

As Seen in The Mirror's

# SPORTS REFLECTIONS

of Athletes and Events

Glenn Dunn's knee injury in the basketball game at Greenville last Friday night was a tough break for the scrappy New Bern High school senior. Fortunately, the Bruins have hopes of getting him back into action—perhaps as early as tonight's battle with Kinston's Red Devils on the local court.

Dunn first injured his knee while playing football as a freshman. He hurt it again the following year, and underwent surgery when summer vacation rolled around. Last year he managed to star during basketball season without a recur-

ring mishap.

He was hobbling on crutches this week, and resorted to whirlpool treatment in an effort to hasten his recuperation. Glenn is a spunky lad, and is determined to get back in uniform at the earliest possible moment.

Coach Bob Lewis is in no mood to jeopardize Dunn's recovery, and will probably use him sparingly for awhile when he gets back on the firing line. The youngster has plenty of savvy, and uses his mind as much as his body when he is in the thick of things.

He may never get to play varsity basketball in college, but don't count him out. As of now, he hasn't decided where he will enroll, but the choice lies between Duke, Davidson and Carolina. No matter where he ends up, he plans to go out for basketball.

Like his older brother, Mark, Jr., he lives basketball 24 hours a day. That's understandable, since his father played basketball for New Bern High school when he was a teen-ager, and encouraged his kids to take to the game as soon as they were big enough to stand alone.

It is every fan's hope in these parts that Glenn will get his wish

# Hybrid Corn Yields in State Mean Millions

Hybrid corn research at North Carolina State college has meant many millions of dollars more income for Tar Heel farmers.

"Since 1936, when Dr. G. K. Middleton began the first project, the college has spent a million and a quarter dollars for research on hybrid corn," says Dr. Paul H. Harvey, head of the Field Crops department at the college.

"Today, the state's corn producers are getting 16 million dollars a year more income through use of hybrid corn; for at least 25 percent of the average yield of 48 bushels per acre in the state may be credited to use of hybrid corn."

Nationally, says Harvey, hybrid corn has brought corn yield increases that mean 500 million dollars more income a year to corn producers. "In its hundred years of existence, USDA has spent one billion, 800 million dollars on research," says Harvey. "Hybrid corn alone has paid many times over for this research."

From 1936 to 1942, Harvey and Middleton collected varieties of corn from all over the Southeast and the cornbelt states in developing the basis for a hybrid corn program. "World War II stimulated the development of the most promising combinations," says Harvey.

After the war, the program was given new directions. Better breeding procedures and new approaches to disease problems were developed.

and be in top shape when the Northeastern Conference tournament gets under way a few weeks hence.

Many hybrids were released in the 1946-59 period. And the college's genetics program got under way, headed by Dr. H. F. Robinson.

Official corn variety tests, started by the college in 1942, have continued since. The program recently was reorganized under the direction of Dr. Guy Jones.

Dr. Donald L. Thompson is testing many early-maturing hybrids from Tennessee, Virginia and Indiana — at the Lewiston and Waynesville experiment stations.

"Several of these hybrids look very good," says Harvey. One of the most promising is NC14034, which has yielded 112 bushels per acre at several locations. Its plants are 100 percent erect and corn ear height is a low 49 inches.

Thompson also is doing research to develop stronger corn stalks that will withstand high winds. After three years, he has come up with a stalk whose strength has increased from 500 to 800 pounds of crushing pressure. But some of the Mexican races of corn will withstand up to 2000 pounds.

One research project, on dwarf corn, may prove of value although dwarf corn is mostly a "novelty" hybrid so far. It stands about 24 inches off the ground, and some

use has been found in the mountains for it.

"One of the Latin American races grows 15 to 20 feet tall," says Harvey. "Genes from dwarf corn have reduced it to about seven feet."

In the vast and complex task of developing better corn, one great question has stayed in the background since George H. Shaw developed the first hybrid corn in his Princeton, N. J., garden in 1910. It concerns heterosis — the increased vigor or capacity for growth displayed by many cross-bred plants and animals.

"When we understand heterosis, we'll know why we can get such tremendous boosts in corn yields," says geneticist Robinson. "Clearing up this mystery will lead the way to new breeding methods."

Part of the answer may be found in the college's complex program of genetic research on corn — on the nature of gene action, yields, plant shape and size. "Much of our research is a combination of statistics and mathematics at a very high level," says Robinson.

Out of the research may come new methods of breeding other plants, and even of breeding animals, he believes.



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