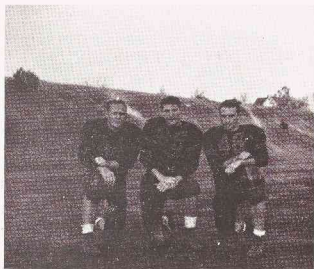


Outstanding Linemen



— Sports Features —
A SALUTE

In this issue of the Pilot we are giving a salute to the boys who have been instrumental in the victorious comeback of our football team. They are the boys who go about doing their job without getting much praise. These unsung heroes, if you haven't already guessed it, are the boys who make up that small, hard charging line of the Bulldogs. They are the boys who make it possible for the backs to pull off their brilliant runs and score the touchdowns. They are also responsible for giving the quarterback time to pass. It is also the responsibility of these boys to keep the opponents from outscoring our team.

These boys have successfully met these responsibilities all season. They have showed a steady improvement since the Asheville-Biltmore game and this corner believes that they really found themselves in the Mars Hill game.

We would like to pay special tribute to three fellows who we believe make up the backbone of the Bulldog line. These boys, Gothard Overcash, Ronald Buras and Edgar Teague, have played superb ball throughout the season. Their fine blocking and shrewd defensive play have been as near perfect as any college team can boast.

Gothard is that fine amiable sophomore from Mooresville. He played fine defensive ball for the Bulldogs last year although he had only one year of experience in high school. This year, with the new rules eliminating free substitution, he has played exceptionally well on both offense and defense.

Ronald comes to us this year from Cowpens High School where he played outstanding fullback for that team. Because of the player shortage at Gardner-Webb this year he was asked to switch to tackle. He made the change and although he has been playing at a disadvantage, he has turned in an excellent job, both offensively and defensively.

The third member of this trio, Edgar Teague, has returned to Gardner-Webb after pulling a hitch in the armed forces. He was a member of the team a few years ago before entering service. Although troubled with bad legs all year, Teague has played fine ball throughout the campaign.

These boys, along with Yerwood, Thomas, Breedlove, Philips, and the rest of that fine forward wall, are a credit to any school and any team.

PEARSON VIEWS SPORTS

Football

Football at Gardner-Webb for 1953 is history now, but before we wrap it up and store it in mothballs for next year let us have a brief resume of the grid fortunes of our team this year.

The Bulldogs began the season inauspiciously at Chowan where they fought a 0-0 battle in the sand. In their next encounter they were handed a 14-0 defeat by the Bulldogs of Asheville-Biltmore. After this loss the boys seemed to round into better shape as they gained a moral victory in their 12-6 defeat by Lees McRae. North Carolina's representative to the Golden Isle Bowl at Brunswick, Georgia. The boys appeared to gain confidence after this game and proceeded to run up a string of three consecutive victories. They defeated Mars Hill 13-7, Lees McRae 14-6 and then in their Homecoming game they soundly trounced Mars Hill to the tune of 31-0. This was undoubtedly their peak performance for the year because they fell off sharply in their next contest. In their finale with Asheville-Biltmore the boys appeared sluggish and worn out as they suffered a 13-6 setback. This was their poorest offensive performance of the year.

Although this has not been a banner year for football at Gardner-Webb this corner believes the Bulldogs have given a respectable account of themselves in compiling a record of three wins, three losses and one tie. This corner also believes that Coach Harris is to be commended for the fine job of rebuilding he has done this year. He took his small group and molded a winning combination despite injuries and manpower shortages. The coach and the team should be praised highly for their undying efforts in our behalf.

This column would also like to take this opportunity to give tribute to the Cheerleaders and the student body for the fine spirit they have shown in supporting this year's team.

Basketball

As the football curtain descends for '53 the sport's spotlight focuses on this year's basketball team. This year's crop of basketsters are just beginning to get started at full force. Coach Harris has had his charges going through bi-weekly drills since the latter part of October in preparation for the start of regular practice which began November 16.

This year's squad, which faces a rugged 21 game schedule, appears destined to outdo the efforts of last year's aggregation despite the fact that only three starters return. In preliminary drills thus far the boys seem to be developing into a smooth working unit.

The team, which will be composed, for the most part, of a large number of freshmen aspirants, is being paced at present by "Squirrel" Thomas, back from last year's tournament team and Bill Jones, lanky freshman center from Hendersonville. Other newcomers to the squad who have looked good in the pre-season drills are Bill Boviender, freshman forward from Mineral Springs High, "Speedy" Rollins, a veteran from the '50 team who has just returned to school after a hitch in the army; and "Mac" Hill, freshman guard from Woodruff. S. C. Gene Mintz, a reserve on last year's squad, has also looked impressive in drills thus far.

The dribble boys have two weeks to gain the polish and finesse needed in a winning combination.

Gardner-Webb's Basketball Schedule

Dec. 2, Lees McRae, There; Dec. 8, Pfeiffer, There; Dec. 9, Spartanburg, Home; Dec. 12, Charlotte, There; Dec. 15, Mars Hill, There.

Jan. 6, Lees McRae, Home; Jan. 9, Wingate, Home; Jan. 16, Oak Ridge, Home; Jan. 18, Charlotte, Home; Jan. 23, Pfeiffer, Home; Jan. 25, Wingate, There; Jan. 29, Campbell, There; Jan. 30, E. M. I., There.

Feb. 3, Spartanburg, There; Feb. 4, Chowan, Home; Feb. 6, Wilmington, There; Feb. 11, Louisburg, Home; Feb. 12, P. J. C., There; Feb. 13, P. J. C., There; Feb. 17, Oak Ridge, There; Feb. 20, Mars Hill, Home.