

Bears Top Wofford, FSC

Bruins Overcome 15-Point Lead In 72-71 Victory

By Johnny Lowery
Trailing by 15 points at the half, the Mercer Bears made a sensational comeback in the final period to squeeze out a nerve-racking 72-71 victory over the towering Wofford Terriers in a game here Thursday, January 6. In the final 16 seconds of play with Mercer behind 71-70, John Hughes, 6'0" Bruin guard, sank the winning field goal in an almost unbelievable finish.

Sharp-firing Wofford bounced to a 23-7 lead as the game got underway—the widest margin held during the game—and, taking advantage of Mercer's ill ball handling and successive fouls, led 46-31 as the horn ended the half.

However, after the encouraging words of Coach Jim Cowan during intermission, Mercer looked like a different team in the final period and brought what looked like a complete failure into a thrilling success. The Bruins forged ahead 59-58 for the first time and from that point on the game was nip and tuck.

With less than a minute left to play and the score 71-70 in favor of Wofford, the Bears took possession of the ball when the Terriers received a penalty. The Bears then called time out and came back with the probable intentions of keeping the ball until the final seconds before attempting to score. However, Mercer lost the ball but recovered by intercepting a Wofford pass. Then, with time running out, Mercer drove. John Hughes sank the winning basket, and it sent the enthusiastic fans almost into hysteria.

Tom Mixon, Woody Richardson, Bill Groover, John Hughes, and James Hughes all started the last half for Mercer and were never taken out. Mixon led the scorers with 22; John and James Hughes followed with 16 and 12 respectively. Donnie Fowler led the Terriers with 21.

Bill Groover, 6'4" center, who has just recently joined the Bears from the U. of Georgia, substituted at the last of the first period and began gathering up rebounds, one right after another. He held Wofford's Jack League, who had gotten 16 points the first period to only 2 points in the final half. Groover had worked out just 3 times with the Bears previously.

Mercer hit 26 field goals out of 63 tries for a percentage of .411 while Wofford hit 26 out of 62 for .419.

In the preliminary game Sonny Vaughn with 26 points led the Mercer Junior Varsity to a 55-48 victory over the 37th Communications Squadron of Robins Air Force Base. The 37th led at the half 29-27. Jimmy Carnes and Jack Moore got 12 and 10 points respectively for the JV's.

Pageant . . .

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Costuming for the pageant has been directed by Mrs. Harry Smith. Miss Anne McKay is in charge of properties, and Wayne Blue supervised lighting.

Students taking speaking parts in the production will be John Wilson, Wayne Brooks, Herbert C. Cottrell Jr., Tom Campbell, Max Craft, Clarence Hobby, C. C. Lynch Jr., Richard Mitchell, Tolly Williamson, Bush Gleason, Gerald Kersey, Ernest Mason, Rogers Reeves, Hugh Wallace, Jerald Samples, Donald King, Shelby Royal, George Pippie, Jane Carol Adams, David Johnson, Bill Young, Martha Cottrell, Anne Walden, Connie Adams, Carolyn Rioka, Betty Pickett, Dixie Bailey, Mary Ann Gainer, June Smith, Jo Wright, Lavetta Withrow, Bill Middlebrooks, Anne Roach, Glenn Anderson, Shirley Wheeler, John Wortham, Eddie Ostrup, Sid Johnson, Carwell Rumba, Barbara Rabus, Arthur Rich Jr., Elizabeth Hand, Coletta Dykes, Diane Owen, Jim Branch, Brian Reid, F. W. Yarbrough, Jimmy Alford, Annette Bonchelle, Charles Haffenden, and Annetta Robertson.



Bearing Down

By Brackingham

THERE WAS A SMALL NOTICE in the MACON TELEGRAPH that most Mercer students probably did not see. And it is of interest to many of the students, I expect.

The Dixie Conference has folded. Reason given for this action was the lack of proximity and keen competition between the schools.

Football, basketball, tennis, track, baseball and maybe some other sports were included in the conference. But now all have disappeared. And to have student interest in competitive athletics, there must be some goal, like a conference championship, for a team to work for. Destroying this does not seem to help the chances for spirited competition between any of the schools. Just the opposite. Winning or losing a game here or there now will not be anything disastrous, since there is no common goal to strive toward.

The six conference schools—Florida Southern, Oglethorpe, Millsap, Mississippi College, Howard and Mercer—do not naturally fall into a common geographical division. Traveling from here to Mississippi has always been looked upon with regret, for so much time is spent "cooped up" inside the station wagon.

But any conference is better than none at all. Since there could be no conference basketball tournament this year, it has been suggested that Mercer go to, if invited, or sponsor an invitational tourney at the end of the season. Should WE? A chance to sponsor one will probably never happen, since that costs money, and the Student Activities Committee has already answered that question.

So the basketball team will play their regular schedule as an independent team, with no trophy to be won or arch rival to play for that title. Same goes for the other teams also.

ONE OF THE INTANGIBLES OF ATHLETIC competition that is supposed to be installed into young athletes is sponsorship. It is one of the best qualities I believe an athlete, or any other person, can ever hope to have.

Some philosopher once remarked, "I am a part of all that I have met", and I would surely hate to be part of the Wofford basketball "coach" Joe Robertson. And I hope that his basketball squad has better qualities than he exhibited last Thursday night here, when losing to the Bears 72-71.

Surely it was a tough game to lose. Any game is. But it is my conception that to lose as graciously as you win is always best.

In the game (1) he had a technical foul called on him from the bench for arguing with the referee. (2) He took out his billfold and waved it at a referee in a gesture that suggested he thought the ref was being bribed. (3) Once when one of his players made a field goal and was fouled in the process, the officials quickly called it and signalled to the scorers that the goal was good. He ran to the scoring table yelling, "The goal was good, put down two points." All of which was already taken care of. (4) After the game "Coach" Robertson could be heard the length of the halls of the gym complaining about one of the officials. Do these acts make Robertson an example his players should follow? I hardly think so.

Coach Jim Cowan has so far this season exhibited a keen desire to win, but has not uttered one word to the officials or to representatives of the opposing schools about the officiating. And sometime there has seemed to be ample room for complaints. Let us at Mercer be proud that when our team goes to play on a foreign court, we need not fear that Mercer's good name will be blackened by either our players or our coach.

UNDER EXPANDED PROGRAM

Grant for Scandinavian Study Set by Council

The Scandinavian seminar for cultural studies has announced an expanded program for the 1955-56 academic year.

Since 1949, both graduates and undergraduates have been offered the opportunity of living and studying for a year in the Danish folk schools or residential colleges. This year, as an alternative to Denmark, students may select Norway, Sweden or Finland as their country of study. They may also carry out research in their particular field of interest during their stay at the folk schools. Each student will be assigned an advisor in his field, and the February field trip will be used primarily for independent research or for visiting institutions which pertain to his study project in any or all of the Scandinavian countries.

The Seminar members will, as previously, achieve an intimate contact with the people by learning a Scandinavian language while in the country of their choice. They will live with several families during the first few months and participate in a series of group seminars. These include intensive language study and courses on the cultural background of Scandinavia. During the five months at a folk school, students will follow the same curriculum as that of their Scandinavian classmates.

The cost of the entire nine month program, including board, room and tuition, is \$800 plus travel. Two \$400 scholarships are available.

For brochure, application blanks and further information write the American-Scandinavian Council for Adult Education, 127 East 73 Street, New York 21, N. Y.

J. Hughes Leads 72-35 Triumph

By Johnny Lowery

Mercer guard, John Hughes, with 17 points led his teammates to their second consecutive victory as they belted the Florida Southern quintet 72-35 here Tuesday night in a game in which all Bruins saw action.

After the Southern team knotted the score at 10-10, in a slowly progressing ball game, Mercer moved out in front and had stretched a 30-15 margin by midgame. The Bears sank 12 field goals in the first period to the visitors' 6.

Bears Drop Two Others

In pre-holiday tilts, the Bears dropped basketball games to the University of Georgia in Athens, 95-75, and to Howard College in Birmingham, 102-81. Bear forward Tommy Mixon garnered 35 points in the Georgia game and 34 against Howard.

The Georgia Bulldogs got the jump on the Bears early in the game, and the Bruins spent the rest of the evening trying to catch the red-hot Dogs. With Bill Ensley and Ed Parrish sweeping both backboards clean, and little Morris Dinwiddie's potent set shots hitting the bottom of the net throughout the game, Mercer's offense could never seem to hit its stride.

About the only bright spot in the Bruin picture was the large delegation of Mercer fans who journeyed to Athens to support their team. Well-nigh to 100 Bear fans raised as much noise as the entire partisan Georgia crowd.

In the Howard game, which was played the 16th of December, one day after the holidays started, there were no Mercer fans in the crowd at all. Bill Karrh, All-Conference center for two years, led the scorers with 35 points, one more than Mixon's effort. Johnny Medlock had 23 points for the Bulldogs. Bob Green claimed 13 rebounds for the Bears, while Cary Moore, starting his first game for Mercer, made 11 points, all free throws.

Committee Sets Vesper Schedule

The vespers committee announces the schedule for vesper programs for the coming week.

Tonight, Jong Chum Kim will speak. Kim, as he is best known, is one of two Korean students now studying at Mercer. He has experienced much of the recent Korean war.

A discussion of favorite scriptures will be the program for tomorrow night. Each student will have an opportunity to share with others his favorite passage from the Bible.

Dr. Harold McManus will speak Wednesday night. Dr. McManus is professor of church history at Mercer.

A group of Wesleyan students will have charge of Thursday's presentation. This is a regular feature held in co-operation with the Methodist Student Movement.

Seventeen field goals and 8 free throws gave Mercer an overwhelming 42 points in the final half and 72 for the night—identically the same number of points as scored against Wofford last Thursday. Florida Southern managed 4 field goals and 12 foul shots for a total of 20 in the last period.

During the game, the Southern five were in control of the ball the majority of the time; however, they were unable to maneuver the ball into scoring position, as they ran against a solid wall of Bear defense. Mercer, on the other hand, seemed to find the basket continuously as they chalked up victory number four.

Mixon Gets 15

Tom Mixon scored 15 points, getting 5 field goals in the first half, and followed John Hughes in the scoring column when the game ended. However, Mixon, who was averaging 30 points per game before the clash with Southern, only played about one half the game against this team.

Woody Richardson, 6-2 forward, was third in scoring column, netting 14 points. Bill Groover, 6-4 center, followed with 9 points, and held his opponent, Bill Wood, Southern's 6-3 pointer, pointless.

Junior Varsity Wins

Sonny Vaughn fired for 19 points and headed the scoring column as he led the Mercer JV's to victory over the Byron Athletic Club 50-24 in the preliminary game. This was the Junior Varsity's second straight win.

Bears Invade Florida

The 14th, 15th, and 17th of this month the MU Bears invade the Sunshine State where they meet Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla., Stetson University at Deland, Fla., and Fla. Southern College in Lakeland, Fla., respectively.

Coach Jim Cowan in commenting on the trip said, "It'll be mighty rough sledding. We hope we'll win one."

LChi's Capture 'Mural Trophy

Lambda Chi Alpha's volleyball team went through the intramural volleyball season undefeated in ten games and captured the 1954-55 title. It was the first major intramural trophy the Lambda Chi's have won at Mercer.

Players for the champions include Charles Poteet, Rodell Dunn, John Mancin, Bob Sikes, Wyman Treadaway, Maynard Pothyrass, Charles Pippin, Ronnie Wilbanks, and Joe Daugherty.

Intramural Director Claude Smith termed the season "one of the best" volleyball seasons we have had. There was plenty of keen competition and interest."

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