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By MORRIS MASON

Hit Stride Against Wingate

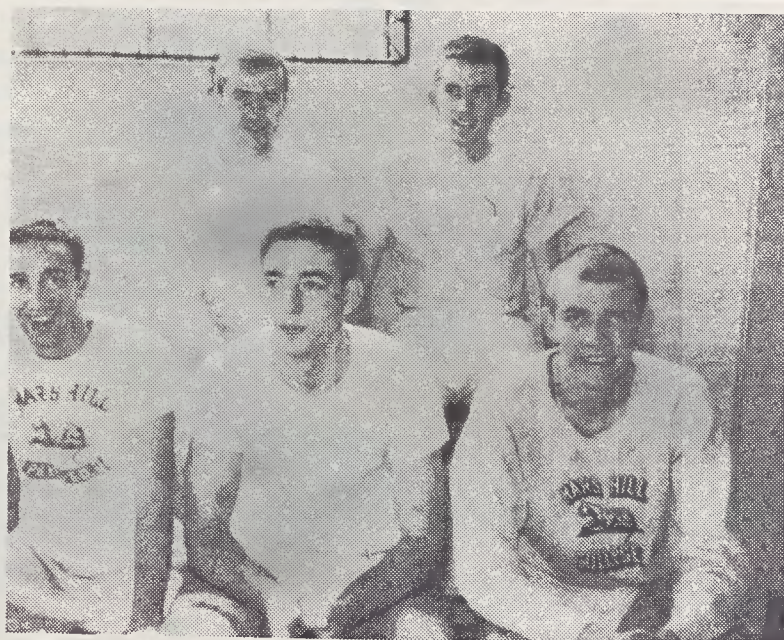
Hill cagers sank into the dreary confines of the base-tern Carolinas Junior College Conference basketball the 63-58 whipping received at the hands of Asheville- the mail is done, wakening in the cellar apparently aroused the Lions f numbers; all th degree, for they played by far their best complete as a box numbe season in the following game against Wingate's Bull- one hundred is seemed to have the winning combination against Win- oxes first. s not to imply that the Lions have played lousy basket- The window of. They have, however, played "streaky" ball. This open two hour has led to many comments along this line — "Mars ng this time on od first half team." Surely the second half resurgence oy is on duty, gainst Wingate should dispel any such inclinations. helpful in makin, the 6'4" Virginian, was certainly an important righter one. Th about-face of the Lions. Holsten played his most packages is when ame of his career at Mars Hill in theWingate game. en. The boys ture of desire as he swept the backboards for the Lions the post office, rebounding has been a sore spot with the team, due ke to do extra we failure of 6'5" Don Hinton's knee to respond com- re-open it so eatment. Hinton has been, and still is, counted on to ay get a packag big man" on the boards that every team must have. ave been obtaine is not such that it will offset the lack of rebound- Pingpong ball lanky Holsten filled the bill under the bucket quite ouncing around Wingate. The clutch shooting of Joe Martin brought ce floor. When e face of Coach Harrell Wood in the Wingate game, aced in the bo hich the slamm would probably be classified as a dark-horse as the ace heads down the stretch and into the conference in the latter part of February. Certainly the Lions title, "spoilers", after they bumped off Wingate, who the only conference loss of the year on favored North At the present North Greenville has been replaced by Tornados atop the conference totem pole. The Wingate was the second conference win of the year as. The conference standings, as of January 15, are

WCJCC Standings

	Conference		Season	
	W	L	W	L
Asheville	7	1	10	2
Wingate	6	1	8	5
Lees-McRae	5	3	8	9
Western	3	3	7	6
North Greenville	2	3	4	4
Asheville-Biltmore	2	5	3	7
Wingate	2	7	3	8
Lees-McRae	1	5	4	8

An Apology To Lees-McRae

ry 23, there appeared in the Hilltop office a letter om D. Francis, of Lees-McRae College. The letter was the point. Mr. Francis "demanded" a retraction of a hich I made in reporting the Lees-McRae vs. Mars all game. I quote: "The article in reference includ- n, sarcastic statement pertaining to our star center, my brother." I will attempt a suitable and needed is stated that the article created much disrespect for staff on the Lees-McRae campus. I would first like to point. It is not necessary to include the entire staff, full responsibility for statements printed on the sports ditorial comment such as the one in question (in the edition, incidentally), should come in the editorial, ys article. This was my first mistake. My second, ap- ation. We als the printing of a nickname which I personally heard selves and they players on the Lees-McRae team and opposing teams. r we are regie in any way the name of a good basketball player, n where there I am sincerely sorry. I intend to send to (Joe) Francis vement of spain my personal apology. I hope that this article ed condition. Mr. Tom Francis and soothe any injury which I may led last year. ed on his feelings in regard to his brother. If not, I Now that we' Mr. Francis will feel free to write me concerning the can settle dow er semester.



The combination of speed, size, and scoring punch is well displayed in this quintet of Mars Hill cagers, (from L-R), Scott Conner, Don Hinton, and Bob Holsten, and, on the back row, Bill Young and Dave Hughes.

Mars Hill Whips Wingate In Thriller, 76-70; Martin Stars In Waning Moments

The clutch shooting of 6'6" center Joe Martin and the vital rebounding of 6'4" forward Bob Holsten inspired Mars Hill's Lions to a stirring 76-70 triumph over the Wingate Bulldogs here on the Mars Hill court. The important Western Carolinas Junior College Conference victory enabled the Lions to vacate the cellar, after landing there as a result of their recent defeat at the hands of Asheville-Biltmore. The Bulldogs were hailed as a powerhouse in the conference after their 76-72 win knocked pre-season favorite

Barbee Leads Scoring Race

Tom Barbee, 6'3" forward from Brevard, is once again leading the WCJCC scoring derby. Barbee has scored 281 points in 12 games a 23.4 average. The versatile forward, who was All-Conference and Honorable Mention for All-American in junior colleges, is averaging 76.4 per cent on all free throws, having hit on 91 of 119.

North Greenville has the only other two men who are averaging more than 20 points per game. Harvey Tankersley and Ricky Duncan, running mates at the guard slot for the Mounties, are averaging 21.6 and 21.2 points per game and hold down second and third places in the scoring race. Ronald Craig of Wingate is fourth with an average per game of 18.6 followed by Bill Biggs of Lees-McRae at 16.7 and Charles Burns of Wingate at 16.1.

Mars Hill Crushes SJC Here, 97-52

The Mars Hill Lions trounced the Spartanburg Pioneers in a Western Carolinas Junior College Conference tilt of the MHC hardwood Tuesday night, 97-52. It was the highest scoring output of the year for the Lions, who have now taken two straight important conference victories, bringing their record to 3-5 against conference foes.

Five players scored in double figures for the Lions, who led at halftime by the score of 50-22. Forward Bill Young led the attack with 17 points, flashy Scott Conner hit 15, Ronnie Kates 13, and Bob Holsten and Don Hinton connected for 10 each. Eddie Grasso tallied 14

North Greenville out of the loop lead; therefore, the Lions gave indications that they may be reaching their pre-season expectations. Coach Wood apparently found the right combination and stuck with it, and it paid off in victory. The Lion cagers may now have the spark to keep them at their peak, both physically and mentally, during the layoff brought on by examinations.

After trailing Wingate 27-26 at halftime, the Lions showed that they are not a first-half club by coming from behind in the torrid second half. Martin hit for Mars Hill to give the Lions a 40-39 lead, Ronald Craig made it 41-40 Wingate, and Bill Young connected to put the Lions back ahead, 42-41. After the Bulldogs tied the score at 70-70.

Martin took matters in his own hands, chacking for three straight field goals, while Wingate failed to score again. Eight of Martin's 14 points came in the last two minutes, the most crucial part of the game. Holsten's rebounding and scoring were tremendously important in deciding the game's outcome, as he gave the Lions their most consistent rebounding of the season. Mars Hill had four men in double figures, indicating the outstanding teamwork by the fact that the scoring was so evenly divided among the players. Dave Hughes showed deadly accuracy with his jump shot, as he led the attack with 19 points. Burnsville's Bill Young played his usual outstanding scoring game, collecting 17 points. Also hitting in double figures for Mars Hill were Martin and Holsten with 14 and 12 points respectively. Davis, Charles Burns, and Ronald Craig tallied 20, and 19, and 15 points for Wingate.

for Spartanburg, followed by Buddy Broome with 11, and Donnie Green, whose 10 points fell far short of his 20.2 scoring average.

MH Lions Defeated By Bulldogs 63-58

The Mars Hill Lions were edged by Asheville - Biltmore 63-58 in a WCJCC tilt played in the Catholic High gymnasium in Asheville. The game was tight all the way, with the lead changing hands several times. Mars Hill held a 33-32 halftime margin. In the second half neither team was able to gain a substantial advantage, until the final two minutes of play, when the A-B Bulldogs stretched their slim lead to five points.

Speedy guard Scott Conner's 14 points, along with 13 each by Bob Holsten and Bill Young and 10 by Dave Hughes, kept the Lions in the game. Jerry Yelverton, who has led the Asheville - Biltmore attack all year, again paced the Bulldogs with 20 points. Archie Smith and Jimmy Baldwin added 11 each to the A-B total, and Wolfe completed the double figure scorers for the Bulldogs with 10. The scoring attack of the Lions was remarkably well-distributed, as has been the case in most of the game to date, with usually three or four players hitting in double figures each game.

Mars Hill	Asheville-Biltmore
Holsten	13 Yelverton 20
Young	13 Smith
Conner	14 Baldwin
McLendon ..	7 Brandon
Clinton	Baker
Hughes	10 Wolfe
Hargett	1 Holcombe 5
Wall	McKinney
Perkins	Ballard
Kates	Schwoyer
	— Ellinburg 4
	58 Ledford
	Folger
	63

Enthusiasm Reflected In Win Over Wingate

The students of Mars Hill College seem to have found the true meaning of school spirit in relation to sports activities. This spirit was displayed at the Mars Hill - Wingate basketball game. The students came to life, and accompanied the boys to a resounding victory over the Bulldogs with their spirited applause. This enthusiasm, and just plain noise, was very important, as it added to the spark which the boys themselves ignited, and urged the team on to victory. The feeling that the student body is backing the team is a very important asset, and is appreciated by both the players and coach.

School spirit was evident against Wingate. It is necessary that we keep up this interest and show all the athletic organizations at Mars Hill that the student body is for them all the way. Once again, we would like to express our appreciation for the enthusiasm shown at the Wingate game and challenge you, the student body, to keep it up. The boys, and the coaches, deserve and need your support.

Mars Hill	Wingate
Young	17 Craig
Conner	9 Weir
Holsten	12 Gibson
Hughes	19 Burns
Hinton	2 Elder
Martin	14 Byers
Hargett	8 Davis
	76
	90