

IN THE BEAR'S DEN

with BOB BONNER

Some people are never satisfied with what they have! This statement is entirely true in every respect. Here at Mercer in the athletic field we do not have everything that we want and we can't expect it. I know what you are thinking—Yep! bringing up the ole' football sob story again. No, for this time your sports editor will not attempt to write on the dead and passed-away idea of getting that gridiron sport back to M. U.

First I would like to talk about the athletics for girls on our campus. As you know, each sorority enters the intramural program in each sport. Now basketball is underway and several of the teams look very promising. Some of them are being coached by Mercer varsity players. Now let me put the question before you. Why can't the girls have inter-collegiate competition as the boys do, but not on near as large a scale? This could be carried out without much trouble if I know well enough the facts involved. For instance, they could play the class teams at Wesleyan, Bessie Tift, and possibly G.S.C.W.

There are four girls' social groups on our campus and at many other schools there are no sororities, but each class has a team just as our sororities do. Now you would probably say that it would take too much time for each of the four teams from each school to play. This could be taken care of easily by letting the champions from each school participate in a tournament, or in more simple terms, just play each other. There are gyms at all of these schools, and each can be used for this purpose. Why can't this be done? This would do a lot in boosting the school spirit, especially among the Mercer co-eds. I am sure that all of the girls would like this.

Can this be classed as a dead issue? Probably some will do so, but I think that if it has the right backing it can be put across. What do you think about it?

ALL-TIME SPORT
Perhaps the most played sport on the campus is none other than ping-pong. Some refer to ping-pong in a jokingly way when referring to Mercer athletics. This should not be done because this sport is very active and well-liked down at the students' favorite hang-out. There have been reports that Coach Claude Smith, head of intramurals, is going to have a ping-pong tournament at the end of the intramural basketball tournament. Many students are anxious to see this happen. Coach Smith, it's up to you now. The students are with you, and this will add to your already excellent intramural program.

IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN
If you saw the MIMA basketball team play last Thursday night, you saw something that you will probably never see again. W. P. Smith of the MIMA five had possession of the ball about three feet from the sideline on the right side. He saw a chance to bounce pass into their center. He did so, and when he passed it, the ball gave a hard bounce, hit the center, and lifted right over the rim of the goal and in for a two-pointer. How's that for getting points and putting on an exhibition, too? No, it probably will never happen again.

Bears Break Records, Defeat Petrels 125-54

Wilkes Makes Highest Score With 40 Points in Conference

Georgia, Auburn, S. Carolina Listed For '50 Baseball

Three Southeastern college teams have been listed as foes for Mercer's 1950 edition of the Bear baseball team. According to baseball mentor Claude Smith, the Bruins will meet Georgia, Auburn, and South Carolina.

Coach Smith has issued the first call for candidates with the pitchers and catchers due to report on Feb. 10 and the other players on Feb. 27.

A full schedule will be printed in the next issue of the Cluster.

Opening the season will be the strong Georgia Bulldogs, now under the coaching reigns of Jim Whatley who succeeded Charlie Trippi. March 22 has been set as the opening date, with the game being played on the Mercer diamond. The Bruins will then journey to Athens for a return contest on March 29.

Auburn will be host to the Mercer nine on March 31, and the two teams journey to Macon the next day for the second tilt. South Carolina will face the Bears on April 6 in a one game affair.

Coach Smith hopes that a lot of boys will turn out for the opening practice session and he especially urges all boys who can pitch. He stated that the pitching duties would probably be the weakest.

Bob Reeder, veteran first baseman, is captain of the nine this season. With Reeder are returnees Sonny Bivins, shortstop; Charley Hopkins, third base; Mayes Dobbins, second base; Harold Dixon, outfielder; Marvin Cochran, catcher; Gus Pender, Jackson Wood, and Otis McKinney, pitchers.

Bedlam broke loose in the Oglethorpe gymnasium last Tuesday night, and when something is hot you cannot hold it.

The Stormy Petrels did not get a chance to get stirred up, as the Mercer Bears smothered them by a torrid score of 125-54.

It took the Bear varsity one half and 12 minutes of the second to roll up 100 points. The subs, mostly Bee team players, went into the game and added 25 points to the overwhelming victory.

Mercer's forward Glenn Wilkes, blasted the nets with shots from all angles to rack up a blistering total of 40 points, taking scoring honors for the night. This total set a new inter-collegiate individual scoring record for the flashy forward who is one of the nations leading scorers.

Set Record

The whole team set a pre-war game record in garnering the 125 points.

Oglethorpe jumped to a 4-0 lead in the first five minutes but the Bears took the situation well in hand and went on to post a 50-25 lead by intermission time.

The Bear defense was the best of the season as they held the Petrels as long as 15 minutes at a time without the victims getting the ball on their side of the court. Then the Petrels put the ball in play; it was stolen by the smart Bears or else they were held behind mid-court for the 10 seconds.

Ranked Second

Mercer's center Lamar Clements ranked second in scoring with 20 points, while guard Glenn Cassell dropped in 17 tallies.

High man for the Petrel five was little Shelly Godkin who rang up a total of 15 markers.

Coach Jim Cowan of Mercer took a handful of subs to the tilt

Mercer to Face Tampa, F.S.C. There Fri., Sat.

Florida will be the next road trip for Mercer's basketball five as they journey to the sunshine state for games with Tampa University and Florida Southern this week-end.

The Bears face Tampa for the first time this year there Friday night, January 27. Tampa is rated to have a top ball club, and has been giving all opposition a good taste of its strength.

Florida Southern will be waiting in Lakeland for a return tilt with the Bears on Saturday night.

Mercer has faced the Southerners once this year and took the contest 70-53 on the Mercer hardwood.

and used them all in the game. Besides the varsity which is composed of Wilkes, Clements, Cassell, Captain Mayes Dobbins (7), Robert Reeder (4), Nathan Webb (12), and Aubert Kinsaul (4), the reserves who saw action and were instrumental in the win were Tom Colquitt (2), Emory Wilson (2), Jesse Duckworth (4), Jimmy Hines (11), Sonny Bivins.

Rudy Stewart, veteran guard, entered the line-up for a short while for the first time since the first Wofford tilt. Stewart injured a knee in that game and has kept him out of the other contests.

Air Force Team To Arrive Jan. 30

An Air Force officer team will arrive here January 30 to interview college men and women interested in careers as officers in the United States Air Force.

The visit to Mercer is part of a nationwide program being conducted by the Air Force to build up an officer corps composed in large part of college graduates, said Major C. W. Hines, here to make advance arrangements.

Students will have opportunity, he said, to learn about various officer training programs, the requirements and processing procedure. Those qualified may submit applications and be examined by the Air Force officer team so that they can begin training as soon as they finish college.

Will Explain Training

The team members, with headquarters in the Administration building, will explain three types of training:

1. Aviation Cadet Pilot Training. Young men selected as Aviation Cadets receive 1 year of flying, academic, and military training.

Graduates are commissioned as second lieutenants in the Air Force Reserve and awarded the silver wings of a pilot.

Outstanding graduates receive Regular commissions. All others, who receive Reserve commissions, have opportunity to compete for Regular commissions while on 3 years of active duty in flying assignments with the Air Force.

To be eligible for pilot training, men must be single, between the ages of 20 and 28½, citizens, must have completed 2 years or more of college, and meet high physical and moral qualifications. Classes begin every 8 weeks.

2. Aviation Cadet Navigator Training. To meet an increasing need for navigators, the Air Force has opened an Aviation Cadet navigator school at Ellington Air Force Base, Houston, Tex. Qualified young men are trained for 1 year in the latest techniques of radar navigation. Classes begin every month.

Receive Commissions

Graduates receive Reserve com-

missions as second lieutenants, with aeronautical rating as navigator. After a 30-day leave with pay, they are assigned to navigation duty on the new long-range bombers and transports of the Air Force.

Opportunities for Regular commissions are the same as for Aviation Cadets taking pilot training. The eligibility requirements also are the same, except for the physical examination which is less stringent for those seeking careers as navigators.

3. Air Force Officer Candidate School. Young men and women seeking nonflying careers in the Air Force receive military leadership training at Lackland Air Force Base near San Antonio, Tex. Classes begin in January, April, July, and October.

Assigned Duty

Graduates receive Reserve commissions as second lieutenants and are assigned to 3 years of active duty in junior executive positions in administrative and technical fields. While on active duty they have opportunity to compete for Regular commissions.

In any of the training programs, the Air Force officer said, students who for any reason fail to complete the work are returned to civilian life.

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