

SPORTSCOPE

Mercer Team Possesses 'Fair-Weather Fans'

By RABUN MATTHEWS

Mercer University's Bears passed through a phase last weekend. It was learned late Friday afternoon that Joe Dulick the Bruins' ace sophomore center, would probably be out for the season with a broken foot.

This undoubtedly brought a feeling of remorse to the loyal fans of Mercer University. It probably brought that same feeling upon those little fans that claim some kind of the same allegiance that is exhibited by the truly faithful.

But, the word had spread of Dulick's infirmity and at 7:30 on Saturday night in the Lair of the Bear, there were exactly 17 patrons of the art of slinging the ball through the hoop.

This wouldn't seem too unusual at Mercer, except that Saturday night the Bruins had what appeared to be the "dubious" distinction of playing host to the number 2 ranked small college in the nation.

It was estimated by some persons that there would, (1), be a full house on hand for the game to see the likes of such a renowned team as Mississippi Southern, and (2) that without the service of Dulick, this same bunch from the heart of the Rebel state would find it no difficult task to ease past Mercer by at least 30 points.

Neither of the two probabilities happened.

The "fans" that weren't there have in this writers opinion, missed the finest game that has been played in Porter gym since the Bears flattened the University of Georgia some two years ago. The term, "fans", must be used very loosely and, more appropriately with some sort of prefix, such as the oft-used term, "fair-weather."

It is only a "fair-weather" fan that will turn out in droves for a game with a "name" school such as Georgia, and then two weeks later, against an even better team, when it appears that Mercer couldn't have a chance, manages to find time to do anything but go out and see their team.

If it is of any satisfaction to the "fair-weather" fans, it might be mentioned that this is not the same team that you might have seen before Dulick was injured. Don't however, bother to take the time to languish too long in your satisfaction. Just because the style of play has changed doesn't mean that on a given night Mercer is not as good or better than any team on its schedule. Ask Mississippi Southern. They know.

By now everyone must know what almost happened and what really happened last Saturday. You either saw, or more probably read in the newspaper how Mercer almost beat the almost number 1 team in the country, and how there were almost 500 people in the stands, and how the crowd almost yelled, and so forth.

Harbin "Red" Lawson, University of Georgia cage Coach, who should be qualified to speak on such matters, says he shudders to think of the day each season when it comes time for his Bulldogs to play in Porter gym. According to Lawson, Mercer is the noisiest place he takes his team during the course of the season. Little does the redhead know of the silence that permeates the gym during the other 22 or so games that span the average Mercer season.

The game Saturday was not a David and Goliath story. Not quite anyway. But it could have been. For that matter it almost was. But who cares? Against the Golden Giants of Mississippi Southern, there was little Mercer, playing before maybe 500 people, looking for all the world like David with a basketball in his hands about to sling same

into the grinning faces of a 6-9 Golden Giant.

As I said, it didn't quite come off, but one change in the bounce of the ball here, or another basket there, and the mighty Giant could conceivably have been felled by what might appear to the average "fair-weather" fan to be the smallest pebble around.

Make no mistake about it, Mercer with or without Dulick, and with or without the fans who appear only when the sun shines the brightest will surprise someone by the time this is read they may have already done it, as they played Georgia in Athens Wednesday night.

Key Reviews and Previews Bears

By JERE KEY

The Mercer basketball team revealed its new control offense against the Mississippi Southern Golden Giants. The Bears, formerly a race horse team, have converted to the slow game. For three quarters this offense baffled the number two small college team in the nation.

Southern's superior height and weight caused the Bear's downfall. It was the best effort of the season for the Bears. Mercer hit 70% of their shots the first half and finished the game with 42%. Southern hit 48% for the game.

Donnie Veal and Jim Milton led the Bears with 14 and 12 points. Freshman Curtis Lockridge turned in a fine performance and scored 8 points. Frankie Edwards and Ray Hardman also turned in fine performances for Mercer. Donnie Veal, floor leader and playmaker, played one of the best games of his career.

Mercer was hurt by the loss

of high scorer Joe Dulick who broke his foot in the Presbyterian game. It is doubtful that he will be able to play again this season. Freshman Curtis Lockridge is starting in Joe's place. He improves with every game and should be a real threat on the boards and in the scoring column by the end of the season.

Tonight Mercer plays the Spring Hill Badgers in Mobile, Alabama. Not much is known about the Badgers except that they will be somewhat taller than the Bears. Saturday night Mercer has a rematch with Mississippi Southern in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.



photo by Lowrance

Hugh Lawson of the Cluster staff interviews Coach Claude Smith about the new baseball field to be used for the first time by the 1961 baseball team. In the background is seen the new dugouts.

SGA To Poll On Integration

Mercer students will be polled on their views regarding integration at Mercer, Thursday, February 2. SGA is sponsoring the polling following the editorial suggestion of the Cluster.

Completion Near On Baseball Field

by Hugh Lawson

Mercer's 1961 baseball team will play all its home games on the new baseball field, located on Adams Street between the faculty houses and Porter Stadium. This site was formerly used by the Macon Little League players.

The diamond has been sodded with bermuda and rye grass. Other improvements have been made to the extent that Coach Claude Smith believes by the time baseball season arrives, the field will be in excellent condition.

A backstop and two new dugouts are presently being constructed on the new field. Present plans now call for temporary stands to be placed on each side of the field beyond each dugout.

A temporary fence will be constructed around the outfield in a few weeks. This fence will consist of hardwood posts three feet in height with an orange cloth stretched between them. The distance from home plate to right and left field will be 330 feet and the distance between home plate and center field will be 380 feet.

Coach Smith says that he is looking forward to the coming season, especially because of the new field. He feels that with the field now located on campus, the students will be more likely to turn out and support the team. This, he says, has been sorely lacking in recent seasons because of no home field.

Smith will release the 1961 schedule in about two weeks. At the present it seems that the Bears will have 10 home games and 13 road games.

Mattox at College Meet

Mrs. Fleetwood Mattox, assistant to the deans, will represent Mercer at a regional meeting of the college board and the college scholastic service in New Orleans, February 2-3.

MIMA Holds Saturday Car Wash

MIMA will hold a car wash Saturday, January 28, at the Standard Service Station at 1600 Montpelier Avenue, adjacent to the Tatnall Square Barber Shop. The wash will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 5:00 p.m. Each wash will be 98c. Cars will be picked up and delivered at no extra cost, according to Edg Farley, president of the local independent social group.

Toby and Tot Nominations Due Monday Night

Nominations for Toby and Tot should be registered with F. Rowland, acting SGA secretary Monday, January 30 at 6:30 p.m.

All social organizations or campus clubs exclusively male or female are authorized to make nominations for the annually elected Toby and Tot.

The candidates will be presented in chapel, Tuesday, January 31 and the polls will open Thursday, February 2.

According to plans made by the homecoming committee, Toby and Tot will be crowned during the half time of the game with Roll Saturday night, February 4.



photo by Lowrance

Librarian Charles H. Stone studies a Bible given by Dr. Frederick E. Smith to the Hardman library Bible collection.

Mercer Gets Old Bible

A Bible printed in Scotland nearly 200 years ago was presented to the Mercer University library Tuesday by Dr. Frederick E. Smith, Lawrenceville, Georgia.

The Bible was given to Dr. Smith while he was doing graduate study at Edinburgh University in 1936 and serving as interim pastor at Queenspark Baptist Church. The late R. W. Holmes-Coates, at that time principal of the Baptist Theological College of Scotland, gave the volume to him.

The old Bible, replete with many illustrations, was printed by Edward Khull & Co., Saltwater Market, Glasgow, and is approximately 10" x 20" and 4" thick. The Old Testament portion was printed in 1765 and the New Testament dates from 1815 A.D.

Dr. Smith graduated from Mercer in 1920 and received his doctorate here in 1933, the centennial of Mercer University.

Enjoy

The Snack Bar

open until 10:30 p.m.
after each home
basketball game