

In The Bears' Den

with George Chamlee

WHY THE PERRY PANTHERS CLICK

Last week I had the opportunity to go to Perry, Ga., where the northern division of the Third District GHSA basketball tournament was being held. The main attraction on the schedule that night was a rubber game between Perry High and its traditional rival, Fort Valley.

The game alone was enough to warrant the long, rainy drive in Harold Shuler's redoubtable and window-wiperless limousine, but I had another motive in mind. I have always had a particular weakness for prep basketball and the Perry Panthers have long been one of its most able exponents.

Also *Readers Digest* had come out with an article of couple of years ago citing Perry as being one of the most progressive and spirited communities in the nation. It was my theory that there was a close degree of correlation between their basketball success and their community spirit. So I risked life and limb and went to Perry that night.

We first went to see Bob Shuler, the assistant coach and a former Mercer cage star, and he steeped us in Perry lore. There was certainly no doubt in his mind as to who had the best high school basketball team in the state and which particular team had the best support. I was becoming pretty curious.

I had noticed on the way through the town looked pretty deserted. When we reached the gym I learned why. It seemed like everyone in Houston County had been squeezed into the small building. There wasn't standing room for a jackstraw.

The local prides jumped off to a quick lead. Personally I thought the crowd was at least 50% responsible for the Perry scores. They literally cheered the ball through the hoop.

At intermission Fort Valley fans started a chant, "Perry is a sissy," and were threatening to raise the rafters with it. The Perry cheerleaders, however, weren't to be outdone. They picked up the rhythm, evoked their fans to join in, and literally drowned out their antagonizers.

Perry won the game by five points and we headed for the dressing room. There we met Coach Eric Staples. He had apparently forgotten the game. He was worrying about the near free-for-all that followed the final horn, and the fact that one of his boys had a possibly broken wrist. We had been treated like movie stars and he and his wife were even more genial.

When we left I wondered how Perry ever lost a game. When you play them you play the whole community and the community is unbeatable.

DISA AND DATA

One of the spectators at the Mercer-Birmingham Southern game was Georgia Tech's great center, Jim Nojan. He is hors de combat due to a badly sprained ankle. In his absence Kentucky soundly thrashed the Jackets and his old rival, Alex Gross, netted 26 points.

Coach Wally Butts' gridders from the University of Georgia will be in Macon Saturday for an intra-squad clash at Porter Stadium. It will be an interesting although not a completely satisfactory test of just how well Macon will support a college football game.

DID YOU KNOW

That the Mercer baseball team will open the season here with Duke University?

That Warren Brinson of Kappa Sigma set a new intramural basketball scoring record with a 53 point performance against the Ministes?

That Manager Jeff Clements unfortunately forgot a certain necessary part of the basketball uniforms when the Bears left on the second South Carolina road trip?

Chapel Meet Scheduled

A special chapel convocation will be held in the Willingham Chapel on March 2. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce the students to the new chapel program which will begin in the spring quarter. President Dowell will be in charge of the program.

Ciceronian Hears Debating Team

Charles Cureton, George Chamlee, Gene Etheridge and Emory Clay gave their debate speeches last night at the meeting of the Ciceronian Literary Society.

The points brought out by the negative team included the facts that Federal Aid to Education means federal control and that federal aid is unnecessary and unwise. Those brought out by the affirmative included the facts that there is a great need for Federal Aid to Education and that Federal Aid to Education will improve Social Conditions.

Plans were discussed for a banquet to be held in the near future at which time new members will be installed.

Lyman Dalk, president, presided over the business session.

Marvin Dean

(Continued from Page 1)

wise filling a vacancy for which there was no other registered contestant, on qualification day.

The slate of officers elected, with the exception of Carl Westmoreland, was that endorsed by the freshman class.

Bears Edged Birmingham - Southern; Mercer Outscores Mississippi, 95 - 77

Saturday night saw the Bears lose a heartbreaker, 52-47, to Birmingham Southern in the last few minutes of the game.

Mercer grabbed an early lead and held on to it until the closing minutes. After 10 minutes of play the Bears were in front 15 to 8 and by half time had a lead of 27 to 20.

Glenn Wilkes, Mercer forward, took the night's scoring honors with 19 points. The floor play of Wilkes was an outstanding factor for the Bears.

Rudy Stewart, Mercer guard, had an offensive night but turned in a good defensive game. He accounted for 10 markers.

Bob "Lefty" Reeder, Mercer, dropped in nine points and in the closing minute of the game assisted Wilkes and Stewart in an attack to retake the lead. The attack, however, failed.

The visitors were led by Jack Chapman and Buddy Oxford. They both netted 18 points each. It was Chapman's last minute goal that put the game on ice for the Panthers.



Unorthodox Bob Murdock . . . Bespectacled Guard

Will Face Indians

(Continued from Page 1)

one of the greatest basketball players ever to wear the Mercer colors. In 1947 he teamed up with Tom Dykes to give the Bears one of their greatest one-two punches. In 1948 he led Mercer to one of its greatest cage seasons and a 17-4 record while scoring 18.6 points per game.

Expected to share the offensive burden with Wilkes are Rudy Stewart and Bob Reeder. The two south-paw transfer students will be finishing their first season with Mercer and both boast remarkable records. Stewart's deadly set shooting, and Reeder's driving layup shots have spelled defeat for many opposition squads this year who have double-teamed the brilliant Wilkes.

Speedy Guard

At guard will be speedy little Mayes Dobbins who has been one of the team's most valuable members despite the fact that he is one of its lowest scorers. The diminutive Savannah ballhawk is finishing his third season with the Bears and still has one more year to go.

At center will be either Dilmus Barnett or Lamar Clements. Both have made remarkable progress this year. Barnett holds the defensive edge and Clements the offensive.

Following tonight's clash the Bears will go into training for the important Dixie Conference Tournament which opens at Jackson, Miss., on Feb. 28. Mercer has a conference record of seven wins and two losses.

Wilkes Leads Run

(Continued From Page 1)

guard combination of Stewart, Bob Reeder, and Mayes Dobbins was not easily stopped by the visitors. Reeder hit the hoops for 12 points while Dobbins tallied eight.

Lamar Clements, Mercer's towering center, used his height to drop in eight markers and was helpful in the backboard play under both baskets.

the season was Joyce Hobby, captain Lauta Avirett and Ola Campbell were the other forwards.

Good team work was exhibited in all the Phi Mu games. their forwards, Betty Tom Smith (captain), Molly Wheeler, and Nancy Herriering were as a team with years of practice—as were their guards, Adena Duggan, Peggy Wood, and Bonnie Allen. Betty T. Smith was Phi Mu high scorer with 31 points.

The other game of the afternoon was between Chi Omega and MICA. MICA forfeited to Chi Omega by not appearing on the court within the time limit.

Jake Kneece and Bill Ratteree were the referees for all of the intramural basketball games.

by Bobby Bonner

Glenn Wilkes led the Mercer Bears to a 95 to 77 victory over Mississippi College on February 18, in Porter Gymnasium which set a new high point total for this year. The game turned out to be a free scoring affair with neither team concentrating heavily on defense.

The game got underway in a fast manner and continued that way the whole time. The fast-breaking Bears had posted a 52 to 30 lead by halftime.

Mercer Captain Glenn Wilkes set the pace for the locals with 27 points. He dropped in nine field goals and connected with nine out of ten foul shots. Wilkes' aggressiveness and faking kept the Bears clicking throughout the entire game.

Stewart Scores 23

Rudy Stewart, Mercer guard, hit the nets for a total of 23 points to claim second high scoring honors for the Bears. Stewart's alertness proved to be one of the strong points for the local five.

Bob Reeder, Mercer forward, was outstanding for the Bears with his speed. Reeder was one of the cogs in fast-breaking offense as he drove under for 13 points.

Lamar Clements, Mercer center, turned in his best performance of the year. Clements used his six-foot, five inches to great advantages under the baskets. He also scored his highest game total of the year with 12 points.

Corbin Barnes, Mississippi College, was the outstanding player of the game. His set shots from all angles of the court gave him a total of 34 points to capture high scoring honors. Corbin dropped in 16 field goals and two free throws.

Brewster, Henry Represent Mercer At NSA Meeting

by Emory Clay

Ray Brewster and Al Henry represented Mercer as observers at the regional meeting of the National Student Association at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, on February 12 and 13. Although Mercer is not a member of the N.S.A., it was represented along with Wesleyan Conservatory and Wesleyan College.

Miss Helen Jean Rogers, national secretary and treasurer, spoke to the gathering representing eighteen campuses of Georgia, Florida and Alabama. She said in her opening address that the United States National Student Association was founded in 1946 as a non-political, non-secretarian representative inter-collegiate organization to serve the needs of students of the United States and to promote their interests and welfare.

Workshops were held at which time student problems were discussed. Official business was carried on by the representatives of the school that are members of the N.S.A.

The purpose of the regional meeting was to explain the set up of the National Student Association to other schools and to encourage membership by the Southern schools on a national scope.

Out of the approximately two hundred and eighty schools in this region about forty are members. Mercer hopes that it will be able to become a member of the National Student Association.

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