



LION LORE

By Butch Palmer

Editor's Note: The following is a piece of debris which floated into my P. O. Box two weeks ago. With loving kindness I would like to pass it and my personal answer on to you.

Dear Sports Editor:

Reading the last 2 or 3 sports articles, I would like to know where you are getting your information about basketball and school spirit? Being from an underprivileged neighborhood my thinking could be wrong, but I always thought that a good basketball season was when you won about 20 or more games, not just winning half of your schedule. I would go as far as to say if you finish in the top 4 of your district was fair, but we did not even do this. Some of the teams we played, a good high school team could stay with. The toughest team we played, Augusta College, will probably be dropped from our schedule.

From reading the local newspaper, it looks as if Mars Hill does better after the season. I see they won two tournaments after the season. Can you give a reason for this?

School spirit has received a big hand from you, your high school must have been mighty dull. I see students in the stands lead more cheers than the cheerleaders. They might not have many students to lead, but I hope the "old college try" has not left us. It is bad enough, but when the opposing cheerleaders drown out ours at a home game, this is the end. If it was not for a few students and a couple of faculty members it would be like a tomb during games.

And concerning the statement "proud to be a Mars Hill grad", who likes to be a loser!

Thank you,
A winner

Dear Winner,

I would like to dedicate this prayer to you and other such beasts of your species:

DEAR LORD, THANK YOU FOR NOT GIVING MHC ANY MORE WINNERS LIKE THE ONE ABOVE: FOR IT'S A SHAME ANY ATHLETIC TEAM SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY SUCH LOVE.

And now in regard to your letter that is undated and regretfully unsigned, comparable to your enthusiastic support of the spirit of Mars Hill College.

First, you did have one good point in mind. The cheerleading staff was not always the best (however our head cheerleader, some members of her squad and Miss Hart did a very good job.) It is also true that some of our fans were of the "dead" variety but for the most part they were loud, abundant in number and 100% behind their teams.

As for the rest of your letter, may I inform you of a few facts. Our basketball team lost Rodney Johnson, Mike Hoover, Bob Peterson, and Dave Brown for part of the season due to injuries, sickness and other such complications. This is also our first team as a result of scholarship awards and freshman basketball. The end result was a 14-11 season, a ranking of 5th in the nation in field goal percentage, nine school records and four losses that our opponents won in a combined time of 64 seconds and seven points. We missed the district tournament by one game and beat every team we played with the exception of Asheville Biltmore and Augusta.

You can bet your bucket that I'm behind Mars Hill College and I'll always be behind any team that beat the obstacles that ours did. Furthermore, if you're not going to be proud of being a MHC grad then why don't you go to Asheville Biltmore or some other such institution in which you can be proud. The Mars Hill Athletic teams have no need for winners like you because you are the worst loser of them all.

Thank you,
Butch Palmer

Athlete Of The Year

The next issue of the paper will include the Hilltop award for Athlete of the Year. If you would like to express your feelings for your choice, please leave a note in Box 228-C.

Pro quarterback Mick Fair of the San Diego Chargers of the American Football League will speak for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Chambers Gymnasium Wednesday night. Fair will speak about his life as a professional athlete, football and other such subjects.

Cut system hurt athletics too! Not only has the choir and other such organizations been hurt by the cut system for freshmen students but many athletes have also. It is impossible for a freshman at Mars Hill College to fully represent the school in extra-curricular activities under the current system.

Teams in Thick of Spring Action

Track

The Mars Hill thin-clad Lions opened their 1969 outdoor Track and Field season with a winning performance over Vorhees College of Denmark, S. C. and Bryan University of Dayton, Tenn. Team scoring had Mars Hill, 93; Vorhees, 55; and Bryan, 32. Leading scorers for the Lions were: Hal Bennett with 13 points, Gary Lawing with 12½, Russell Barrett with 10, and Butch Palmer with 9¾.

The Lions won their third meet against Milligan College, 101-44. Leonard Leedy, a freshman pole vaulter, set a new school record by vaulting 12' 1". Morris White, Hal Bennett, and Marty Phillips led the Lion scoring with 17, 15, and 12 points respectively.

The bottom fell out of the Lion's Den on Monday, April 7. The Lions suffered their first defeat to a strong Western Carolina University team 103-42. Hal Bennett and Morris White again paced the Lion's scoring with 13 and 7 points.

Coach Shealy's trackmen faced a seasoned Carson-Newman team last Saturday and came out an 87½-57½ loser. There were, however, strong performances by several individuals that point to better things as the season progresses. Dick Fincher cleared 5'10" in the high jump, Gary Lawing won the ¼ mile with a time only .6 seconds from the school record. Eddie Miller ran the fastest half mile of the year, only 1 second from the school record. Russell Barrett set a new school record in the two-mile.

Baseball

Coach Henderson's 1969 entry to the baseball wars caught another case of fumblyitis last Saturday and dropped their fifth game in a row to Tusculum 5-0. The loss was particularly demoralizing because it negated a fine pitching performance by Larry Goodwin, who struck out 15 batters only to see three runs scored on no hits in the third inning and his fate all but sealed.

Earlier in the week, with Goodwin on the mound against Western Carolina University, a porous infield produced 10 errors and a 10-4 loss that saw the Lions out-hit the Catamounts 11 to 6. And so it has been throughout the first half of the season. The Lions, committing 24 errors for an .891 fielding average in their first five games, seem unable to break the jinx.

Pitching was thought to be a weak spot on the team before the season began, but Goodwin, Gary Worthall and Freddie Tippett all turned in good games in losing

causes. Jim Medford, Don Fox, Charlie Carter, and Jim Elens are available for relief work and the mound staff now seems solid and ready for the tough schedule ahead.

Hitting too is better than was expected. It was thought that because of the short practice time available and poor weather that the hitting would be a real problem. This has not been the case. Mars Hill, with Bill Ewing .445, Gooper Hendricks .429, John Cozman .375, and Gary Taylor .375 leading the way, has out-hit their opponents .282 to .279.

"Fielding, however, has been the monkey on our back" said Coach Henderson. "The teams we have played have had more games under their belt and this knowledge tightened up the boys to the point where bad breaks have overly affected us."

"It is only a matter of time before the team starts to hit stride, and with all the talent available we should have some fine games for the student body to view before the semester ends."

Golf

The Mars Hill College golf team returned from the University of Miami Invitational with sultans, the experience of playing against 32 of the best college golf teams in the South and not much else. While not turning in outstanding rounds the boys all felt it was a worthwhile break. They came back to the world of reality when the full impact of the new cut system made itself felt.

Two of the first six team members of the golf team, traditionally one of the area's strongest, have been unable to participate full time because they are freshmen. Hence, things have been pretty rough for Bill Dean's boys this season. Before the break the team split their first contest with strong Penn State and Michigan State teams, playing good golf on the tough Red Fox course in Tryon.

With the resumption of classes the team dropped consecutive matches to Western Carolina and Milligan. Then with three of the six starters out two additional defeats by A-B and W. C. U., were

suffered through before Landers College was finally beaten. Last week with all of four starters, Montreat - Anderson, King, and Tusculum were soundly thrashed on our home course. The three wins evened the team record at 5 wins and 5 losses.

A full squad would give us a chance against East Tennessee State, Tusculum, Erskine, and King.

Deans Resigns Sports Position

Sports Information Director, Bill Deans, has resigned his post with the Mars Hill College Athletic Department effective in early May. Deans will join the staff of "The American Defense of Life Insurance Company" of Raleigh, N. C.

Beginning June 1st Bill will work with seniors from Mars Hill Asheville-Biltmore and Western Carolina University to help them establish sound insurance programs.

In an interview Deans spoke of his years here since he took his position in February of 1967. "I am pleased to have been a part of the growing program here at Mars Hill College. I hope that what I have attempted to contribute through the organization of M Club scholarship and athletic publicity has been beneficial to the college. I have been fortunate to work with and for the fine coaches in the Athletic Department. Their cooperation and support has made an otherwise impossible job quite enjoyable. Most of all I have enjoyed working with the Mars Hill athletes."

Mars Hill College athletics are growing stronger and better with time and work but few people realize what a tremendous aid and asset Bill Deans has been to the college, Athletic Department and student body. Best wishes and good luck, Bill!

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