

The Lion's Den  
By Leon Rooke

Shall we "commence to boast"? Armed with a devastating offense that hasn't been topped but three times thus far this season, it may be noted once again, that the college Lions are no longer maintaining that average which placed them as the nation's highest scoring Junior College team. Due to their defeat one week ago by the Bobcats of Lees-McRae — when their offensive total reached a hitherto unrecorded low tide of 56 points — the Lions were knocked out of their lofty peak.

At present, or to be more exact, through last Saturday night's scrap with Lees-McRae, the Lion men have racked up an 81.7 average over a length of time covering 11 games.

As this copy goes to press, the Lees-McRae boys of Banner Elk are out front in the conference standings with a record of six wins and two losses. All their conference games are completed so they are just sitting around to see what our mountain men are going to do.

The Lions have a record of 4-2, not including the Tuesday night battle with North Greenville which alters it one way or another. If Mars Hill won that game, the outcome of tonight's clash against Brevard will decide whether or not the Hill is to be tied for conference honors.

Both of Mars Hill losses have been to the Bobcats, and likewise have they both served to pull an otherwise fine scoring average out of the exalted rank. It was here January 7 that Lees-McRae overcame the Lions 64-61. That, added to the 66-65 loss of last week, has lowered the average from an otherwise 86.7 percentage.

While the subject is before me, perhaps I should relate the fact that Asheville-Biltmore, significant because they stomped us thoroughly in two football contests, may not field a gridiron team next season. You know—expenses and that sort of stuff.

Lees-McRae Claims Victory Over Lions

In Banner Elk February 6, the Bobcats of Lees-McRae rose from the low end of a 21 to 8 first quarter score to defeat the revenge-seeking conference leading Mars Hill Lions by a 66-56 and thereby placed themselves in a tie position for WCJC leadership.

Lees-McRae, combining their second quarter uphill fight with a fourth period point splurge, defeated the Lions for the second time this season. Mars Hill held a 21-8 first quarter lead that was promptly reduced to 29-28 in the second session.

From that point the battle raged at close odds until the final few minutes when Bob Patchett went on a scoring rampage to net the home team its 10-point victory. Patchett accounted for 23 points in the game.

Dave Odom led the Mountain men's attack with a total of 18 points. Bud Green was close behind with 16. The Lineup:

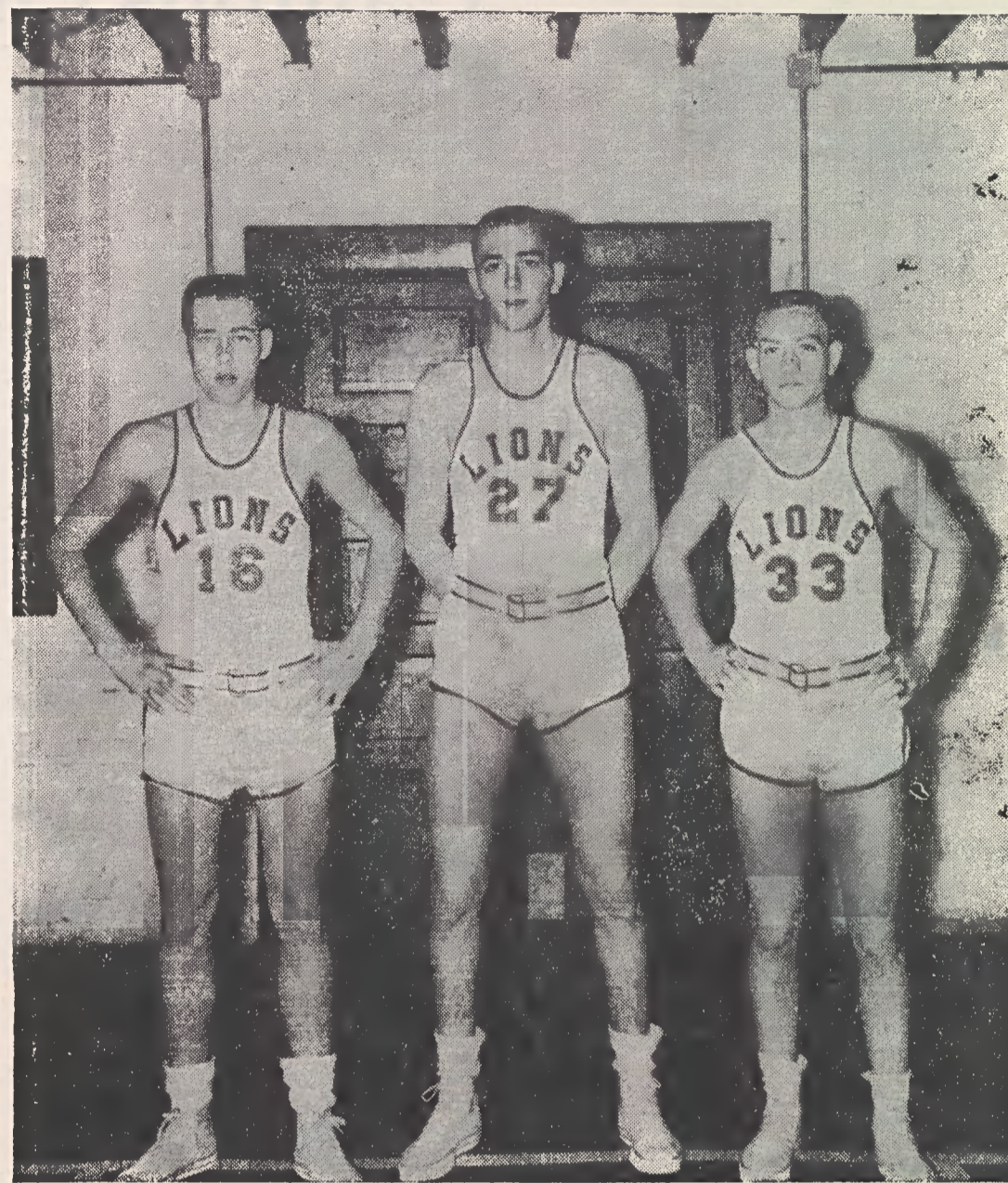
Table with 2 columns: Mars Hill players and Lees-McRae players. Mars Hill: Green (16), McGirt (7), Hall (2), Odom (18), Whitson (9). Lees-McRae: Williams (1), Clester (13), Patchett (23), Perry (6), Holt (8).

Final WCJC Game Tonight

Tornados Of Brevard Invade Floor At 8:00

The Mars Hill Lions will place their hopes for the conference crown on the line tonight in their last Western Carolina Junior College conference game of the year when they engage the Tornados of Brevard College at eight o'clock on the floor of McConnell gymnasium.

The evening affair will mark the second time the two teams have tangled. On December 12, the Lions traveled to Brevard and returned to the Hill with a 94-78 victory.



Standout high scorers on the Lions' Varsity Basketball Team are C-I's (Left to Right): Harris McGirt, Gene Hall, and Bud Greene.

McGirt, Greene, Hall Hold Down First String Berths

Bud Greene, playing his first season as a definite starter in the flashy Mars Hill lineup, in eleven games played thus far, boasts an average of 14.2 points per game. Greene, whose home town is Cranberry, was a standout guard in high school there and was captain of the basketball team.

Harris McGirt, another C-I, who comes from nearby Asheville, plays alongside Greene in the guard position, and is currently running along at an average of 11.5 per game. McGirt is one of the coolest ball players to grace the McConnell floor and is master of a drive-in layup that is seldom stopped.

The tallest man in the Mars Hill lineup is Gene Hall of Elizabethton, Tennessee. Hall, aside from being one of the leading defensive players on the squad, has averaged 11.5 points per game in eleven contests played.

Redhaired Todd Kittrell of Ayden, is fast developing into one of Coach Edward's finest hands. Standing six feet two inches in height, Kittrell plays well on both offense and defense.

Aside from holding the office of C-I class president, John Hough of Leaksville, is seeing plenty of action in the Mars Hill lineup. Hough, in high school, was a member of the basketball team of Tri-City High School, which captured the state Class AA championship.

Bobby Cole, diminutive guard from Winterville, should be one of Coach Edwards' handiest men next season. Cole has the distinction of being the shortest man on the squad. His best shot is a set-shot from out.

Another of the seven C-I's who have won acclaim of the Mars Hill team is Bill Brogden. Brogden plays the guard position. His hometown is Raleigh, where he attended Needham Broughton High School.

Mars Hill defeats North Greenville 77-76 to reserve chance for conference tie with Lees-McRae. The top two: Lees-McRae, 6-2; Mars Hill, 5-2.

Gal-Events

Have you noticed the girls creeping around campus? This slowness of movement might possibly be attributed to the fact that they had not had too much exercise since exams, and Coach and the Phys. Ed. majors, who have been assisting in conducting classes, have been giving the girls a good workout.

The M-Blem club held its regular meeting Monday, February 1, at which time the club was divided into standing committees. Each committee and its chairman is: Ideas Committee, Carolyn Black; W. A. A. Room Committee, Sybilene Blinson; Membership Committee, Molly Fennell; Awards Committee, Barbara Barr; Entertainment Committee, Carolyn Hart; Playday Committee, Lasell Light. These committees will meet between meetings of the M-Blem club and discuss things pertaining to that committee to present to the club at the time of the regular meeting. In this way we hope to have better unity by giving each member a chance to take an active part. At the last meeting Violet Overton gave the devotion, after which Joanne Watson led in prayer. A poem, *Be the Best of Whatever You Are*, was read by Barbara Barr, who also sang a solo, *Look For the Silver Lining*. A playlet was given on Physical Education as a Profession by Shirley Schuette who took the part of the coach, Jean Cooper, who showed an interest in majoring in Physical Education, and Sybilene Blinson, who brought her to see the coach. Refreshments were served after the program.

Great improvements have been made in the W. A. A. room. A sofa, chaise lounge and metal cabinets have been added. The table has been painted and covered with linoleum, the furniture has been rearranged, and the blinds and windows have been cleaned. Further improvements are planned.

son and Bud Green topped the Lions scoring parade by sinking 21 and 20 points respectively. But close behind them was Dave Odom with 17 and Harris McGirt with 12.

Mars Hill Wins 85-77

The Mountain Lions got back on the victory trail two nights later when they defeated the Bulldogs of Tennessee Wesleyan in a game that was slow and dragging regardless of the high scores marked up by both teams.

It wasn't until time was practically gone that the visiting canine pack finally began to pour on the points. With one minute and 42 points left in the contest, Clyde Kyle and his teammates racked up a succession of points that totaled 14.

However, the Hill boys, who had been coasting along by a wide margin had little to fear as their lead was plenty sufficient. The Lions rolled up a 24-17 first quarter lead and by halftime had pushed it to 47-25.

The win was Mars Hill's ninth victory in 12 starts. Carroll Whit-

An improved and dangerous Tornado quintet will be out to add another severe blow to the Lions record. Tall, loose centerman Frank Nesbitt is expected to provide the big spark for the underdogs. In the initial meeting of the two squads, Nesbitt bucketed 25 points. Bridges trailed him with 18.

Four more games will complete the regular season play for the Mountain Lions. On February 15, the Lions will meet for a return battle with the revenge-seeking Hiawassees Tigers, who suffered a 95-86 loss here January 28.

The following evening Tennessee-Wesleyan will play host to the Lions. Following this, on the 20th, the Lions will take a Southern swing where they will collide with the Gardner-Webb Bulldogs. Two nights later, in Greenville, S. C., the Hill cagers will play a preliminary game with the Furman Freshman squad.

Rebels Maintain Intramural Lead

The C-II Rebels maintained a firm hold on first place in the intramural league by defeating the Treat "Sons" 33-29 by rallying in the final quarter. Saturday, January 30, the C-II's defeated Melrose. Brown won over Landers, Treat racked Eu, and the Preachers coasted to victory over the Town team.

The C-II's have a 4-0 record and are followed by the Preachers who sport a 3-1 record. Treat, Brown, and Landers have identical 2-2 records followed by Melrose, Town, and Eu with 1-3 records.

Table with 2 columns: Treat (29) and C-II (33). Treat: Ward (12), Todd (2), Rooke (2), Orcutt (4), Kirby (40). C-II: Roberts (2), Barriery (4), Johnson (2).

Subs: Godshall (11), G. Thomas, J. Thomas (2). Treat—McCall (5).

Table with 2 columns: Town (22) and Landers (26). Town: Stooke (3), Frevothon (3), Davis (9), Montgomery (1), Wells (6). Landers: Briers (2), Simmons (12), Long (10), Pott (6), Dillard (7).

Subs: Brown—Reid, Myers (2). Town—Oventine.

Table with 2 columns: Preachers (34) and Eu (14). Preachers: Metcalf (5), Jenkins (4), Caldwell (7), Funderburk (4), Johnson (6). Eu: Young (4), Jones (7), Joslen (3), Sales (4).

Subs: Preachers—Butt (4), Owensby (4), Whetson, Pierce.

Table with 2 columns: Melrose (20) and Hupp (1). Melrose: Petree (4), Hudson (1), Lee (2), Gross (5), Southern. Hupp: Hughes (4), Wilson (6), Clevenger (9), Wallace (4), Burgin.

Subs: Melrose—Hupp (1), Moore, Seel (7), Townsend. Landers—Powers (3).

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