

CLUSTER SPORTS

Complete Sports Coverage



STRAIGHT
from the
SHOULDER
With **LEON GARFIELD**

(Editor's Note: In the absence of Leon Garfield, who is "singing" with the Glee club, Albert Gelders, Telegraph sports editor, has consented to a reprint of an article written by him recently.)

One of the Atlanta contemporaries in the profession recently made reference to the plight of Mercer and other denominational universities and colleges which labor without benefit of state grants for their athletic and other programs. He suggested, with just the possibility of an irony, that these schools get together—in their apparent failure to keep up with the more richly-subsidized institution—and organize a "church league", or what could be more descriptively designated as a "Sunday school league" and leave the "big timers" to their own devices. And as Lake Russell, Mercer's head coach and athletic director, complained, the smaller schools, such as Mercer, Presbyterian, Howard, Chattanooga and countless others, may eventually be driven to such a program. But not necessarily so. As far as Coach Russell is concerned, there are only two alternatives in the suggestion that the potential "Sunday school" members abandon the policy of attempting to keep up with the Joneses. They would be (1) the organization of such a non-subsidized conference which would ban competition with the more-commercialized schools, or (2) the complete abandonment of intercollegiate team athletics, football of course being the bulwark.

The latter alternative already has been invoked by two former Dixie Conference "powers." Birmingham-Southern and Loyola. And Coach Russell is not at all convinced that "a complete abandonment of inter-collegiate football would not be the better course than to attempt to carry on a worthwhile program without the benefits competition with the large schools can afford."

These two paths are suggested in one direction. In the other direction there is a chance, too, with that chance for survival resting in the hands of the athletic authorities of the larger colleges and universities.

There apparently is an attitude, among a few college authorities at least, that there is much to be gained in the saving of the football programs of the smaller schools. In the Southeastern conference, for instance, there is Alabama taking care of Howard every year, glad to give the Birmingham member of the Dixie conference a financial "break" by a year-to-year schedule.

Auburn for a long time has helped Birmingham-Southern and when the Panthers breathed their last, Auburn extended its helping hand to How-

ard. Tennessee the past season played Chattanooga in Chattanooga, a great boost for Scrappy Moore's football program.

Vanderbilt aided Tennessee Tech, even at the cost of considerable prestige by the surprise tie game at the season's start Ole Miss "adopted" Hattiesburg Teachers, and even played their game in Hattiesburg. Mississippi State played Millsaps at Millsaps.

Florida continued its intrastate philanthropy by scheduling Stetson, Tampa and Miami. The year before, the 'Gators played Tampa in Tampa.

Louisiana State played Loyola until the Wolfpack dissolved and this fall will give Mercer an opportunity to enrich its coffers with an engagement at Baton Rouge. And Georgia last year finally gave in to considerable pressure and agreed to continue the Mercer series for one year only, dropping the Bears in 1940 — indefinitely — and insisting upon the game at Athens, rather than in Macon where the guarantee would have assured a financial profit.

Study in Finance
Instead, looking at the situation simply from the financial side, Georgia lost money on the Holy Cross game and went to New York University, an expensive jaunt, for a consideration probably considerably less than the guarantee the Macon Junior Chamber of Commerce had proposed for a game in the geographical center of the state.

COEDS DECIDE RANKING POSTS ON TENNIS TEAM

Grimmett, Wadley, Hughes Place One, Two, Three On Squad

Marjorie Hughes and Rebecca Wadley emerged as the finalists in the co-ed tennis tournament held Monday afternoon. These two with Louise Grimmett will compose the girls' varsity tennis team.

Miss Grimmett will occupy the number one position since she is the only returning veteran from last year's girls' team.

Miss Wadley became number two player on the team by defeating Miss Hughes 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, Wednesday afternoon.

Several matches have been scheduled for the co-ed team this year. Semi-finalists in the tourney Monday were Veronica Tuten with a win from Lois Hudson, and Mada Brown with a win from Dot Jarvis. Rebecca Wadley defeated Dot Kilgore, and Marjorie Hughes won out over Grace Turner. In the semi-finals, Veronica Tuten lost to Rebecca Wadley and Mada Brown to Marjorie Hughes.

Drills Continue For Gridders; Backs Improve

Bruin Offensive Shows Signs Of Developing For Next Season

As the Mercer spring practice nears its close, some definite conclusions have been formed concerning the strength of the 1940 gridiron machine.

One of the most striking of these is the fine array of backs who seem certain to add the much-needed offensive strength. Every position has at least three men who have either improved over their last season's performance or shown that they will fulfill the expectations set up for them.

Good wingbacks are plentiful, which makes any bystander see the fight in store for that starting assignment. Carl Stager has shown much improvement this spring but Bill Howland, steady as a rock, will also be back next fall. These two are the only men with varsity experience but some of the newcomers also look good. Scooter Yancey looks like the best open field runner to wear the Orange and Black in quite a while and Jim Barfield runs awfully hard, especially for a small man.

Four fullbacks are giving the Bears the line smahing necessary in a potent offense. The veteran Veo Yon is a proven performer and can be counted on for all emergencies. Harry Karsznia, another veteran, has shown that he can really "carry the mail."

Two boys have been changed from quarterback to fullback and both have shared honors for the past week. One of these is Rex McIlvaine, a small fellow whose normal position is fullback but through necessity had to call signals last fall. Jolly Dizadyk is the other changed man whose work has pleased the coaches.

Ellis PUNCHY Paulk will be forced to carry the brunt of the load for the quarterback because of his experience. However John Musiel and Harold Shepard, two freshmen, are good blockers and fine defensive men.

BRUIN NETMEN FACE LANIER THIS AFTERNOON

Tennis Team Opens Season With Win Over Rutgers, 5-2

Weather permitting, the Mercer tennis team will meet the Lanier racquet weilders in a match on the Mercer courts this afternoon at two o'clock.

The team will probably keep the same positions as in the Rutgers match: Kent Boyle No. 1, Charles Evans No. 2, Billy McCowen No. 3, Rogers Nelson No. 4, and Billy Yarborough No. 5. Evans and McCowen will be the first doubles team with Boyle and Nelson the second combination.

This match will keep the Bears in shape for the Florida trip which begins next Monday.

Mercer University netmen launched their 1940 campaign in fine style Tuesday when they defeated a well-balanced team from Rutgers University in New Jersey, 5-2.

The Bruin racqueteers took both doubles contest and three singles matches despite the fact that the team's two top-ranking players met defeat.

Kent Boyle, last season's star, was defeated by Pine in close sets. See TENNIS, page b

SOFTBALL SLATE TO OPEN SOON

ALT's, PiKA's, SAE's Appear Strong

With the advent of spring, softball takes its place as the next event in the intramural program. The schedule has not been drawn up as yet, but it is slated to get under way in about two weeks, according to intra-mural board members.

The championship should be closely contested this year. The ALT's, champions for the last three years, will be without the services of their all-star battery, Kenyon Sellars and Bill Howland. This, along with the loss of "Bull" Durham will hurt the champions somewhat, but they will probably have a strong team again.

The Pi KA's and the SAE's should both have strong teams again, although both lost several good men. Little is known about the personnel of the teams yet, however, and therefore no accurate forecast can be made as to the leaders.

COUNCIL TO SET TOURNEY SCHEDULE

The date for the opening of the Pan-Hellenic basketball tournament is still undecided, as the meeting of the Pan-Hellenic Council scheduled for last Sunday was called off. A definite schedule and opening date will be decided upon at the delayed meeting of the Council Sunday. President Chip Peabody announced yesterday.

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