

Bearing Down

By Elliott Brack

Tuesday, the intramural football season will open under the direction of Coach Claude Smith. New names will appear on the field and some may make the annual All-Star team, selected by the athletic representatives of the teams, officials, and yours truly. I sincerely hope every organization will enter a team that has entered in the past. This leads to a better calibre of ball, and more competition.

Mercer "touch" football is as rough as you will see in many high school "tackle" games. For the benefit of the freshmen and transfer students who have never played the MU brand of ball, here are some of the principal rules that apply:

The regular 5 and 15 yard penalties will be in effect, and then come the special regulations of touch.

The seven man teams play on a 100 yard field, divided into five 20-yard sections. To make a first down, a team must advance the ball in four downs into the next section towards the opponents goal, no matter how far the advancement may be—one yard or 19. Players must not leave the ground for blocking, and the elbows must be held into the side. The penalty if the rule is violated: 15 yards.

Any time the ball touches the ground, the ball is dead there, and play is resumed from that spot. On fourth down, the offensive team must tell whether or not they are to punt. If they are, the defensive team must have a four man line and may not rush the kicker. If a snap from center touches the ground before it reaches the kicker in a punt formation, the ball is not dead and the kicker may pick up the ball and punt, unmolested.

Any type of line and backfield may be used by either team except in the aforementioned kick situation.

Anyone on the offensive team is eligible to receive a pass, and interference will be charged the defensive unit when a defender blocks the sight of a pass receiver. Oblong, medium-soft rubber cleats may be used on tennis shoes, only.

A touchdown is the usual six points, but there is no extra point. For other rules and a more detailed explanation of these, see Coach Smith.

I am glad to learn from Coach Cowan that Mercer will field a cross country team this season. This will be one sport where the freshmen will have an equal chance with the upperclassmen concerning getting berths on a varsity team, since there has been no cross country teams here for four years.

An experienced distance runner with a respectable time in the mile will have a good chance in making the team. And it will be good practice for prospective distance men to develop now, since the season is just around the corner. It is only a short time until the October and November days.

Let's hope this newest addition to the Mercer Sports family will be welcomed by a large turnout for the team. Maybe it will help stimulate an interest in the 1955 track team.

Last spring, I mentioned the cross country team. We are now lucky to have one. I hope the administration will see fit to have a golf team, come next spring. It's something to look forward to, and something I hope the school will look into.

Way down here near the bottom of my column, I say the Cleveland Indians will win the Whirl Serious in six games over the New York Giants. Of course, 86% of the national baseball writers also say this, so I am not exactly alone in my prediction.

I pick Cleveland because of their superior pitching, their batting power, and their manager, Al Lopez, who seems to me better and more efficient than Leo Durocher. Here's hoping Bob Feller will realize his great desire and win a Series game. I personally hope Feller's old rival, Hal Newhouser, formerly of the Tigers, will win a game. But "Prince Hal", as he was during the War 2 years, is used mostly in relief now, and the Cleveland Redskins seem to have a better chance in winning.

Noticed a new face around the gymnasium? I haven't either.

Mexican Study Scholarship Planned

Scholarships for study in Mexico during 1955 will again be offered by the Mexican government, Kenneth Holland, president of the Institute of International Education, 1 East 87th Street, New York City, has announced.

Open to graduate and undergraduate students with a knowledge of Spanish the awards are given through the Mexico-United States Commission on Cultural Cooperation. Awards are for the academic study begins March 1, 1955. Closing date for application is November 1, 1954.

Requirements for the Mexican

Government awards are: U. S. citizenship, knowledge of Spanish, a good academic record, a valid project or purpose, and good health.

The five undergraduate and eleven graduate scholarships are expected to cover tuition and full maintenance. Applicants should have other funds for incidental expenses and travel costs.

Applicants may write for information to the Institute of International Education which is administering the awards for study in Mexico.

Touch Football Opens Oct. 5th

Cross Country Back at Mercer

Cross Country returns to the Mercer campus this fall after an absence of four years. The last team to represent the Bruins was the 1950 team, which had a record of two victories and one defeat.

Since the sport is run in the months of October and November, aspirants for the team should see Coach Jim Cowan soon if they want to participate.

States Coach Cowan: "Every position on the team is wide open," since there has been no team here recently. However, he singled out Bill Bonner, Royce Hobbs, Ronnie Smith, Lamar Cason and Sonny Vaughn as fine prospects for the team, since they were members of the track team last season.

If plans work out, the Bears will meet Georgia Tech, Emory, and Georgia in meets this season. The distance of the jaunt will vary from two and one half miles to four miles, depending upon where the meet is held.

A team consists of seven members with the first place winner receiving one point, the second place gets two, etc., with the 14th or last place getting 14 points. The team with the lowest score is then declared the winner.

Mercer's most successful season was in 1949, when the Bears went undefeated.

Girls Intramurals To Begin Soon

Mercer girls tennis and volleyball intramurals will get underway around the first and third weeks of October respectively, with four teams in competition: Mercer Independent Coed Association, Chi Omega, Alpha Delta Pi, and Phi Mu.

MICA made a clean sweep last year of both tennis and volleyball championships, while the year before Chi Omega retired the tennis trophy.

The championship has to be won three consecutive times before the winner can retain the trophy. A new one is then put into circulation. Therefore, MICA would have to win this year and the following in order to obtain a trophy.

No definite dates for competition have yet been scheduled; though they will appear as soon as they are announced.

First "Gauntlet" Issued Next Week

The first regular issue of the Gauntlet of 1954, monthly publication of the Baptist Student Union, will be published the latter part of next week.

The purpose of the BSU paper is primarily to promote activities of the Baptist Student Union on Mercer campus and to give news of the religious organizations which are affiliated with the BSU.

The newspaper is edited by Nancy Yates of LaGrange. Other members of the staff include: Beverly Irvin and Sam Wilburn, reporters; Rae Northern, exchange; and Judson Moss, adviser.

Copies are issued free to all Mercer students.

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Here is the Intramural football schedule for the first three days of play, beginning on October 5th.

October 5:

Phi Delt vs. S Nu

KA vs. Ministers

K Sig vs. Pi Kap

October 6th:

ATO vs. SAE

MIMA vs. L Chi

S Nu vs. KA

October 7th:

Phi Delt vs. L Chi

K Sig vs. Ministers

ATO vs. Pi Kap

Mansfield Named Head IM Group

Jack Mansfield of the Ministers was elected president of the Intramural Board at a meeting of the athletic representatives Tuesday with IM Director Claude Smith.

The board adopted several new rules and restated others.

In a case of tie football games, each team will be scored as a half game won, and a half game lost. Formerly, the Penetration or Sudden Death type of play was used. This will still be used in games played after the regular season, or in championship games that end in a tie.

For the first year, the football players may wear cleated tennis shoes, just so the shoes have oblong, medium-soft rubber cleats. Basketball players will be ineligible for participation in football again this year. Any player that participates in the IM program automatically eliminates himself from basketball playing.

Each organization in the Intramural program will be issued a football at the beginning of the football season to be used to practice with. At the end of the season, the ball will be returned or the organization will be charged.

Mercer Spends \$10,000 on Campus Improvements

Quite a few important improvements were made on Mercer campus during the past summer. Mr. M. C. Pierce, Superintendent of Grounds here, listed improvements totaling \$10,000 covering items from paint to air conditioning and baking ovens.

First, Willingham Chapel and the first and second floors of the Administration Building received new coats of paint on their interiors while the ROTC Building was painted both inside and out. The ROTC Department also has a new vault for small arms and fire equipment built inside the armory.

Sherwood Hall had its boiler reset and will give more heat this winter while at the same time a great savings will be made on gas, Mr. Pierce said. The kitchen in Sherwood has a new baking oven and four new stoves.

The library and the faculty club room in the Theological Building have new air conditioning units installed the latter part of the summer.

Although these repairs and new equipment totaled a great deal of money, Mr. Pierce stated that they would be outdone by improvements to come in the not-to-far-distant future.

Ten Teams Again Fight for Title

Touch football will open the boys intramural sports program on October 5th, according to Intramural Director Claude Smith.

The games will be played on the athletic field in front of Porter Gymnasium. Prior to the opening of the season, the football schedule was mapped out at a meeting of the athletic representatives of the participating organizations with Coach Smith.

The tennis intramurals will be also held during the fall quarter. Other intramural sports include volleyball and basketball in the winter, and track, horseshoes and softball during the spring quarter.

Last season Alpha Tau Omega took the football trophy for the second consecutive year and Phi Delta Theta captured the tennis title.

When an organization wins any athletic trophy three times, the trophy becomes the property of that organization, and a new one is put into competition. ATO could retire the football trophy by winning it again this year.

Coach Smith has issued a plea for officials to referee the intramural games. Anyone desiring this job is requested to see Coach Smith, Bill Bonner, or Julian Franklin.

Here are last year's winners of intramural trophies:

Football	ATO
Tennis	Phi Delt
Basketball	Phi Delt
Volleyball	Kappa Sig
Horseshoes	ATO
Track	Sigma Nu
Softball	Phi Delt

A team must win a trophy three times in order to retire it. The three victories need not be in succession.

ATO has won the football trophy for the last two years. The KA's and Kappa Sig's each have two legs on the tennis trophy. SAE, Phi Delt and KA all have two legs on the volleyball trophy. In basketball, Phi Delt has the only year of competition won, as it is a new trophy, Sigma Nu having retired one in 1953. ATO has the only two legs on the horseshoe title. Sigma Nu has the only victory on the track trophy. Phi Delta Theta has won the softball title for the last three years, retiring the old trophy in 1953 and having the only leg on the new trophy.

Rife Team Open To All Students For First Time

All male Mercer students will be eligible this year to compete on the Mercer Rifle Team, sponsored by the Military Department. Practice will begin on October 4. Formerly, only ROTC students were eligible to fire on the team.

M-Sgt. James Cheek, who is coach and manager of the team, is scheduling shoulder-to-shoulder matches with most of the colleges in this area. Tentative matches are slated with Ga. Tech, Georgia and Clemson. Sergeant Cheek will concentrate this year on shoulder-to-shoulder matches, the Randolph Herst Trophy Award, and the Third Army Award.

Plans are underway to award the team members sweaters for their work on the team, as has been the custom in the past two years. Sergeant Cheek also announces that practice will be held three hours a week, with only one hour at a time.

THE COLLEGE SHOP

SODA FOUNTAIN AND GRILL

Where College People Meet

Co-Op Building

Dial 5-2045

If you have not learned what
JCAC means,
See Page Six!