

Scotty Miller

Lion Cagers Ranked First As Preseason Favorites

The roundball outlook is extremely promising for the 1976-77 season. In fact, the District Six coaches voted the Lions as the preseason favorite to win the coveted district title. Six year head coach, Jack Lytton, has withdrawn his team from the Carolinas Conference to concentrate on district play. Mars Hill fans will see several unfamiliar names on the 27-game regular season schedule.

The Lions will definitely be a strong team, despite their apparent lack of experience. Only four lettermen return from last year's campaign, but three of these were starters; and the other saw a tremendous amount of action. Combining these four starters with some powerful recruiting brings nothing but good hopes for the season.

Jimmy Graves should prove to again be the backbone of the team. Last year's All Conference and All District performer has a good shot at no less than 5 school records. He needs 105 points to break the all time scoring record, cur-

rently held by Jerry Hayes. Jimmy needs only 136 rebounds to become the first Lion in history to pull down 100 carems. If Graves makes 158 free throws this season, he will hold the record he missed by only four last year. If he converts on 170 foul shots, he will hold the career record for free throws.

Carlos Showers is back at the pivot position and looks improved. Watch for him to be an intimidating force at the defensive end of the court. Sophomore John Patterson will start at the forward opposite Graves, and looks strong coming off a good frosh season. He was the team's leading rebounder last year. Starting at one guard position and spearheading the offensive attack will be Kim Dewese. Last year as a freshman, he played with a lot of poise and confidence, and he should control the tempo of the games for the Lions. The probable starter at the other guard position should be transfer Reggie Gaskin. He was MVP at Hiwassee Junior College, and has been a good defensive player and re-

bouncer thus far.

Rounding out what Coach Lytton calls his "best all-around team in years" are players that could start on any given night and who could come in and get the job done. James Allen, Greg Simpson, Bridges Hollingsworth, James Hanna, Lewis Clinton, and Randy McDowell could work their ways into the starting five. Phil Monteith, Keith Burleson, and Wayne Miles round out the fourteen man squad.

When asked about the season, Coach Lytton replied: "We have made good progress. Our guys are working hard and are more defense conscious than any group I've coached in a while. I feel that I have ten or twelve guys that could play at any time."

Lion fans should look with anticipation to this cage season. With a few good bounces of the basketball, don't be surprised if Mars Hill takes a trip to the NAIA national tournament in March. Stay tuned for Lion basketball!

Basketball '76-77*

November 18, 1976	Central Wesleyan College	Home
November 23	Voorhees College	Away
November 29	Western Carolina University	Away
December 2	Gardner-Webb College	Home
December 4	Guilford College	Away
December 6	Elon College	Away
December 9	Milligan College	Home
December 11	Voorhees College	Home
December 17	Limestone College	Away
January 4, 1977	Limestone College	Home
January 8	Lenoir Rhyne College	Away
January 12	Allen University	Home
January 15	Gardner-Webb College	Away
January 20	Central Wesleyan College	Away
January 22	Guilford College	Home
January 26	Presbyterian College	Away
January 27	Allen University	Away

*Schedule is incomplete. Season continues through February.

On the Swim Team

Hopes for Winning Season High

For the second time in the history of Mars Hill College as a four year institution, a swim team has been organized. The first year (1974-75) saw the team finish with a winning season, securing three victories out of five.

The present swim team hopes to equal and surpass that previous winning record. Three returning players, John Jackson, Tina Pippin, and Jo Anne Harrelson, along with approximately 14 newcomers comprise the 1976-77 team. Coaching the team is junior Bob Edens. Sponsors for the team are David Mathews, Admissions Director, and Richard Ellis, Alumni Director.

The Mars Hill swim team is in the NAIA District Six division. The first meet will occur today, November 5, with the University of North Carolina at Asheville. Other season matches will be run from November until February. Competition includes five basic areas: the butterfly, back stroke, breast stroke, free style, and diving.

Like other areas of athletics, this young team needs the support of the student body. Thus, anyone who likes to swim for fun and competition can become a member of the team. Coach Edens is still taking on members. Practice times are weekday afternoons from 3:00-5:00.