

Sports Scope

With Tom Lang



Rollins College visits here in our gym on February 2. Our recent victory over them in their own gym by the score of 87-66 assures us of a stomp over them. Our team always does better in our barn than on the road so let's get out and boost the Bears to beating the 106-60 stomp they handed West Georgia in the season's opener. With a lot of screaming and no fouls we should be able to tar and feather the Tars.

Speaking of fouls, they have cost our team several games and are not necessary. In most games this season, the Bears have averaged around 20 fouls which gives the opponents free shots and puts our players on the bench. In our defensive game, fouls do come, and can't be helped, but why so many?

At the season's start, Coach Wilder attributed the fouling to lack of experience, but now that we have 10 games under our belt, we should be rid of the curse of the foul, but yet it persists in plaguing us.

Everyone was waiting for Bob Reeves to come 'round, and he did just as he said he would. Before the Christmas break, I asked Bob when he was going to catch fire; he predicted that he'd be in good form by the holidays' end, and came back in fine style.

Bob has come back with scores of 18 against Athens; 24 against Kentucky Southern; 20 against Rollins and 11 against Florida Southern. Bob has been hitting his share, but also missing quite a few, in that he is only hitting around 38%.

As far as percentages go, Chuck Newton is leading in that category hitting around 50%. The exact percentages aren't tabulated due to the misplacement of the Rollins' game results. Chuck is averaging 9.2 points per game after 10 games. Bob Reeves is adding to his average and is now averaging 14.2 points per game, while leading the team in scoring hitting 142 points.

The bus trip to Georgia Southern was called off because there were no available seats for Mercer students. Let's get the gym sold out for our game with them. As far as I can see, Ga. Southern ranks on an equal par with the Bears and though we can beat any team on our schedule, I hesitate to predict the score of the game between us and them, but I am sure that the location of the game will be an important factor in the final results, such that they'll probably win in Statesboro, but it'll be a different story when they visit here, and it all depends on us, so let's back the Bears Feb. 24 and stomp Ga. Southern here.

Bears Blast Tars, 87-66

Bob Reeves shined against the Rollins College Tars pumping in 21 points to lead the Bears to victory, 87-66. Reeves was backed up by Steve Moody, 6'4" forward, who added 18 points, and pulled down 19 rebounds. Every rebound gets him closer to the college record, here at Mercer.

The Bears got off to their usual slow offensive start, but never trailed throughout the game though the Tars managed to tie it up at 9-9 with 14:19 remaining in the first half.

It was Bob Reeves who pulled the Bears away in the first half, hitting 15 of his 21 points during the opening period.

During the second half the Bears were never in danger always leading by 6 or 10 points till the closing minutes when they pulled away for their final 21 point margin.

It was the same old foul problem we always have during the game, and the game turned out to be a battle between our field goals and the Tars from the line. The fact that fields goals count twice as much saved the game for the Bears. Due to fouls, we lost the services of both Chuck Newton, and Bob Reeves during the last minutes of the game.

Bill Naylor pulled down 10 rebounds to add to Mercer's 44 in all, which shows the Bears had a good night under the boards.

MERCER (87)	FG	FT	PF	TP
Moody	8	2-8	4	18
Roberts	4	0-0	4	8
Naylor	4	3-5	2	11
Newton	3	1-1	5	7
Reeves	9	2-2	5	20
Norris	2	0-0	2	4
Mitchell	5	1-3	1	11
Weston	1	2-2	1	4
Manton	0	2-2	0	2
Wilbanks	1	0-0	0	2
Totals	37	13-18	24	87
ROLLINS (66)	FG	FT	PF	TP
Kilmer	2	4-5	8	8
Slimer	7	7-11	4	21
Nixon	3	6-7	4	12
Chandler	6	6-6	3	17
Pearlman	0	3-3	0	3
Hill	1	0-0	0	2
Ceccarelli	0	0-0	0	0
Burns	0	1-2	0	1
Mercer	1	0-1	0	2
Coleman	0	0-0	1	0
Totals	20	28-35	15	66

Score by Halves

MERCER	42	45-87
ROLLINS	38	28-66

The win brought our Bears to 6-3 record and staggered Rollins to a 3-8.



Mercer Bear up for a shot!

Mocs Top Bears, 78-56

Following the rout of the Rollins College Tars, the Bears went on to Lakeland, Fla. to face the Florida Southern Moccasins, but the Snakes put a bad ending on the good start to upend the Bears 78-56.

The cold start we are so well noted for put the damper on the game for our Bears. Our coldness allowed the Moccasins to strike up a 35-23 half-time lead. During the first eight minutes both teams could only muster 10 points and the lead changed hands several times, but the Snakes' poison got to the Bears who fell behind.

The opening moments of the second half would have made any Mercer student stand up, cheer, scream and be mighty proud of their Bear team who staged a great come-back effort, out scoring the Florida boys 14-2 to tie up the score at 37 all. The lead then changed hands several times before the Moccasins took it for good and edged away for the final score of 78-56.

Steve Moody starred as the Bears' leading scorer ripping the nets for 15 points and clearing the boards 17 times. He was followed by Naylor and Reeves who pumped in 11 points apiece, with Naylor pulling down 14 rebounds in the process.

Though the Bears were small

compared to the towering Florida boys, we managed to stay close in the rebound department 43-38. The Bears hit 21-63 for a mere 33 percent.

Foul trouble developed and accounted for 26 of the Snakes' points who were given 38 free shots, and the Bears accumulated 27 fouls. In the process, the Bears that fouled out were Reeves and Roberts.

Our Bears now have a 6-4 record which is still in the winning bracket.

MERCER (50)	FG	FT	PF	TP
Moody	6	3-8	4	15
Roberts	3	1-1	5	7
Naylor	5	1-3	4	11
Newton	2	1-1	1	5
Reeves	4	3-3	5	11
Norris	0	0-0	0	0
Mitchell	0	0-0	3	0
Weston	0	0-0	0	0
Wilbanks	0	3-5	1	3
Totals	21	14-26	27	56
FLA. SOUTH'N (78)	FG	FT	PF	TP
Huber	5	6-6	3	16
Fitzgerald	1	2-6	5	4
Doherty	7	2-3	0	14
Hayes	4	5-7	3	11
Spiro	4	3-4	1	11
Carter	2	0-1	0	4
Knappenberger	1	0-0	0	2
Shan	0	0-0	1	0
Broker	1	1-2	0	3
Lewis	1	5-7	3	7
Presley	0	2-3	3	1
Totals	26	26-38	19	78

Score by Halves

MERCER	25	33-58
FLA. SOUTH'N	35	43-73



CHUCK NEWTON Hits 50% from the floor.

EIGHT GAME TOTALS

	Field Goals			Free Goals			Fouls	Total Points	Av. Reb.	
	M	A	Pct.	M	A	Pct.				
Steve Moody	37	94	39%	19	24	79%	25	93	11.6	98
Bill Naylor	27	80	34%	12	17	71%	22	72	9	79
Chuck Newton	37	74	50%	6	10	60%	19	80	10	45
Bob Reeves	47	128	37%	17	25	68%	26	111	13.8	51
Jack Manton	36	73	49%	24	28	85%	27	96	12	19
Jack Roberts	30	80	38%	25	37	68%	23	85	10.6	28
Tom Mitchell	13	33	38%	8	21	38%	13	34	4.2	34
Dickie Childs	4	9	44%	1	2	50%	—	9	1.8	1
Charlie Weston	2	7	29%	1	2	50%	—	5	1.3	3
Dave Wilbanks	1	1	100%	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Glenn Cowart	0	2	0%	—	—	—	1	0	—	—
Byron Norris	2	11	18%	1	1	100%	2	5	1.2	3
Jim Tippet	0	1	0%	—	—	—	1	—	—	3

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