

In The Bears' Den

Bobby Bonner

Cluster Sports Editor.

The following letter was received at the sports editor's desk Sunday evening.

Mr. Bobby Bonner,
Sports Editor, The Cluster,
Mercer University
Macon, Georgia

Dear Bob,

The article, "Are Americans Bad Sports," which appears in the April 3, 1949 edition of *This Week* magazine is a frank discussion of a problem which currently is creating discussion all over the nation.

Because I am no sports writer and because mine is not the place to criticize, I wonder if you would read this article and comment on the problem of bad spectator sportsmanship at Mercer.

With best wishes for a speedy end to this problem especially on our campus I am

Very truly yours,
James G. Maddox.



Bonner

The article to which Mr. Maddox is referring brought a lot of attention to the sports fans and sports lovers of America. Every sports fan should read this excellent story and then give his answer to the question, "Are Americans bad sports?" Adie Suchsdorf says that America is becoming a nation of poor sports and I agree with the writer.

Mercer's sportsmanship is not exactly like the incidents referred to by Suchsdorf. There are some incidents that happen at our athletic events that could be abolished—booing and heckling the referees, for instance. This was very evident in the basketball games this past season, but to talk about the sportsmanship at just basketball games would be of little value.

It is not only the conduct at basketball games, but also every sport in which America participates. Baseball is now in season and in the past bad sportsmanship has been shown at this sport more than at any other one sport. The conduct of the Mercer students at the Mercer baseball games so far this season has been pretty good. No bottle throwing or fighting has occurred.

But we can't stop now and say that Mercer will have good sportsmanship throughout. Almost anything can cause a disturbance at a game. We have been good sports so far—yes, but that is not enough. We need to keep on being good sports and all the students need to be reminded over and over again of the harm that bad sportsmanship brings.

Suchsdorf stated that there were four basic reasons for the things that have been and still are happening in American sports. The reasons are ignorance, games are too complex, betting, and glorious victory or ignominious defeat. The last reason is psychological. He also stated that the reason for bad sportsmanship could not be blamed on college students and rowdy boys alone. Many respectable citizens are at fault.

If the true facts are brought before every Mercer student and they realized the importance of good sportsmanship, Mercer would better its name as being a university which possesses good American sportsmanship on the part of the fans. We don't want another school to come here and see us throwing bottles at the umpires, fighting, or creating a free-for-all.

We should better our reputation of being good sportsmen and encourage others to do the same. If every college would do this and try to set an example for the incoming people to the sports world, the so-called "bad" people of sports would vanish and America could again pride herself as having good sportsmanship.

It takes work, not easy work that can be finished overnight, but long hard work. The success depends upon everyone and that means you. Do you want the standard of our sportsmanship to be lower than that of the standard of our athletic achievement? Suchsdorf said that the best traditions of sports were being destroyed in the stands. Are you in those stands? If so, what are you going to do about it?

Bears Take First Road Trip Track To Begin Saturday

Mercer Baseball Team Defeats Florida State, 8-3

In the first game of a five-game road trip the Mercer baseball Bears defeated the Florida State Seminoles 8-3.

Bear pitcher Gus Pender and Bob Murdock gave up only four hits while the Bears collected nine hits off the Seminoles.

One run in the first, one in the third, two in the fourth, and four in the seventh gave the Mercer Nine their eight runs. Florida State tallied three in the eighth inning.

Netmen Lose

On the same day the Mercer Netmen fell to the sparkling Florida State Seminoles tennis team 7-0. The netmen representing Mercer were Ben O'Neal, Harry Smith, Charlie Andrew, Carmen Trevitt and Charles Tharpe.

Golfers Downed

The Florida State golf team went on to capture two out of three events with Mercer by downing the Mercer golf squad by a count of 26 to 1.

Sam Glassman, Jr., was low man for the Bears with a 78 and Charlie Davis was second low with a 79. Jim Sheehan hit for an 80, Charlie Bishop and Warren Brinson 81, and Dargan McAfee 83.

Dr. Dowell To Visit Regional Conference In Georgia Cities

Dr. Spright Dowell, president of Mercer, left Friday to visit ten Georgia cities in connection with the regional conferences for pastors and laymen, a series of meetings under the sponsorship of Georgia Baptists.

The conferences, open to ministers, church workers, and laymen, are held for the purpose of improving religious and church activities. The state-wide program is under the direction of Dr. James W. Merritt, executive secretary-treasurer of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Dr. Dowell visited the conferences in the capacity of president of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Two Week Schedule

The meetings, scheduled over a period of two weeks were slated to take place in the following cities: Davisboro Baptist Church, March 28; Pembroke Baptist Church, March 29; First Baptist Church, Hazlehurst, March 30; Baconton Baptist Church, March 31; Hawkinsville Baptist Church, April 1.

Second Week: Jonesboro Baptist Church, April 4; Manchester Baptist Church, April 5; First Baptist Church, Greensboro, April 6; Adairsville Baptist Church, April 7; Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Cleveland, April 8.

Auburn Tigers Beat Baseball Bears, 4-1

by Bobby Ivey

The Mercer Bears suffered their second diamond defeat of the season last Wednesday afternoon when the Auburn Tigers, playing on foreign territory, hammered out a 4-1 victory over them.

The hitting of both teams was well divided, but Auburn took full advantage of three bunched hits in the seventh inning to score twice. They had previously pushed across one run on two hits in the third frame. The other Auburn score was tallied in the ninth when Charlie Gilbert blasted a homer to the right field fence.

The Bears racked up nine hits, but they were able to cross the plate only once when Bill Ratteree scored in the fifth on a single by Mayes Dobbins.

On the mound for the Bears, Bob Murdock yielded only five hits and one run until he was relieved in the seventh by Arthur Allen. Auburn hurlers were Jack Maxwell and George Mill.

Rudy Stewart, Mercer rightfielder, kept up his hitting pace with four hits for four trips to the plate. Ratteree unleashed a sizzling triple in the second, but died on base. Scoring honors for the Tigers went to Gilbert who batted in three runs and homered in the ninth.

Auburn's team, captained by football star Travis Tidwell, played errorless ball in their first encounter of the season.

Mercer's Chick Martin took fielding honors for the game with a record of six putouts in addition to pulling down two long flies in the ninth.

Hopkins Out

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Tuesday evening at about 11:15 o'clock. He was booked at police headquarters on the named charges at 11:20 p.m.

Picks Hopkins

Police Chief Ben T. Watkins said a housewife who made the assault charges against Hopkins came to headquarters and picked the Mercer student out of a police lineup.

The other charges against the nineteen year old student leader grew out of charges made by a woman and her daughter that someone had been outside their house attempting to see through the windows.

Solicitor Bill West will handle the case for the State. Attorneys T. Arnold Jacobs and Buckner F. Melton are the counsel for the defense.

Mercer Cindermen Meet Florida State Here Saturday

The Mercer cindermen open their track season Saturday afternoon with Florida State at Porter Stadium.

Several boys have dropped from the squad but a large number are remaining. Those remaining are getting in shape and will be ready for the opening tussle. Definite starters in the events have not been announced as yet. Coach Cowan stated that he would like to use as many boys as possible in this meet in order to give him an idea of what his team would be like. Time trials were held last Friday and Monday afternoon. Final time trials before the meet are scheduled for this afternoon.

The meet with the Seminoles will get underway at 1:30 with the field events coming first. The running events will start around 2 o'clock. No admission will be charged.

The Mercer baseball and tennis teams journey to Atlanta on April 8 to face the Oglethorpe Petrels. This will be the second road trip for both teams.

Campaigns

(Continued from Page 1)

Class Officers—

- Senior:**
- President—**
- (P.) "Biggie" Cannon
- (R.) Mimi Timmerman
- Vice-President—**
- (P.) Lauta Averett
- (R.) Gene Hall
- Secretary and Treasurer—**
- (P.) John P. Ward
- (R.) Sally McKay

- Junior:**
- President—**
- (P.) Sonny Thorpe
- (R.) Don Reeves

- Vice-President—**
- (P.) Fay Allen
- (R.) Carlyle Sullivan
- Secretary and Treasurer—**
- (P.) Myra Gaddy
- (R.) June Busbee *

- Sophomore:**
- President—**
- (P.) Elwood Cline
- (R.) Spencer Walker

- Vice-President—**
- (P.) Emory Clay
- (R.) Joan Walthall
- Secretary and Treasurer—**
- (P.) Elaine Meeks
- (R.) Anne Mintz

- Athletic Committee—**
- (Elect three; one girl, two boys.)
- (P.) Marion Barfield
- Sonny Bivins
- Rudy Stewart
- (R.) Bobby Bonner
- "Scooter" Johnson
- "Junice" Jordan

- Student Activities Committee—**
- (P.) Johnny Andrews
- Anne Black
- Laurice Walker
- (R.) Carlisle Minter
- Walter Leggett
- Anne Starr
- Cluster Board of Controls—**
- (P.) Dee Gardner
- Sanford Fitzsimmons
- (R.) Willard Chason
- Irene Jackson
- Garrett Thornton

LOST!

Lost: one gold key chain with one door key and three college keys of The Cluster, Mercer Student Government, and Kappa Phi Kappa, all bearing initials "J. C." Will finder please return to the Mercer registrar's office or to the Cluster.

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