

The Martian Conquest - Quakers Succumb, 10-7

by Chris Benfey

As the stands filled slowly for the game with Mars Hill, your reporter made a quick analysis of the crowd. The majority of football fans fit into one of two categories. There are fans who, like theatregoers, hope to see one of the teams get clobbered. One group of fans goes for art, the other for flesh and blood. Of course some fans seem to go to football games for no reason at all. Saturday afternoon is a void, suspended between last week's classes and tomorrow's studying. Nature abhors a vacuum.

Among the theatregoers one finds the analytical fan. He (or she) ignores the brutal sensuality of the sport, and watches football as a mathematician listens to music, reducing each piece to numerical relations. The most complex play sends the analytical fan into transport of frigid ecstasy. A solid handoff up the middle bores her (or him) to tears.

Administrators and alumni turn up at each game and try to appear indispensable, but football would be the same without them. Or would it?

Finally there are those who, like your reporter, go to games out of curiosity, wondering whether bullfighting is really the only vestige of Roman gladiator fights.

Saturday's game was meant for the theatregoers. The weather was exquisite. A light wind was blowing. The seats were all taken. The playbill promised an epic performance. Guilford versus Mars Hill. The men of peace against the men of war. The Mars Hill team, however, was composed neither of warriors nor of Martians. For the second week in succession, the Quakers found themselves "pitted against" the Lions.

The game was, for the Quakers, a tragedy of errors. The day belonged to the officials. There were fifteen penalties in the game, accounting for 70 yards against Guilford and 55 against Mars Hill. At one point, two successive Guilford plays appeared to be touchdowns, a lovely pass from Butch Foley to Chris Paphites, and a run by Reggie Kenan. Penalties against Guilford nullified both plays; and a last ditch try for a field goal was blocked.

The game was sloppy from the beginning. On the second

play of the game a Mars Hill back took a pitchout, then tried a long pass. Guilford intercepted. The Quakers promptly fumbled and Mars Hill took over at midfield. A pass to the 14, an off side penalty against Guilford, and a quick run through the middle brought Mars Hill the first touchdown, less than four minutes into the game.

The Guilford response was immediate. Two minutes later they had a touchdown of their own, after a 37-yard pass to Paphites, and a 20-yard run by Kenan. The first five minutes seemed to promise a high-scoring game, but there was no more scoring until the fourth quarter.

The rest of the first half was frustrating. The Quakers seemed to have scored twice, only to have penalties nullify both plays. The Lions tried the same fancy lateral and pass with which they had opened the game, and for the second time the Quakers intercepted. The Guilford defense was impressive, throwing the Martian quarterback for big losses. The Quaker offense continued to use the same plays - the option pitch out to Kenan and the pass to the sidelines to Paphites - both of which worked often enough to keep trying them. Kenan gained 108 yards in the game on 34 attempts. Paphites covered 120 yards on only four passes.

The half ended with the score still 7-7, the same halftime score of the week before, against Concord. Your reporter, according to custom, tried to make friends with the visitors. He discovered that Mars Hill students are not Martians, they're Baptists. I explained that Guilford is a Quaker School. The face of one of the Mars Hill fans lit up. "So that's why they're called the 'Quakers'", he said. This particular cluster of fans knew Guilford for its concert choir. What about football; were they enjoying the game? "It could be better". I had to agree. Were they impressed with the Guilford team? "It's better than it was two years ago"...Again I agreed.

Less than two minutes into the second half, Cliff Hunsucker threw the Mars Hill quarterback for a big loss; then miraculously turned up with the football in his hands. He seemed as surprised and delighted as the Guilford fans. The Quakers took over but



Billy Whitley finds the going tough during Quakers 10-7 loss to Mars Hill.

Photo by Catoe

quickly fumbled. The fans shook their heads in disbelief.

In the fourth quarter the Lions seemed to realize that if they wanted to score they had to do it soon. They proceeded to march almost the length of the field, getting the necessary yardage on two important third downs. Then Hunsucker and Bunky James tossed the quarterback for a big loss. The Quaker rush was merciless. Another loss stalled the Mars Hill machine. A field goal attempt failed and the Quakers took over; but Mars Hill had controlled the ball for almost half the fourth quarter.

Then the Quakers stumbled. Kenan fumbled on the first Guilford play and the Lions recovered, within scoring range. Twice the greedy Guilford defense threw the Lions for a loss. A pass failed. The field goal unit came on for a the second time in two minutes. Curry, the star kicker for Mars Hill, squeezed the ball through the goalposts, 47 yards and into the wind. The Martian cheerleaders stood on each others' shoulders. With six minutes to go the score was 10-7.

A week earlier Guilford was behind by the same score. Then they scored two touchdowns before "time expired", as the sportscasters so poetically express it. This time the Quakers weren't so lucky. They simply never had the ball.

With less than two minutes left in the game, Guilford had a last chance. Joe Osborne left a pass to Paphites for 34 yards, to the Mars Hill 27. Then the Quakers stalled. A surprise run on third down didn't surprise anyone, except perhaps the angry Guilford fans. Foley missed the field goal to tie Mars Hill "ran out the clock" and won, 10-7.

"Curry Kicks Quakes"

by Steve Beck

There are a few guys around campus who will be glad to see Mars Hill College kicker Stan Curry graduate next spring. For the second straight year Curry's fourth quarter field goal has clipped Guilford. This year's 47 boomer produced a 10-7 MHC victory.

Last year at Mars Hill Curry kicked a 51-yarder in the closing seconds to break a 21-all tie.

If it was Curry's foot that won the game for the Lions, it was penalties, fumbles and offensive miscues that lost the game for Guilford. Both MHC scores were the end result of a Quaker turnover.

Meanwhile the Quakers must bounce back in a hurry as they travel into the mountains next week to play Emory and Henry. E and H are 0-2 this year, losing to Mars Hill 9-0 and last week to Georgetown 17-7, but always play tough at home.

Guilford coach Dennis Haglan was naturally highly disappointed at the loss, but hinted that he still felt the Quakers were the best team. "The thing we try the hardest to work against, mistakes, beat us. We were beat by a good football team, but we beat ourselves."

Hoot Gibson, MHC's coach, stated that he came within an "eyelash" of punting the ball, referring to Curry's kick.

It was a game in which Guilford beat Mars Hill in every offensive category except the score. It was also a game in which the Quakers had seven legitimate scoring opportunities and scored only once.

Mars Hill got on the board early in the game as Jerome Durham's four-yard run cli-

maxed a 46-yard drive that took six plays. The drive was started with a Quaker fumble inside Guilford territory.

But the Quakers came back strong and tied the game in less than two minutes. Reggie Kenan's amazing 21 yard run capped a 65 yard drive. The key play in the drive was a 37 yard pass from Butch Foley to Chris Paphities.

Guilford then moved into the endzone again, only to have penalties take away scores. Paphities had a 12 yard TD pass from Foley taken away because of an ineligible receiver and Kenan had a 17 yard score nullified due to offensive holding.

Guilford later had three more chances two score, but missed on two field goals while a third was stalled at the 12-yard line when the Quakers failed on a fourth and three from there.

The Lions finally gained some momentum midway through the final period. Starting at their own 14, they moved to Guilford's 28. Curry came in and missed a 44 yarder to the right. The Quakers had apparently eased out of real trouble.

GC took over from their own 20, but on the first play from there the Quakers fumbled and MHC was in business. Three plays lost eight yards and this time Curry's kick was a winner.

Guilford had two more chances with the ball and the final one produced some excitement. Starting at the GC 38, they quicked moved to the MHC 20 aided by Paphities' pass reception of 34 yards. With time running out Foley missed on a 37 yard attempt and the game was over.