



Future of This Column Rather Doubtful

With the discontinuance of intercollegiate athletics at Mercer for "the duration" the sports department of your Cluster finds itself in some sort of a predicament. The question has been raised as to whether this column and the rest of the sports page will find enough sports activity on the campus each week to provide copy for this page. With only the intra-mural games, plus a few items on physical education, sports are at a consistent standstill. Back in the good old days when we had intercollegiate football, basketball, and tennis, the job was rather easy in digging out copy.

As The Cluster has not been published since Christmas holidays, the entire staff has become rather lax in straining "noses for news."

Another Coach for Uncle Sam's Forces

Students watched Uncle Sam take away assistant coach Billy Smith not so long ago, and then last Wednesday in chapel head coach Bobby Hooks made his final charge to the student body before entering the army. Orbin Howell, student prexy, receives credit for the best remark of the week when he stated that we can be sure of licking the Japs with two Mercer coaches in there fighting. Coach Hooks' final charge was made in his usual frank and modest manner, thanking the students for their cooperation with him during his stay at Mercer as head coach of a newly organized athletic setup. Since that first student chapel when Bobby Hooks was introduced to our school, he has had the greatest of admiration from each student on the campus. He proved his ability as a coach during the football season, and throughout his entire stay here he showed other qualities that make a true leader. Mercer suffers a great loss as Hooks leaves, and Uncle Sam gets a real man.

Other Schools Also Drop Football

Mercer was not by itself when it dropped from the ranks of intercollegiate activity. Other small colleges throughout the nation are also finding that keeping a winning team on the field in time of war is no simple matter.

The larger colleges such as Tech and the University of Georgia will be able to keep fairly good teams on the field, but football competition as a whole will not be as keen as we are accustomed to it during peacetime.

Football players here at Mercer have been sought for by other schools who plan to continue the sport. They are finding that larger schools are offering them scholarships, and two of the players have already transferred.

Campus Camera



Girls Receive Basketball 'M's

Members of the co-ed varsity basketball team of the past season were awarded letters by Coach Bobby Hooks recently as a climax of a progressive supper.

Marjorie Hughes and Dorothea Kilgore received letters with three stripes for three years on the varsity team. Grace Turner, Sara Boone, Ellen Jane Sams received letters with two stripes. Pauline Parham and Betty Ricks Wall got a letter for one year.

Gold M club pens, signifying membership in the organization, were given Carolyn Sandlin, Grace Turner, Jane Sams, Pauline Parham, Betty Wall, and Sara Boone.

Two co-eds, members of the varsity tennis team were initiated at the meeting. They are Elaine Taylor and Shirley Bakewell.

Health Group Starts Teams

The Mercer Health Club this quarter is organizing boxing and wrestling teams, along with its body-building schedule. Trainer J. Thomas Barfield announced.

There is a chance that intercollegiate boxing and wrestling matches can be arranged if competent teams can be developed. "All who wish to try out please see me," Barfield said.

Membership in the club this quarter is 35, and the program is going smoothly. Officers of the club, elected at a recent meeting, are Mike Warr, president; Solomon Dowis, vice-president; Jim Barfield, secretary-treasurer; and Billy Krenson, publicity manager.

Trainer Barfield is taking Coach Hooks' place as physical education instructor, but is still able to give the necessary attention to the Health Club. "The way to improve your physique is to work with the weights conscientiously, and add weight regularly," he said.

45 Registered In First Aid Course

Forty-five students have signed up to take the first aid course which is being sponsored on the campus by Cardinal Key.

Classes will begin as soon as the Red Cross can supply an instructor, and one is expected within two weeks. The course is a very thorough one, meeting all Red Cross standards. Classes will be held on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 o'clock until 4:30. It will be completed in four weeks.

Any students who have not enrolled and wish to do so may sign up with Helen Klinfelter.

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Ministers and Non-Sorority Lead Tourney

The ministerial and non-sorority basketball teams continue to hold the lead in the intra-mural tournament now in its third week.

Alpha Lambda Tau is in second place with five wins and one loss, after defeating the strong non-frat team Wednesday afternoon.

The tournament is scheduled to end next Wednesday. Finals, in the form of a double-elimination competition with the four highest boys teams and the four girls teams playing will be next Thursday and Friday nights.

The standing up to Thursday afternoon:

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.
Ministers	6	0	1.000
ALt	5	1	.833
Non-frat	4	2	.667
Phi Delt	2	3	.400
SAE	2	3	.400
ATO	2	4	.333
KZ	1	4	.200
KA	0	5	.000
Non-Sorority	5	0	1.000
Phi Mu	1	1	.500
AXE	1	3	.250
AD Pi	0	3	.000

Bears Drop Sports Plans For Duration

There will be no intercollegiate athletic competition at Mercer for the duration of the emergency, according to an announcement made by Dr. Dowell. This action was explained more fully by Coach Hooks in a statement for The Cluster this week.

Coach Billy Smith has already left his position to enter the Navy and Coach Hooks is awaiting orders from the Army, in which he holds a reserve commission. The administration thought it best not to hire someone else in our places, and to discontinue intercollegiate competition with special emphasis on a wide intra-mural program," Coach Hooks stated.

According to Hooks the boys who are now in school on athletic scholarships will complete this year. "We are trying to find places in other schools for those boys who want to continue playing football, and most of them will go to other places," the coach said.

At week's end Phillips and Marbury had entered the University of Georgia.

Bobby Hooks Leaves Today For Service in U. S. Army

Uncle Sam has pointed his long finger at the Mercer campus again, and this time beckons to one of the best additions to our "family" in many years, Coach Bobby Hooks. Only a few weeks ago, another branch of the service took Coach Smith from us, leaving Hooks to set up the machinery of the new emphasized physical education program.

We're losing a good man, and Uncle Sam is certainly getting a good one. Coach won't have to start in as a "Buck" either, because he has already attained his First Lieutenant's ranking and is eligible for an immediate promotion to Captain.

Hooks is well qualified to serve in the armed forces of this country, evidenced by his training record. He entered training at Riverside in Gainesville before taking four years of training at the University of Georgia. At the state university he attained the top rank in the entire unit—he was Cadet Colonel over the whole military unit, cavalry and infantry. For Uncle Sam he will serve in the infantry division.

Following his training at the University he took his officer's training at Camp McClellan and

received his commission in 1928. By returning to camps at various times for further training, he acquired his present capacity for the rank of Captain as soon as he is called into service.

Although there is the usual degree of uncertainty about the nature of his service once he is in, the board in Atlanta assured him that he will probably be put in charge of an R.O.T.C. unit at some college. About the nicest thing that could have happened to Mercer would have been the establishment of an R.O.T.C. here with our own Coach as chief officer.

But all we can say is "Good luck, Coach! We're glad you came, we're sorry you're going, and we know you'll be back soon. There's always a place for you at Mercer."

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