

Shakespeare-Spouting Coach

Dr. Ben Griffith Swings From English To Golf

By Nan Williams

"Back into the swing of things" is the slogan as Coach Ben Griffith gets practice underway for Mercer's golf team.

Coach Griffith has a dual personality as he teaches students the finer things about English and also instructs the golf team.



DR. BEN GRIFFITH

Dr. Griffith is a Macon boy and attended Lanier High School and Mercer. After college he served his time with Uncle Sam in the Navy. Before joining the Mercer faculty, Dr. Griffith was head of the English department at Bessie Tift College.

He has various hobbies, such as fishing, golf, reading and spectator sports. He has written articles on Shelley for academic journals, written sports articles for a newspaper and always been a close follower of sports.

This is the first time Mercer has had a golf team in several years, but Coach Griffith will be building the team up and hoping for a strong team next year.

Team practice began on Monday, March 5, at Bowden Golf Course. Prospective members included Charles Handley, Roy Turk, Billy Smith, John Thomas, Benny Woodall (a member of the Jordan High School team in Columbus, Ga.), Jim O'Neal, William Hanson, Bob Steed, David Shiplett (captain of a Virginia prep school team), John Binns, Hank Chappell, Charles Everett and Sam Harrell.

The 1956 golf schedule includes such teams as Warner Robins AFB, Georgia State College, Auburn, University of Georgia and a possible match with Lamar State College of Technique in Beaumont, Texas.

A note to you golfers, "Fore, score, and seven strokes ago—" and in conclusion, golfers, as said by Mr. Shakespeare in Antony and Cleopatra "are anourous of their Strokes."

Rifle Team Tops GMC

The Mercer ROTC rifle team defeated the sharpshooters from Georgia Military College in the Bears most recent match. The score was 896 for Mercer and 846 for the Cadets. This gives the Bears a five-win, three-loss record.

Claude Westbrook and Fran Riviere tied for first place for the Mercer riflemen with 184 out of 200. Tommy King and Richard Andrews were second with 178 each. Nathan Shumate fired 172 and Walter Smith and Robert Barlow also fired for the Bruins.

'WAR EAGLE'

Auburn Tops Mercer 21-4

By Bob Steed

Auburn pounded out 17 hits against Mercer and beat the Bruins 21-4 on the squad's Tuesday road trip.

Paul Susce, ace righthander for Auburn, was credited with his second win of the season when he relieved starter John Martin in the top of the fifth inning.

Carlton Gunter started for Mercer and yielded seven runs on six hits during his three innings on the mound. Coach "Red-Dog" Smith tried three more Bear pitchers but they were also unable to stem the Tiger tide.

Mercer collected only five hits off pitchers Susce and Tubbs. The big inning for the Bruins came in the fifth when they scored three runs on three hits, plus an error. Mel Kinslow singled to greet new pitcher Susce. Jerry Lilse walked. Leftfielder Roger Bolton singled home Kinslow. Bill Lee sacrificed both runners and first baseman Gene Harrelson singled to left to score two runs.

Bruins Face Tech Today

Frank Worthy will pitch for the Bears today against the Yellow Jackets of Georgia Tech in Atlanta. These Southeastern Conference teams present a challenge and Mercer usually holds its own against this stiff competition. Last year the Bears broke even with Tech and Auburn, winning one and losing one to each team.

Tomorrow Mercer will play its third game of the season against Davidson College. This will mark the first of eleven games to be played at Willingham Field between now and May 16.

There is no admission charge and plenty of seats are available. Game time will 2:30. Willingham Field is located directly behind Lanier Senior School on Napier Avenue.

Table with columns AB, R, H, PO, A for Mercer and Auburn players.

Golfers Drop First Match

Coach Ben Griffith's Mercer University golf team lost their first match of the year, 19 to 8, to the Robins Air Force team last Thursday. The Bears all turned in good scores but were beaten on points.

Coach Griffith was pleased with the efforts of his squad and stated that the Robins team was one of the toughest on the Mercer schedule.

Billy Smith, playing in the number one position for Mercer, managed to tie Frank Stevenson with a 75. Smith had a 37 on the front round and Stevenson had a 39. Smith had a 38 on the second round but the Robins ace finished with a second round 36 to tie the score.

Manard Brown, number two for Mercer, shot a 38 on the front side and a 38 on the back side for a 76. His opponent, Captain John Taylor, fired a 37, 37, for a 74.

John Binns, playing the number three position for the Bears, shot a 38 on the first nine and a 40 on the last. His 78 was more than enough to beat his opponent, Captain George Sirvany, who finished with an 83.

In the number four position Charlie Handley of Mercer shot a 43 on the front but came back with a blazing 35 on the back nine and tied Captain William Ratcliffe 78 to 78.

Sam Harrell, number five man, was beaten by three strokes. His opponent, Major Norman Birch, fired a 79 to Harrell's 82.

Roy Turk was beaten by the Robins' number six man, Major William Kelley, 80 to 93.

Mercer's next match will be with Georgia State College on April 5 in Atlanta.

WIN 12-7

Bears Down Robins AFB

By Ford Bailey

Mercer's baseball team defeated Warner Robins 12-7 in a practice baseball game last Friday.

Bud Culbreth, veteran pitcher for the Bears, started the game. Since Coach Smith wanted to get a look at his pitching staff in action, he put Furman York on the mound in the fourth inning. York was tagged for only one hit and no runs for his three inning performance.

In the seventh frame Frank Worthy took over the pitching duties and was greeted by three hits and two runs to finish the game. Six errors were made by the fielders which helped produce the seven runs for the Flyers.

In the hitting department for the Mercer men it was clean up man "Squatty" Lisle who struck for two base hits scoring four runs. Another outstanding "stickman" was Billy Smith with a double. Bobby Pinkston, Melvin Kinslow, Roger Bolton, Gene Harrelson, Billy Lee, and Joe McKellar all got hits.

Students Receive US Commissions

Letters of appointment and commissions as second lieutenants in the Army Reserve were awarded to four Mercer students at a program at the Military Department recently.

Colonel William D. Smith Jr. PMS&T, administered the oaths of office and made the presentation to William R. Burgamy Jr., Daniel R. Cline, Charles M. Eberhart Jr., and James C. Joiner III.

Lieutenants Cline and Eberhart will report for duty on April 18, at Fort Lee, Va. Lieutenants Burgamy and Joiner will be assigned to an active Reserve unit until they have completed graduate work.



The Sportscope

By Bob Steed

Once upon a time (about two weeks ago) a golf coach noticed that the University of Georgia was playing a golf match with a small college called Lamar State Tech. Thinking that any college with such an unassuming name would have an equally unassuming golf team the coach hastily challenged them to a match. The Lamar team accepted and all was well until the roster of their squad arrived. They had on that one team the NAIA college golf champion, the Junior Chamber of Commerce champion, the Border Conference champion, and the Los Angeles City champion. Their number one man's best score was a 61, and 'friends, that's a good score.

This story could be classified as a tragedy now but there's more. Coach Mel Mayfield, tennis mentor, thought that the Bear netmen should cash in on this opportunity and schedule a breather too. When the Lamar State College tennis team roster arrived there was even more moaning and gnashing of teeth. They had the Captain of the Brazilian Davis Cup team, their number one man lost just one match last year and that was to the NCAA champion, and they had the Mexican Davis Cup doubles team.

The story does have a happy ending however. Because of a previously scheduled chess match, both of the Lamar State contests were cancelled. I think the track team had a match that day too. So all's well that ends well. (How's that for a hackneyed phrase?)

SEASON OPENER

Netters Lose to Georgia

By Bob Steed

Coach Mel Mayfield's Mercer tennis team dropped their first match of the season to the University of Georgia Saturday afternoon. The Bulldogs won four singles matches and one doubles, taking the match 5-4.

Mercer's number one man Buddy Moore met Thad Wills, a seasoned tennis veteran just returned from the army. The Georgia ace lost the first set 6-4 but came back to win the match 4-6, 8-6 and 6-4.

The Bears' number one doubles team of Moore and Carter Smith gave a good show for the partisan crowd with their brilliant playing. The Bear team beat Wills and Louis Smith in two sets, 6-3, 6-3.

Malvern Brown, Mercer's number five man, topped Georgia's Fred Dean 6-4, 2-6, and 6-1. Brown is on a winning streak that extends from the middle of last season.

Bill Nash, playing in the number six singles spot, won a hotly contested match from Georgia's Don Hartfield. Nash won the first and third sets easily but Hartfield pulled out an 11-9 win in the second set.

The doubles team of Nash and Bill Belmont got off to a slow start, dropping the first set 1-6 to Ed Lary and Hartfield, but came back to take the last two sets 7-5 and 6-4.

Carter Smith, Mercer's number two man, Don Lash, number three, and Bill Belmont, number four, lost their single matches.

SINGLES

Wills (G) over Moore 6-4, 5-4, 6-4; Lary (G) over Smith 4-2, 5-3; Smith (G) over Lash 6-3, 6-3; Carpenter (G) over Belmont 6-1, 6-1; Brown (M) over Dean 6-4, 3-4, 6-1; Nash (M) over Hartfield 6-2, 9-11, 6-4.

DOUBLES

Moore and Smith (M) over Wills and Smith 6-3, 6-3; Carpenter and Forehand (G) over Lash and Brown, 6-2, 6-2; Belmont and Nash (M) over Lary and Hartfield, 1-6, 7-5, 6-4.

FIRST WIN

Netmen Take GA Team 6-0

The Mercer Bears shut out the Gustavus-Adolphus tennis team 6-0 in the Tuesday afternoon match played on the Mercer clay courts, only one match going the limit of three sets.

The G-A team, from St. Peter, Minn., played Stan Palmer and Bud Adothson, last year's Minnesota state high school doubles champs, in one and two positions. Buddy Moore took Palmer easily 6-1, 6-1, and Don Lash, playing number two as a substitute for Carter Smith, beat Adothson 6-1, 6-2.

Billy Belmont beat Keith Hanson 8-6, 6-3, and Malvern Brown, in the only match that went the limit, lost the first set 5-7 to Gustavus' Don Elevestron, but he came back to win the last two sets 6-0, 6-1.

Singles—Moore (M) over Palmer 6-1, 6-2; Lash (M) over Adothson 6-1, 6-0; Belmont (M) over Hanson 8-6, 6-3; Brown (M) over Elevestron 5-7, 6-0, 6-1.

Doubles—Lash and Brown (M) over Palmer and Adothson 6-0, 6-2; Belmont and Nash over Hanson and Elevestron 7-5, 6-2.

Advertisement for A. L. McGarrity's Service Station, including a drawing of the station and text: "FILL UP" AT A. L. MCGARRITY'S SERVICE STATION. And on May 30 VOTE FOR ED WILSON For Bibb County Representative, Post 1