



Bear Feats

By Reg Murphy, Sports Editor

The house will be spic and span for the Dixie Conference basketball games here next Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The dusting and mopping have been done, new nets have been added (the others were worn from excessive basket-popping), and the Bears have been groomed.

On the surface, the tournament will be basically the same. Only two of the teams that came to town last season trailing the scent of the conference championship will be missing. Florida State decided that it would offer prospective athletes financial inducement for their services, and Oglethorpe, who has not fared well in cage games this year, dropped out for the apparent, already stated reason. The rest of the league looks fairly well balanced, with the Bears holding slight sway because of their undefeated conference record.

But they are in no hurry to be compared with last year! This tournament has taken on a class that the year-old job could never be accused of having. The leading actors in this three-night affair are of different vintage, and probably are matched better than the teams of a year ago. There is no individual star to take the place of Lamar Clements, scintillating Bear captain and pivot man then, or Bob Hartman, great Florida State ace, who almost pulled the final fray out of the fire before Lamar Clements forced him to foul out in the closing minutes of the final game last year.

Hold Your Hais When They Start Cheering

Still, there are boys who have put together as good teams as those. Take Mercer, for instance. One must admit that their entire offense was based around the pivot play of Clements, because there was their power. Now, Mercer has to depend on speed and deception, and are doing right well with it, thank you. They do not have the height to work under like they did then, and have made the game much more wide open, much to the enjoyment of the average spectator. Every man on the club is built to run, and while they run they work in shots that keep you out of your seat half the time. In fact, the legs get quite tired from the setting-up exercises, but nobody minds.

The directors of this tournament will run into only one obstacle which will present a problem of how to improve on last year, and that is the ecstatic finish. Mercer, who had battled on even terms for thirty seven of the forty minutes, finally pulled ahead in the final there to squeeze past Florida State, a powerhouse. They were able to do so by running the legs off the Seminoles, and feeding the ball to Clements. People were forced to go home and soak their hands in warm water after beating them to a bloody pulp in the game. If a better game than that develops this time, Porter Gymnasium will be revealed in Thursday morning's sun topless.

Too, one would not be too surprised to find the seats beaten from their roosts when the Orange and Black spangled cheerleaders start leading T-E-A-M.

BEAR BITS

... Mercer's ROTC band will add their bit to the performances with spasms of music each night of the tournament. If they are in top key, they should fill the gym with poyful noise.

... When the girls intramural All-Stars start their games with Wesleyan and G.S.C.W., it should be interesting in more ways than one. Anybody want to bet that the turnout will include more girls than boys.

... Watch the turf out on the lawn extending from the co-op to Roberts Hall start diminishing with the advent of spring. That is the price the University has to pay for no golf courts.

Sigma Nu Unleashes Basket Barrage To Cop Intramural Basketball Race

Sigma Nu turned loose a terrific offensive barrage in Porter Gymnasium last night to win their second Intramural Basketball championship in a row as they downed Phi Delta Theta 60-38 in the preliminary to the varsity tilt.

Bobby Bonner, an intramural All-Star, and Sellers Parker were the big offensive guns for the Snakes as they racked up 23 and 16 points respectively. Both rebounded well, virtually controlling the backboards with the help of Roy Chappell and Billy Huggins.

Bud Averitt and Benny Waugh, Phi Delt All-Star selections, led them in their unsuccessful quest for the title. After they left the game, Phi Delt was unable to score often, although Jesse Duckworth did tally 11 points.

Sigma Nu held a decisive 14-6 advantage at the end of the first period, and were not approached after that mark.

The Snakes have to win the trophy once more to gain permanent possession of it.

Howard Beauty Selected Queen

Beauteous Joy Ruth Williams, a Howard College Co-ed, has been selected Queen of the Dixie Conference for the 1951-52 school year by Kay Kaiser.

Miss Williams will be officially crowned between the halves of the finals in the basketball tournament scheduled here Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights.

She has just returned from Hollywood, where she was given a screen test by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios. She has been active in theatrical activities on the Howard campus, as well as touring with a professional company.

Kay Kaiser was the selector of the winner from the five entered from the campus. He was sent the pictures of the contestants, and decided on Joy.

She is a black-haired, dark-eyed lass of 21, and, despite her many activities, has one of the highest scholastic averages at Howard.

Snakes, Phi Delt's Pace All-Stars

In the balloting for the Intramural All-Star team the voting was led by the champions of the respective leagues. In League II, the champion Phi Delt's placed Bud Averitt and Benny Waugh. The champion Sigma Nus did even better, placing Bob Bonner, Roy Chappell, and Billy Huggins.

Others in League I were Jim Thompson, ATO, Lynn Fowler, Kappa Sigma, and Mack Lipsey, Ministers. Bill Godwin, KA, and Max McGlamery, Graduates, completed the line-up in League II.

Averitt was the leading scorer for Phi Delta Theta. Waugh, freshman from Macon, is extremely fast and hits a one-hand push shot from outside. Thompson, a sophomore from Vero Beach, Florida, was outstanding all season for the ATO's. Fowler, freshman from Moultrie, showed well for Kappa Sigma as a one-hand push shot artist and a ball-hawk. Lipsey, although he missed one game with an injured ankle, showed well enough on shots from inside and backboard play to win a spot on the team.

Chappell's ball-hawking, backboard work, and play-making led the Sigma Nu's drive to the championship and landed Roy on the All-Star team. Bonner the Snake's speedy forward, led his league in scoring with sixty-seven points. Bob is a repeater from last year's team. Huggins, second high scorer in the league with fifty points, is also a repeater from last year's team.

Godwin, outstanding for the KAs the last three years was rewarded for his exceptional set-shooting and ball-hawking. McGlamery, high scoring graduate, led his team with his accurate shooting and rebounding.

M Club Slates Alumni Reunion

A deluge of 150 former Monogram Club members will sweep onto the Mercer Campus Wednesday for the first reunion ever staged by them here.

The men will be entertained by the now active "M" Club members. They will be served a buffet supper in the co-op, and one of the outstanding men from each era of Mercer sports will be asked to talk for a few moments.

Since "M" Club certificates were not given to lettermen until 1947, all of the men who lettered before that year will be given one.

The reunion is under the direction of Dub Flowers, president, who has been in charge of contacts, arrangements, and other details.

Pivotmen Pace Piedmont Win

Demorest, Ga.—A couple of scintillating pivot men led Mercer's fast-breaking Bears to a routine 99-66 conquest of Piedmont College here Saturday night.

Centers Bert Schwartz and John Jewett shot, rebounded, and fed off to other players as Mercer totaled her largest score of the season. Both employed good hook shots to tally 14 and 13 points respectively.

Bears Run

Mercer ran from the time they hit the courts until they walked off with the tremendous tally. They out-manned Piedmont by using 12 players of capability, while Piedmont could use only nine defenders.

The Bears were in command all the way, leading 22-14 at the end of the first quarter, and amassing a 49-21 advantage at half time.

By the end of the third stanza, they led 74-43.

Stetson Topples Bears, 71-60; Teams Vie Here Again Tonight

Blue Stockings Stave Off Rally

Presbyterian College's basketball staved off a desperate last half Mercer rally to defeat the Bears 61-56 in a catch-as-catch-can battle Tuesday night in Porter Gymnasium.

The game, which saw elbows and baskets thrown with equal vigor, began slowly, then picked up momentum as the game progressed to leave fans breathless and hoarse at the finish.

Mercer led only one time—early in the first quarter at 7-6—but was within striking distance all the way, pulling as close as 51-50 with eight minutes left. But they could never effectively couple their offense and defense to pull into the lead.

Wilder And Reid

Two tiny floor men, Bobby Wilder and Richard Reid, led the Bear attack, both on the offense and defense. Wilder poured in 16 points, and Reid collected 14. They hawked the ball from their larger opponents many times.

Skip Skinner, set shot artist at Presbyterian guard, led his club with 15 points. He was followed by Dwight Groninger, who PC fans reverently refer to as their Mr. Basketball. Groninger tallied 11.

PC Sets Pace

The Blue Hose set the pace from the time they surged ahead at 10-8 to the time they froze the ball for the last two minutes. Incidentally, that freeze was a thing of beauty. They placed two men at midcourt to dribble the ball, and lined the other three up on the foul line, where they were free to break for the basket if their man left to get the ball.

Presbyterian had a 31-20 advantage at halftime, but the Bears, beginning to hit for the first time all night, had decreased the margin to five points at the end of the third quarter.

The first shots that Mercer attempted in the second half were good for points. With Wilder and Reid pacing the attack, the Bears bore in to come within one point of the Blue Stockings. Then Lew Hawkins and Skinner popped in a basket apiece to break the back of the Mercer rally.

The story of the ball game is best told by the shooting percentages. Mercer hit only .184 per cent of their shots in the first half, while the Stockings were dropping .375. The Bears came back in the second half to hit for the FC first half percentage, while PC upped their average to .395.

Bert Schwartz, Bear forward, was the big rebounder, raking 23 of them off the boards.

Mercer's basketekers will be battling to snap a two game losing streak tonight when they play the second of a two game series with Stetson's Hi-Hatters in Porter Gymnasium at 8 p.m. Last night they dropped the opener of the series, 71-60.

Coach Dan Nyimicz will probably open with the same five he used last night. That was Bobby Wilder and Glenn Cassell at guards, John Jewett at center, and Bert Schwartz and Richard Reid at forwards.

The game last night was never in doubt after the end of the first quarter, although Mercer came back with a spirited third quarter rally.

Stetson got the jump on the Bears early as Jim Yonge began to tip in baskets. They led at the end of the first quarter 20-10.

At the beginning of the second quarter Stetson Mentor Tay Pattee sent in what he calls one of his "platoons." He used the team as two units until some of his players had fouled out. Three men left via that route.

The Hatters had a commanding 41-25 halftime lead.

Then the rejuvenated Bears made a desperate comeback, but it was too late. Bobby Wilder and Tommy Mixon paced the attack.

In the third stanza, Jim Taverniere, Hatter guard and leading scorer, fouled out after being held to 6 markers by Bear defensive ace Glenn Cassell. But Yonge kept hitting for Stetson, and he was ably assisted by Marty Rossi.

Yonge ended the evening's work with 23 markers. Rossi collected 15.

Coach Dan Nyimicz sounded the keynote of the game when he said, "The game was rough, but we missed enough shots to win any game. Maybe it will be different tomorrow night."

Forward and center Bert Schwartz paced the Bears with 15 points, and Wilder and Mixon connected for 11 each.

Chi Omega Wins Basketball Crown

In the last game of the tournament, Chi Omega clinched their sixth straight game 26-11, and with it the Women's Intramural crown.

Pat McKinnon led the Chi O's with 11 points as they finished an unbeaten season. She was followed by Sylvia Reeves and Mary Roberts with 6 markers each and Peggy Carlyle with 3.

Wilson and Herring scored 4 each, followed by Rankin with 3 for the down-trodden Phi Mu's.

AD Pi Tills MICA

In the first game of Monday nights contests, AD Pi edged MICA 42-38, in a high-scoring, fast moving contest. Parker and Castleberry led the victors with 21 and 20 points respectively.



DIXIE CONFERENCE PLANS are completed with just a few little details being ironed out by Major George Connell (seated) and Coach and Mrs. Dan Nyimicz.