

SPORTS

Lou Johnson
Editor

A Plea for Insight

The decision by Mercer and its Trustees to accept federal aid has brought on the expected debates over the separation of church and state, and a few other significant hassles among the Georgia Baptists. It has also included a warning from the Governor on the possibility of what the federal government could do when they invade a God-fearing institution such as Mercer. (Those Feds and God just aren't "pick-ricik!")

As a student, I can plainly see Mercer's need for resources to keep her in contention with other schools with a comparable academic standing, and I support her efforts to attain these funds.

But after she receives these funds, then what? For what specific purposes will she use these funds? And, most important of all, how, or who will decide the priority and application of these funds?

Not only does Mercer compete in the field of academics, but she also endevours in athletics, limited though her efforts may be. Even so, athletics is a very important aspect of the over-all picture, as can be witnessed by the avid interest of Mercer students in the outcome of other schools' teams during the fall when Mercer has an varsity participation. As for school spirit, few other activities allow for the display of admiration for "Dear ol' Mercer" as the rah-rah and the "I got the fever" of a close game.

Athletically, Mercer compares favorably with schools her size and larger, as often witnessed by her schedule. Facility-wise, she often lags far behind, a fact that her teams witness upon arrival at their opponents' school.

It is well within reason to believe and to hope that the

funds Mercer will receive will be reasonably shared with the athletic department. But the problem doesn't end here. Why?

This is the heart of what I'm getting at. How well will these funds that will be used for athletics be applied? Unless this is taken into consideration, the whole problem of obtaining funds can be thrown out of the window.

The athletic department is in dire need of more facilities than one, but the addition of a swimming pool will not only make things that much brighter on the realm of athletics (the possibility of a swimming team) but will be beneficial to the student body as a whole.

Present plans call for an olympic-sized pool to be built during 1970, providing Mercer receives the hard-sought for aid. But let's take a closer look at the situation.

The swimming pool will be built adjacent to the girls' gym. This factor alone leaves some room for complaint. How many more buildings will be erected on the campus before a halt is called? Or will they be built until the present physical plant looks like a chess board?

But on to a more disturbing factor. Are we really going to have an olympic swimming pool without the services of a locker room, dressing rooms, and other facilities?

Then I suggest we save a few of those precious dollars by digging a hole, pouring some water into it, and putting a tent over it. We'll also save by buying a larger heater instead of installing a somewhat more expensive central heating and cooling system.

I'll have to ask where will the boys dress on winter days when they have access to the pool.

Lou Johnson

Stelson Shuts Out Bears

With their sights set on an invitation to a post-season tournament, the Mercer Bears did little to convince anyone they deserved it in a 3-0 loss to Stephen University Haymen.

Poor fielding and erratic base marked the downfall of the Bears on a cloudy Low Altitude Day. Sporting an enviable 103 team batting average going into the game, the Bears struck out 11 times and posed no serious threat until the ninth inning.

The Bruins could have no

Aultman Leads Golfers' Charge

With only two games and the GIAC Tourney left on the schedule, Andy Aultman finds himself leading the charge of the Mercer Bears Golf team.

"Andy is shooting two or three over par," said head coach Zeb Vance, "but he is very capable of shooting par and better."

The Mercer golfers record now is 7-3, which assures them of a winning season. However, the golfers are now more concerned about the GIAC Tourney, which has been re-scheduled to start on May 19 in Valdosta.

"The rest of the golfers are close to this mark," said Coach Vance, who was speaking of Aultman's 2-3 over par. "Most are capable of shooting the par mark, but are playing a few strokes above."

better in the field as they allowed the first three runs to be scored with Stelson getting only one hit in the fifth inning. The long Hatter hit was a single by the leadoff batter. The sacrifice attempt was dropped for the first error of the inning, but the second Hatter sacrifice attempt was successful, allowing the runners to move to second and third. After a walk two runs scored on an error on a hard hit ground ball, and the third Bear error of the inning allowed the third Hatter score.

The Haymen scored two more in the eighth inning on a heading double and two singles that had to be seen to believe. Both of the one-baggers were hit down the left field line, hitting the chalkline on both occasions.

For eight innings, the Bears could manage no more than one man on base, hitting into three double plays as left-hander Wayne Perry left the Bears frustrated in recording his tenth victory against two losses for the year.

In the ninth inning Chester Fazio, who stroked Perry's first pitch of the game to center field for a base hit, drew a walk and Robert Bellor singled. With two outs Richard Jacobs drew a walk to load the bases, marking the first time the Bears had a runner past second base. The potential rally ended however when Lou Johnson, who walked as a pinch hitter in the eighth inning, went down swinging.

Bill Connor looks one over. Connor got two hits in the Bear's 4-3 loss.

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