

CLIFF HENDRIX
Goodbye
All

Standing out in the middle of the street, clad in a military raincoat to keep out the cold, I awaited the return of the man who could give me the story.

It was late. The wind whistled and suddenly the raincoat could no longer prevent chilling gusts from cutting me to the quick with icy stabs.

The clock in the chapel steeple banged out 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 and finally 1:30 a.m. on a bleak Macon February night.

By this time I had quit pacing up and down in the street and was sitting in Doug Bailey's Nash. Coach Wilder, it appeared, had gone to GTC to scout somebody or other and wouldn't be back till later.

Later was right. When the lights of the magnificent Mercer station wagon finally heralded his approach, I shivered to my feet and walked stiffly up to his back steps to get the information.

It just took a minute and then I was back in the dormitory typing the story and cursing The Mercer Cluster for all it was worth, which to me at that moment wasn't much.

I had to type the thing out in the hall because my roommates (who had better sense than I) were already in the sack and the steady clatter of the hunt and peck isn't the most conducive thing in the world to sleeping the sleep of the just.

That is but one pleasant memory of a couple of years as a Cluster lackey.

There was the time at one school, which shall remain forever anonymous, where the Cluster press card wasn't good enough to get one in the game and your sports editor had to carry a guitar and pose as a member of the Mercer washboard band in order to get through the gates.

But in what the regular hawks call the sports game (which is somewhat different from the way I refer to it) you are prevented from using the English language. Anybody who commits this breach of ethic is doomed to a life of compiling box scores.

Here's what we mean. Say the Mercer basketball team beats Georgia by 10 points, 80-70, or the like.

Can you just report that and be done with it? Oh no, that would be too simple. The 'good' sports writer, if there is such a man, will perpetrate something like this on anyone misguided enough to read his offering:

"Mercer's Bruin basketballer downed a battling Bulldog five Tuesday night on the Porter floor by a 80-70 tally."

Or if he is really good, he will concoct something much worse.

The fallacy of this was ably demonstrated by the Cauldron editor this year. Bailey, caught short of a sports writer, got one of his feminine copy writers to read through a story or two from the sports pages of one of the dailies. She then sat down thus thoroughly steeped in the meaningless jargon of the athletic scribes and wrote sports copy with as much corn and confusion as the best of the hacks. Which to me seems more than enough to prove that sports writing isn't a talent, it's a disease.

But since this is the last column I will say that truthfully these last two years have been enjoyable and fruitfull and sports writing is all right as a whole, but not as a pastime.

Bruins Meet Cadets,

A pair of home games spotlight baseball activity for the Mercer Bears this weekend.

Taking on North Georgia College of Dahlonega Friday afternoon, the Bruins will see action against Piedmont College Saturday.

Mercer played Piedmont at Demorest this past Tuesday.

According to Coach Claude Smith, nothing definite was known concerning either team and Mercer would just have to "wait and see" what baseball talent the two opponents will have.

Last year, Mercer stopped Piedmont College by a 5-1 tally in one contest and dropped one to the Piedmonters in an 8-3 fracas. The Bruins also split in baseball play with North Georgia, winning the opening contest 1-0 and later in the season losing out 3-2 to the Cadets in a close duel.

Going into the initial Piedmont game Tuesday, the Bears were boasting a 7-0 record, by virtue of a 9-5 win over Presbyterian College last Saturday. The Bears play their next contest Friday, April

24, against Georgia Teachers College at Willingham Field.

Coach Smith commenting on practice procedure for the week, told the Cluster that Monday would be concerned with running and emphasis on running the bases. The rest of the week was to be devoted in large measure to hitting practice.

"We can stack up defensively on any ball club we come up against," the coach explained, "and it's runs that win the game."

GEORGIA WINS

The University of Georgia inflicted their second defeat of the season over the Mercer tennis team Tuesday as they blanked the Bears by a 2-0 score.

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4 Mercer Tennis Stars To Play At State Meet

Four members of the Mercer tennis team will be on hand in Athens this week-end for the Georgia Intercollegiate Tennis Tournament to be played on the University of Georgia courts.

Fred Mohr, Sam Daniel, Gary Brantley and George Browne are the four Bruin racketeers who will participate in tournament activity.

According to tennis mentor Ben Griffith, the four lads will draw

for positions in the tournament which will be run on a single elimination basis.

Top favorites in the tournament are Ned Neely of Georgia Tech and Georgia's John Foster and Lindsey Hopkins.

Tuesday The Atlanta Constitution, in a story on the upcoming tournament, described Mercer's Mohr as a "topnotch player" and as "capable of making trouble for the Tech and Georgia aces."



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