

# Sports Scope

with Bryant Curley

## Softball Appraisal

The Fraternity Intramural Softball league is ready to begin. Because the drill field is being seeded, everyone feared that softball would not be played. However, a makeshift schedule has been worked out. All fraternity games will be played after sorority games until their season ends. Then, doubleheaders will be scheduled during the longer days caused by daylight savings time.

As has been customary in the past, the fraternity league will be divided into two divisions. The two teams of each division will play each other at the end of the season. The first place team in both divisions will play the second place teams from the other divisions. The winners of these games will play for first place and the losers will play for third place.

Division I consists of ATO, SN, KA, and the Unaffiliates. ATO is definitely the favorite in this division because they have all but their starters back from last year's team which came in second place. It seems to be the second strongest team although they had an off year last year. They have a strong ball team and should be hard to handle. KS came in fourth last year, but they lost their pitcher and a few other top players. Their team is a question mark, but they should be a dark horse. KA has many good ball players returning from last year but pitch-

ing is a great problem. If they get the pitching, they could be a strong challenger. The Unaffiliates did not participate last year so their chances are unknown. However, they could pull an upset on one or two teams.

Division II consists of SAE, Phi Delt, Lambda Chi, Pi Kappas, and MIMA. This division will have a much closer race, but Phi Delt appears to be slightly stronger than everyone else. They finished third in the league last year and have most of their starters back.

SAE will probably win the dogfight for second place. They had an off year last year and lost many starters, but they should be able to find enough good ball players. Lambda Chi is the darkhorse in this division. Their pitching is fairly sound and they could win it all if their defense comes through. PI Kapp had a miserable season last year but their chances should brighten considerably this year. MIMA won the league title last year, but they only have one starter returning. Their pitching appears questionable, but they could cause problems for someone.

ATO appears to have the best chance to win the league. Phi Delt and SN will be their strongest challengers. KS, A, SAE, and Lambda Chi all have problems, but one of them will be a real darkhorse. However, no team appears to have the depth nor the strength to bat ATO for first place.

## National League Outlook

by John Kidd

The 1968 Baseball Season looks as if we are in for some real excitement. After the results of last year's World Series with the Cards coming out on top and Boston, a second division team for many a year, opposing them, leads me to believe we might see some upsets in this year's standings.

The National League looks safe and easily predictable and therefore I will work with the first division in that section. Next week I will attack the American League and certainly find some surprises.

**1. St. Louis Cardinals** — The Cardinals have to be the favorites again. They have everyone back and pitcher Bob Gibson is whole again. The Redbirds have stood pat with last year's team which is good. MVP Orlando Cepeda, World Series hero Lou Brock, Gibson, allstar catcher Tim McCarver, and hard hitting Curt Flood, plus an outstanding supporting cast of fine young pitchers, the Cards will win again but not with such a wide margin as last year.

**2. Pittsburgh Pirates** — The Bucs finished a poor sixth last year, but this year they have moved to solve their two biggest problems, another starting pitcher to go along with Bob Veale and a new manager. Pitcher Jim Bunning is one of the best of all modern day pitchers and new manager Larry Sheppard inherits the finest hitting in the major leagues in batting champ Roberto Clements, Matty Alou, Manny Motu, Maury Wills, and Willie Stargell. The Bucs also have a tremendous double play combination in Gene Alley and Bill Ted Abernathy to pull them out of a tough spot. The submarine baller had a 1.27 ERA last year and seems to get better with age. The Reds should have a go at the pennant in a tight race. Maseroki plus veteran reliever Elroy Face. The Pirates should be in the race all the way with Bunning winning constantly.

**3. San Francisco Giants** — The Giants had the league's best pitching last year with comeback player of the year Mike McCormick, ace Juan Marichal and Gaylord Perry plus reliever Frank Tinzy who sported a 1.50 ERA last year. Add this to clutch hitting in Jim Hart, Willie McCovey, Ron Hunt, and of course wonderous Willie Mays and you have the makings of a pennant contender. The Giants might just do it if their defense shows up and they can break their jinx of finishing second three years in a row.

**4. Cincinnati Reds** — Cincinnati has the overall talent to go all the way. They have power and consistent hitting from Pete Rose, Tony Perez, Vada Pinson, and Lee May. The Reds are bank-

ing on a strong rookie being their catcher, John Bench. He'll have to learn to handle the Red's good mound staff: Milt Pappas, Jim Maloney, Gary Nolan who presently is farmed out with a sore arm. The Red's starters often rely on

**5. Chicago Cubs** — Last year the Cubs were the most shocking club in baseball, rising from 10th place to fight for the pennant. The Cubs hope to cash in this year on their strong hitting led by Billy Williams, Ron Santo, and veteran Ernie Banks. The pitching is young but talented. Joe Niekro, Ken Holtzman, Rich Nye and Ferguson Jenkins came from nowhere to pitch the Cubs into third. The Cubs have a formidable double play combination in Kessinger and Becket. The Cubs are establisher at every position and their fiery manager Leo Durocher has won before and has instilled the winning spirit.

## Drugs . . . .

(Continued from Page 6)

following observations were made by this reporter: 1. Dr. Doorenbos, though by far the best technically informed of the three, may find his dogmatic nature a stumbling block to reaching the youth; 2. Dr. Ermultu presented the most honest lecture through his obvious objectivity, but could have been better informed statistically in order to back his statements properly; 3. Dr. Lopez seemed closest to the students, though his advocacy of alcohol in general student opinion on drugs, moderation may limit his speaking engagements at small Baptist schools.

The response by the audience was extremely favorable to the general organization of the seminar which enabled the speakers to impress several valuable facts upon them. First of all, research on the majority of drugs either conclusively proves or strongly implies that casual use can be harmful. Secondly, if drugs must be taken, mature and enlightened use will insure that they are not abused. Finally, it is the responsibility of every person to discover all available information on a drug before he advocates its use or abstinence. Future seminars of this type would appear to be very valuable if the precedent set in this one is followed.

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## Tennis Team Needs Support

by Ben Mitcham

Mercer University's tennis team, owing to a lack of experience, has dropped three matches early in the building year of 1968. The defeats, most coming at the hands of opponents well into their own seasons, are indicative of the tight of intercollegiate tennis at Mercer University. Two of these losses came at the hands of William and Mary and Auburn, schools much larger and much more able to support a team in scholarships and grant-in-aid. Mercer's netmen must sacrifice to practice with no reward except that of representing their school.

Even though the Bears will be diminished most of the times they go to the court this season, we expect the matches to be keenly competitive. As of the last match, freshman Charles Bowen played No. 1, George Welch No. 2, Dennis Sanders No. 3, David Hudson No. 4, David Lefsey No. 5, and Gene Armstrong No. 6, with Bob Collins as seeing some action. These are working hard each afternoon under

coach Bob Wilder and law student assistant coach, Bob Sikes.

The remainder of the season promises to be interesting as Mercer entertains Georgia State, Columbus, North Georgia and Western Kentucky on the home courts. The best support Mercer can give at the present time is good attendance at the matches and only you as a student can provide. If you have never witnessed a tennis match, you owe it to yourself and Mercer to drop by the next home match. Watch the Cluster for schedules.

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