



Local Sports

The Crusaders name their new AD

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By Belmont Abby Athletics

BELMONT, N.C. -- Belmont Abbey College, which competes in the NCAA Division II Conference Carolinas, today announced the appointment of Richard M. Dull as athletic director effective July 1. Dull most recently served as athletic director at Division I California State University Northridge and brings to his new assignment a wealth of experience culled from guiding athletics programs at NCAA Division I, II and III schools over the past 25 years.

“We have a special community here at Belmont Abbey College in which we share a lifelong journey to search for and live in response to truth,” said Dr. Bill Thierfelder, president of Belmont Abbey College. “The proper role of college athletics should be to teach students lessons that will be as valuable to them in later life as those they learn in the classroom or in any other aspect of their college experience. The role of athletics should be to enhance and augment the academic experience in the development of the whole person. In order to properly fulfill this role, we need talented coaches who are teachers and mentors first. It is important to set high standards that guide the conduct of players on and off the field, the conduct of fans sitting in the stands, and the conduct of our athletic coaches and administrators. The individual we are introducing today as Belmont Abbey's next athletic director understands and shares this philosophy. This individual knows that excellence in sports is a means to achieving greater ends, and not an end in itself.”

Dull served as director of athletics for Cal State-Northridge for six years from 1999 through 2005, a tenure highlighted by the school's first appearance in the NCAA basketball tournament in 2001 and a move from the Big Sky Conference to the Big West. He resigned in 2005 to assume the role of executive director for athletics facilities advancement for the school. Between 1995 and 1999, Dull served as director of athletics at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pa. During his three-year tenure at Division II Nebraska-Kearney the school led the Rocky Mountain Conference in Honor Roll students and won the conference's All Sports Championship, symbolic of the best athletics program in the conference. Dull previously served as director of athletics at the University of Maryland from 1981 to 1986, during which time the school achieved the greatest percentage increase in the Atlantic Coast Conference in the number of student athletes on the ACC Honor Roll.

“I have seen what can happen to good institutions and to promising young people when the culture of celebrity infects sports,” said Dull. “I am excited to be part of an institution that shares my commitment to using athletics in the service of developing mind, body and spirit and producing athletes who embody both excellence and virtue.”