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RapAroundRap

K-A-H-L-E-R

By JOHN DOSER

(Sound of telephone ringing.)

"Good morning, St. John Fisher."

Phil Kahler, please.

(15 seconds of silence.)

"Could you spell the last name?"

He's the new athletic director.

"Oh, OK."

Phil Kahler, who last week succeeded Bob Wanzer as athletic director at St. John Fisher College, isn't exactly a household name in the Rochester area, not even, obviously, at his own college.

But, he's already set out to change that image, as well as to improve the image of Fisher athletics in all sports, men's and women's, with emphasis on recruiting.

Wanzer's resignation as athletic director was sudden and unexpected. Wanzer was the college's first athletic director as well as basketball coach.

In a letter of resignation to Rev. Charles J. Lavery, CSB, president of the college, Wanzer said he found it increasingly difficult to handle both the positions of head coach and athletic director, and he felt he should stay with basketball where he could contribute more to the school's athletic program.

Kahler didn't know of Wanzer's resignation until Father Lavery read the letter at a meeting of the college's Athletic Board of Control early last week.

"When I got there," Kahler says, "Father Lavery read the letter as we sat down to dinner. He then said he was immediately appointing Phil Kahler athletic director."

Kahler says the college intends to continue building an athletic program, with an eye toward improving each and every sport.

"We want to do very well in basketball, we hope to do very well in wrestling, cross country; we started indoor track, we want to do well with our women's program.

"There's no doubt our women's program has made some steps forward; volleyball last year was 4-8, this year we were 18-6, playing against tougher competition and playing more games."

How does Kahler expect to do this without the benefit of athletic scholarships?

"Well, we just work hard at it. Basically we invite a lot of athletes in, men and women, and we hope to get a few of them."

Kahler says he talked to 40 girls on campus last year, and Fisher ended up getting six, coming from as far away as Westchester County.

"One thing we've done, and will continue to do, is to work very closely with our admissions people. They can't do the job of recruiting all alone for this college. We can't do the job all alone.

"But they hit areas carrying our message; and we hit areas carrying their message about the college," Kahler says.

Kahler says Fisher's parttime cross country and wrestling coaches, Rod Williams and Roger Woodworth, respectively, have done a good job recruiting.

"We're very pleased with wrestling; they beat Ithaca, U. of R., and Ashland, Ohio, in the recent RIT tournament, and we've never beaten Ithaca or the U. of R. in wrestling," Kahler says.

Recruiting explains the success of Williams' cross country team which didn't lose a dual meet last season after a mediocre season the year before.

"Fisher sells itself," Kahler explains.

"The beauty of the college is one thing, the wholesomeness of the kids, the people around here; I put them in touch with Jay Valentine (director of admissions) who's helped us tremendously in selling Fisher.

"He's a tremendous salesman; he has to be to bring in 500 freshmen last year. We're jam packed; we had to turn kids away which we normally wouldn't do, and we're doing the same thing this year."

Part of the appeal, Kahler believes, is because Fisher is a landlocked college.

"We're within ourselves. Kids can walk into my office, or anybody's office here, and talk to us socially, academically, or on business. It's an open community and I think people see that."

Photo by Susan McKinney

McQuaid freshmen Mike Green and Tim Prescott diligently work on the colorful banners that were carried by the students as they attended the Christmas mass. Holiday cards in background were designed and made by Bill Barry's art class.

Spirit of Christmas Present

By JOAN M. SMITH

"Bah! Humbug!" was the way Charles Dickens' Scrooge expressed his views about Christmas. Then he was visited by the spirits of Christmas past, present and future who warned him of the grave consequences if he didn't mend his ways.

It didn't take ghostly visitations to motivate the high school students to become involved with the true meaning of the season. The Christmas spirit was alive and well in the schools which made them lively places during the month of December.

The young adults helped their fellowman, decked the halls with holly, sang and prayed in preparation for Christ's birthday.

Aquinas students formed a choral group under the direction of Father Richard Wahl, CSB, and sang for the residents of the Monroe County Home and the St. Joseph Infirmary. The singers presented their listeners, on behalf of the Aquinas student body, individual personal gifts.

Bishop Kearney singers also delighted the residents of the Home with festive songs. The BK students spent many hours after school preparing food baskets for needy families.

Cardinal Mooney's band went on tour to entertain the elementary school children and the Action for People Association devoted time and energy to providing for needy families.

The young adults of **Geneva DeSales** participated in a special penitential service, worked hard at selling Christmas trees and performed holiday concerts.

The **McQuaid** String Band and Glee Club added the joyful sounds to the student-faculty Christmas Mass at which food baskets were presented to be distributed to the needy.

Nazareth Academy juniors adopted needy families and provided them with food and clothing. The school's singing groups had a busy season as The Perosians entertained at St. Joseph's Infirmary and the Choral Belles made a special Christmas appearance on the Eddie Meath show.

Notre Dame directed a Christmas basket drive. The French classes added an international touch to the season's festivities by preparing a special Christmas Mass which they read and sang in French.

The **St. Agnes High School** Glee Club, Chorus and Chamber Singers rang in the holiday season with a concert. Student "Kris Kringles" were busy throughout the school leaving anonymous gifts for their classmates. Then the secret Santa Clauses revealed themselves at a gala Christmas assembly.

Our Lady of Mercy's Christian Action Movement along with the Student Council devoted a Sunday afternoon to entertaining the toddlers and adolescents of Strong Memorial Hospital's Children's ward.

The students told their young listeners stories, sang songs, presented them with gifts, and provided the refreshments which involved the Mercy girls baking 200 cookies.

With their Christmas preparations completed, the young adults began their vacations with special liturgies in which they raised their voices in "alleluias" and wishes for "Peace on Earth."

RapAround adds it's own special wish for a happy and holy Christmas to the students, faculties and administrations of Aquinas, Bishop Kearney, Cardinal Mooney, DeSales, McQuaid, Nazareth, Notre Dame, St. Agnes, and Our Lady of Mercy.

PEACE!

Photo by Ben Susso

Mercy Santa Claus, Julie Barr, and her helpers prepare for their Sunday afternoon with the residents of Strong Memorial's Children's ward. From front: Cathy Steane, Eileen Garred, Annemarie Cahill, Anne Wolff, Molly Naber.