

Bears Hope to Revenge Georgia Defeat Today

By Avon Bulce

The Mercer baseball team is in Athens today, facing the Georgia Bulldogs.

Saturday the Bears will meet North Georgia College at 3 p.m. on Willingham Field.

The Bears go to the Bulldog diamond seeking revenge for the 18-3 defeat the Bulldogs handed them the first game of the season.

Probable starting pitcher for the Bears today is Vassel Hofflich, ace left-hander, who has a 2-1 record in Dixie Conference play.

The Mercer diamonders have been sharpened as the season comes to a climax, and should give the Bulldogs a run for their money in today's contest.

Pitching Improved

The pitching staff has been greatly improved with the addition of Vassel Hofflich to the starting hurlers line-up.

Don Carter and Billy Bryant, newcomers to the mound brigade, who have showed a decided improvement in control and "know-how" will also prove to be assets in case of trouble in these all-important remaining games of the season.

Lettermen Don Lewis, Jim Thompson, and Bobby Wilder have also shown good form and great improvement since the start of the season.

The Bear infield has become more efficient with this year's addition of Catcher Mack Thompson and Bobby Wilder at second base, moving Cliff Powers to short-stop.

Harry Lockhart and Vassel Hofflich retain their post at first and third respectively, from last year's squad.

Hitting Power

The hitting power of the Bear aggregation centers in Bobby Wilder, Billy White, and Harry Lockhart.

The Bears will then have six games remaining in the season, including two double headers, which will be home games.

The remaining road trip will be to Statesboro, to meet Georgia Teachers College May 18, the final game of the season.

The Bruins now have a 5-7 overall record and a Conference record of 5 wins and 1 defeat. They have been victorious in five of the last six starts.

Mercer leads the Dixie Conference now, and has a good chance of winning it.

Six Conference games remain to be played, and they will determine the crown.

Chi O, Phi Mu Lead Leagues

As girls intramural athletics come into the home stretch, Chi Omega and Phi Mu lead the softball and badminton leagues, respectively.

The Chi O's, with only one defeat, a hard fought contest at the hands of Alpha Delta Pi, to mar their record look like good bets to cinch the softball crown.

Phi Mu paces badminton standings with only one round of play remaining. They battle Chi O Monday night, and ADPi meets MICA the same evening.



BEAR BASEBALLERS gather in front of the dugout to whoop it up during a crucial moment of a recent game. Billy White lends vocal support as Vassel Hofflich, Duke Bryan, and Coach Claude Smith look on.

College Ball Just Another Step Toward the Top for Billy White

It is the ambition of almost every youngster with any athletic inclination to become a professional baseball player, and Mercer has one such young man who will very likely attain that ambition as soon as he is graduated from college.

His name is Billy White, and at the rate he is going now, a lot of people are going to hear of it before he gets through with bats, gloves, and spikes.

Hitting a torrid .410 at the moment, he already is beginning to attract the attention of big league scouts in this area. His flawless left-handed swing at the plate leaves pitchers in a quandary over the delivery they are going to serve up to him.

His speed on the basepaths and in the outer gardens doesn't leave much to be desired, either. Many ordinary rollers to infielders go for hits because of his swiftness to first base.

Started in Legion Ball

Billy says he first became interested in baseball when he played in the American Legion program at his hometown, Winder, even before he was of high school age. He graduated into high school ball, and captained the crew his senior season.

Although baseball is his first love, he was also a star footballer and track man at Winder.

The curly thatched young athlete gets a big kick out of thinking about his early days in baseball. He started as a pitcher, filling in as an outfielder when someone else toed the pitching rubber. His coach was unwilling to give up his batting power, and had to find a place somewhere until his turn to pitch came around again.

White came to Mercer with the idea that he was a pitcher, but Bear mentor Claude Smith terminated that. During the 1951 season, he switched White to the outer garden, and there he has remained.

He rapped out a solid .333 in his freshman season.

Billy nominates his grand-slam,

game-clinching homer in Mississippi State last year as his greatest thrill in sports. He knew he had arrived on the college scene.

It may not be too long before he arrives on the national scene.

Phi Delts Hold Soft Ball Lead

Phi Delta Theta, still relying on their ace righthander, Bud Averitt, scored a 21-7 victory over Pi Kappa Phi this week to hold their slim lead in the intramural softball race.

Averitt, fresh from a 6-0 one-hitter over the Kappa Sigs last week, was never in trouble as he kept the Pi Kaps at bay.

The Phi Delts have only one defeat to mar their otherwise perfect record. The only obstacle between them and the pennant could come out of the SAE-Sigma Nu protest game. The SAEs are leading at the end of six innings, 9-7, with the all important seventh left when play resumes.

Should the Sigma Nus win, a playoff would be necessary to decide the champion. Otherwise, it will be the Phi Delts in a walk.

SAE took a one run victory over Lambda Chi to knock the Chis out of the running for the pennant. Roy Moultrie led Chi hitting, but it just wasn't enough as SAE managed to nip them.

Sigma Nu took a 7-5 victory over the ministers, who are always a threat, to stay close to the top. Dick Mitchell won his seventh game of the year, finally overcoming his habit of issuing too many free passes as he walked only one man.

Track Team Seeks Second Win As Bears Meet Georgia in Athens

By Bill Kilpatrick

The Mercer track team, fresh from their first dual victory, engages the University of Georgia Bulldogs in Athens this afternoon in their fifth two-way meet of the season.

Emory Trounces Racketeers, 7-2

The Bear tennis squad traveled to Emory University Tuesday to enter competition against the much improved Emory squad, and came home with the wrong side of a 7-2 score.

This was the first meeting of the squads this year, and, although the Bears gave a good account of themselves, the Emory team was not to be denied.

Emory has added many new faces to their aggregation, and their added strength is shown by the fact that last year's number one man was paired against Mercer's number three.

Sellers Parker went down to a 6-1, 6-1 defeat at the hands of Emory's Dillard. Bert Schwartz suffered a 6-2, 6-1 setback by the Teasippers' Asbury.

Keith Benning was defeated by Bill Yon by a 6-1, 6-1 margin. Yon was last year's number one man.

Harry Chafin, continuing to be a big gun in Coach Mel Mayfield's lineup, came through with a 6-4, 5-7, 6-3 victory over Rustin of Emory.

Mercer's other two singles players, Charlie Rodgers and Tommy Knotts, suffered defeats by Thorbecke 6-2, 7-5 and Zimmons 6-3, 6-2 respectively. The doubles went this way. Parker and Schwartz were defeated by Dillard and Asbury, 6-3, 6-3. Knotts and Rodgers were defeated by Redick and Palmer by a 6-3, 6-1 score.

Mercer's doubles team, composed of Benning and Chafin, squeezed by Yon and Zimmon 4-6 6-4, 7-5.

Emory is scheduled for a return match on the Mercer courts soon.

TENNIS TOURNEY SLATED FOR THIS SPRING

Athletic representatives from all the organizations on campus will meet early next week to formulate plans for an intramural tennis tournament to be held late in the Spring.

They will decide whether the tourney will be conducted on an individual basis or as a member of a team from their respective groups.

Mercer, although definitely the underdog in the contest, has displayed marked improvement, and is expected to make a good showing in the point finals. Georgia's potent squad is especially strong in the dashes, weights, and hurdles.

Bob Hornbuckle, speedster from Atlanta, is the Georgia standout in the 220 and 440. Little Lonnie O'Quinn is the Bulldog specialist in the high jump and hurdle events. Burly Derwent Langley puts the shot excellently for the Athens men.

All three of them turned in excellent performances in a three-way go Saturday when Florida State measured the Bulldogs and Georgia Tech.

Sumner Probably Out

Although Kevin Sumner, freshman endurance specialist, may not run today, the Bears' Ebb Kilpatrick and Julian Leroy give Mercer a decided advantage in the distance runs.

Sumner has been on the shelf since last Wednesday when he pulled up lame against Davidson.

The defeat of Howard Saturday at Porter Field was the first win chalked by Mercer tracksters. They took 11 firsts and the relay to win by an 89-42 margin.

Kilpatrick High

High point man of the day was Ebb Kilpatrick with firsts in the mile and two-mile. Julian LeRoy was second, picking up first in the 880, a second in the mile, and a leg of the relay team.

Bear speedster Bobby Bonner won the 220 yard dash after crossing the finish line second in the century.

Flip Jones looked good winning the 120 yard high hurdles and placing second in the 220 lows.

Other victories were won for the Bears by Alvin Shackelford in the 100, Buddy Ridley in the 440. Herman Bloodworth and Billy Bryant split high jump honors.

Bryant, Richard Reid, and Herbert Hodges tied for first in the pole vault, and Reid went on to annex the broad jump crown also. Joe Watson threw the discus the farthest distance.

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