

NEWS OF SPORTS: VARSITY AND INTRAMURAL

# BEARS BLOW BIG TIME CHANCE, FACE SAMFORD

The Mercer Bears dropped their third game in twelve contests last Monday in the "Tech Dome" to the Yellow Jackets of Georgia Tech, 91-57. All three losses have been dealt to the Bears on the road.

## Tense 700 Witnessed

Seven hundred strong they sat in numbed confusion: the independents, the Greeks, the alums, and the faculty. Time was running out, and many feared the worst, as they fixed their gazes upon the five Bears who had led them so far. By the coach stood the small freshman guard who could do whatever the situation called for. Listening intently, was the tall center, and almost equally tall forward whose grace in jumping was so evident. Sitting on the bench was the lanky forward, whose rebounding skills had added needed points to the Bear's score all season long, but now he had fouled out and there was no more he could do. Eyes finally rested on the sophomore guard, the guy who could play anywhere, score consistently, and along with the entire team wanted this game most of all.

It somehow felt good to know that so many were there with you to share the tense emotions that this game would bring. For those on the court, there was no solace, only determination and courage. Not until the last second would they despair, and there it would come in one great rush and they would feel very calm in their fallen dreams. But for us, whether we looked to the right or to the left, all we saw was Mercer — and that was really something to behold. And for every cheer they threw at us, we answered back with great strength. Win or lose, we had come to stick by the boys who had earned us the recognition as a winning team, and without realizing it, we were showing a spirit rarely seen before. The pride of Mercer was there, while seven hundred voices answered the call-to-arms.

We all felt the same that night, when our march to beat Tech came to its bitter end. There were downhearted cheerleaders and dejection in the hearts of all. But still, we knew how really great they are, and how much pride we feel whenever they come out on a basketball court.

It can never replace the sweetness of victory, but Mercer can never express the pride we feel for the Mercer Bears.

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The Bears, who were returning to Georgia after losing to Tampa last Saturday 93-79, found the Jackets too hot on their home court. Tech hit 51% from the floor and added 23 of 28 free throws to pace the victory. Tech now stands 11-6 for the season.

Senior Steve Moody put Mercer ahead with a 2-0 lead, but the Jackets literally muscled their way from this point. The half-time score found the Bears behind 53-26.

Although backed by bus loads of spirited Mercer supporters, the Bears found the Jacket's lead too much to overcome in the second half.

Captain Steve Moody paced the Bears with 14 points while Jud Roberts was the only other Bear in double figures with 13 markers. Tech's Pres Judy was high man for the night with 18 points.

Moody did not play the entire game due to a mouth injury received during a rebound with Tech's big Ted Tomasovich. Tech won the rebound contest 53-40.

The game saw the first meeting between the Bears and the Jackets in 23 years. Tech holds the advantage with an 18-14 record.

Undefeated on their home court, the Bears will entertain Samford University Saturday night after hosting a rematch with the Tampa Spartans on Wednesday. The Samford Game will be Mercer's homecoming and the first meeting with the newly designated University.

— Jerry Moore

### THE LINEUPS

Mercer (57)	FG	FT	PF	TP
Moody	5	4-4	5	14
Naylor	4	0-4	3	8
Chandler	3	1-3	3	7
Belloir	3	0-1	2	6
Roberts	3	7-7	4	13
Mitchell	2	3-5	0	7
Taylor	1	0-0	0	2
Weston	0	0-0	0	0
Westbrook	0	0-0	0	0
Childs	0	0-0	0	0
Totals	21	12-54	19	57

Ga. Tech (91)	FG	FT	PF	TP
Judy	7	4-4	2	18
Tomasovich	2	3-3	2	7
Thorne	4	5-7	2	13
Guth	0	0-0	0	0
Wagner	4	4-4	3	12
Clark	2	0-0	1	4
Partin	2	0-0	1	4
Kenney	3	0-0	1	6
Bribendine	2	4-4	0	8
Tyler	4	0-0	1	8
Wright	1	0-1	1	2
Field	1	1-2	0	3
Ridenour	1	0-0	0	2
Akins	1	2-2	1	4
Blwoing	0	0-1	1	0
Holloway	0	0-0	0	0
Totals	34	23-28	16	91

## Intramural Sports

by Art Hapner

As the season comes to a close we find the Leo's leading in the Orange League and the Atom's in the Black League, both holding onto perfect records. Last Tuesday the Leo's downed the Legal Eagles and the Atom's moved past the Snakes 42-28. The Ministers came out fast Wednesday night holding a 18-16 halftime lead and 31-25 score after three periods. Then in the final period plagued by fouls the Ministers cooled off and the Willards came out on top 43-37 in the final minutes. On Thursday the Leo's finished their season by downing the Ministers 55-36.

The night cap Thursday brought the Rebels and Snakes to the court. The pre-game odds were in favor of the Snakes; but when the smoke cleared and the crowd calmed, the Rebels pulled out a 44-43 victory. With the clock showing 7 minutes to play, the Rebels were down by 12 points; then with the shooting of James Campbell and rebounding of Gary Brenner the score closed to 42-43 in the final 10 seconds. The Rebels quickly brought the ball down court and Campbell dropped two for a one point lead. The Snakes called time out to rally their forces with about 3 seconds left; Mark Eppinger took the ball out and threw it in to Bill Smily, who fired a 25 foot jump shot. The ball bounced in the basket and then one as the buzzer sounded. Final score was Rebels 44, Snakes 43.

Next week the Finals begin with the top two teams in each league playing for the trophy.



## Introducing Mercer's Cheerleaders

Homecoming 1967 began Thursday night and will climax Saturday night when Mercer faces Samford University. It is expected that the student body will come to the game in numbers large enough to pack the gym. With the large crowd, and the spirit that has been shown this year, there is no reason why the homecoming spirit cannot drive Samford to sure defeat. Leading this spirit will be the Mercer cheerleaders. Last week the varsity captains of the squad were introduced. This week J.V. captain, Susan Strange and the varsity cheerleader, Dori Ripley will be featured.

Susan Strange is from Fort

Pierce, Florida. She cheered of her four year in high school, both years at Mercer. She is English major at Mercer, and is member of Phi Mu sorority.

Also of Phi Mu is freshman Dori Ripley. Dori is the only freshman on the varsity squad, and her several years of experience explain her success. She came to Mercer from Fort Pierce, Florida, where she was President of her senior class, voted the most school spirited, elected Miss Dan McCarty High School and held membership in the National Honor Society. At Mercer Dori has been the KA Homecoming queen and a ROTC Competition sponsor.

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