

— The BOB DAVIES' Report: The College Basketball Scene —

'He May Just Be Ready To Play' -- St. Bona's Wise On Hayes, His Injury-Plagued Star

By BOB DAVIES

John Hayes didn't play in the two scrimmages the Bonnies had over the weekend — but he may be in the starting lineup when St. Bonaventure opens the basketball season Dec. 4th against Detroit College.

In fact, Hayes hasn't worked one minute with his Bonnie teammates — yet.

But, he will this week — sometime.

"He's really working hard," said coach Larry Wise. "And he may do it," added the Bonnies' coach, referring to the fact that the 6-5 Niagara Falls senior may be ready for that

opening game despite a second knee operation.

HAYES MISSED most of his sophomore year because of that knee injury. However, he came back last year and was a key figure in the 23-2 record the Bonnies posted.

Wise counted on Hayes to give the team experienced up front help to go with All-American Bob Lanier. However, he started Hayes re-injured the knee and required a second operation.

"He's in good condition," noted Wise. "He's been doing

the calisthenics and running every night at practice. He won't be far behind when he does start working out, except for playing conditions," the coach said.

HOWEVER, WEISE isn't counting on Hayes being in that starting lineup. "I can't really count on John yet," he said. "And we have some tough games in December," he added. Those tough games include a trip to Harrisburg for a meeting with St. Francis of Loretto (Dec. 7), Toledo at home (Dec. 14) and a meeting with Olympic hero Spencer Haywood in Detroit (Dec. 16), plus the All-

College Tournament in Oklahoma City, Dec. 26-30.

Vinnie Martin, also injured before the pre-season practice started, has his foot back in a cast. "That's a real nuisance injury (hairline fracture). He'll be in that cast until after Christmas. I could really use him now," Wise commented.

Without Hayes and Martin, the Bonnies have no size and no experience up front to go with the 6-11 Lanier.

IT DIDN'T TAKE Penn State and Buffalo — the two teams Bona scrimmaged over the weekend — long to discover that Bona, except for Lanier, is small.

"Bob did all right," said Wise, "but without John in there, we are hurting for overall height. Our inexperience was apparent," he added.

Wise used sophomores Greg Gary (6-3) and Ed Klimkowski (6-2) up front, plus Dale Tepas and Paul Grys in backcourt with the veterans Jimmy Satalin, Billy Kalbaugh and Mike Kull. Against the Nittany Lions, Weist started Lanier, Satalin, Kalbaugh, Kull and Gary. "Our sophos looked promising, but we are not too big — keep that in mind. But they are coming. We interchanged quite a bit. It was just a good workout."

Offensively, Bona looked to Lanier in the two scrimmages. The giant junior, who'll give UCLA's Lew Alcindor a battle for Big-Man-Of-Year Honors, of course, will be double and triple teamed all season.

WITHOUT BILL BUTLER in the lineup, the opposition will collapse like a tent around Lanier. Butler, who graduated in June, will be missed, and that's an understatement. Last year when the opposition concentrated on Lanier, Butts took over, both on the boards and in the shooting department.

This season, Bona will have to come up with shooting power out front to counteract the zones and special defenses that will go to work on Lanier.

SATALIN, Kalbaugh and Kull are all good outside shooters, although in the two scrimmages they didn't come up with the sharpshooting Wise wants from his guards.

"I'm satisfied with our progress," Wise said after the two scrimmages. "We've got a ways

to go yet. We had trouble getting that second and third shot against Penn State, but we did better in the Sunday scrimmage with Buffalo.

Defensively, Bona used both man-for-man and zone. You can look for the Bonnies to zone frequently this year in an effort to protect Lanier and keep him out of foul trouble. If the Bonnies are small with Lanier in the lineup, they are midgets without him working on the boards.

The pre-season ratings all have the Bonnies ranked somewhere in the Top 20, but that's not being realistic. Last year we

figured Bona would go 19-3 (they went 23-2), and ended in the No. 3 spot in the final collegiate ratings. However, without Butler and with Hayes definitely a question mark, it doesn't make sense to rate Bona in the Top 20 for the 1968-69 campaign. For another thing, the road schedule is too tough, and the Bonnies could lose as many as six games.

THAT NIAGARA at Brockport State College pre-season scrimmage Saturday was so "private" that many close to the Brockport basketball picture had to be kept out of the

building. "There were people outside the gym, peeping through the door slits, trying to see what was going on," smiled an official. It's the NCAA rules and, apparently, people are trying to keep on the good side of the national group.

DUQUESNE University's Red Manning was the host over the weekend to two basketball coaches from Israel. They are in the U.S. learning more about their trade. It's a 20-day stop at Duquesne. "In America, you have a much better chance to become a good player," noted one of the Israeli coaches. "The players receive excellent coaching right from the start and they know if they work hard enough, they can make pro basketball their career."

6-11 Lanier Scores 40 As Bona Drops Toledo

Special to the Gazette
ST. BONAVENTURE, N.Y.—Bob Lanier, 6-11 St. Bonaventure junior All-American center, scored his Bona career high of 40 points, leading the unbeaten Brown Indians to their fourth straight basketball victory, 85-75 over highly-regarded Toledo Saturday night in the SBU University Center. Toledo lost its second game in five starts.

St. Bona plays another major game at Detroit University Monday night, facing the Titans and their Olympic star, Spencer Haywood. It'll be televised back to Western New York by WKBW-TV (Ch. 7).

Rockets Cut Lead
After racing to a 47-30 half time lead the Brown Indians had to stave off a determined Toledo bid in the second half. The Rockets managed to cut

seven points twice, once with lead to its 47-30 halftime edge. the Bonnies lead to as few as Klimkowski drilled six of six 7:23 left and again at the 3:28 mark. Steve Mix paced the Rockets comeback with a 13-point half and teammate Bob Miller matched that total.

With the Brown Indians ahead by 75-68 with Toledo in possession of the ball Lanier led the Bonnies out of danger. He blocked the ensuing shot and then connected on a short jumper, Toledo came back on a basket by Mix and a free throw by Miller, to cut the gap to 77-71. Lanier, however, scored six of the Bonnies' final eight points to put the game out of reach.

Soph Sparkles
Sophomore Ed Klimkowski came off the bench at the 7:00 mark of the first half and spearheaded the drive that lifted Bonaventure from a 29-23

ST. BO.				TOLEDO			
G	F	T	Pct.	G	F	T	Pct.
Hayes	3	0	6	Brisker	6	1	13
Lanier	15	10	40	B. Miller	8	3	19
Kalbaugh	3	3	9	Mix	9	4	22
Satalin	5	2	12	Rudlev	5	3	13
Klimkowski	8	2	18	Shav	3	0	6
Gerv	0	0	0	Smith	1	0	2
Totals	34	17	85	Totals	32	11	75
Toledo—30—45—75				St. Bonaventure—47—38—85			