

Over-All Outlook Good For Sports

Baseball turned out to be the winningest sport on the Mercer campus during 1954-55 as the charges of Coach Claude "Red Dog" Smith won 11 and lost eight games. Coach Smith usually terms his season a success if his team can win half it's games, because of the strong competition in SEC teams Georgia Tech, Georgia and Auburn.

Coach Smith will greet returning lettermen Captain Bobby Pinkston, Richard Miles, Gene Harrelson, Bud Culbreth, Frank Worthy and Robert Norton. Pinkston, captain of the 1956 edition of the Bears, follows a tradition of captains, as his father was captain of the 1926 bears.

Shortstop Tony Sansone, a 1955 letterman and holler guy of the team, has enrolled in another school and Coach Smith will be hurting at this position. This is the second year in a row that Coach Smith has lost his shortstop by another route than graduation. In 1954 the regular shortstop was Billy Smith, but Smith did not come out for training last season, although he was eligible.

TENNIS

Tennis Coach Mel Mayfield has more smiles than any one else about prospects for his team. He is not supposed to have lost a single one of his players. Number One man Buddy Moore is again expected to be one of the outstanding tennis players in Georgia and the Southeast. Hoping to better their seven won-five lost season of 1955 will be the team's number one objective.

Besides Moore, Carter Smith, Don Lash, Bill Causey, Bill Belmont, Bill Nash, Malvern Brown and George Merritt will be out to murder their court opponents. Given a good schedule, the squad could rate as one of the top teams in the South.

TRACK

Track Coach Jim Cowan brought an innovation here to Macon last year: a track meet at night. Emory University from Atlanta came down and edged the Bears 71-60. But the damage had been done, for everyone, including participants, coaches and spectators, enjoyed having the meet at night. Coach Cowan is considering doing the same thing this year.

Captain Linton Baggs will lead his cindermen through the 1956 season. Baggs is a seasoned dashman.

Also ready for the spring sport are former captain and discus record-breaker Hugh Hodges; Al Martin, 440; 880 men Hugh Wallace and Walt Godwin; distance men Snake Perkins and Lamar Cason; hurdlers Jack Moore, Jack Lawton, Joe Dukes and Haskell Boyter; weightmen Marmon Hall and Morton Boyette; and pole vaulters Joe Dukes and Sherrill Law.

Loss of springy Steve Spence in the high jump will be felt considerably this season. Spence went as high as 6' 4" last year

and Georgia Coach Spec Towns predicted big things for Spence if he would continue.

OVERALL

Looking at the Mercer varsity sports picture, tennis should improve, as well as track probably, while the baseball will be a success if it can do as well as the 1955 team. But the one with all the question marks is basketball, and the entire student body is anxiously awaiting a winning team on the Mercer campus, after a famine last season.

Football First IM Sport Set

Synonymous to the opening of school is the football season. And Mercer, although having no varsity football program, opens it's intramural touch football program for 1955 on October 3, unofficial reports indicate.

Teams in the Mercer intramural sports leagues come from the fraternities on the campus and from MIMA. In addition, the Ministers, a group of independent players, usually enter a squad. Last year the Ministers won the football championship.

Any group of students that are qualified, may enter into the intramural competition by complying with the rules set up by the Intramural Board, which consists of representatives from the various teams. Physical Education Professor Claude Smith is director of intramural activities and chairman of the IM association.

Mercer uses the one-hand touch system, with seven players on each team. Punts are announced, with no team rushing the kicker. In previous years, extra points have not been used.

Interest among the students runs high about the football race, as two or three teams usually are in the running all the way for the championship. Winners get to keep the rotating football trophy until someone else wins the title.

Culminating the season, the traditional Cluster-sponsored football All-Star game is played between the All-Stars and the champs. This is usually played in early December.

Cross-Country

Thincladsmen Ready to Run

Varsity athletics at Mercer University are expected to start during the latter part of October, when the Bear cross country team opens its fall schedule. Bruin Coach Jim Cowan expects to find his team running against the thincladsmen from Georgia Tech, Emory, Oglethorpe, possibly the University of Georgia, and other schools in the vicinity.

Last season was the first year in five seasons that Mercer outfitted a cross country squad. Mercer defeated Oglethorpe, Emory and Tennessee's William Jennings Bryn, and dropped meets to Georgia Tech.

Coach Cowan had last year one of the top distance men in this section of the country in departed Kevin Sumner. Sumner set all kinds of distance records both in cross



KEVIN SUMNER
Record Holder

country and track. At the same time, he won first place in all his cross country meets last year.

Returning from last year's squad will be Alfred "Snake" Perkins, Joe Dukes, Lamar Cason and possibly Ronnie Smith. Freshmen are encouraged to try out for the team, as many vacancies exist. Anyone wishing to try for the team should begin conditioning now, since the first match is really just around the corner.

At Thanksgiving each year, Bryan, from Dayton, Tennessee, holds an invitational Cross Country Tournament. Invited but unable to attend last year, the Bears are aiming for the top prize in the meet over the mountains this season.

The Sportscope

By Bob Steed

All year around on the Mercer Campus shouts, screams and groans can be heard from many quarters. To the unlearned freshman these outcries may signify mayhem in the worst degree but the scholarly upperclassman knows that the noises are coming from the athletic field and the Mercer intramural program is underway.

Mercer's excellent varsity sports program is supplemented by an equally excellent intramural program in which the fraternities, sororities, and other social groups on the campus compete for the fifteen or twenty sports trophies that float around Mercer from year to year.

The University intramural department offers basketball, tennis, football, volleyball, softball, horseshoes, track, and foul shooting, badminton, and varsity participation trophies each year. Also there are trophies sponsored by organizations. In most cases a trophy is retired after it is won by the same organization three times. The varsity participation trophy is won by the fraternity who has the most men participating in varsity sports.

The Sigma Nu's won the basketball trophy last year after squeaking by a determined Phi Delt team. The Ministers, featuring a lightning fast backfield and a heavy line, battered the football league into submission, winning the football trophy for the second consecutive time.

Lambda Chi won the volleyball trophy after a hard fought series. The Kappa Sig's were runners-up. The fleetfooted Kappa Sig's literally ran away with the track trophy. The less fleetfooted Phi Delt's were runners-up.

The Sigma Nu's won the basketball trophy last year after second place Phi Delt's and won the 1955 horseshoe trophy. The Phi Delt's won the Mercer tennis trophy after a hard fought battle with the Kappa Sig netmen.

Phi Delt Theta was also awarded the varsity participation trophy with 23 men on varsity teams. The all-intramural trophy was given to the Phi Delt's for compiling the most points in intramural competition.

In the gals department the Chi Omega's won the foul shooting cup. The Chi Omega's also took the tennis trophy from the second place MICA team.

MICA won the girls basketball trophy and the Chi Omega's placed in this series. The badminton trophy was taken by the Chi Omega team. Phi Mu's were second.

The Chi O's wound up their very successful year by taking the softball trophy from the MICA.

There are many other trophies which have not been mentioned because they do not involve sports or because the sports, (Bowling, bike racing, golf) are no longer played competitively speaking on the Mercer Campus.

So, Freshmen, don't be alarmed when first exposed to Mercer's fierce intramural program; jump right in, you may win a trophy.

COACHES

Athletic Director Zeb Vance
Cross Country Jim Cowan
Basketball Jim Cowan
Baseball Claude "Red Dog" Smith
Track Jim Cowan
Tennis Mel Mayfield
Intramural Director Claude Smith
Physical Education for Women Lucille Pollard

INTRAMURAL CHAMPIONS 1954-1955

Football Ministers
Tennis Phi Delta Theta
Basketball Sigma Nu
Volleyball Lambda Chi Alpha
Softball Phi Delta Theta
Track Kappa Sigma
Horseshoes Sigma Nu

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