

# Lions Basketball Preview

by Scotty Miller

It's basketball time again at Mars Hill College, and the Lions will be looking for a big improvement over last season's record of 12-19. It was a very inconsistent season for the Lions, with occasional, rare, and varied moments of brilliance. There were numerous close losses, and with a few breaks and a little more of what head coach Jack Lytton calls "intensive playing", the 12-19 Mars Hill record could easily have been reversed. Coach Lytton is currently in his sixth season at Mars Hill, and has produced some quality cage seasons in the past. Two years ago

the Lions won 21 games, and Lytton was the NAIA District Six coach of the year four years ago.

When asked about the upcoming season, Coach Lytton stated that this year's young team will definitely be improved over last season's team. "We have the most depth I have had on a team since coming to Mars Hill," the 33-year-old coach declared. Inexperience will be somewhat of a handicap for the Lions. Jimmy Graves is the only player on the squad to have lettered two years. Big keys to the success of the season will be the contributions of the freshmen plus the rebounding prowess of

the big men. The Lions have good shooting and quickness.

Starting at point guard will be Pat Lanning, a senior from Hendersonville, N.C. A spot starter from last year's squad, Lanning, a deadly shooter with good quickness, will fill the spot vacated by All-Conference Derek Thomas. The other guard position will be filled by Harry Marsh, a senior from Miami, Florida. At center will be Carlos Showers, a junior standing at 6' 11". He is a stronger, more aggressive, and overall improved player over last year. Starting at a wing position will be

*continued on page 6*



See Reeves. See Reeves run. Run Reeves run. PHOTO: HAYWOOD

# LIONS END BEST SEASON

by Scotty Miller

After a few disappointing mid-season losses, Coach Claude "Hoot" Gibson and his coaching staff set their sights on winning the last two ball games to close out the season at a 7-3 clip. To say they reached that goal would be quite an understatement. The Lions not only beat St. Leo and Newberry; they humiliated them. It was not an intentional running up of the scores because Coach Gibson played everybody, but the Golden M Club members outscored the two opponents by a whopping margin of 129-7. The wins marked the best season ever by Mars Hill and ended the college football careers of 17 Lion seniors.

On November 7, the Lions traveled to Florida to battle the St. Leo Monarchs of Tampa. Mars Hill quickly set up dominance by scoring three touchdowns in the first quarter. The Lions never slowed, as they rolled up over 600 total yards, while holding

the Monarchs to less than a hundred. The opportunistic defense forced six St. Leo turnovers, most of which were turned into Lion scores. Seven different Lion players accounted for the mammoth total of 64 points. Don Hickman rushed nine times for 81 yards, while Roger Cruell netted 71 yards in seven carries. Mars Hill's defense shut out St. Leo to make the final score 64-0. Mark Dickerson and Jeff Wade shared quarterback duties, both moving the team well. The Lion play-

ers and coaches topped off the successful weekend with a trip to Disneyworld on Sunday.

Snow hit Mars Hill's campus on Nov. 13. It was met by mixed emotions by different people. The melting snow in Meares Stadium promised to make the Mars Hill-Newberry game a defensive struggle. Mars Hill came into the game a 4-point underdog. By the time the game was over, the Lions had completely demolished that prediction. When the smoke of the game

cleared, the Newberry Indians, much too late, realized they had walked into an ambush and had come upon the very short end of a 65-7 score. The Indians came into the contest with only one conference defeat and had high hopes of winning the SAC-8 crown. Newberry seemed to catch a touch of the Clemson Tiger disease this Saturday, as the Indians turned the ball over 9 times, 5 on fumbles, and 4 on pass interceptions. The opening kick off proved to be one of the very few bright spots for Newberry, as Ronnie Reeves got the ball stolen from him at the Lion 22-yard line. The Indians took it in a few plays later, and before most fans had settled in their seats, Newberry had a 7-0 lead. It was short lived, as the Lions rolled up 65 unanswered points to complete the 65-7 victory. William Washington scored three touchdowns; Jeff Wade and Ronnie Reeves scored two apiece to lead the scoring. With a slight tone of re-

morse, Coach Gibson stated, "The fact that we had 17 seniors, who wanted this game awfully bad,

is the only thing I can think of to justify us beating them that bad. I don't necessarily enjoy that kind of a score, but I am eternally grateful for our seniors and what they have accomplished for the team and Mars Hill." The Mars Hill Lion seniors for the

1975 football season are as follows:

- Dan Johnson
- Gary Hooper
- Spike Anderson
- Tom Chambers
- Roger Gantt
- Scott Ferguson
- Jerome Durham
- Ronnie Reeves
- Tom Fisher
- David Crawford
- Chuck Howard
- Stan Cury
- Keith Horton
- Ronnie Capps
- Greg Hasselbring
- John Mackey
- Jim Gillis

	MARS HILL	ST. LEO
First Downs	23	6
Att.-Rushing Ydg.	47-398	38-26
Passes	8-11-0	4-14-2
Passing Yardage	209	66
Punts	3-52	7-39
Fumbles lost	0	0
Yards Penalized	184	48
Return yardage	164	84
Mars Hill	21 13 17 13 - 64	
St. Leo	0 0 0 0 - 0	
	NEWBERRY	MARS HILL
First Downs	12	20
Att.-Rushing Ydg.	52-100	47-345
Passes	4-18-4	6-17-1
Passing Ydg.	18	149
Punts	6-39	3-29
Fumbles Lost	5	1
Yards Penalized	10-86	18-223
Return Ydg.	43	239
Newberry	7 0 0 0 - 7	
Mars Hill	10 14 21 20 - 65	