

Basketball Season Recap Tells Successes, Failures

The Mercer Bears ended their regular basketball season last Tuesday night in Dahlonega, losing to the Cadets of North Georgia College.

Taking a quick review of the season in general, we see that the Bears going into the North Ga. game had a season's record of 8-14. Since Bobby Wilder became head coach, replacing Jim Cowan in January, Mercer has won six games and lost nine. In Porter Gym, the Bears have been considerably more successful; they have a record there of 7-4.

Coach Wilder's charges have defeated such teams as Presbyterian, Howard College, and the University of Georgia. They have lost to Stetson, Georgia Teachers College, and Tampa.

The season hasn't been at all dull. There was the last-minute, heart-breaking loss to Wofford on the Friday night of Jan. 4 by a two point margin. The stands almost went wild that night, one of the few times they ever did. On the other side of the ledger, there was an overtime victory over Presbyterian, 112-110. That was probably the most exciting game of the season.

Then there was the victory over Howard College on Jan. 12. If you remember, that was the Bear Day weekend, when everybody had all been up most or all of the night working on those floats. After the parade that afternoon, came the ball-game,

which saw more spirit than was generated in all the rest of the games put together. Mercer took the game, 89-85, and all was well.

Hurriedly passing over the loss to Georgia Teachers College, no disgrace at all, the next big event on the basketball calendar was the game against the University of Georgia. Most Mercer students were there and so were lot of town folks as the Bears took the ball and ran away with the game, 91-71. There was a lot of spirit at that game, too.

But, at the close of the season, the Cluster would like to extend its congratulations to the Bears and to Bobby Wilder for the team's fine performances. They have played some good games and have represented the school well. The student body may be justly proud of the 1956-57 basketball team.

But the student body may not be justly proud of itself. The majority of Mercer students have just not supported the team. Not that they may be accused of inconsistency, you could always depend on their not being there.

The cheerleaders have tried to stimulate a true Mercer spirit even in face of this. Sometimes the spirit was there, more often than not, it wasn't.

That spirit is one of the factors in a winning basketball team; it ought to be there next year.

Mercer Social Groups Collect For Heart Fund

Yesterday the 1957 Heart Fund came to an end. This was one of many annual campaigns for voluntary contributions to support the nationwide program against diseases of the heart and blood vessels.

Mercer's social fraternities and sororities brought the Heart Fund campaign to our campus by responding to the call for workers made by Col. William D. Smith, chairman of the local drive.

Phi Mu, Alpha Delta Pi, Chi Omega, Phi Delta Theta, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Kappa Alpha, and Sigma Nu participated in this year's drive. The workers from these organizations went out last Sunday, Heart Sunday, and staged a door-to-door campaign to collect money for the heart drive. Col. Smith reported last Tuesday that over \$1,000 had been collected by these organizations and that the Phi Mu's alone had accounted for almost \$400.

The money collected by these and other volunteers will be spent by the American Heart Association on the research, education and community heart programs. Most of the funds raised will remain in the Macon area to support the program of the local Heart Association.

All money collected will be used to spearhead the Heart Association's three-pronged attack against the heart diseases. Since 1948, the American Heart Association, its affiliates and chapters have channeled almost \$20,000,000 into research (largely looking toward discovery of the basic

causes and controls of rheumatic fever, high blood pressure and hardening of the arteries, which, together, account for more than 90 percent of all heart disease).

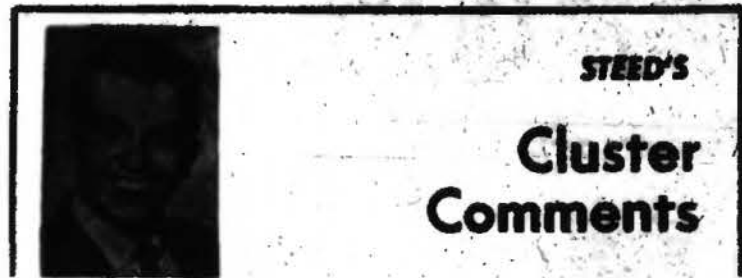
Through its program of public education the Heart Association seeks to eliminate needless fears and harmless misconceptions, as well as to encourage early diagnosis and treatment. Through its program of professional education, the Heart Association makes new knowledge about the heart diseases quickly available to physicians and members of related professional groups for the benefit of those with cardiovascular disease.

The benefits of research are brought to individuals through community heart programs, as well as through their physicians. These programs are designed to protect healthy hearts and to enable heart sufferers to live as useful and productive members of society.

Activities include improvement of diagnostic facilities, rehabilitation of industrial workers with heart disease, prevention of rheumatic fever, and work simplification programs to ease the burdens of heart disease victims.

Much credit should be given to the Mercer people who took their time to aid this worthy cause. Col. Smith and the members of the University's social organizations have proved again Mercerians are willing to serve this community.

B. S.



STEED'S Cluster Comments

ON COLLEGE FADS

People who know college students best—deans, professors, policemen, psychiatrists, and officers of various juvenile delinquent bureaus—agree that they are a strange tribe peculiarly addicted to fads.

However the scholars in the field of abnormal behavior agree that there are, in some colleges, exceptions to this rule. Occasionally they say, you can find an individualist on a college camp but for the most part we follow a "herd" instinct and are very susceptible to any hint of a fad.

A recent study of these things proved that fads are started by fraternity men who take oaths never to study and consequently have nothing better to do in the afternoons.

Historians have dug back in history to find some of the first college fads. One of the first bona-fide fads of any great or lasting fame began back in the pre-historic times, around 1928, when raccoon coats were the purple rage. Man, if you didn't have a raccoon coat you could turn in your Wendell Wilkie button . . . you were a nothing ball from the start. In 1928-29 the suicide rate among male college students without raccoon coats went up almost 85 percent. The coats did have their practical sides however, as many students used them for tents, rugs, blankets, etc. A good hairy coat was also invaluable as camouflage for the many hip flasks of that day.

The coats were quite roomy and oftentimes unscrupulous fraternity men would congregate in one and tip in ballgames and/or burlesque shows for single fare.

This fad faced an inevitable end. On cold rainy days the wearers found themselves very unpopular. Have you ever smelled a wet raccoon coat drying off in front of a fire? The paper mill couldn't hold a candle to it. So the carefree raccoons lived happily ever after until Davy Crockett came back on the scene.

Another noteworthy fad, started by hungry college students during the depression years, was the swallowing of goldfish. One student at Slippery Rock State Teachers College swallowed over 5,000 live goldfish at one sitting. Overnight he became a national hero and was known and loved by everyone, with the possible exception of the Humane Society. He was even offered a life-time contract at Marineland, Fla.

This fad came to an abrupt end when some biologist bred the goldfish with salmon and they started swimming back upstream.

The straw sailor was also another college fad that swept the country in the 30's. Lad, if you had a straw hat, a ukulele and a selection of Russ Columbo records, you were like the man in the coffin . . . Dead in there.

Flagpole-sitting almost caught on, but the pigeons made that stunt so hazardous that it had to be abandoned while still in the embryo stage.

The current madness is the "Ivy-league" look. Friend, if it doesn't have a buckle on the back, don't buy it.

Ivy-league suits are bad to have a vertical stripe in them. The pants must have no pleats in the front and if they don't have a belt on the back you should tear them up and use the rags to shine your brass.

The unpadded shoulders in the suits give the wearer a cool anemic look. Tie pins are taboo . . . a straight pin may be used in the back to keep the cravat together.

Two freshmen were seen wearing clean white bucks on camp! and no less than five crosses were burned in front of their rooms that same night.

As for socks, Esquire and Playboy both agree on the white athletic type. The MUA brand seems quite popular around here.

The good word is, however, if you can't go Ivy-league . . . don't go.

Mercer Opinions

(The question this week is, "What is the hardest subject you have ever taken? Why?")

Jean Sewell, senior - "French, definitely. I suppose my lack of interest and shallow mind is the reason for this."

Barbara Babus, senior - "Spanish . . . lack of interest . . . no foreign language in high school."

Richard Andrews, senior - "I would say that physics is the hardest because it requires a good background in mathematics and science. Unless a student has these well in mind he cannot expect to accomplish very much."

Pat Hickman, senior - "Office technique . . . I couldn't type."

Jimmy Hatcher, senior - "Philosophy 126. Because it was my first course in the field of philosophy and the insufficient textbook that is used for the course. I feel that in a field such as that the instructor should be very careful in the selection of the text."

Ben Clements, sophomore - French. It is naturally complicated to learn a language, especially one other than your own. I found that it was not to learn French, but to memorize it. Thus with so much to memorize it was almost impossible to recall it when necessary."

Jerry Vines, sophomore - "Biology. There is so much material to be covered and unless you are especially interested in it, it can get mighty boreome."

Mack Polndexter, freshman - "Dr. Battis' Christianity 50. Because of his pop tests, you can't procrastinate even one day in his class. Also that is a difficult course because of the subject matter."

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