

# Bear Tales

By Duane Akin

By now, the Bears have met Selvy for the second time this season, and from recent press releases, it seems anything could have happened. He has erased and rewritten just about every major college basketball record possible, and has done it with seeming ease and fortitude. The local eagles did a great job of holding the wizard to twenty points in Porter Gym, but since that time he has apparently gone wild, even breaking the century mark, he himself scoring several times as many points as those totaled by the remainder of the Furman hoopsters. Anyway, by now you know the answer to how many he scored against the Bears, and good or bad, we can still remember where his lowest total of the season was scored.

\*\*\*

It seems it must be open season on coaches for diseases. Coach Cowan has been under the weather, and at the time of writing it is not definite whether he'll be able to make the South Carolina trip with the Bears to play Furman. Here's wishing a complete and rapid recovery for the mentor, and a hope that the Bears' present him with some medicine in the form of victories over Furman and Howard or second best, a good showing in the contests.

Coach Mayfield is having trouble with what he diagnoses as intestinal flu. He hopes to be ready to put the tennis team through their paces in preparation for the opening mat h.

Maybe I'm wrong, but I think it would have been a service to Coach Mayfield, if some of the regular consumers of Sherwood food, had warned him against accepting an invitation to dine there recently.

Much more of that, and maybe the coach will get the inspiration to fight for training tables for their valued understudies.

\*\*\*

We're still open for comment concerning the letter in this column last issue. The comment I've heard has been pro and con as to the opinion expressed by the writer of the letter, and some seemed shocked at the audacity. Others have commented on the record of the road trip immediately following the letter. This could be attributed to several other factors as well, but is a thought worth considering.

\*\*\*

I call your attention to a letter on the second page of this issue, concerning one of the Bear eagles. Keep in mind that this publication is devoted to you as students, and if any such idea ever enters your mind, make it known if you want it passed on. Only in this way will it be possible to get the desired cross section view of campus opinion.

## Tennis Team Begins Practice Monday To Prepare for Rugged Schedule

By Duane Akin

Spring sports begin to take the field Monday, as the Bear tennis team begins work for a rough schedule, including some of the top teams in the Southeast.

The season gets the starting gun March 26, here on the local courts. The Bruins meet the Bulldogs from the University of Georgia. From there on, they follow a rugged series, meeting such stand-out teams as University of Florida, and Florida State. Florida has been rated as having one of the three best tennis teams in the South, and Florida State boasts an experienced squad this season; they lost only one letterman since last season, and this means that eight lettermen will be in the lineup when the Bears meet them this year.

The Bruins have only three returning lettermen taking up racket this season. Bobby Owens is not in school this quarter, but he may be back in time for the schedule. The returning men are Sonny Thurmond, Bert Schwartz, and Tommy Knotts. Basketball prevented the latter two from taking part in fall practice, but they are expected to shape up soon after regular work begins.

Seven freshmen contenders were on hand for sessions in the fall. Carter Smith, Billy Causey, and Walter Moore were standouts in intra-mural competition last year, and show great promise for the places on the squad.

Smith, a local student, was runner-up in last year's GIAA tournament.

Causey has returned from a term with the Army to resume the type playing he did with Schwartz as a doubles partner in high school.

Walter "Buddy" Moore, a newcomer from Meridian, Miss., is showing much promise. He was a standout in high school as a doubles expert. He has a sound, all-court game, which could easily develop into excellent play.

Art Pementier, a candidate with a handicap in the form of a back injury, was Lakeland City Junior Champion in competition in Lakeland, Fla. Barring difficulties from the back, he should be able to resume play.

Other new prospects among the freshmen are Dick Post, and Gene Plummer of Albany, and Bill Taylor of Cordele.

Several candidates missed fall practice, but came out for spring sessions. Among these are Malvern Brown, Preston Moore, and Bob Braswell.

Coach Mayfield foresees a brilliant season in spectacular play, even if the Bears have to bow to the onslaught of some of the best in tennis teams which appear on the list. "We can offer a good display, and a will to win, if things continue according to first appearances." The coach would like to form a squad of from ten to twelve men from which to choose the top players. Coach Mayfield expressed his high regard for the recognition the Bear Netters are getting in their chosen sport. He told of receiving requests for playing dates from Davidson and Sewanee, which had to be tables due to there being no open dates.

Manager for this year's team is Bill Burgamy. Bobby Dent is the assistant manager.

## Furman Blast Mercer's Bruins 93-48



Intramural basketball champions: Left to Right front row: John Peteson, Bobby Brown, Mike Garvin, Benny Waugh. Back row: Bud Averett, Bill Nash, Jack Moore and Sonny Malloy.

Frank Selvy, the nation's leading major college scorer and the most phenomenal basketball player of modern times, continued his torrid pace Thursday night as he led the Furman Paladins to a tremendous victory over Mercer. Selvy, who is averaging 42 points per game this season, maintained his average with 45 points as Mercer went down 93-49.

Mercer traveled to Furman and played without the services of coach Jim Cowan, who is recovering from influenza. This may have put the Bear squad at a slight disadvantage for this game.

In an earlier meeting with Furman on our home court the Bears defeated them while holding Selvy to 22 points. Furman played this game without the services of two of their starting players who were out with the football team. Both of these men saw action tonight as Mercer was completely out-classed.

Due to the fact that this story is being written right after the game, no write-up has been sent in on the Mercer boys.

The Bears return home Saturday for their last regular season game of the year against Howard College. This will be the homecoming game for Mercer. The Bears will be sharpening up for the Dixie Conference tournament which begins Monday.

## Phi Delta Theta Takes Basketball Crown by Defeating ATO 41-34

A fighting Phi Delta Theta five fought off a last quarter rally of Alpha Tau Omega to win the 1953-54 Intramural Basketball Championship, last Thursday night, in Porter Gym.

In this victory, number six of the Phi Deltas in their undefeated record, they came out on the big end of a 41-34 score.

Phi Delta guard, Bobby Brown led the attack with a fine floor game as well as taking high point honors by sacking twelve points. Following Brown in the scoring column and offering almost as much support were Bill Ayret and Mike Garvin. Ayret racked up eleven pointers while Garvin hit for ten.

Scoring honors for ATO went to Jim Thompson who while playing a good backcourt scored eleven points. Close behind Thompson in tallies was ATO forward Roy Vandiver with ten.

The scoring in the first half was comparatively even. ATO guard Bob Geiger showed his stuff as he clipped the nets from the floor three times during the first quarter.

At half time the Phi Deltas lead by a slim margin of 20-14. The second half was greatly speeded up and it soon became a contest between speedsters Brown and Garvin of the Phi Deltas and Hammock and Vandiver of ATO.

The Phi Deltas will receive a new trophy this year due to the fact that the old trophy was retired last year.

## Students Given Ticket Reduction

Conference Tickets Pg 4  
Due to the fact that the Dixie Conference Basketball Tournament at Porter Gym, Feb. 22, 23, and 24, is not a school sponsored event, all students and faculty who wish to attend will need tickets. Special student and faculty season tickets, good for all three nights, will be on sale at the Co-op from 8:00 a.m., Sat. the 20th, till 4:00 p.m., Mon. the 22nd.

The price is \$1.50, upstairs seats only.

Regular admission will be \$1.00 per night-upstairs, and \$1.50 main floor. Students and faculty who do not get season tickets before 4:00 p.m. Mon. the 22nd will pay regular prices at the gate. Student tickets must be accompanied by student activities cards each night.

## 'Champs of Georgia'—Mercer's '23 Team To Have Reunion on Campus

Another event of Homecoming will be a reunion of Mercer's 1923 basketball team. This will be the first reunion of this team since their leaving Mercer. After the campus barbecue the members of the '23' team will attend the Homecoming game between Mercer and Howard and at half-time some type of entertainment will be provided by them.

Bob Robert M. Gamble, the captain of this team, will present the others who are Mr. Manly McWilliams, of Charlotte, N. C., Mr. I. G. Wilkes of Atlanta, Mr. Sidney H. Ellison of Knoxville, Tenn., Mr. G. A. Simmons, of Marietta, Georgia, Mr. Byron L. "Crook" Smith of Savannah, Georgia, Mr. C. C. Caldenhead of Thomaston, Georgia, Mr. William Stone, now with the Athletic Department at the University of Kentucky, Mr. C. A. Harper, of Jacksonville.

## Schwartz—Bruin Standby for Three Seasons, Ends Career in Tourney

Rugged, dependable, spirited, consistent—all these and many more describe the efforts of Bert Schwartz as one of the Bear's mainstay. Schwartz, one of Cowan's graduating seniors, has been counted on heavily for the success of this year's season.

The six-two Bert from Macon, though short as modern basketballers go, led the team in rebounds last year and holds a close second to Big John Jewett in that department this year. Bert's fighting hustle continuously makes up for lack of height as he steals ball after from the "big boys".

Schwartz began his basketball career at Lanier High School where he was chosen on the all-state team his senior year in 1950. After one quarter at Auburn, he continued his basketball at Mercer, although he saw only very little action during his freshman year. Bert earned his starting position the next year and has been there ever since, playing his consistent, team game. This year saw him play his best ball during the Dixie Conference tournament as he averaged 23 points a game and controlled the boards in each game.

By his junior year, Bert had proven himself worthy and was chosen to captain the Bear squad. He had a very good season, leading the team on the floor, getting 289 rebounds to lead this department while he also averaged scor-

### DIXIE CONFERENCE

(Continued from Page 1)

The "M" club is also sponsoring a "Miss Dixie Conference Contest" to be selected by judges during the tourney. The sponsors for the various teams will be selected from representatives of each of the five girls organizations at Mercer.

The sponsors and organizations they represent are as follows: Macon Misses, Miss Connie Adams; ADPi Sorority, Miss Ellen Fowler; Chi Omega Sorority, Miss Barbara McLain; Phi Mu Sorority, Miss Dot Poole; MICA, Miss Teeny Moody.