

Sideline Slants

By HERB SCHOELLKOPF

Successful Season

With resounding victories over High Point, Elon, and Western Carolina, who can deny that the Quaker cagers have had a successful season? After getting a late start at a winning streak, the team came through at the beginning of the series of home games to move out of the cold cellar position to end up in the semi-finals of the conference tournament.

Credit is due all around: to Coach Lentz, although somewhat new in the basketball field, for developing the team into a scrappy, aggressive combination; to all the squad members, especially the stalwarts of last year, Bunk Leonard, Jack Chatham, and Brooks Hansard, the high scoring newcomers Jimmy Mann, Dick Hall, Jace Ralls, and Red Leonard; and to the old-timers Bill Byatt and Wes Inman; and not to be forgotten is the appreciation due for the work of Manager Bill Stamen and for the solid support of John the trainer.

For the Pouch

It was all for Bill "the Pouch" Byatt. With the somewhat unsatisfactory basketball season nearing the closing games, our galloping guard, who is a senior, was often heard bemoaning the lamentable tale of his never having played in a major sport contest ending in victory for Guilford. So, along about the time of the Appalachian game which marked the rejuvenation of the Quaker quintet, the battle cry, "One for Byatt!" was raised. After scaring the "dickens" out of the Apps and dropping the next two close ones, the boys and Bill came through to trounce Western Carolina in the next home game, much to the joy of our hero.

Incidentally, in a debate concerning Bill's spectacular long drawn scope shot his running mate, Jace Ralls, gave the sharpest description by exclaiming, "It looks like he's going to do a one-and-a-half and dive through the basket himself."

Wrestling Mats for Guilford

Thanks to the contacts and persistence of Grimsley Hobbs, the generosity of some of his friends at Carolina, and the loan of a truck by Howard Coble, Guilford's athletic equipment will be increased by the acquisition of a couple of Navy surplus wrestling mats. This is just one more sign of the growing interest in minor sports at this school. It seems a shame, however, that the students have to take it upon themselves to provide the means, and at that, without any assistance or much encouragement from the athletic administration.

By matter of comparison: The sports program in 1940 and '41 provided for the men students, besides the three major sports, regular scheduled interscholastic competition in cross-country track, freshman football, wrestling, freshman basketball, track, tennis, and golf. In addition, a basketball and softball intramural program, and a ping-pong tournament were carried out. What has been or will be provided for the men student body of almost twice the pre-war size this year?

Short Slants

Here's one vote for High Point College, for the school with the worst competitive spirit and show of sportsmanship. The crude exhibition put on by the supporters of that institution at the conference tournament was far from being on a college level. . . . The conference has gained more recognition by way of being represented in the national ratings of the top 10 scorers in the nation because of the high scoring of Elon's Romney Cates. . . . Also, Guilford has the distinction of having a sub play the shortest game on record—three seconds. . . . Heard from Coach Graham while giving a Phys Ed test, "Y'know we got the honor system here; that don't mean that I got the honor and you got the system." . . . Coach Lentz's pet dressing room expression, "Siddown, Inman, you make me nervous!" . . . Byatt's "Awright, who stole the tongue out of my shoe?" . . . Lentz's greatest shock didn't come from the basketball team this year but from "Sober" John the trainer when he appeared at the half time of the Appalachian game wearing the usual Guilford jacket and sweatshirt and informed the coach that he had just been sprung from the local penal palace. . . . Highlight of the current intramurals was the close-fought contest between Old South and New North in which the latter group was tripped 56 to 3. Close but no cigar!

Elon Wins State Tourney by Victory Over WCTC in Finals

By SOL KENNEDY

The North State Conference third-seeded five, Elon College, won the conference tournament at High Point College by defeating Atlantic Christians in the preliminaries; Le-noir-Rhyme in the semi-finals; and Western Carolina in the finals.

In this the first post-war tournament, the North State saw its top two teams, Appalachian and High Point, knocked from the tournament in the opening round of play. Le-noir-Rhyme, seeded as eighth and lowest, topped Appalachian 65-63 by holding the edge at the end of the game. Seventh seeded Guilford, which can be considered as the dark horse of the tournament, and playing a hot streak which came in the last three games of the regular season, bettered High Point College 53-47.

This tournament saw for the first time in its history a Guilford College five go beyond the preliminaries, as the Quakers lost to Western Carolina Teachers in the semi-finals, 53-40. It was "one of those things" which happened to Guilford against Western Carolina; for Guilford, the ball seemed to be basket-shy. To the spectators, it was obvious that Coach Lentz's charges were definitely "off"—that the hotness which defeated High Point two games hand-running had cooled. Freshman Jimmy Mann, Guilford's high scorer with 157 points, was missing from all the tournament play as a result of an injured ankle received in the season's regular game with High Point.

As the North State closes its season of '46-'47, it is rather obvious that basketball in the conference next season will possibly be the best in the conference's history. Many of the loop's schools will lose no more than one man from its team, many will lose none. Guilford's sole leaver, and definitely a loss, is Bill Byatt, a senior who earned his first varsity letter in the pre-war Block Smith school.

The conference uncovered many freshmen whose performances point to brilliant court careers in the years to come. Most outstanding, perhaps, is a lanky and skinny freshman from Elon, Roney Cates. Cates set a conference record this year by racking 457 points in 26 games. These 457 points also gave Cates the high score for all North Carolina collegiate basketball players this season. And this record ranks second best to 587 points of Carolina's George Glamach, 1941, the best mark ever recorded in Tar Heel collegiate basketball.

Elon, as winner of the North State title, is eligible for the National Intercollegiate Tournament which will be held at Kansas City in March. However, both Elon's President Smith and Coach Perry have expressed notes of doubt that Elon will send its team to this national affair. High Point College attended this Kansas City meet in a pre-war year.

Quakers Send High Point To Cellar With 53-47 Win

By ROY CUNEO
Staff Reporter

The Guilford College basketeers provided their students and faculty with the thrill that comes once in a lifetime by eliminating the favored and haughty High Point Panthers from the North State Conference Tournament in the first round 53 to 47. The irony of the event lay in the fact that it was the second time in three days that this feat had been accomplished, and this gave the Quakers a two-out-of-three edge in wins over the Panthers for the season. Once again the Guilfordians showed fine balance in organization by having the points well spread out over the bulk of the squad. Bill Leonard and George Ralls led the parade with 11 tallies apiece, but they were closely paced by Bunk Leonard and Dick Hall who each rang up nine markers, while Chatham and Byatt contributed seven and five points, respectively. The usual High Point mainstays, Moran and Sheets, were stopped with 10 markers apiece, and this was not good enough to make up their six-point deficit at the end of the game.

This contest closely paralleled their previous encounter, being a point-for-point affair in the first half, with the Panthers leading, 25-23, at the intermission due to a basket in the last 10 seconds by Sheets. The Quakers let loose in the second stanza, however, and were in front after 10 minutes by 12 points after a flurry of baskets by the Leonard brothers, Byatt, Ralls and Hall. The Panthers nearly closed the gap near the end of the game, but their rally fell four points short when the Quakers started to click again, the score winding up 53 to 47.

W. C. T. C. Wins

Going into the semi-finals the next night against Western Carolina Teachers' College, the Quakers showed the strain of playing their fifth game in eight days and bowed out of the tournament by losing 53-40. The Cats jumped off to a

quick start and built up a half-time lead of 18 points. Vainly through-out the second frame the Crimson quintet tried to bridge the gap, but could only succeed in "chopping the wide Teachers' College lead down by five points before the time ran out. The boys from the mountains were sparked by big Jim Gudger, who tallied a point a minute for the first 10 minutes, and put them in a lead which could never be overcome. Bill Leonard again led the Guilford scorers by chucking in nine markers. This game officially closed the hardwood court season, the record of the courtmen being six wins against 12 defeats.

The man who always waits for something to turn up will find that his toes might be the first to do it.

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