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Alumni Association Newsletter: November 1970

La Salle University

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LA SALLE COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Vol. V No. 2

November 1970

SPECIAL BASKETBALL ISSUE!

LA SALLE'S HELMS ALL-AMERICAN—KEN DURRETT by Joe Batory

Two years ago when sophomore Ken Durrett was tearing up Philadelphia's famed Big Five, Bill Conlin, of the Philadelphia Daily News called him “... The most polished all around big man ever to hit the Big Five.”

By today's standards, Durrett isn't really a "big man". The former scholastic All American out of Pittsburgh's Schenley High is a mere 6-7, 188 pounds. But to most of his opponents, Kenny’s size is quite deceptive. Says one: “The way he moves around that basket. I'd swear he was seven feet tall.”

Former Explorer All American and later all-pro with the old Philadelphia Warriors and New York Knicks Tom Gola, who coached La Salle the past two years, says that Durrett has "definite" pro potential. "He has to go very high in next year's (pro) draft," says Gola. "He's quick, handles the ball well, has excellent scoring ability and... just has the potential to make it big."

La Salle enjoyed its greatest season in history in 1968-69, finishing second nationally with a 23-1 record. Three members of that club, Larry Cannon, Roland Taylor and Berrie Williams, are now playing professional basketball. None of them led the Explorers in scoring during their senior year because Durrett exceeded the fondest hopes for him by averaging 20 ppg. He also led the club in rebounding (11.8), field goal percentage (52.3%), field goals (191), free throws (98) and total points (480).

Statistically, it was the greatest rookie season ever registered by an Explorer.

This is quite an accomplishment when you consider the impressive list of former La Salle stars including Gola, Larry Foust, Frank Concie, Hubie Marshall and Williams and Cannon, among others.

Last season as a junior, Durrett scored 24.3 ppg.—good enough to rank him among the top scorers in the nation, and the second best season scoring average in La cont. page 2

The Alumni Basketball Club begins its second full year of operation with an ambitious program, which includes a concerted drive for new members being initiated via this Newsletter.

For the year's first activity, Club President James J. Kenyon, ’63, has announced a pre-season "Meet the Team night" for members on November 13. As the season gets underway, the Club will be encouraging support of the team on the road as well as at the twelve home double headers at the Palestra. The first of several package offerings will be the trip to the Long Island University game at Madison Square Garden in New York City on December 5. Joe Saioni, ’60 is coordinating plans for a reception after the game with the New York Alumni Club at the Statler-Hilton Hotel.

Other trips being considered include the Charlotte Invitational Tournament, December 29-30 and the season's finale at Rider College in Trenton, New Jersey. The Club this year has assumed responsibility for the post St. Joe's game social.

At the season's end the Club will sponsor the third annual Basketball Dinner on April 2 at the Shack.

Club membership has grown steadily, by word-of-mouth advertising primarily. Now the Club feels the time has come to offer membership to the entire alumni body. Membership in the Club is open to all alumni of the college. Dues are $5 a year. An application blank is included in this newsletter on page 3.
Salle history. He also led the team in rebounding (12.1 a game). Only Gola (750 and 690) and Marshall (674) have ever scored more points in a single season than Durrett’s 632 last year. And they all played in more games than Kenny’s 26 as the Explorers finished with a 14-12 record which included the ECAC Quaker City Tourney title.

Durrett’s 44 point performance against Lafayette was a new La Salle single-game mark. So was the 20 field goal total he registered that night. Kenny scored his 1,000th career point against American University in his 36th varsity game—earlier than any previous Explorer.

For his efforts, Durrett was named to the Helms All American team for the second year in a row. He was also named most valuable player in the Middle Atlantic Conference’s eastern division and the outstanding player of the Philadelphia district.

**ALUMNI HOMECOMING – 1970**

**DINNER DANCE NOVEMBER 21**

The seventh annual Alumni Homecoming Dinner-Dance will be held on November 21. It will be followed on Sunday, November 22 by a combined “Open House” and “Tap Off Rally”.

The dinner-dance will be held in the College Union: cocktails at 7:30 p.m. in the recently renovated Club Room and dinner at 8:30 in the Ballroom. After dinner there will be dancing and a cash bar until 1:00 a.m. The cocktail hour and dinner for two are covered by the $15.00 per couple ticket.

Chairman Joseph M. Gindhart, Esq., ’58 wishes to emphasize the need for advance reservations for this popular event. Table reservations of eight ($60.00) or ten ($75.00) are available, but these must be made by November 13. Tickets may be procured by returning the reservation form on page 3 with check payable: La Salle College Alumni Association.

Open House, featuring exhibits and displays by campus clubs and organizations usually held in the Spring, will be combined this year with the Tap Off Rally, which each year heralds the coming basketball season. The day’s activities will be jointly sponsored by the Student Organizations Commission and the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity.

The exhibits will open at 12 Noon and continue until 5:00 p.m. Brother Patrick Ellis, F.S.C. will offer the keynote at 1:00 p.m. in the College Union Theatre followed by programs of the Masque and the R.O.T.C. band. At 3:00 p.m. Coach Paul Westhead will introduce his 1970-71 squad in the gym prior to the annual intrasquad game.

Mass will be offered in the de La Salle Chapel at 4:30 p.m. and the awards for the outstanding exhibits will be presented in the C.U. Theatre at 5:30 p.m. In the evening a student mixer will feature continuous music with two bands to conclude a busy day.

**SKI TRIP ’71** will leave Philadelphia for Germany and Austria on January 7 via Lufthansa Jet and return January 17. The trip is priced at $275 (flight only: $220). Contact College Union Director’s Office, VI 8-8300, ext. 281 for further information.
ALUMNI CALENDAR

- Alumni Office: 2nd Open House Night ......................................................................................... November 4
- Law Society Luncheon at Adelphia Hotel .......................................................................................... November 10
- Alumni Association Board of Directors’ meeting ................................................................................ November 12
- Basketball Club “Meet the Team Nite” ............................................................................................ November 13
- Academy Weekend: LSC’s Relation to the Community .................................................................... November 14
- Central Pennsylvania Chapter meeting ............................................................................................. November 19
- Homecoming Dinner-Dance .............................................................................................................. November 21
- Campus Open House and Tap Off Rally ............................................................................................. November 22
- Downtown Club: Luncheon at Racquet Club ...................................................................................... November 24
- New York Chapter meeting ............................................................................................................... November 24
- Theatre La Salle opens .................................................................................................................... November 25
- L.I.U. game in New York and Alumni Reception .............................................................................. December 5


I enclose $10.00 in check or money order. Please send me a season ticket, and enclose tickets for the following performances of THE BECAUSEWAY (all performances at 8:30, except Sundays, at 7 P.M.):

PROGRAM LISTING:

Name ____________________________________________ Phone __________________________
Address ____________________________________________ Phone __________________________

“BECAUSEWAY” PERFORMANCES:

NOVEMBER 25–27–28–29
DECEMBER 1–2–3–4–5–6 (circle)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP – BASKETBALL CLUB

To: President, Basketball Club
   c/o LSC Alumni Office
   Philadelphia, Pa. 19141

I am enclosing a check in the amount of $5.00 payable LA SALLE COLLEGE ALUMNI BASKETBALL CLUB for my membership in the Club for the 1970-71 season.

Name ____________________________________________ Class ______________________________
Address ____________________________________________ Telephone No. __________________

DINNER DANCE RESERVATION

Joseph M. Gindhart, Esq., Chairman
Dinner Dance Committee
La Salle College Alumni Office
Philadelphia, Pa. 19141

Please make _______ reservation(s) at $15.00 per couple for the Homecoming Dinner-Dance on November 21. I am enclosing a check (Payable LA SALLE COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION) in the amount of $_________. Send tickets to:

Name ____________________________________________ Class ______________________________
Address ____________________________________________
A bright new chapter in the remarkable history of theatre at the college will begin on Thanksgiving Eve, November 25th, with the first American performance of THE BECAUSEWAY, Wesley Burrowes' Irish Life Award-winning play, and the first production of Theatre La Salle in association with The Masque of La Salle College. Theatre La Salle, according to a joint announcement made by President Burke and Dan Rodden, long-time director of theatre at the college, will be a year-round extension of the drama program here along the general lines of the established nine-year-old Music Theatre. THE BECAUSEWAY will play ten performances, through December 6th.

Rodden attended the opening night of THE BECAUSEWAY at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin last January, and immediately made arrangements with its author for the American production rights. The play, which is presently playing in Belfast, has had successful runs during the past year at Chester, England; Prague, Czechoslovakia, and the hold-over engagement at the Abbey. It is the first of three plays scheduled for this first season of Theatre La Salle; it will be followed in February by Shakespeare's MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, and in April by GERTRUDE STEIN'S FIRST READER, a critical and popular success of last season off-Broadway, which has been described as "the most original revue idea in years."

In connection with the initial season of Theatre La Salle, the following special ticket arrangement has been made for members of the Alumni: for the reduced price of $10.00, mailed so as to be received before November 16th, three pairs of regularly-priced $3.00 tickets (normal price: $18.00), one pair for each attraction, will be reserved in preferred seating; alumni purchasing tickets under this plan will also be listed in all three souvenir programs as Sponsors of Theatre La Salle. Use the order blank on page 3, enclosing check or money order and a stamped, self-addressed envelope; in return, you will receive a season ticket which may be presented for tickets to be held at the Box Office, either for a date (for the first attraction; dates for subsequent plays will be announced) which you indicate on the order blank, or which you later specify by calling the Box Office (Victor 3-3892) during daytime hours after November 1st. (If you do not now know when you will be attending, you may still take advantage of the sharply-reduced ticket rate by replying now, and specifying the date by mail or phone before you attend.) "Theatre La Salle is a new and rather hazardous venture," Rodden says. "But it is one which, if we get the same kind of support and enthusiasm we have had from alumni and friends in the past, cannot help but be a successful one."