

# BEAR EXISTENCE

by Cliff Hendrix

Visiting ball clubs sometimes cause the home teams a lot of trouble. They have to be shown where to eat, where to dress, the way to the court, and finally, how to get on the road out of town.

However, the traveling squad that will blow into Macon Saturday from sunny Florida will present no such problems. For the Stetson mentor probably knows the MU athletic plant as well as his own coat pocket. He is none other than the great Glenn Wilkes. Coach Wilkes has probably forgotten more about basketball at Mercer than most people will ever know. He is to Mercer basketball what Mary Erin Porter and Columbus Roberts are to some of the buildings on the campus.

Glenn Wilkes entered Mercer in 1947. A native of Eatonton, Ga., he had attended the local high school and amassed quite a credible athletic record. Upon his arrival at Mercer, Wilkes immediately offered his court services to Jim Cowan, then MU head coach and thus launched the career, the likes of which has never been seen since. By his sophomore year, Wilkes was firmly entrenched as a regular on the Mercer squad. That year, Wilkes shot a cool 390 points for the season, averaging out to about 18.6 per. He led the Bruin neapset over potent Georgia. Although playing opposite a Bulldog behemoth named Schloss, who towered over everyone at 6-9, Wilkes, no midget at 6-3, shot 19 points for the evening and was largely responsible for the game being tied at the closing whistle. The Bears went on to drop the contest 55-53 in overtime. That year, the Bears went to the NIAB tourney at Kansas City. Wilkes was named the Outstanding Athlete for the 1948-49 school year, indicative of his great performance.

The next year, Glenn was captain, the only regular to report back. The season opened, the Bears got rolling. By the middle of January, Glenn Wilkes was averaging 24 points a game. On a weekend tour of South Carolina, he netted 52 points in two games.

By February, Wilkes was the fifth highest scorer in the nation among small colleges and was third among the same group percentage-wise, with a superb .498 shooting average. When the season finally ended, Wilkes had run up the amazing total of 475 points for the campaign.

But all of this was mere preparation for the grand finale. Wilkes out-did himself his senior year, shattering all previous records and surpassing all past performances. He posted 25 points against rugged Georgia, although the Bears lost in the outcome 63-57. Against Stetson he garnered another 25. Presbyterian was unable to hold him below 27. Wilkes led a riotous 125-54 rout of Oglethorpe, scoring 40 points personally and sitting out a good portion of the contest in order to let the B team finish off the hapless Petrels. Finally against Presbyterian, Wilkes broke the magical 500 marker, posting 28 points to put himself over the top. Coming up against Georgia again, the Bears lost a close 69-60 decision, but Wilkes rang up no less than 30 points. It is interesting to note that, in spite of the Bears' apparent hard luck against the Bulldogs, Wilkes always did well, scoring over 20 in six of his outings against the Athenians.

Thus it was that on March 7, 1951, the Mercer Student Government Association petitioned the Athletic board to retire jersey number 13 from further service and place it on display in the Mercer museum. Glenn Wilkes became the first Mercer athlete in modern history to be honored in this fashion.

The story does not end here. Upon graduation, Wilkes enlisted in the Armed Forces and served in the Far East during the Korean War. After his discharge, he accepted a coaching position at Brewton-Parker Junior College. In 1957 Glenn Wilkes was called to the position of head coach of the Stetson Hatter basketball team. It is in this capacity that he will visit Mercer his weekend. Some things may have changed since he was a student here. Landmarks may have to be pointed out and buildings identified. But one thing is certain. When the Hatters get out on the basketball court no one will have to show Glenn Wilkes how to get around.



# Mercer Falls To Georgia Teachers 66-63, for Season's Third Defeat

by Rodney Browne

Husky Georgia Teachers, led by Chester Curry, took advantage of the Bears' inept first-half attack to down Mercer in the second from the foul line, 66-63.

Although the Bears out-scored the Profs from the floor, GTC shot an even 30 points worth of free throws during the course of the evening and these at crucial points in the game proved the Bears' undoing.

Georgia Teachers took the initial tip-off, coasted down the floor and shot from the outside. Woody Richardson grabbed the rebound, the Bears brought the ball back up the court and Richardson scored from the key-hole.

TC moved to the attack, moved the ball into offensive territory, where the Bears committed their first foul of the night and the Profs got their first point.

Leading 2-1 at this point, the Bears moved back to the TC end of the wood, where the Profs broke up the Bruin assault twice in a row and scored two quick buckets to go ahead 5-2.

Moving on the offensive once more, the Bears drove down into TC territory. Norman Carter passed off to Richardson who was fouled while making his shot good. The charity toss was true and the score was tied.

The score stayed nip and tuck for the next few minutes, with Norman Carter and Tommy Johnson doing the Bruin scoring. Then with the board reading 14-14 TC began to roll.

The profs made two free throws good to go ahead 16-14. Then, in the time it took the Bears to get three more, the Profs had hit ten and commanded a 26-17 advantage. By halftime, this had extended to 34-22. During this first period, both squads had hit about 30 per cent from the floor but the Profs had registered a cool 100 per cent from the free-throw line.

The second half started, as did the first, with TC taking the tip. The Bruins fouled, but the Profs missed their first free throw of the evening. The Bears moved the ball back up the floor where the Fessors fouled Carter, who made the point to make the score 34-23. TC came back up the floor, but the shot failed and Finch grabbed the rebound. He passed to Richardson who came through to give the Bears two more. The Profs maintained their commanding lead throughout the early part of the second half, staying out in front at times by 12 or 14 points.

The Bears began to close the gap with the score standing at 50-37. Led by Norman Carter, Doug Harris and Woody Richardson, Mercer whittled down the TC lead to seven points with only four minutes left in the game.

With the Teachers leading 59-54, the ball shuttled up and down the floor several times, the Fessors getting one on a free throw to give them a 60-54 advantage.

The Bears came back and Doug Harris hit from the floor to put the Bears within 4 points. As the Teachers moved back and attempted to score, Harris was fouled and made the point good.

Leading by only three points TC countered with two free throws after a Mercer foul. The Bears roared back down the floor and Carter sunk another one to cut the Prof lead back to three points. TC stretched it back to five with another field goal. The Teachers took over after the Bears were caught for traveling, but Richardson stole the ball and drove in to lay it up making the score 64-61. The Bears fouled again. GTC made two shots extending their lead to five points. The Bears came back. TC took a

rebound, but were forced out of bounds and the Bears got the ball. Carter came in to lay up another one. The horn sounded as the Profs came back up the floor and the final score stood 66-63.

Norman Carter led the Bears in scoring with 24 points followed by Richardson with 20. Doug Harris was third with 7. The Bears hit 40 per cent of their floor shots while TC registered a mediocre 25 per cent. TC led at the foul line, however, with 77 per cent and this proved the difference.

MERCER (63)	G	F	P	T
Carter, f	12	2-3	4	26
Richardson, f	6	6-8	3	18
Bergwall, c	1	0-0	5	2
Finch, g	1	1-3	5	3
Johnson, g	1	0-2	2	3
Davis, f	1	0-2	1	2
Shepard, f	0	1-1	0	1
Banks, c	0	0-0	2	0
Harris, g	3	1-2	1	7
Veal, g	0	2-2	3	2
Totals	25	13-23	26	63
GA. TCHRS (66)	G	F	P	T
Verstraete, f	3	5-6	5	11
McLeod, f	2	2-2	5	6
Waters, c	1	6-6	4	8
Curry, g	8	7-11	3	23
Alkens, g	4	4-7	0	12
Moore, f	0	6-6	2	6
Crischilla, g	0	0-0	0	0
Anderson, g	0	0-0	0	0
Totals	18	30-38	19	66
Mercer				22-41-63
Ga. Teachers				34-32-66

Officials: Pruitt and Bishop.

## Ministers Take Eagles In Forfeit.

The Legal Eagles of Mercer's Walter F. George School of Law defeated the Ministers 35-27 but lost the game due to the rule making post-graduate students ineligible for tournament competition.

Barry Williams was high man for the Lawyers, posting 12 points for the evening.

The game was close all the way, with the Lawyers holding only a slight 17-16 lead at halftime.

In the second frame, the Attorneys extended their advantage slightly to go on to victory, 35-27.

Pacing the Minister attack was Don Thomas with 9 points.

## Crewcuts Win In Legal Forfeit

The Independent Crewcuts racked up their first victory of the season Wednesday night, winning on forfeit from the Legal Eagles. Although the Lawyers posted more points, due to ineligibility of post-graduate students, they must forfeit each game before it starts.

The game was close from the start, the Lawyers leading at halftime by only a 12-10 margin. This they extended to 30-25 when the buzzer sounded.

High man for the Crewcuts was Jerry Holland who posted 9 points, followed by Bill Crane with 8.



Minor Gouge, an up and coming member of the Mercer Independent Men's Association, adjusts the group's television set in their Roberts Hall suite. -Photo by Robinson

## MIMA's Minor Gouge Asks More School Spirit, Feeling of Belonging

(Here is the third story by Cluster News Editor Charlotte Moore on the representative members of Mercer social organizations.)

by Charlotte Moore

"During the homecoming activities and during this basketball season I have seen students here act like college students because they were proud of their floats, basketball team, and their school. Many seemed to feel the first real spirit they had felt since high school."

These words were spoken by Minor Gouge, an MIMA. Minor is a sophomore here and plans to be a minister. He is active in the B. S. U., the Ministerial Association, and outstanding in football, softball, and volleyball intramurals.

Minor came to Mercer from Stone Mountain, Ga. In high school he held high offices in student government. He was president of his class for two years, and vice-president for the remaining two. Adding to this record, he was a letterman for four years in both football and track.

His interest in sports is still

keen, especially where Mercer is concerned. One of his main wishes is to see Mercer become a great college with a name for itself in sports.

"The most dominant thing Mercer needs," says Minor, "can not be named or pinpointed. I feel that the true Mercer spirit or college atmosphere was especially felt during homecoming when all the organizations forgot their differences and worked together for something bigger. It created a sense of belonging to an institution that everyone could be proud of."

## Bears Chalk Ninth Win In Free Play Over Cadets

By Jim McKinney

Mercer's Bears combined ball stealing, rebounding, and accuracy to gain their ninth win of the season against North Georgia last week. From Norman Carter's quick initial four points until the final buzzer, the Bears were in command of the Cadets. During the first half, Mercer kept the North Georgians in line by stealing the ball and controlling the backboards.

Bergwall started at center and matched board play with 12 points to lead the Mercer team to a 37-16 halftime lead. Also during the first period, Carter hit 11 points, followed by Richardson with 7.

The last half was a replay of the first but with new stars. Coach Wilder used every man on the roster and gave Mercer supporters a look at the future cagers. Harris and Banks led the second half scoring with 14 and 8 points respectively.

Individual scoring honors went to Carter and Harris, with 14 each, followed by Bergwall, Richardson,

and Banks with 12, 11, and 10. Bill Finch made only 4 points, but played an outstanding defensive game. The Bears out-rebounded the Cadets by some 69-31.

In the pre-lim, The Mercer Bees rolled up a neat 65-57 win over the North Georgia Jayvee squad. Donny Veal led the Cubs with 24 points followed by W. L. Shepard with 16.

Carter	14	F Chapman	4
Richardson	11	F Copeland	1
Bergwall	12	C Grinole	2
Johnson	4	G Cortelli	10
Harris	14	G Van Meter	16
Banks	10	C Kienedl	0
Finch	4	F Shepard	3
Read	4	F Edwards	0
Davis	4	F Holcomb	4
Shepard	3	F Akin	1
Allen	0	F Caston	0
Veal	4	G	

Score at Half: Mercer 37 North Georgia 16