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# THE LA SALLE EXPLORER

VOL. II, NO. 4

January, 1989



*La Salle Athletic Director Bob Mullen (left) and Head Basketball Coach Speedy Morris (right) present Ken Durrett with a commemorative jersey.*

## Durrett honored at Blue Chip Dinner

La Salle boosters celebrated the return of a former great basketball player at the recent Blue Chip Dinner. Ken Durrett, who some say is the greatest to wear the Blue and Gold of the Explorers, returned to visit his alma mater. Durrett is now in retail sales in Pittsburgh where he owns an athletic shoe store.

Durrett played for La Salle from 1968 through 1971. He played in 71 games scoring 1,679 points. His career scoring average of 23.6 points is still a La Salle record. In three consecutive seasons, Durrett was the Explorers' leading rebounder. He piled up 850 caroms.

"Ken Durrett was the best player I ever saw play in the Big Five," La Salle Head Basketball Coach Speedy Morris said. "Watching Ken Durrett play was pure enjoyment, he could do it all."

Team captain in the 1970 and 1971 seasons, Durrett led the Explorers to a combined record of 57-20. His 1971 team was selected and played in the National Invitational Tournament.

At the Blue Chip Dinner, over 130 supporters of the La Salle Athletic program enjoyed Durrett's return to 20th Street and Olney Avenue as well as a sumptuous meal of filet mignon with all the trimmings. The atmosphere was truly festive.

"La Salle has always been home for me and it is such a great honor to come back for a visit," Durrett said. "La Salle's campus has changed but the things that I learned here are still with me. La Salle was the greatest experience for me and I love it."

Durrett was presented with a framed jersey bearing his famous number 33 by Head Coach Speedy Morris and Athletic Director Bob Mullen.

The Blue Chip Dinner raised \$50,000.00 for the supports of scholarships and other expenses related to the operation of La Salle's nationally respected basketball programs and 20 other intercollegiate sports.

The diners were also treated to comments by Head Coach Speedy Morris about the current hoop squad who are off to

a fast start this winter. Each person at the dinner received a handsome set of coasters, a 1988-89 La Salle Basketball Yearbook and an Explorer Blue Bad Call Brick courtesy of the Sunoco Oil Company. Following a hearty thank you and best wishes for the Holidays from Athletic Director Bob Mullen, the evening was capped by cordials and cigars.

### Ken Durrett's Numbers:

1968-71	
GP	71
FGM-FGA	651-1344
FG%	48.4%
FTM-FTA	377-509
FT%	74.1%
REBS	850
REB. AVE.	12.0
ASSISTS	92
POINTS	1679
AVERAGE	23.6

## Larry Foust nominated to Basketball Hall of Fame

Larry Foust, former La Salle MVP and NBA All-Star, has been nominated for induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Foust, who was captain of the 1957-58 Minneapolis Lakers, played 12 seasons in the NBA following his graduation from La Salle College in 1950. He was a first-round draft pick of Chicago but became property of the Fort Wayne Pistons when the Chicago franchise was dissolved. During his professional career - seven years with Fort Wayne, two with Minneapolis and three with St. Louis - he appeared in eight All-Star Games, and was named to two All-NBA Teams (1952 and 1955).

A native of Painesville, OH, he was All-Scholastic while attending South Catholic High in Philadelphia. While at La Salle he led the team in scoring and was MVP three years.

Prior to his death (Oct. 27, 1984) Foust was a youth development counselor for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



Larry Foust

Others receiving nominations are Hartman, Jack Ramsay Wil Robinson, Vic Dave Bing, Walt Bellamey, Dave Cowens, Bubas, Curt Gowdy Larry O'Brien and K.C. Jones, Ann Meyers, Earl Monroe, Cesare Rubini. Nera White, Lenny Wilkens, Jack

## Taylor becomes 14th La Salle representative inducted into Philadelphia Big 5 Hall of Fame

La Salle University's Bill Taylor has been inducted to the Philadelphia Big Five Hall of Fame. Taylor, who played for the Explorers from 1972 through 1975, becomes the 14th La Salle player, coach or administrator to receive the prestigious honor.

La Salle's ninth all-time leading scorer, Taylor scored 1,554 points in his career that spanned 82 games.

He was the team's leading scorer as a junior with 551 points in the 1973-74 season. Taylor topped his career as the captain of the Explorers and scored 559 points in his senior year.

The Explorers posted a record of 55-27 during Taylor's tenure. La Salle won its last outright Big Five Championship in 1974-75 as Taylor guided his team to a perfect 4-0 City Series mark. The Explorer fashioned a 22-7 mark on its way to the 1975 East Coast Conference title and a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

Taylor was selected twice as an All-Big Five Performer first in 1973-74



Bill Taylor with Coach Paul Westhead

and again in 1974-75. Taylor was joined on the 1973-74 team by teammate Joe Bryant. Bryant and Charlie Wise were chosen with Taylor on the 1974-75 All-Big Five team.

Other members of the La Salle family in the Big Five Hall of Fame include: Larry

Cannon, Frank Corace, Ken Durrett, Bob McAteer, James J. Henry, Hubie Marshall, Alonzo Lewis, Joe Bryant, Bernie Williams, Charlie Wise, Bob Fields, Michael Brooks and Tom Gola.

## La Salle's Maureen Kramer, Ellen Malone selected to Women's Big Five Hall of Fame

Maureen Kramer (1977-81) and Ellen Malone (1978-82) were both selected to represent La Salle University in the initial chapter of the Women's Big Five Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame begins in 1989 in celebration of the league's 10th anniversary season.

Kramer finished her career as the all-time leading women's basketball scorer at La Salle with 1502 career points. Kramer, an Archbishop Ryan High School for Girls grad, stands first in the La Salle record books in points, field goal attempts, free throws made and free throws attempted. She is second in all-time rebounds with 1050. She also owns the school record for most free-throws attempted in a season.

Malone is the all-time La Salle leader in assists (444) and in steals (226). The MVP of the 1981 Dial Classic, Malone



Maureen Kramer



Ellen Malone

scored 1280 career points at La Salle to stand fifth in the record books. She owns the school record for most steals in a season with 69 and is tied for most steals in a game

with seven. Malone is a graduate of Allentown Central Catholic High School and is currently the head girls basketball coach at Northampton High School.

## Explorers win second straight Invitational title

The La Salle women's basketball team made it back-to-back titles by winning the 1988 Rohm and Haas/La Salle Invitational. The 9th annual tournament, played over the Christmas holidays in Hayman Hall, consisted of a eight team field including Loyola University, Robert Morris, Hofstra, Northeastern, Florida State, Wright State, Mount St. Mary's and La Salle.

La Salle beat Hofstra 81-52 in the opening round game. Tournament MVP Tracey Sneed (sr., Susquehanna Twp./Harrisburg, PA) scored 21 points and had nine rebounds to lead the Explorers in the win. Mary Greybush (so., Freedom/Bethlem, PA) also chipped in with 12 points.

La Salle advanced to meet Robert Morris University in the semifinal game with the 1987 La Salle Invitational MVP, Jen Snyder (sr., Middle Twp./Avalon, NJ) who provided the offensive firepower for La Salle. Snyder scored 19 points in the 80-43 Explorer win.

In the final, it was once again all Explorers. Sneed and junior Shelia Wall (St. Anthony/Jersey City, NJ) combined for 31 points to power a second half surge as the Explorers past Loyola, 75-58.

It was the second year in a row that La Salle coped this tournament and the second year that an Explorer took the MVP.

Sneed, Snyder and Kelly Greenberg (sr., Arch. Wood/Abington, PA) were all named to the 1988 All-Tournament team along with Sophia Witherspoon of Florida, Marguerite Moran of Hofstra, Kim Rhock of Mount Saint Mary's and Veronica Pettry of Loyola.

The La Salle Explorers also set tournament records of 72 assists and an assist average of 24.0 per game.

The 1989 field is already field with La Salle, Boston University, Canisius, Colgate, University of Connecticut, George Mason, Lehigh and Wright State.

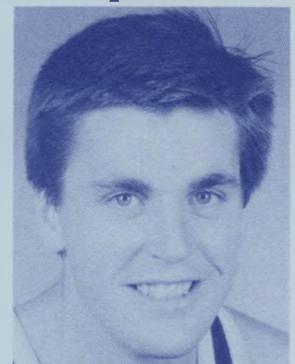
## Conlin, Sneed reach 1000th point mark



Tracey Sneed

Two of La Salle University's all-time great basketball players reached the coveted 1000-point plateau of their career this season.

Senior Tracey Sneed (Susquehanna Twp./Harrisburg, PA) scored her 1000th point against Big Five rival Villanova on December 13. Sneed was the seventh woman to achieve that milestone at La Salle.



Craig Conlin

Sneed, a 5-11 center, currently leads the Explorers in scoring and rebounding.

Craig Conlin (La Salle/Glenside, PA), a steady presence on the men's team for the last four years, scored his 1000th point on Jan. 25 against MAAC rival St. Peter's. Conlin has averaged 9.9, 9.9 and 8.2 points per game in his last three seasons, and is currently scoring 10 points per contest.

## Explorers Extras...Explorer Extras...Explorer Extras...Explorer Extras...

### Senior Appreciation Days Set

The La Salle women's basketball team will hold Senior Appreciation Day honoring this year's senior members Kelly Greenberg, Tracey Sneed, Jennifer Snyder, Sheila Wall and team manager Donna Rines.

The festivities are scheduled for Feb. 18 when La Salle hosts MAAC rival Fairfield. It will be the seniors last appearance on the hardwood of Hayman Hall.

On Feb. 19 the men's team will honor its lone senior, Craig Conlin. A four-year starter, Conlin will be honored before the team's game with Fairfield in the Palestra.

### Field Hockey Players Honored

The field hockey team recently held its season-ending banquet with numerous awards being given out.

Cindi Alex received the Most Valuable Player award while Amy Horsey coped the Most Improved Award. The season high scorers, Terri Tipton and Ann Richards,

were recongized for their efforts. Tipton also received an award for being the assist leader of the team.

Maureen O'Driscoll and Jayne McGinley were named the captains for next season.

Gerry Lyons, the 1988 co-captain, was recognized as a collegiate All-Star at the South Jersey Field Hockey Association Banquet on December 11, 1988.

## Nowakowski no handicap at 118 pounds for La Salle University wrestling team

Wrestling is a sport that demands concentration, strength, quickness and balance. La Salle University's top man at 118 pounds, Thad Nowakowski has all of these things. The only thing he is missing is a right leg.

Nowakowski, a freshman from Lewes, DE, lost the leg in a rifle accident when he was just four-years-old. The disability has yet to slow his success as a wrestler.

With a 7-4 record at La Salle as a freshman, Nowakowski has two wins by pins and one by a technical fall. He has yet to lose a match by pin in either high school or college.

"I've found I can only do a few wrestling moves, so many require two legs. But the moves that I do, I must do perfectly," said Nowakowski. "I think it brings my opponents down and takes them out of their own element if they have to adjust to my style. It is an advantage for me because most wrestlers are used to using their opponent's two legs and they go to grab for mine and it is just not there."

As a senior at Cape Henlopen High School, Thad finished fourth in the state at 103 pounds while compiling a 27-4 record.

"I always wanted to wrestle in college all through my senior year in high school. I wanted to wrestle at La Salle because it wasn't required," said Nowakowski, who carried a 93 average in high school. "Being a non-scholarship program makes it fun.

"In high school I pretty much dominated. When I came to college I realized it was back down on the totem pole. In college, I'm at a disadvantage. Most guys in my weight class have

dropped at least 10 pounds. I can't drop any weight, I'm already there."

Thad begins each mat on his hands and one knee. His quickness at the start throws off his opponents and has earned him eight take downs in his seven matches.

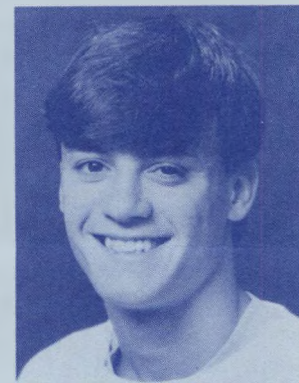
"I have a move I call it an opposite dump," said Nowakowski. "I've never seen anybody else use. It puts the guy right on his back."

Nowakowski has devised some of his own exercises and can usually run only a couple of miles per day. He makes that up with bicycling as many as 10 miles per day and in the off season he "bogy boards" in the Atlantic Ocean.

"Thad has never skipped an exercise, or not done a drill that we made the other wrestlers do," said La Salle wrestling coach Tom Murt. "When the team runs everyday on the track, Thad runs too, when the team has to run the stairs, he runs or hops with us. He has never looked for, expected or received any type of easy treatment because of his injury. His determination not to take the easy road when he probably could have, is probably one of the reasons he has had so much success both in wrestling as well as in the classroom."

Thad played little league baseball and then while in the sixth grade at the suggestion of a friend, he started to wrestle. In junior high he continued to wrestle and play baseball, while also playing lacrosse. In high school he played varsity golf.

"I gave up lacrosse in high school because the other guys were getting bigger and faster," said Nowakowski. "I always wanted to play basketball, but that was kind



Thad Nowakowski

of out of the question. I'm too short anyway."

Thad's determination and hard work has rubbed off on the entire Explorer team, which sports an 8-1 record.

"It is difficult for a person with two arms and two legs to compete in a sport like wrestling," said Murt. "When I see a student-athlete like Thad that wrestles without all the faculties that other wrestlers have, it inspires me as well as the whole team. His being on the squad this year has really served to make us a closer team. I find that the other men on the team are pulling more for each other this year, and just the idea of Thad starting off our meets at 118 pounds really gets the team up for matches."

Thad does not consider his disability to be a disability in wrestling at all. After listening to Thad talk about his wrestling tactics and seeing him wrestle, the disadvantage is not to Thad, but possibly to his opponent!

## Simmons continues to shine as awards pour in

All-American candidate Lionel Simmons' list of accolades continues to grow with each passing week. Most recently, Simmons was named MVP of two tournaments that La Salle participated in and, in both cases, won.

First the Explorers traveled south to Clarksville, Tennessee where they did battle in the ACME Boot Showdown. La Salle faced Georgia Southern in the opening round. Simmons literally pulled the game out for the Explorers in the final three seconds by hitting his 23rd and 24th points of the game on a fade away jumper that gave La Salle the win, 64-62.

As an encore, Simmons scored 29 points, had two steals and three blocks in

40 minutes of play the next night as La Salle knocked off highly-touted Austin Peay 79-74 to win the Boot title. For his efforts, Simmons was rewarded with the MVP award.

Next, it was back home to Philadelphia and the historic Palestra where the Explorers joined three other teams, Drexel, Penn and Long Beach State, as they "Shot For The Ring" in the Josten's Classic. Simmons was a one-man wrecking crew as he had two of his best performances of the young season. In the opening round against Big Five rival Penn, Simmons scored 32 points, and collected nine rebounds while playing the full 40 minutes as the Explorers won going away, 77-61, to advance to the championship game.

It was the first year in four years that La Salle had made it to the finals of the Josten's Classic and Simmons and his teammates were not to be denied. Simmons took over the game by scoring 26 points, and hauling down a season high 14 rebounds to go along with one assist and one steal as La Salle crushed Long Beach State University 96-63. To no one's surprise, Simmons was also named MVP of this tournament and named to the all-tournament team for the third consecutive year.

The next question is what can Lionel Simmons do for and encore? Stay tuned to La Salle basketball to find out.

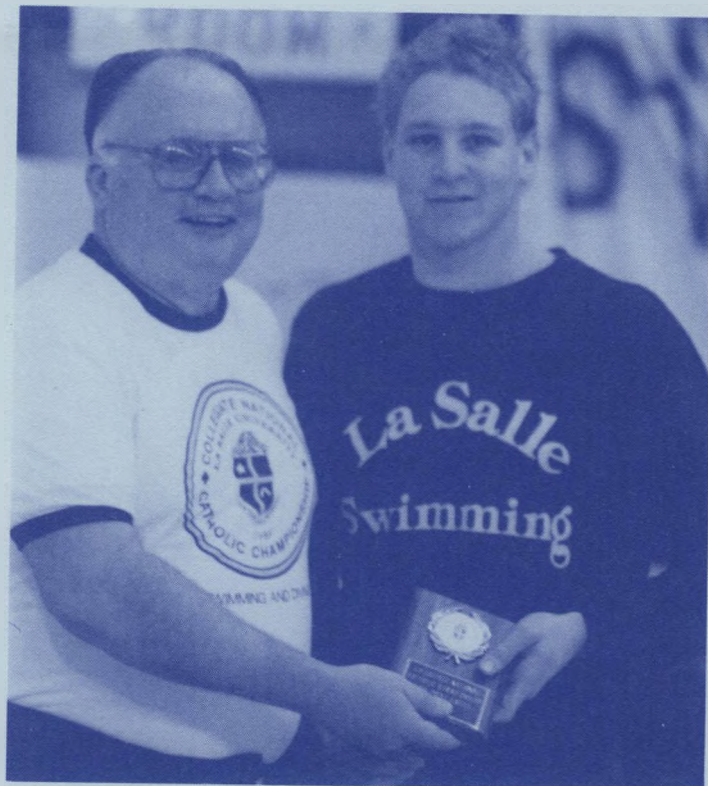
## *Gershe garners Most Valuable Swimmer Award at Collegiate National Catholic Championships*

Senior Jeff Gershe (Miami Palmetto/Miami, FL) was named Most Outstanding Swimmer at the recently completed Second Annual Collegiate National Catholic Swimming and Diving Championships held at La Salle's Kirk Pool. Gershe led the men's swim team to a second place overall finish while the women's team finished third out in a field of thirteen.

Gershe swam for two first place finishes and one second place finish. Gershe finished first in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:31.22. He then followed raced to a first in the 1650 free with a 15:41.18. Gershe's second place finish came in the 200 free with a time of 1:42.00.

"I think we swam well. Our people turned in some really fine finishes, especially Eric Buhain, Mark Sermarini, Bill Wiebking and John Croiser," said La Salle coach John Lyons. "I was pleased with our second place finish and hopefully next year we can pull out the first."

Sophomore Eric Buhain (La Salle Zobel/The Philippines) had a first place finish in the 200-yard individual medley and also won the 400 IM. Junior Mark Sermani (Germantown Academy/Huntington Valley, PA) turned in good performances with a first place finish in the 200 breaststroke and a third place finish in the 100 breast.



*La Salle President, Bro. Patrick Ellis, presents Jeff Gershe with his award*

The women were led by freshman Cindy Meehan (Cardinal O'Hara/Broomall, PA), who had a first place in the 500 freestyle. (Sacred Heart/ La Canada, CA), senior Cris O'Connor (so., Queen of Peace/Chicago, IL) also captured a first place in the 50 free. Other good showings were made by freshman Laurie MacPherson (Cherry Hill East/ Cherry Hill, NJ) and senior Pam Atkinson (Archbishop Ryan/ Philadelphia, PA).

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# 1988-89 MAAC Commissioner's Cup Standings

## OVERALL STANDINGS

1. Army	52
2. Fordham	47.5
3. Holy Cross	42.5
4. La Salle	41
5. Manhattan	31
6. St. Peter's	28.5
7. Iona	26
8. Fairfield	19.5

## MEN'S

1. Army	27
2. Fordham	25
3. La Salle	23
4. Iona	20
5. Manhattan	16
6. St. Peter's	15
7. Holy Cross	13.5
8. Fairfield	6.5

## WOMEN'S

1. Holy Cross	29
2. Army	25
3. Fordham	22.5
4. La Salle	18
5. Manhattan	15
6. St. Peter's	13.5
7. Fairfield	13
8. Iona	6

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