

CLUSTER SPORTS PAGE

THE MERCER CLUSTER, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1937

MERCER MEETS BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN TONIGHT



In The Wash

With Jack Tarver

Our Bruins, held scoreless for the past two weeks, and seemingly still wandering in the forests of defeat, meet a strong Birmingham-Southern aggregation tonight in Columbus.

The Methodists from what Hardrock terms Slagtown have; from all reports, their best team of recent years. This should at least prove some relief for the Bears. Time and again strong Mercer teams have met supposedly weak Sprinkler outfits only to have the lowly Panthers get tough in their face so to speak. Last year Southern was slated to have absolutely nothing or less, yet they outfought and outplayed a confident bunch of Bruins throughout the game. That same weak bunch of Panthers beat the best team Mercer ever put on the field in 1933, although the latter had played the socks off a vaunted crew of Georgia Bulldogs only two weeks previously. And so, for once, the Panthers aren't the underdogs, and if the Bruins do get beat, it can't possibly be attributed to over-confidence or such.

Anyway the game tonight should be a good one. Personally we can't quite get over our idea that the Bear attack, as evidenced by the score of the Statesboro game, is the best in the past few years. Maybe the offensive machine will begin to click again tonight as it did three weeks ago. At any rate, we hate to see them get out of the scoring habit with the Georgia game so nigh.

This game with Columbus tonight seemingly is a fine idea. Time and again Mercer teams have plainly shown that they won't draw flies in Macon. Not with the kind of teams they insist upon bringing here. Other Georgia cities, however, have done well by the Bruin boys. Last year in Albany, some six thousand south Georgians laid quite some change on the line to witness our Bears tie up with Oglethorpes Stormy Petrels. Savannah always turned out well for the Mercer-Clemson games which used to be held there annually, and then when they moved to Augusta year before last a capacity crowd turned out to watch a supposedly outclassed Mercer team play a strong Clemson outfit off its feet. (While we're on the subject, aren't it good that we aren't tackling those Tigers this year?)

And so, with the backing of the Jay-Ces, who seem to be a pretty potent bunch all over, the Athletic Association should do right well by itself tonight in Columbus. Financially speaking, we mean.

So far the Bears have scored seventy-seven points to forty-one for their opponents which sounds mighty fine. The only difficulty is that they weren't able to spread those points out over the three games. At any rate they look mighty good on paper, though for that matter it is quite simple to make anything look good on paper, with the possible exception of the words, "Insufficient Funds." Year before last, wasn't it, Bobby Norris figured out the Bruins were some twenty odd points better than Notre Dame on paper?

Seriously though, if the Bears come through with this game tonight, the season will be far from what might be termed a failure. After the Georgia game, our lads meet Oglethorpe, Presbyterian, and Tampa in a row before taking on Chattanooga's Bulldogs. The first three of these, with any breaks at all, should definitely fall our way. As for the Chattanooga game, if it rains, and it undoubtedly will unless old Jupe Pluvius breaks a long standing precedent, the Turkey day battle should be the usual dog eat dog affray.

Last week the pace became a trifle harder for our man Junior, yet he managed to continue his amazing pace, losing only three games out of 27, with two ties thrown in which we won't bother to count since our Math 11 didn't teach us how to average in ties. To date Junior has a record of 64 rights to 6 wrongs which is an average of .914.

This week the Techs and the Dukes have him all ajitter and as a consequence his average may drop. Anyway, with a hope in his heart, a prayer on his lips, and a cold in the head, Junior offers:

- Mercer over Birmingham-Southern.
- Duke over Tech.
- Georgia over Holy Cross.
- Alabama over Tennessee.
- Mississippi State over Auburn.
- Vandy over S. M. U.
- L. S. U. over Mississippi.
- Furman over Citadel.
- South Carolina over Davidson.
- Florida over Sewanee.
- North Carolina over Wake Forest.
- Carnegie Tech over Notre Dame.
- Tulane over Colgate.
- Pitt over Fordham.
- North Carolina State over V. P. I.
- Army over Yale.

Three New Cheer Leaders Chosen In Monday Trials

Adams, McGinnis and Strickland To Work With Veteran Leaders

Three members of the Mercer student body were chosen as cheer leaders at the final try-outs held last Monday afternoon. Carolyn Adams, was selected as girl representative while Alfred McGinnis, and Roger Strickland were the boys chosen. These three will work with Helen Glenn and Clyde Calhoun, regular leaders.

Try-outs were held each afternoon last week and thirteen candidates were present. The committee to select the leaders was composed of Abe Conger, Boyce Outen, Hugh Carney, Helen Glenn, and Clyde Calhoun.

The five leaders will make the trip to Columbus to the Mercer-Birmingham-Southern game Friday and also the trip to Athens to the Mercer-Georgia game on Oct. 23. Those trying out for the positions were: Edith Hillman, Sarah Rice Carolyn Adams, Carolyn Stillwell, Mary Louise McIntosh, Alfred McGinnis, Roger Strickland; Christie Harp, "Chip" Peabody, James Birdsong.

Coach Outlines Sports Program

Russell Gives Plans For Intermural Contests For Mercer Students

By Alfred McGinnis

Most upperclassmen know about Mercer's Intermural Sports, but freshmen seem to be anxious about when it will start and what will be done after it starts.

Coach Russell was unable to state a specific date for the starting of the activities because of a delay in putting lockers in the new gym. But he says that men are working on the gym now and it should be ready in the very near future.

There are two different programs. The first is a required course in physical education for all freshmen and sophomores. This is a two year course and if successfully completed and passed it qualifies one to teach or coach at least two sports in high school.

The second program is the optional "Intermural Sports Program" for juniors and seniors. Keen competition is enjoyed in this program and it is of course open to all juniors and seniors.

ALLEN WINS IN THRILLER

Son Of Mercer Tackle Nearly Scores K. O. In Tenth Round

By Herbert Bailey

Lefty Allen, promising Macon light-heavyweight, won a ten round decision over Texas Joe Dundee in the city auditorium Tuesday night. Allen, displaying the same type of fighting courage that his father, S. W. Allen, exhibited in playing on Mercer's great team of 1896, carried the fight to his more experienced opponent in every round.

From the opening of the gong, Lefty started throwing punches which connected with practically every portion of Texas Joe's anatomy that he was allowed to hit. Dundee, however, weathered the furious barrage of fast-moving leather like a veteran until the closing seconds of the last round when a right cross abetted with a powerful left hook floored him. Only the intervention of the bell signaling the end of the fight saved Dundee from the Macon boy's coup d'grace.

Dundee, the highly touted cowpuncher from Beaumont, Texas, looked slightly off-form. Or perhaps it was the superior brand of Allen's punching which made him seem so. At any rate the Macon fighter was never in serious trouble, though he was rocked occasionally by the cowpuncher's hard rights.

Allen demonstrated in his fight that he has the boxing ability, the endurance, and what is more important, the red badge of courage commonly known as the fighting heart to carry him to the top ranks if he takes proper advantage of his opportunities.

In the preliminaries, Kid Mitchell of Lanier high school defeated Manuel Pope in a hotly contested battle. Buddy Mercer of Gray, Ga., eked out a decision over D. T. Bell of Lanier, in a well-fought match. Al Stewart, 176 pounder from Lanier sent Bull Currie 165, from Newnan, Ga., sprawling to the canvass in the third round of a scheduled eight round bout. Stewart either had a small charge of dynamite or a large horseshoe in his glove or else Currie was terrifically afraid, for the knockout blow was the only damaging punch of the entire fight.

In the last prelim, Joe Cox 138, of Lanier knocked out Red Coleman 138, also of Lanier, in a colorful, action-packed thriller.

Bruin Harriers Schedule Meet For October 30

Blanks Confident As Childs Shows Well In Early Season Practice

By Nathan Nolan

The Cross Country team will hold its first meet October 30, during the annual Mercer Home-coming week-end. Davidson, and probably another team will persist along with Mercer. Coach Russell will issue a complete schedule about the end of the week.

The team looked good in practice this week and Captain Francis Blanks, acting coach, says he is expecting a better balanced team than that of last year. Captain Blanks bases his expectations largely on the addition of "that demon of the track" D. V. Childs to the team. Billy Geeslin has also contributed his services. However, Captain Blanks is worried about the loss of "Red" Lawrence who pulled a muscle in his side last week and may be out for the entire season.

The team has completed the elementary course of practice and in the next two weeks will run 8 to 10 miles daily.

It has been definitely arranged to give the boys of the Cross Country team credit in Physical Education for their efforts on the track.

BITTER GAME LOST BY CUBS

Holland, Plunkett, Garfield Outstanding In Cub Games

The Mercer Freshman lost a hard fought game last week to Gordon Junior College by the score of 24 to 6. The Cubs put up a bitter fight but were handicapped very much by the utter lack of reserves.

The frosh's only score came after a drive featuring Yon and Holland which placed the ball on the four yard line. Holland bucked over for the touchdown.

Two of Gordon's touchdowns came as a result of passes. The Cubs were very weak in pass defense. Outstanding in the line were Plunkett, who was elected captain just before the game, and Garfield, a stellar guard.

BRUINS PLAY IN COLUMBUS

Captain Fitzpatrick Sounds Optimistic Note About Outcome Of Contest

By Art Barrow

"After misfortune, bad breaks, and gloomy weather, a twice beaten team with a rejuvenated spirit is ready to take the field Friday night Birmingham-Southern will offer strong competition, but I earnestly believe that after the game the Mercer Bruins will be listed in the win column." So states Captain James A. Fitzpatrick of the Bears in a burst of eloquence.

After a week of light, spirited workouts the Mercer football forces broke camp today and left for Columbus for their game with Birmingham-Southern tonight. There was an unanimity of opinion on the part of the usually non-committal players that Birmingham-Southern's Panthers will be better than were Howard's Bulldogs, and that the big Orange and Black machine of Mercer is ready to start rolling. Such an attitude on the part of the players would seem indicative of a thrilling, hard fought battle when the Panthers and Bears meet tonight.

The way the players feel about the game tonight is reflected in statements from some of them. Grady Rainey, chunky left guard, had this to say: "I think that Southern is tougher than Howard, but I also think that the Bears will be much better tonight than they were against Howard."

Chief Roderick D. Tuach, the Scottish fullback, says: "We're playing a hard game tonight, and it will take co-ordination for us to win. No one man will win the game for us nor will any one man lose it."

Martin Kumae, sturdy right guard, avers: "Southern will be tougher than Howard. The guards will be in there pitching. If we get in there and work together as a team, we should win handily."

The last of the Bears to say anything about the game is John "Steamer" Mattox, husky fullback converted from end, who beats around the proverbial bush as follows: "Southern is rated better than Howard by the ones who are supposed to know. However, we are better than we have looked in our games to date."

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