



Shown here is the Gardner-Webb college baseball team, a team, mentored by Norman Harris, that dropped their first three tilts, but bounced back to take three conference opponents on a string. The locals' latest win was a 12-3 shellacking handed Pfeiffer Junior College at Pfeiffer last week.

The players from left to right, first row (sitting) are: Phil Elliott, Jr., Boiling Springs, Bobby Nix, Summerville, Ga.; Bill Stout, Rameaux; Jerry Merrill, Morganton; Ernie Diaz, Miami, Fla.; and Bobby Myers, Thomasville. Second row: Earl Bradford, Gastonia; Steve Morrisett, Boiling Springs; Ken Queen, Spencer; Junior Tuttorow, Spencer; Bill Wallace, Sanford; Bobby Bush, Summerville, Ga.; and Gerald Freeman, Shelby. Third row: Frank Sherrill, manager; A. M. Kiser, Cherryville; Darrell Wilson, Mooresville; Howie Gamble, Miami, Fla.; Bobby Blackburn, Mooresboro; Ernie Beheler, Gastonia; Jim Huffstetter, Bessemer City; Billy Bates, Cowpens, S. C.; and Coach Norman Harris.

## Baseball Pitches

By BOB MYERS

After dropping three straight contests, the baseball forces of G-W settled down to win a trio on a string to overcome the hapless start. At this writing, the Bulldogs, under the mentorship of Coach Norman Harris, have a conference mark of three wins and one loss, and a non-circuit record of two losses.

The locals opened the season on April 3 in Spartanburg, where a pepped up home ground crew of Spartanburg Junior College boys pushed across a run in the ninth frame to lick the Bulls 5-4. That was the start. In their last outing, the Harrismen, pushing across five runs in the seventh frame, defeated Pfeiffer, 12-3 at Pfeiffer.

On April 11 and 12, the locals entertained Presbyterian Junior College in a pair of North Carolina Junior College bouts. It was a profitable week end for the Bulldogs. Behind the four-hit hurling of veteran Ken Queen, Gardner-Webb trounced the visitors from Maxton, 15-1. In the second game of the two-game set, it was not easy for the locals. Presbyterian fell 10-9 in that game, in which three G-W moundsmen saw action.

The only conference loss suffered was a wild 20-13 shellacking handed down by Belmont Abbey on the Crusader's home field. It was an unsettled affair all the way, with five pitchers seeing action in the run-around.

G-W lost another non-loop battle to Spartanburg, again by a one-run margin. The tilt was played on April 8; the outcome: Spartanburg 9, G-W 8.

Coach Harris has practically built a new ball club. Only three sophomores returned to regular action from the '51 squad, which conquered nine opponents while losing to four. This mark was good for third place in the final standings.

Back in the infield this season are veterans: Bobby Bush, a fleet-footed shortstop from Summerville,

Ga., who hit .308 in play last season, and Howie Gamble, the third sacker from Miami, Fla. Both boys are key men in the field and Bush 's high in the hitting department. The Ga. lad has one homerun.

At other spots in the inner gardens, the freshmen have taken over. At second is Billy Bates, a Cowpens, S. C. product. Bates moved in from the outfield to handle the keystone post after the first three tilts.

The most versatile guy in the infield is Ernie Beheler, a portside swatter who was a prominent figure in Gaston county baseball. Beheler held the initial sack post at Gastonia high and played legion junior ball for three years. Beheler has three homeruns in his credit thus far, and has one of the highest batting percentages on the club presently.

Harris was particularly worried about the catching spot. Veteran Sam Travis, who caught last season, left by graduation. C. M. Oatwalk of Belmont and Steve Morrisett handled the duties for the first two games before Harris discovered that Gerald Freeman, out for a pitching job, was also a catcher. Freeman is hitting well above the 500 mark in four games, and has

turned in a god job behind the platter.

Sophomore Bobby Blackburn is back in leftfield. Blackburn is a portside swatter and the Mooresboro product is regarded as a top-notch hitter. Along with Blackburn in the outer gardens are Bill Wallace, centerfielder from Sanford and Jim Huffstetter of Bessemer City. Wallace moved to the outfield from an early season frabbase slot and has turned in impressive performances so far. Huffstetter is a former Bessemer City high school and legion stalwart, particularly powerful at the platter. Huffstetter is a leading hitter.

Harris, early in the season, was most concerned with his pitching staff. Frank Wilson, the little right-hander from Gastonia who hurled six wins against one loss last season, moved on to Appalachian this year, leaving sophomores Jerry Merrill, A. M. Kiser, and Earl Bradford to carry the load. However, Ken Queen, a big righthander from Spencer, has filled Wilson's shoes thus far, strabbing two tilts against one loss to his credit. Another freshman, righthander Bobby Myers of Thomasville is a regular moundsmen thus far. Myers, however, received credit for both Spartanburg losses.

Sophomore Bobby Nix also retired an infield spot for a pitching job. Nix has one win credited.

Other boys who have seen action are Bill Stout of Rameaux; Darrell Wilson of Mooresville; Ernie Diaz of Miami, Fla., Phil Elliott, Jr., and Junior Tuttorow of Spencer. Wilson is a top-notch hitter and Diaz has also looked good in the field.

Gardner-Webb has nine more tilts to play in the Central Division of the North Carolina Junior College conference. Two of the games are non-loopers with Mars Hill college, however.

## A Letter Home

Gardner Teck,  
Instigation of higher  
ignorance.

Howdy Maw,

Well hush your mouth! Air you'ens surprised to bare from me so soon? Well I suspect you'ens twerent, 'since I sent the last letter C.O.D. Shucks, tain't no usin' frettin' amongst the bushes, the truth air that I am broke. (Like you always say business afore pleasure)

Maw, tomorrow is fieldday and everybody is all flustered up, but Maw you know, that ain't nothing fer to get hooped up about accuse up there at home we have a fieldday everyday. And besides that the ground wont grow nothin' fer being so pore. Its so pore you have to set on a sack use fertilizer fer to raise your voice. "The fellers air all wrappeset in baseball now, just like some feller said "In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of baseball." Maw, you hain't won, to many games and we havent lost to many, well just to tell the truth we haint played to many. We pears to have a perfy pert team but some says the fellers don't know too much about it. Andy Gump thinks the glove is to keep his hands warm and he has been futtin' ever since seasons opene, because they didn't give him two.

Maw, these turners down here didn't seem to believe me when I told em 'at our ground so tall at the moon had to detour by South Carolina. Maw, do you recollect the time that furmer came into paws slder mill to fetch some slder. Paw says "Well I'm sold out now but I will start the mill and make it-fer you. How much do you want?" The feller told him, ten gallons and paw says "shucks mister, shorly you don't expect me to cut an apple just to get ten gallon." Maw, don't you'ens suspect it would be fitter fer paw to build a bridge across the river; seems like evertime somebody wants to cross they cut a punkin in half. Well you'ens will have to admit, they do make good boats.

By the way are the robots still totin off our cows.

Maw, I've learned the mounts since I have been horse, just listen. "Thirty days has September, April, June and no wonder, all the rest have twenty-nine except Grandmaw and she has twenty-eight."

The main reason this here letter air short is because I missed Red Skelton Sunday night. Well until then.

Yourn till the sea gets salty,

Dec.

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WELCOME TO  
ALL STUDENTS

Boiling Springs, N. C.