Aquinas Sports Boosters February Dinner Meeting will find three of the Aquinas faculty members sharing the speakers' rostrum Feb. 11 in the Aquinas cafeteria.

Dave Missell will discuss the over-all sports program at Aquinas while Moody Johnson will speak on the future of wrestling at the school. Edward Mancuso will give a lineup on the track season that begins March 1.

Dinner will be served at 7:30 following the social hour which begins at 6:30. All alumni, friends and fathers of sons who are in sports activities at Aquinas are invited to make reservations at 254-2020 by Friday, Feb. 7.

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