

# CLUSTER SPORTS

Complete Sports Coverage



LULL

Again we are right in the middle of a lull in the sports activities here at Mercer. Nothing is happening so consequently there is nothing to write about in this column. It means that we will have to manufacture something. The Dixie Conference tournament is over and with a little luck we might have been able to go somewhere in that. As it is, we went to the semi-finals which is further than most people, including the coaches, expected us to go. So we couldn't kick about that. Spring practice is going right along out on Alumni field, with prospects looking better than at any time in the last several years. Coach Russell is definitely pleased with the attitude and spirit of the boys. That comes to this editor through the grapevine telegraph and is undeniable. The blocking is showing great improvement, which fact is a good sign in itself. If this spring practice session accomplished nothing more than the definite improvement of the blocking, then its purpose will be a large way be fulfilled.

Before long the softball season will be getting underway and that will furnish us with a topic of conversation for a while. The team's last year's champions, will be strong again, but they will miss their star pitcher, Kenyon Sellers. Competition will probably be stronger this year than ever before, and we can look for some good games out at Alumni field.

**TENNIS**  
Coach Wayne Bettner, of the tennis team has come through with an announcement that the first match will be on March 26, with Rutgers University net men. This year Mercer will have a tennis team that will really be a tennis team. The first five players are made up of some of the

best players in this section of Georgia. Three of them are veterans and two are newcomers. The first practice session was held Wednesday afternoon with 12 players trying out for positions on the squad. It seems that the administration is becoming a little more tennis conscious which is as it should be. With a little cooperation from the administration, Mercer can take her rightful place in the tennis sun.

**BRING 'EM ON**  
Finally it is beginning to look like Mercer will play the University of Georgia on the gridiron in the near future, even though we will have to wait until year after next to see it. And the good thing about it is that the game will be in Macon. This column has always said that if we could just get those Bulldogs here in our den that we would take them down a notch or two. And our chance is coming.

**HERE AND THERE**  
Who in the world started that rumor at the Phi Mu dance that Mercer had won the basketball game and was in the finals? Plenty of people were fooled and disappointed.—We wonder when the Pan-Hellenic basketball tournament is going to start. Everybody is ready and waiting.—Rumor has it that even though the Bears lost the tournament they had a good time doing it.—Bo Dutton showed some more good stuff when he refereed the Phi Delt-Pi KA game in the semi-finals of the tournament. That was a hard game to officiate in, but Bo did a good job. Just more evidence that Mercer is really going to miss Bo. This column thinks we could use more like him.

## MISSISSIPPI BEATS MERCER IN SEMI-FINALS

Bears Lose, 51-40 Despite Playing Of Guard Bill Culp

The Mercer Bears fought all the way only to lose to Mississippi College in the last few minutes of play last Friday night in the semi-finals of the Dixie Conference tournament at Jackson, Mississippi.

The final score was 51-40, although the score was tied with only two minutes to play. With the score at 40 all, Herbert Norman took a hard fall to the floor and this undoubtedly took all the fight out of the Bruins, because three fast break plays gave the Choctaws a lead that they never relinquished.

Bill Culp was the offensive star for the Bears and he was the one who kept the team in the thick of the fight throughout the game. He shot in eleven field goals in all to take the laurels for the night and also the honors for the highest score for one game for the whole tournament. Herbert Norman was the defensive star for the Bruins along with the tall Tom Heaton.

The Choctaws gained the victory. See "MERCER," page 4

## BRUINS MEET 'DOGS IN MACON, 1941

Russell, Butts Set Mercer-Ga. Game

Georgia will play Mercer in Macon in 1941.

These thrilling words have been circulating all over Macon for the past week since Coach Lake Russell announced that he had signed a contract with Coach Wallace Butts for a renewal of the Bulldog-Bruin rivalry.

The two teams will not meet next season. This is a bad break for the Bruins for they are looking forward to a great team next year. Georgia is also building for the future, however, and all present indications point to a great team for them in 1941. The Bears will be ready to give them a warm reception, though, whatever the record of the two teams may be.

This will be the first time that Georgia has played in Macon since that memorable day in 1933 when Allen, Lichter, Zinkowsky and company swept them off their feet, but lost a heartbreaker 13 to 12. This was probably the most thrilling game ever played in Centennial Stadium, but Mercer fans can look forward to just as many thrills when the Bulldogs come to our den in 1941.

## Spring Practice Brings Heavy Scrimmage

Coaches Putting Backs And Linemen Thru Hard Practice

Scrimmage, scrimmage, scrimmage, that is the byword at most of the spring practices at Alumni field these days.

The Bears have really been "knocking heads" regularly the past few days. Ten guards have been taking turns on offense and defense and getting a short pause between work but not much. Also the four backfields have been catching a short breath between times but the ends, tackles and centers have really been sweating to carry on their work. However, everybody has been getting a full chance to show their stuff in the lengthy drills.

Tom Heaton and Rex McIlvaine joined the squad Tuesday after returning from the Dixie basketball tourney. Both boys got in the rough work right away; Heaton at his usual right end post and McIlvaine filling the fullback spot while backing up the line. The addition of these two basketeers brought the number of aspirants to forty odd men.

New plays are being tried time and again so that the best method of executing them can be selected. Few outstanding men can be noted in work so monotonous yet so very important in developing a team. Malcolm Thomas, Jack Price, Bob Holt, Raymond O'Quinn, Tony Page and John Musial have all flashed signs of brilliance during these lengthy sessions.

At the close of yesterday's lengthy session the Bear mentors announced that there would be no more practices until after final exams next week.

## LOCAL NETMEN OPEN SEASON WITH RUTGERS

Twelve Men Report To Coach Bettner For Tennis Squad

The Mercer tennis team will open its 1940 season here on March 26, when they meet the strong Rutgers University team of New Brunswick, N. J.

Coach Wayne Bettner held the first practice of the year on Wednesday afternoon of this week, with 12 players reporting for the squad. The practices will continue on throughout the tennis season.

The prospects for the team this year are unusually good with three veterans of last year's team reporting along with several newcomers who look good. Kent Boyle, Charles Evans and Bill Yarbrough from the team last year will form the nucleus around which this season's team will be built. Billy McCowen, former Lanier high star, and Roger Nelson of Decatur will furnish plenty of competition.

Although the complete schedule has not been drawn up as yet, it will be announced in the near future. Several trips have been planned and several more will probably be put on the program.

The boys who reported Wednesday afternoon for the first practice session are: Kent Boyle, Billy McCowen, Charles Evans, Roger Nelson, Bill Yarbrough, Addison Webb, Barge Shi, Bill Preston, Harold Hollingsworth, Bailey Phillips, Gainer Bryan and Curtiss Baker. At the end of the tryout period, the top five players will compose the Mercer tennis team.



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