

# Bearing Down

By Elliott Brack

The way I understand it from eye-witnesses, the entire student body should have seen the terrific playing of the Mercer tennis team in the conference tourney held the 14th of May in Clinton.



Brack

At the end of the first day of play, Mercer was in last place, with only a slim outside chance of winning the title. Before the next day of competition, Coach Mel Mayfield must have really talked to his athletes; for they won five out of six matches the next day to tie for first place in what some called phenomenal playing.

Buddy Moore was particularly outstanding for the Bears. Buddy played his heart out Saturday, winning every singles match he played, and eventually winning the singles title. In the semi-final match, his final match opponent watched Moore's play, since the opponent, John Sapp of Howard, did not have to play then. This was only an extra handicap for Moore—playing with hardly any rest. But he came through in fine style to defeat Sapp for the championship.

Don't overlook the other players. Tommy Knotts and Bill Causey won their second flight doubles title, and Carter Smith won the third flight singles. Without one of these victories, the team could not have tied for the crown.

Maybe next year the tennis squad will have more support at the home games. Surely the crowd could be increased, for not many students go to the tennis courts now. A fine brand of tennis is played against the outstanding teams of the southeast.

Some comment has been made by track coach Jim Cowan about the apparent lack of interest in track at Mercer. Coach Cowan said he well remembers when time trials had to be run in nearly each event before a track meet to see who would represent Mercer in the meet.

Nowadays, there are hardly enough participants to enter Mercer in some of the events. What Coach Cowan would like is a track squad made up of 30 to 40 men in the time trials. In the meet, he would like to have around 25 participating. Then he would consider his team up to strength.

Cowan made it known he would make every effort he could to stimulate an interest in the student for track, for he doesn't want to have to discontinue such a good sport. But, he made it clear, if enough students do not come out for track in coming years, track might have to be discontinued.

Coach Cowan can think of only one way to stimulate any interest now. That is cross-country. Cross-country is a fall sport, during the months of October and November. A brief explanation of cross-country might be that it is simply distance running. The Mercer cross-country route is about 2 1/2 miles long. If the school sees fit to have a cross-country team, Georgia Tech, and Emory will probably be the opponents, since they have been so in the past. Four or five meets are usually on the schedule.

I would like us to have a cross-country team here at the home of the Bears. Other people have also expressed themselves in this way. And if it would help the track team, I am all the more for it. What do you think?

RECOGNITION . . . to Jack Thornton and Jimmy Parvis of ATO for winning the intramural horseshoe crown . . . To the Phi Delta Theta team in capturing their third straight softball title . . . To Sigma Nu, led by "Coach" Bill Bonner, for retiring the track trophy . . . To the All-Star boys softball team . . . To the All-Star girls volleyball, basketball, and softball teams . . . To Coach Cowan and Coach Red Dog for running the intramural track meet off smoothly . . . To Dub Flowers for helping me so much with the intramural records . . . To Homer Lassiter for winning the individual tennis tourney . . . To Harry Moody and William Kendricks for keeping everything intact around the gym.

Leading the MICA's was Sylvia Smith and Shirley Tolbert, both with a batting average of .800. Louise Bransford had an average of .750. Chi Omega's leading hitters were Mary Wilder, Peggy Carlisle and Lois Brazier, all with a .750 average. Umpires for the contest were Julian Franklin and Olan Jones.

## MICA Wins Girls' Softball; Smith and Tolbert Top Batters

The Mercer Independent Co-Ed Association defeated Chi Omega recently to take the girls softball crown. The score of the game was 13-7, MICA coming out on the long end of the score.

The MICA's took an early lead and held it until the third inning, when the Chi O's went ahead. However, MICA had a big last inning and took the championship easily.



MICA championship girls' softball team.

## Phi Delts Win Softball Title

Led by their star pitcher, Bud Avret, Phi Delta Theta won its third consecutive softball title. The Phi Delts finished the season with a clean slate, winning ten games and losing none.

Three teams, Kappa Alpha, Alpha Tau Omega, and Kappa Sigma wound up in a three-way tie for second place, all having a 7-3 record.

The KA's unofficially won the offensive title as they rapped across runs to the tune of 10.25 per game. Closely following was Sigma Nu, with 10.12 runs per game, and ATO third, with 10.00.

Avret's pitching led the Phi Delts to the defensive crown, having a 2.5 defensive record. ATO was second, 4.37; Kappa Sigma, third, 4.6. Every game that was originally scheduled was either played or forfeited.

FINAL STANDINGS

Team	W	L	per	off	def
Phi Delta Theta	10	0	100	8.13	2.5
Kappa Alpha	7	3	70	10.25	7.28
Alpha Tau Omega	7	3	70	10.00	4.37
Kappa Sigma	7	3	70	8.29	4.6
Ministers	6	4	60	9.01	7.6
Sigma Nu	7	3	70	10.12	8.7
SAE	7	3	70	7.8	10.28
Wildcats	7	3	70	10.14	14.29
Lambda Chi Alpha	3	7	30	7.09	13.7
MMA	2	8	20	5.09	12.19
P. Kappa Phi	0	10	0		

## Sigma Nu Takes Track Trophy

Sigma Nu won its third consecutive intramural track crown Monday as they racked up 30 1/2 points. Second place went to Alpha Tau Omega, with 23, third place to Kappa Sigma with 21 and fourth to Phi Delta Theta with 15 1/2 points.

Pacing the Sigma Nu team was Homer Nelson, who won the 100-yard dash and the broad jump. By winning the track title for the third time, Sigma Nu retires this track trophy. Next year a new one will be awarded.

The intramural meet was held this year at the end of the spring quarter because of bad weather. It was originally scheduled for the last of March, but because of weather conditions, it was postponed. Next year, the athletic department will try to run it at the beginning of the spring quarter.

Track coach Jim Cowan was very pleased with the meet and said he saw a few track prospects during the meet. He singled out Sonny Crosby in the dashes.

- RESULTS
- 100-yard dash, won by Nelson (Sigma Nu), 2. Moore (Phi Delta), 3. Tie between Peterson (Phi Delta) and Crosby (ATO). Time .305.
  - 200-yard dash, won by Crosby (ATO), McCranie (Sigma Nu), 3. Tie between Johnson (Phi Delta) and Williams (ATO). Time .59.
  - 400-yard dash, won by Jones (Sigma Nu), 2. Lowe (Kappa Sigma), Brown (MMA), 3. Smith (Phi Delta). Time .566.
  - 800-yard run, won by Pope (Kappa Alpha), 2. Hughes (Kappa Sigma), 3. Denmark (Sigma Nu), 4. Plummet (ATO). Time 2:29.
  - Shot put, won by Oglesby (Kappa Sigma), 2. Buckingham (ATO), 3. Lane (ATO), 4. McDaniel (Phi Delta). Distance 40 ft. 9 1/2 in.
  - Discus, won by Williamson (MMA), 2. McDaniel (Phi Delta), 3. Lane (ATO), 4. Oxford (Kappa Sigma). Distance 102 ft. 3 1/2 in.
  - Broad Jump, won by Nelson (Sigma Nu), 2. Williamson (MMA), 3. Moore (Phi Delta), 4. Peterson (Phi Delta). Distance 18 ft. 5 in.
  - High jump, won by Green (Kappa Sigma), 2. Slappey (SAE), 3. Tie between Butler (Kappa Alpha), Carnes (Sigma Nu) and Thurmon (Height 5 ft. 7 in).
  - Pole vault, won by Mitchell (Sigma Nu), 2. Tie between Tedders (ATO), Clary (Phi Delta) and Green (Kappa Sigma). Height 9 ft. 6 in.
  - Half-mile relay, won by Sigma Nu, 2. ATO, 3. Kappa Sigma, 4. Phi Delta Theta.

## Lassiter Wins Tennis Title

Homer Lassiter defeated Jack Hiers for the school individual tennis title.

Lassiter, on the way to his victorious playing, defeated Walter Godwin in his semi-final match, and before that, he beat Bill Nash and Lester Smith. Before losing to Lassiter, Hiers had bested Cuyler Findley, John Mancin, and Wally Odum.

## Reid Named Outstanding Athlete

Richard Reid was elected by the student body Tuesday as Outstanding Athlete of 1953-54. He will get the Peeler Hardware Trophy, which is presented to the outstanding athlete each year.

This is the second year Reid has won this trophy. He also won it last year. Reid's basketball and track coach, Jim Cowan, had this to say: "I thought that it was fitting that 'Rich' won this award his senior year, when he was at the peak of his brilliant career."

Previous winners were David Rowe, 1946-47; Glenn Wilkes, 1947-48; Bob Reeder, 1948-49, 49-50, and 50-51, the only three-time winner of the award; Bobby Wilder, 1951-52; and Reid, last year.



RICHARD REID

## Intramural Board Picks Cluster's All-Star Team

Phi Delta Theta's championship softball club placed three men on the All-Star softball team this year. Also placing three men on the mythical team was second-place Kappa Alpha.

The only unanimous choice was the Phi Delta twirler, Bud Avret. Avret led his team to an undefeated season of 10 victories.

The team was selected by members of the intramural board. Each organization has a representative on this board.

Joe Hendricks teams up with Avret to form the battery. Hendricks played for the Ministers. The infield has Maurice Hilliard, Phi Delta Theta, at first base, Buddy Slappey of SAE at second, Sterling Sexton of KA at third, and Homer Nelson of Sigma Nu placed at shortstop. Rounding out the infield is Charley Gober of KA as utility infielder.

Frank Bullock of KA, Charles "Red" McDaniel of Phi Delta Theta, and Bobby Graham of Kappa Sigma compose the outfield. Utility outfielder is Charley Wolfe of SAE.

Bill Roberts, KA, Ralph Beard, Phi Delta, John Peterson, Phi Delta, and Bobby Green of Kappa Sigma were honorable mention choices.



PHI DELTA THETA championship boys softball squad.

## Richard Reid Is Outstanding In Many Fields

When commencement ceremonies begin this year, Mercer will lose one of its finest competitors on the gymnasium floor and the track turf. Richard Reid will be graduating from Mercer University.

During Richard's four short years on this campus, he has distinguished himself in many fields. For four years he was placed on the All-Dixie Conference basketball squad. He also won a place on the All-State team each of the four years, one team of which he was captain. He was a mainstay of them all.

Reid was captain of this year's track team. In the recent Dixie Conference meet, he bettered the Dixie mark for the broad jump with a leap of 22 feet 4 inches. Together with Billy Bryant, Reid holds the school record for the pole vault, 12 feet, 3 inches.

Although he is an exceptional athlete, the Mercer senior has made a name for himself on the campus. A member of Kappa Alpha, vice-president of the Senior Class, member of Blue Key, and first lieutenant in the ROTC regiment are among his exploits at Mercer.

Richard, a physical education major from Macon, will enter the Army next January at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, and after that his future is undecided.

Asked what his most thrilling moment in competitive sports was, the star replied, "Winning the basketball title when I was a senior, this year and also jumping at least 22 feet in the conference meet. I had been trying all year to break 22 feet and this was the first time that I did it."

Reid gives all the credit of his athletic laurels to his coaches, both high school and college. Tom Porter, Lanier High coach, Dan Nymitz, last year's local coach, and Mercer's present coach, Jim Cowan have all been instrumental in his success, he says. Will he play basketball in the army? Reid replied, "Wait and see."

Four years is a long time to bolster Mercer teams. The question is, who will take Richard Reid's place next year?

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