



**JIGSAW PUZZLE**

The athletic situation at Mercer is a conglomeration of disjointed facts with no one person apparently knowing any definite. Monday, all athletes were notified that after this quarter they would have to pay their room and board bills. Since those letters were placed in the mail boxes numerous answers have been advanced as to the chances for football, but none have authority behind them.

The previous decision of the Board of Trustees to continue intercollegiate sports on a smaller scale brought forth a new set of problems. Athletes, in school now, had been promised a four year education with all expenses paid. The letters they received were notices of their loss of that contract—through no fault of their own.

**BREACH OF CONTRACT**

To everyone it was plain that the school was jumping its contract. It would take an enormous sum of money to finance the education of the athletes and the school cannot afford this. Some way of arbitration was the only solution to the problem. On Monday there was a meeting held to seek a solution. Nothing was done except call another meeting for this afternoon at which time something definite will be decided in order to let the boys know their status before Christmas.

**A POSSIBLE ANSWER**

According to a rule in most conferences, the boys are eligible to play at another school only if Mercer abandons football entirely.

It seems inevitable now that the school will have to sacrifice football one year in order to give these athletes a chance to make other connections. That is the very LEAST the school can do for this group whose chances for a college education are greatly endangered.

This plan is only like all the others that are floating around the campus; a wild guess in the dark. One little ray of sunshine is that efforts are being made to keep basketball at Mercer.

**The Letter Forum**  
**Chapel**

Editor of the Cluster:

I have heard several students poking fun and making wisecracks(?) about the Monday and Friday chapels, because they were conducted as worship periods and I also observed that the same people guffawed vociferously at an incongruous spectacle of sensuality that was staged the other day.

I believe, that if a poll were taken, the majority of the members of the student body would

prefer that the stage of our beautiful chapel building, and indeed the entire building, be used as a place of worship, and saved from the uncouth spectacle of men, or women, insufficiently appareled.

I would like to register here a vote of thanks to the administration for the worship-chapels. I believe that every student who has the true Mercer spirit will join me.

Sincerely,

ASHLEY V. PICKERN,

Secretary of Evangelism, Mercer Ministerial Association.

**Speakers at Banquet Plea For Football**

The Mercer football players heard every speaker at the annual Mercer-Lanier banquet Tuesday night intimate that complete abolition of football would be a terrible mistake for the school to make. Coach William Alexander of Tech and Edwin Camp, writer for The Atlanta Journal made the principal addresses to the assembly.

Especially was Coach Alex forceful in his intimations against a "complete surrender." In agreement with him were all the speakers as each in turn "came to bat" for football.

The banquet, held in the Y. W. C. A. dining hall, was sponsored by the Mercer Alumni association as a token of appreciation for the work done by both football teams this fall. At the meeting it was announced that a scholarship would be given to an outstanding senior who graduates from Lanier next June.

Coach Joe Dougherty introduced Horace Richter, center and president of the student body who in turn introduced all the football players. One of the features of the program was the presentation of the Lanier players with their letters won this year.

**Cluster Picks All-Star Team**

During the past several years, the collegiate sports of the country have selected an All-American football team. Some 80 writers in 37 states took part in selection of the 1940 team. Each writer had one vote for each position and the larger schools had no more power than the smaller ones.

The team was as follows:  
Ends: Dave Rankin—Purdue.  
Gene Goodresult — Boston College.

Tackles: Nick Drahos—Cornell.  
Mike Enrich—Iowa.  
Guards: Ed Molinski—Tennessee.

Bob Suffridge—Tenn.  
Center: Rudy Mucha—Washington.

Backs: Tom Harmon—Michigan.  
John Kimbrough—Texas A. & M.  
Francis Reagan—Pennsylvania.

The two men whose names were followed by the asterisks were the only ones not placed on the first team nominated by the Cluster sports editor. The final selection for Second string included Severin, North Carolina, and Frutig of Michigan, ends, Maag, Ohio State and Bauman, Northwestern; tackles; Robnett, Texas A&M and Alfson of Nebraska at the guards; Frick, Penn, center; Christman, Missouri, Evashevski, Michigan, Piepul of Notre Dame and Standlee, Stanford, backfield.

Of course, there is no real All-American but this one, selected by representatives from the whole country certainly gives an idea of what the schools consider the country's leading players.

**Flag Rush Called Off Temporarily**

The annual freshman-sophomore flag rush scheduled for yesterday afternoon was called off by Freshman Adviser Malcolm Thomas Thursday morning because of lab exams.

This was the second attempt to have the flag rush, the first flag rush having been called off earlier in the term.

A traditional event between the two classes, the contest gives the freshmen a chance to obtain full upperclassmen status — so far as privileges go — if they are able to wrest the flag from the sophomores.

**Student Offers Suggestion**

In an open letter to the Cluster, Jim Barfield made the following suggestions in regard to the possibilities of benefits that can result from the new athletic system. The letter speaks mainly concerning the lack of equipment in the gym.

The letter is as follows:

"With the new athletic setup developing at Mercer let's equip our gym for the students who are not gifted with football and basketball abilities.

"There are many students who are aching for action, but are handicapped because there is nothing for them to do other than play the more strenuous games—the majority of students are not physically fit to play such games. Therefore, we should work out a program in which all students, large or small, strong or weak, can PARTICIPATE IN THE TYPE OF BODY BUILDING WHICH IS BEST SUITED TO THEIR PHYSIQUES. EVERY HUMAN BODY IS DIFFERENT, AND SHOULD BE TREATED IN THE LIGHT OF THE DIFFERENCE. Can such an ideal program find its way into Mercer University? The answer is yes. This is how.

"We all know Mercer has a beautiful gym; but sad to say, it is good only for basketball. There is no gymnasium equipment in it. We need barbells and dumbbells for the boys who wish to build strong, powerful muscles. We need horizontal and parallel bars for the boys who wish to develop muscle control, balance and strength. We need a good rope for climbing. This type of exercise builds the arms, shoulders, chest and back. We need wall pulleys and other apparatus which aid in the development of coordination and shape.

"If our gym was equipped with this indispensable apparatus, every boy at Mercer could use the gym with profitable results. Every

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**Schedule For Basketeers Is Announced**

From behind the smoke that keeps everyone in the dark as to the status of the athletic set-up, Mercer sent out one of the biggest basketball schedules the school has attempted in several years.

Already 16 games have been definitely scheduled with several others on the probable list. There will be one trip to South Carolina in January and one to Mississippi during the last of February. The highlight of the seven home games will be Jan. 28 when Georgia comes to Macon to meet the Bears.

The thing that bothered Coach Joe Dougherty was that he had good prospects and a fine schedule but could not be certain that he would have a ball club to play the games. A game previously scheduled for tonight had to be called off because of the uncertainty of athletics at the school.

The complete slate of games already arranged is as follows:

- Jan. 6. Presbyterian here.
- Jan. 10. Chattanooga here.
- Jan. 14. Erskine here.
- Jan. 18. Newberry there.
- Jan. 17. Erskine there.
- Jan. 18. Presbyterian there.
- Jan. 23. - 24 Miss. Coll. here.
- Jan. 28. GEORGIA HERE.
- Feb. 3 or 4 Newberry here.
- Feb. 7. Chattanooga there.
- Feb. 13. Miss. Coll. there.
- Feb. 14. Millsaps there.
- Feb. 21 S. Ga. Teachers there.
- Feb. 28. Howard there.

In addition to these games there are four more being sought: two each with Spring Hill and Southwestern. There are men that are practicing for the team each day and they give promise of developing into a strong club.

For the past two weeks Billy McCowen, Bill Nee, Rex Mc-

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