

Scotty Miller

Voorhees, Guilford Bow To MHC Cagers

With preseason polls and publicity behind, the Mars Hill Lions headed into the roughest part of the season. It has been a good warm-up for the Lions, who face ever important District play in coming games. With five games under their belts, the Lions possess a 2-3 record, including a 1-1 District Six record.

In the season's opener against Central Wesleyan, Coach Jack Lytton pitted his ball club against a team which had already played three games. That experience paid off as the Warriors overcame a five point deficit in the last minute and a half to tie the game at 86 in regulation and send it into overtime. During that short period of time, Mars Hill missed the front ends of two one-and-ones, and in the process, turned the ball over twice. Two clutch free throws in the last few seconds by Reggie Gaskin prevented Central Wesleyan from winning the game in regulation play. With two starters eliminated by fouls, the Lions fell short in the five minute overtime; the Warriors had claimed a 99-97 victory. Jimmy Graves led the Lions in scoring with 25 points, followed by Kim Dewese and Reggie Gaskin with 15 a-piece. Greg Simpson came off the bench to lead in rebounds with eight.

The Lions traveled down to Denmark, South Carolina (through Norway and Sweden) to battle the Tigers of Voorhees College. With turnovers troubling Mars Hill, Graves took over the offensive board, scoring 23 points the first half.

Nevertheless, Voorhees maintained a 42-40 halftime lead. The Lions took the advantage early in the second half and never relinquished it, winning by the slim margin of 77-75. Two free throws by Kim Dewese with 0:13 left in the game iced the victory. Graves led all scorers with 36 points, his career high. He also pulled down 11 rebounds to lead the Mars Hill team.

The Lions journeyed to Cullowhee, North Carolina to challenge Western Carolina, a recent Southern Conference addition. Mars Hill trailed from the opening minute and never truly got back into the contest. The last gasp occurred when a bucket by James Hannah pulled the Lions to within four at 69-65 with two minutes left to play. Operating out of a four corners offense, Western drew fouls and converted one-and-one situations. The final score was 70-63 with the Catamounts on top. John Patterson led the Lions in scoring with 23 points.

Preseason second-ranked Gardner-Webb College came to town to take on the Lions on December 2. Mars Hill led most of the first half, but a late spurt by the Bulldogs gave Gardner-Webb a 46-41 halftime lead. Led by the second half play of All-American Dave Bormann, Gardner-Webb slowly added to that lead to win by the score of 90-80. Graves scored 20 points and on his sixth field goal of the contest, broke Mars Hill's career field goal record of 777, formerly set by Jerry Hayes in 1974. The loss dropped Mars Hill to 1-3.

On December 2, the Lions traveled to

Greensboro to tackle the Guilford Quakers. In their best performance of the season thus far, Mars Hill held off Guilford for a 87-85 victory. Reggie Gaskin hit 4 free throws in the last 26 seconds to seal the win. Five Lions hit double figures, with Graves scoring 22, Showers scoring 17, Patterson with 16, and Gaskin and Dewese with 12 each. Mars Hill had up to a 13 point lead, but had to hold off a furious Guilford rally in the final minutes to preserve the victory. Jimmy Graves set yet another record this game, surpassing the career point total of 1845 held by Jerry Hayes. He broke the old mark with a follow up shot under the basket. The Lions upped their mark to 2-3 for the season.

Lions Boast Four All-District Nominees

Phil Kelly, District Six chairman, announced that four Lions--Alan Hunter, Don Estes, Walt Nichols, and Dan Johnson--were nominated to the all-district football team.

Alan Hunter is a senior offensive guard and served as co-captain for Mars Hill this season. He was a four year starter and was termed by the coaches as the "mainstay in the offensive line that produced the first winning team in Mars Hill College history." He has exceptional quickness and was effective 80 percent of his blocking assignments.

Another offensive player, Don Estes, was picked for honors. Despite playing with hampering injuries, Estes caught 14 passes for 251 yards and two touchdowns at his split position. In addition to pass catching, Estes served on the kickoff team. Despite being kicked away from by the opposition, he returned 5 kickoffs for 202 yards, an average return of 40.4 yards. He scored one touchdown on a 90 yard return, giving him three scores for the season.

Senior linebacker Dan Johnson, the captain for the defensive team, was awarded a spot on the district team. He was the defensive signal caller, and despite being one of the smallest, he was one of the quickest and most active linebackers in the South Atlantic Conference.

The other defensive standout was Walt Nichols, the only non-senior selected from Mars Hill College. He is a 6'4", 230 pound junior defensive tackle. He is a transfer from Memphis State, and his key to success was his consistency. He is being scouted presently by several professional football teams and should provide some outstanding play next season for the Lions.

Mountaineering Club Journeys to Douglas Falls

The Mars Hill Mountaineering Club, a relatively new organization on campus, can look forward to a rewarding future. Previously calling themselves the Outing Club, the members, besides changing their organization's name, have recently adopted a constitution, elected officers, and made plans to ensure an even more exciting spring semester for all those involved.

Keeping in mind the club's philosophy to take advantage of natural resources through outdoor recreation, living, and education--the members have already braved the cold wind and rain of the night of October 8th to make a camping trek to Douglas Falls. Phyllis Sledge, one of the original members of the group, said concerning the trip, "In each member you could see what the club

represents. No one wanted to just be an individual, but everyone wanted to work together as a group."

Membership in the Mountaineering Club is open to all college students, faculty, and people of the college community over eighteen years of age with the stipulation of paying one dollar dues per semester. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month, but some specially-called meetings may occur, the times of which will be listed at the local information desk in the Union. The College Union Recreation Committee supports the Mountaineering Club and David Sperling serves as the group's advisor. Officers are: Cliff Cunningham, president; Connie Crowe, vice president; Susan Burd, secretary, and; Phyllis Sledge, treasurer.

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