

# Toby's Topics

BY AVON BUICE

## SPRING SPORTS WEAR

"In the spring a young man's fancy turns to . . .", yes, and other things also, as evidenced by those in sweats running the cinders and, since Monday afternoon, those out throwing the baseball. Seems, too, I saw a few blisters as a result of the first tennis practice last week.

All we're waiting on now is ole man weather to open up and show us a sunny face to see the boys of all three sports began hustling in order to make the starting line-ups for events coming up soon. Harry Smith, tennis coach, has given instructions to all net men that they should get busy just as soon as the weather is suitable and the courts are dry enough. With the opening matches coming up the last of this month, looks as if we are going to have to speak to the guy in charge of rain and ask permission to practice a few weeks before the openers.

## BRUINS DROP TOURNEYS

Well, the Bruin Cagers did not fare too well in the tourneys, as far as trophies go, but as for one I would like to say they did as much, if not more, than could be expected of them.

Talking with Coach Nyimicz before the tournaments started, he made this remark: "Of course I would like to see the boys win and I think they can, but if they don't win another game they will not let me down personally." The boys had already given Nyimicz a record both he and they could be proud of.

These boys just had too much heaped upon them at the time when everything counted. You realize, of course, these boys played seven games in only eleven nights. We could not expect them to play their best each night. We believe they did more than could be asked of any team.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Just speculating what could happen next season, the Bears should really go next year. They lose only one valuable man from the line-up by graduation—Emory Wilson, a reliable man in the reserve ranks this past season. As far as material goes there should be plenty around to build another championship team in 1954.

As for the carpenter of the '54 aggregation, personally I don't know. I have read in the newspapers, just as you have, and heard it discussed many times, and have inquired just as many times about Coach Nyimicz leaving after this season. From all evidence around, the returning mentor must be a good coach, but I don't see it possible to better the one we have now.

We understand that the law requires Coach Jim Cowan to get his job back because of being drafted from it, but our wishes are that there could be some way worked out to keep both Nyimicz and Cowan!

## TOBY TID-BITS . . .

. . . The girls seem to have a much more spirited athletic program going this year.

. . . I heard about one alumnus who could remember when baseball games attracted 3,000 to the Mercer campus and only 300 to football games.

. . . We should be determined to see that all the spring athletic contests get much more support than they did last season.

. . . Have we forgotten the spirit the Bruin cagers showed during the past season already? What about the coach and managers?

. . . Mercer was defending champion of all conference titles with the exception of football at the beginning of the year!

## MICA Defeats Chi Omega 30-21 To Lead League at Mid-Season

As girls' intramural basketball games moved into the half-way mark this week, only M.I.C.A. remains unbeaten. The MICA's, who have a team star-studded with all-stars, met Chi Omega Monday night. The game was played carefully by both sides, and this made for disappointingly low scores. It looked as if the two heretofore undefeated teams were too wary of each other to turn loose and play the brand of ball they are capable of.

Chi Omega's two score pacers, McKinnon and Hunt were held in check by MICA's Moody and Hays, who worked a superb zone defense throughout the game. On the other end, Mary Roberts led the defense with an excellent display of guarding for Chi Omega, and holding MICA to their lowest score of the season.

The second game Monday night was played by ADPI and Phi Mu, the ADPI's taking it by a narrow margin. There was much closer play in this game than the first, and it ended with a surprise score of 27-25. Remember the last time these teams met the ADPI's trounced Phi Mu 33-20.

Box scores for the two games are as follows:

Chi Omega	
McKinnon (f)	11
Hunt (f)	8
Carlisle (f)	2
Saunders (g)	
Roberts (g)	
Fretwell (g)	
	21

Sub: Reeves, Brazier, Morgan.

## Spring Sports Practice Begun With High Hopes

Chants of "we want a hundred," and "T-E-A-M" all fade into the rough voice of the fan in the stand and the beat of his coke bottle on the bleacher yelling "let's get a hit", "kill the ump," and the jest of the track men as they come out with the familiar "quack" or "if you can't win, fall and dig up the track", as of the last of this month, when baseball gets under way, and April 4, when the cindermen journey to meet Florida State in their first competition.

Coach Claude Smith seems pretty well pleased with the group of men he has training now for conference defenders.

The Bruins have seven returning lettermen from last season's Dixie Conference Champs. Those back on the diamond are Cliff Powers, Mack Thompson, Pim Thompson, Vasil Hofflich, Bill Hull and Dan Hammack. Hammack was leading hitter of the 1952 club.

Also returning from last year's traveling squad will be Don Carter, pitcher, who saw a great deal of action last year, but not enough to earn a letter; Bill Hollingsworth, reserve catcher; plus several who have not reported for practice yet.

The first day of practice saw a total of 44 men working to get in shape for the '53 club, out of which there were six men vying for the catching position and a total of 12 seeking to haul for the team. This is the most men seeking to pitch that Smith has had out in several seasons. Maybe the pitching staff will be stronger as a result.

## Track

Track training began officially Wednesday afternoon. The boys of the cinders are also conference defenders.

Several men have already begun training, and the team should be ready to go by the start of the season, April 4.

Men to watch on the track this year will be returning lettermen "Flip" Jones, hurdler; Richard Reid, vaulter; Joe Watson, discus; Bill Bonner, relay; Tommy Huckaby, dash man and relay; Buddy Ridley, dash and relay; Alvin Shackelford, dash man; Buddy Sumner, long distance runner; and Ebb Kilpatrick, distance runner.

The Bruin track squad has several freshmen seeking positions, and it looks as if the boys should have a good season on the cinders.

Coach Dan Nyimicz is also mentor of the Mercer track team. This will be his second season as track coach, seeking a second conference championship.

The 1953 Track Schedule is as follows:

- April 4—Florida State—there
- April 11—Davidson—there
- April 15—Emory—here
- April 18—Presbyterian—there
- April 30—Georgia—(here)
- May 8-9, Dixie Conference—Clinton, Mississippi

MICA	
Harper (f)	9
Puckett (f)	15
Smith (f)	6
Hays (g)	
Moody (g)	
Callaway (g)	
	30
Sub: Blitch, Griffin	

## DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . The longest fight with gloves lasted 110 rounds (7 hours 19 minutes). Any Bowen vs. Jack Burke, April 6, 1893, New Orleans. Referee called it no contest when fighters refused to continue.



The Tournament All-Stars are, kneeling, Lewis Myers, Mississippi Colleg; Jim Harrison, Howard; Tommy Mixon and Richard Reid, Mercer. Standing, Don Buck and Fred Lapper, Florida Southern; Marvin Breeding, Howard; Bill Leach, Florida Southern; John Karrh and Morris Jacobs, Howard.



Richard Reid, Bear spark-plug receives the cup as the Dixie Conference Tournament's most valuable player from Major Connell, conference president.

## 10 Men Receive Basketball Letters; Reid, Mixon Named To All-State

The Mercer Bears' Richard Reid received the recognition he deserved last night at a banquet of the 1953 cagers as they bestowed upon him two of the highest honors of the season, namely, the most valuable player trophy and captain of the 1953-54 squad.

## Bears Fail in NAIB Tourney

Second rated Mercer Bears dropped their first try at the '53 NAIB crown, which had been their goal since the season had begun.

The crown, which every player and student wanted, if not admitted openly was in their minds, seemed very close as a victorious club began the final round of the season.

All hopes were lost Friday night, as a tired, weary, battle worn, but spirited five was over-powered by a strong Florida State team 87-77 in the first round of the two-bout tourney.

The Bruin club hitting only 32.5 per cent of shots tried from the field not meeting the standards of a sharp-shooting 53% rating turned in by the Floridians.

Tommy Mixon again led the Bears in the scoring ranks with twenty points gained in the last three periods of play. Mixon did not score in the first period.

Bill Harris, in his stay during the game notched the board for 15 points with his hook to come in behind Richard Reid who swished the nets for a total of 16.

Reid hit the nets for 10 points during the last period, a time when the Bruins were putting in their last bid for victory. Speedster Inman Veal played his usually good floor game and added 11 points to the scoring chart.

Don Wernke led the Florida State crew with a total of 30 points.

Dellahan and Gordon did much damage with their shooting in the last period as they sank 8 points each in the period of decision.

The Bruins pushed ahead with 7 minutes to play, then the Floridians began with some of the above-average (50%) set shooting from outside the circle to leave the Bruins in the 87-77 deficit when tallies were made.

The Bears defeated Florida State in Porter Gymnasium the second game of the season, but dropped a season game to the Floridians in Florida.

Sharp-shooter Tommy Mixon received a trophy also at last night's banquet as the most consistent man from the free throw line. Mixon hit 87 of 114 tries for a .763 record. It was also announced by the

Atlanta Constitution yesterday, these two speedsters made the all-state team. Reid and Mixon were placed on the first five along with Georgia's "Zippy" Morocco, Tech's "Pete" Silas, and Georgia Teachers' George Webb. This is Reid's second season on the Constitution's College All-State Team.

The Bears also announced all-opponent team for the season. The Bears selected as the first five Selvy, Furman University, who averaged 40 points against them in season play; Morocco, Georgia, averaging 20 points in two games against the Bears; Wernke, Florida State, averaged 24 points in three games; MacHardy, Rollins, averaged 25 points in two games, and Neal, Wofford College, who netted an average of 29 points against the Bruins.

Second team as selected by the Bears were Ingrund, Stetson; Karrh, Howard; Leach, Florida Southern; Taveneri, Stetson; and Harley, Georgia Teachers College.

Those receiving letters this season include Richard Reid, John Hughes, Bert Schwartz, Donnie Young, Tommy Mixon, Inman Veal, Bill Harris, John Jewett, Emory Wilson, and Tommy Knotts.

## Mixon Tops '53 Scoring Attack

Sophomore Tommy Mixon led the Bruin scoring attack for the 1952-53 season with 397 points in 27 games for an average of 14.7.

Mixon connected for 154 of 359 attempted shots from the field for a .429 average. Tom also led the team at the free-throw line with 87 out of 114 tries for a .763 percentage.

Co-captain Richard Reid, last season's top scorer fell 10 points behind his last year's total of 381 as he netted 371 this season for a 13.7 average.