

# Bears Show Form With The Baseball; Coach Smith Proves Mercer Can Win

Lou Johnson's ninth inning single broke up a masterful pitching duel between Greenville's Bill McCall and Mercer's Bobby Hullemeier and Mark Steinbeck and gave the Bears a 2-1 decision over the visiting Panthers at Mercer Field.

Hullemeier, a freshman righthander from Mt. de Sales, matched goose eggs with McCall until the fifth; Steinbeck came in and continued until allowing an unearned tally in the eighth. Hullemeier was brilliant in the first three innings, allowing only one hit and recording four strikeouts. However, the big righthander ran into trouble in the fourth.

Two Panther singles by Dick Kraft and Bobby Hanks put men on first and second with only one out. Hullemeier pitched his way out of it by making the next batter ground out to short and retiring the side on a pop out to short.

Mercer was also having its troubles trying to solve McCall's servings. He yielded a second inning single to Rufus Dowell and walked one man each in the third and fifth. The Bruins threatened in the sixth as Robert Belloir singled to left and went all the way with only one out. McCall then struck out Mike Crook and got Steinbeck to ground out.

Steinbeck had the easiest frame of the day when he retired the side in order with just four pitches. He gave up his only hit in the seventh, a single to Mike Randall, who was then thrown out trying to stretch it into a double on a fine play by Robert Belloir. Belloir fielded the ball after it hopped away from Richard Jacobs and fired a perfect strike to Chester Pierce, nabbing Randall.

Greenville finally scored in the top of the eighth, breaking a string of sixteen scoreless innings against Mercer pitching. McCall walked and was sacrificed to second. On a chopper back to the mound, Steinbeck threw the ball into right field, allowing McCall to score and the Panthers to have a runner at third. Steinbeck hit the next batter, who was later thrown out by catcher Phil Jones as he tried to steal second. The little lefty then retired the next batter.

Mercer deadlocked the contest in the eighth as Belloir singled, stole second and moved to third on a wild pitch. Crook drew a walk and on a double steal the Panther catcher threw the ball into center field allowing Belloir to score and Crook to move to third. Crook was left standing as the next two batters ended the inning.

Jones got things started for the Bears in the bottom of the ninth with a single to right. Pierce, bunting with two strikes on him, sacrificed Jones to second; Johnson came through with his single to center, driving in the winning run. This was the sixth straight victory for the Bears, pushing the season to 12-4. Steinbeck was credited with the win.



Pitcher Mike Crook crosses the plate after hitting a home run to help defeat Malone 6-3. Crook had three hits and also was credited with the win.

## Mercer Tops Greenville; Defeats the Panthers 8-0

Junior righthander Harvey Cochran hurled a masterful three hitter and drove in three runs to spark Mercer to its fifth straight victory, an 8-9 defeat over Greenville College of Illinois on the Bears home diamond.

Cochran was untouchable on the mound allowing just five balls to be hit out of the infield, two of them being fly outs. He allowed two singles in the third inning to the Panthers, and one more in the eighth. Greenville left only three runners on the sacks as Cochran struck out 10 and walked none.

Although Cochran was just as impressive at the plate, three line drive hits in four attempts, he received plenty of help from his teammates as they cracked out 10 more hits. Lou Johnson, Bobby Hullemeier, and Rufus Dowell each got two hits, with Dowell scoring three runs and catcher Phil Jones driving in two runs.



The game developed into a pitcher's duel until the fifth when Dowell beat out a bunt, went to second on a wild pickoff throw and scored on the first of Cochran's three hits. The Bears added two more in the sixth on singles by Chuck Ighura and Dowell, and a two run single to center by Phil Jones.

The Bears ran five more runs in the eighth, sending 10 batters to the plate. Hullemeier and pinch hitter Richard Jacobs singled and Dowell walked to load the bases. Cochran then belted a single to right to score Hullemeier and Jacobs. Johnson singled to left center driving Dowell across, and after a walk to Robert Belloir, two more runs scored when the Panther's second baseman dropped Bill Conners bloop to right field for an error. The victory gave Coach Claude Smith's Bears an impressive 11-4 mark while Greenville left Macon for the North with 9-2.

# Crook Stars in Whipping; Bears Down Malone, 6-3

Mike Crook fired a two-hitter at Malone College and banged out three hits, including a home run, to lead the Bears to a 6-3 victory at Mercer Field.

The big lefty had a no hit shut out in the making until the eighth inning when the visitors scored three runs on two hits. However, Crook was plagued by control problems throughout the game as he walked eight batters, three in the first inning. The Mercer hurler also fanned six batters. Mark Steinbeck, another southpaw, took over in the eighth and stopped Malone the rest of the way. He struck out

two, walked none, and didn't give up a single safety.

The Bears jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first frame. Robert Belloir's grounder was thrown away, allowing him to go to second. Crook then lined a single to center to score Belloir. Bill Conner, Mercer first-sacker, then put one in the hole between short and third sending Crook across with the second run.



Mercer added another run in the third when Crook singled, went to third on Hullemeier's two-base rap to left and came around to score on an error.

In the fifth inning Crook boomed out his round-tripper over the right field fence. No one was on base when Crook's shot cleared the fence. Mercer added to its tally in the seventh when Belloir received a walk. He crossed the plate on

two errors. Malone's three run outburst came in the eighth as the first batter lived on an error, a walk put two on and back-to-back singles by Ron Green and Willis Paris and a fielder's choice accounted for the three runs. Steinbeck then came in, making one batter grounded out and fanning the other two to retire the side. Mercer ended the game with a 9-4 season record compared to Malone's 2-2.



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