

The Class of 1973 Celebrates 50 Years

by Faith West

With the start of November comes a sense of excitement for the Mount Vernon Nazarene University community. Students and staff alike eagerly anticipate MVNU's homecoming, a weekend full of fun activities and opportunities for both alumni and current students to connect and build relationships. This year's homecoming also holds a special significance because the university will honor the class of 1973 for the 50-year anniversary of their graduation from MVNU.

The recognition of these graduates, commonly referred to as Golden Grads, will begin on Friday during homecoming chapel to give students the opportunity to see and honor those who came before them. Following chapel, Mike Cheek, executive director of alumni and advancement, will host a luncheon for the Golden Grads where they will also receive a "special giveaway to highlight 50 years." Cheek stated, "We've had just a handful of these, and they're exciting because these alums can come back and celebrate this really very significant reunion year." The Golden Grads will also hold their class reunion on Saturday where they will have the opportunity to "celebrate life for these 50 years and the impact that this very special place has made on them."

Though homecoming weekend holds a special significance for the Golden Grads as well as all MVNU alumni, Cheek also hopes to convey this importance to the current Mount Vernon students. He explained, "What we hope to do is help our students catch a vision that these are the ones who have paved the way for you to have the experience you're having."

1973 TRIVIA

Once you've completed all of the questions, DM a picture of your answers to @MVNUViewer on Instagram for a chance to win a \$10 B-Dubs gift certificate.

Who was the US President in 1973?

- A) Lyndon B. Johnson B) Richard Nixon C) Gerald Ford D) Jimmy Carter

What skyscraper became the tallest in the world in May of 1973?

- A) Transamerica Pyramid B) Metlife Building C) Sears Tower D) Aon Center

Which racehorse won the Triple Crown in 1973?

- A) Secretariat B) Citation C) Affirmed D) Seattle Slew

What were the most popular baby names in 1973?

- A) Michael & Jennifer B) Robert & Michelle C) John & Heather D) Scott & Christine

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Men's Basketball Season Preview

By Jonathon Langdon

MVNU Homecoming always serves as a time when alumni get to see new changes around Mount Vernon Nazarene University. This year, there may have been more adjustments than in the past, but the changes to the men's basketball team may be the most surprising of them all. Last week, head coach Jared Ronai began his 10th season at the helm by introducing nine new additions to a roster that includes six returners, five freshmen, three transfers and one call-up from the reserve team.

Senior Kade Ruegsegger returns as a key piece for MVNU, entering the season as a member of the preseason All-Crossroads League First Team. Sophomore Trent Koning also returns to the floor after a strong freshman season, along with seniors Carter Pline and Je Justin Solis and juniors Milton Gage and Carter Jones.

The Cougars also looked to the transfer portal over the summer, bringing in top talent that will immediately be relied upon for production. Beau Ludwick, a graduate transfer from Holy Cross College, brings efficient scoring and strong defending to the table as a starter this season. MVNU also brings a capable scorer in senior Jack Kahoun from Trinity International off the bench. And Bailey Conrad, a 6'7" forward from The Citadel, was recruited by Ronai out of high school, but only now finds himself with MVNU as a senior.

"He was the very last kid I saw before COVID hit," Ronai said about Conrad. "He walked on at Western Kentucky for two years then transferred and was a scholarship player at The Citadel."

Coach Ronai also welcomes freshmen Bede Lori and Antwuan Hathcock (who will redshirt and keep an extra year of eligibility), Grant Burkholder, Devin Dreier and Drew Koning, brother of Trent. The Cougars also called up junior Caleb Schall from the reserve squad to close out the roster.

Another change for the team will be their play style. "It's going to be a lot different this year," Ronai shared. "I think you are going to see it from the first tip. The way we're playing is going to require more guys to play." Pushing the tempo offensively and defensively is not new to Ronai. In fact, his first two teams at MVNU boded a similar style; and Brett Vipperman, one of his players on those teams, is in his fourth season as assistant coach and has served as a big help in teaching the system.

The team took their preseason preparation onto the court on Nov. 4 in their first game of the season, defeating Kenyon College, 95-90. Now, the Cougars prepare for their homecoming matchups against Harris Stowe on Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. and Washington Adventist on Nov. 11 at 6 p.m.

Women's Basketball is Back!

By Isaac Curtis

Women's basketball is back in action and ready to take on the Crossroads League! With new additions to their roster, new plays and the same theme, Coach Short is thrilled for this season. Their continuing theme of GRIT stands for godliness, responsibility, integrity and togetherness. That theme follows players both on and off the court whom she believes to be Emily Walker and Katie Sprang. Coach Short had this to say about Walker – "Emily LOVES the game; she should run the floor and get shots." She also spoke about Sprang, saying, "Katie is a competitive athlete, and she's come back hungry and determined. That work ethic has a trickle-down effect. She has proven she deserves to start."

The likely starters for the team will be Emily Walker (JR), Peyton Davis (SR), Noelle Lavery (JR), Katie Sprang (JR) and Angela Roshak (SO). All the starters are returning players except Noelle Lavery. Lavery is a transfer from Hillsdale and will bring "Unique offensive talent." The rest of the roster consists of Grace Vermilya, Maddie Lawson, Jaelle Keller, and Chelsea Huffman. Then there are two players who are currently injured but will be great additions once recovered. These two are Megan Weakley and Hannah Logan.

Coach Short and the team are excited for a great season and can't wait to show all the hard work they've done in the offseason. Catch their games in Ariel Arena and support the lady Cougars as they compete in the Crossroads League.

