



OUR FUTURE

It is the humble opinion of this column that Mercer's athletic future lies entirely in the capable hands of Coaches Hooks and Smith. Should some unforeseen blow befall the latest athletic plan, undoubtedly the Board would completely abandon intercollegiate athletics. A trip to Alumni field will convince the most skeptical person that no such drastic move is near.

Pepper, and plenty of it, has been prevalent in the daily workouts. This renewed spirit is being instilled in the boys by the coaches, who, themselves, have lots of that ole life.

The coaches are living in the dormitory under the same conditions as the boys. They mingle amongst them all through the day, and are thereby gaining the respect and confidence of the players. Our future, in the making this spring, is really the 24-hour a day problem of those who lead us.

EN GARDE

The recent interest in fencing has been one of the first developments of the new system of more student activity in extra athletics. Several people, both boys and girls, are practicing each day and adding a new sport to the new physical ed program. Expansion is the theme of this plan and these students have taken it upon themselves to get started early.

Another added activity was the girls' basketball tournament; conceived, drawn up, and run off only after the efforts of several determined girls.

INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL

Intra-mural basketball this year was entirely different from the recent competition which played a league schedule before the annual tournament. A late start caused the abandonment of the league. Then, the tourney schedule had to be changed so as not to interfere with the football practices. Despite these handicaps, most people apparently agree that the interest in intra-mural basketball has not diminished. There were plenty of thrills each night. The champion has been crowned and all the teams can now start building towards the 1942 affair.

HERE AND THERE

Mercer's basketball schedule, which in the past has called for some two or three games a week, has a decided lag for the next 10 days. Cancellation of the Mississippi trip caused the idle period. Several tentative games, including the Nehi game tonight, have been sought to prevent the club from going stale.

It won't be so long before the tennis courts are in shape for playing. Each afternoon finds the workers striving to "get the clay ready for that record crowd of racquetballers Coach Hagen hopes to have out for the team.

The Piedmont college paper describes our sharpshooting Bears as the roughest team they have played all season. Nor did they like the large auditorium court.

Several groups of dorm students get together each night for exercises with a set of weights. They work in a systematic way that is beneficial to their daily health, and they are developing their bodies.

Spring rains and sunshine remind athletic fans of baseball. Mercer doesn't have a team but the baseball talent got together last year and played several practice games in this section.

Moccasins Fall Twice Before Bruin Attack

Mercer's basketball quintet clipped Chattanooga last Thursday and Friday nights to the tune of 28-27 and 43-33 and ended their series with the Moccasins with a total of three wins against one defeat.

The Thursday night game was a rough and tumble affair, with both teams, as well as the fans, looking for a fight rather than a victory. Bill Nee made two field goals and accounted for four foul shots to lead the Bears' scoring with eight points. Two fights started on the floor and the fans also "mixed it up" several times. Both teams played evenly throughout the "fastfest." Mercer was leading 14 to 12 at the half.

The Bears came back Friday night and took the Moccasins down in championship form. They were hitting the basket from all angles and jumped off to an early lead and held it throughout the encounter. The score was 26 to 19 at half time.

Bill Nee again led the Mercer scoring with 11 points. He was closely followed by Tom Heaton, who tallied nine.

Coeds Play In Douglas

The Mercer co-ed basketball team will make their third out-of-town trip Friday night when they go to Douglas to encounter the South Georgia College Ladies. A return game will be played in the Porter gymnasium as a preliminary game to the varsity on Feb. 24.

Phi Mu sorority won a close game from Alpha Chi Epsilon by the score of 7-4 in the initial game of the girls' basketball tournament Monday afternoon.

Grimmett scored five of the Phi Mu's points. Kirkland accounted for the other field goal. Harris tallied up all of the points for the losers.

The non-sorority team won the second game of the afternoon by a forfeit from Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

The Phi Mu and Non-sorority girls' groups Wednesday moved into the finals by trouncing the ADPI's and the AXE's, respectively. Dot Kilgore was leading scorer for the Non-Sorority team with eight points, while Louise Grimmett's 17 markers were tops for the Phi Mu's.

The first girls' games were played Monday afternoon with the Non-sorority girls winning from the ADPI's by a forfeit and the Phi Mu's taking the measure of the AXE group.

Good Spirit To Determine Spring Work

How long Mercer's spring football practice will last depends on the attitude of the boys and how much is accomplished, according to Coach Hooks.

Practice is now in its second week, and all the boys are really working hard learning the Notre Dame system which is being used by Hooks. Page and Mitchell are both working hard at their new positions. Page was changed from tailback to fullback, and Mitchell was moved from guard to tackle.

Holden "Ebo" West, center, has been the only casualty of practice so far. He broke his hand last week, and this leaves only Bill Shirley to man the center post.

Most of the work so far has been to acquaint the boys with the new system and to teach them new plays, but there has been enough rough work to keep them busy.

Johnston Wins Chess Match

Ed Johnston, representing the Mercer Chess club, consecutively defeated four members of the Foursquare Chess club last Friday at a match held in Atlanta.

In the four matches he played, Johnston defeated Jack Fairey, Ed Saunders, Joe Booth and Bob Garner. Although six or seven members of the Mercer club were supposed to attend the match, Johnston was the only Mercer player present.

"If we can scrape up enough interest among the members of the Mercer faculty," said Johnston, "we are going to challenge them to a match very soon."

Mercer Grads Get Promoted

Several Mercer athletes have made changes in their chosen fields.

In the coaching circles, Wright Basemore has been given Coach Bobby Hooks' job as head football mentor at Valdosta, Ga. Wright had worked with Coach Hooks for several years and stepped in to fill his shoes recently to start spring practice.

Recent changes in the coaching personnel of the Lanier high school staff resulted in promotions for two Mercer men. Tom Porter was named head basketball coach and Cotton Harrison became assistant football coach. Julius Gholson, still another loyal alumnus of the institution, remains golf coach.

H. P. Bell, a guard on the 1933 gridiron machine, is another member of the local high school faculty, but he is not an active coach for the school.

Al Owen, Mercer's last representative in the professional football league, has quit to accept a position with a New York hotel.

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Preachers Beat Phi Delts to Take Crown

Ministers Take Second Athletic Trophy With 26-12 Victory; Non-sorority Wins

The Ministerial association won its second athletic championship of the school year by defeating the Phi Delta Theta fraternity in the basketball finals.

An air tight defense held the fast breaking Phi Delt offense to only three field goals and enabled the Preachers to run up a 26-12 victory. Tippet was the main scoring threat for them while elongated Jack Overton and Herb Wheelis were the defensive stars.

Bill Nee Holds Basketeers' Scoring Lead

Forward Bill Nee held to his individual scoring leadership through the Chattanooga games. Up to that time, he had scored 118 points. Close on the heels of Nee was Bill Culp who has garnered 102 markers.

The team as a whole has averaged better than 48 points a game or more than a point for each minute they have played.

	Games	Pts.
Bill Nee	13	118
Bill Culp	12	102
Tom Heaton	13	81
Johnny Aitken	13	80
Billy McCowen	13	63
Herbert Norman	11	56
Dan Spice	12	54
Rex McIlvaine	13	46
Harry Karsney	7	19
Wallace Lumpkin	9	9
Mercer total		628
Average per game		48%

Nehi Quintet Downs Bruins in Close Game

The strong Nehi Reds, semi-pro team from Columbus, finally overcame an early Mercer lead last night and won a closely fought basketball game, 57-55, in Porter gym. Billy McCowen, with 12 points headed the Bruin attack.

The girls' finals were played and the Non-sorority group won handily over the Phi Mu team.

On Wednesday night the Phi Delta Theta team, led by Roddenberry and Merritt, upset a highly favored ALT crew by the score of 29-22. The pre-tournament favorite, the Ministers, moved into the final round by beating the surprisingly strong ATO team 23-19. Tippet was the leader of the Preachers' attack and Howell led the late ATO rally.

Tuesday's play was dominated by the ATO win over the PiKA team by a 15-10 count. Added height under the baskets enabled the victors to get off to an early lead and they were never headed. ALT swamped the fighting Kappa Sigs by a 52-20 margin. In the other two games, the Preachers and the Phi Delts were winners over the Non-Frats and the KA's, respectively.

Play on Monday night was opened by a PiKA victory over the KA's in a rough and tumble encounter. The score was 29-19. Non-Frats won from the Kappa Sigs and the Preachers beat the SAE team. A gallant ATO rally fell two points short of the Phi Delta Theta's who won their initial contest 27-25.

Johnny Aitken and Rex McIlvaine, varsity players, served as officials for the tournament.

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