

Scotty Miller

Lions Rise to First Victory

It had to be an omen. The time was 6:55 P.M.; the setting was Clinton, S. C.; the occasion was the season's opener for two traditional rivals, the Mars Hill Lions and the Presbyterian Blue Hose. From the far end of the football field come shouts and cheers as streams of Lion fans come running onto the field. Coach Claude Gibson's first thoughts as he led the Lions back onto the field were that the band had come down. He stated, "I could feel the electricity among the players as the students led them onto the field and it had an effect on the ball game. I was ready to play myself. Without a doubt that's the greatest support on a road game that we've ever had."

Something paid off. The Lions proceeded to play solid ball and pulled off a 20-7 opening day victory over Presbyterian. It was the first victory ever against PC at Clinton and put the Lions in sole possession of first place in the

SAC-8.

The Blue Hose struck first, as defensive back Chuck Jordan picked off an errant Mark Dickerson pass and returned it 24 yards to paydirt. The extra point made the score 7-9, which was how the first quarter ended.

Little time had elapsed before the Lions got over the jitters and got moving. On their first possession of the second quarter, Mars Hill used a well-balanced attack to methodically move 77 yards for the score. Sophomore running back Roger Cruell bore much of the burden, carrying the ball four times for 34 yards in that stretch. Dickerson snuck in from the one for the score. The conversion kick was wide, and PC still led at 7-6. Only minutes later, defensive back Danny Miller recovered a Blue Hose fumble on the Mars Hill 44 yard line. The Lions capitalized, moving 56 yards in six plays with Dickerson throwing a 34 yard scoring strike to Richard Carter. John

Gulledge added the extra point, and Mars Hill led 13-7.

Halftime didn't slow down the Lion momentum. After receiving the second half kickoff, Mars Hill began yet another sustained drive from their own 28 yard line. With fourth down and one to go on the PC seven, Cruell dove over the right side for a crucial first down. Halfback William Washington scampered in from a yard out, and the Lions had scored moving 72 yards in 12 plays. The conversion put Mars Hill ahead 20-7, and that's how the game ended.

Forced fumbles hurt the Blue Hose, as they coughed the ball up on four different occasions. The defense turned in a solid performance, holding PC to 27 passing yards and a total of only 216. Roger Cruell carried the ball 18 times for 90 yards, and William Washington accumulated 81 yards in 17 attempts. Dickerson turned in a sparkling performance, completing 10 out of 14 for 102 yards, including a 34 yard touch-

down pass. He also rushed for 28 additional yards and a touchdown.

Coach Gibson had some choice comments concerning the Lion's victory. "I was concerned about our lack of experience and we were jittery at first," he stated. "But it was encouraging that we could spot Presbyterian seven points and come back with a strong performance. I was real pleased with our defensive secondary, and overall we had few defensive breakdowns. And our offense proved they could move the football. A big preseason question was the kicking game, and it also came through for us."

The Lions host Austin Peay University this Saturday, September 17 in Meares Stadium. Kickoff time for the home opener is 2:00. Mars Hill will be looking to avenge last season's 22-0 loss. Yes, those of you who traveled to Clinton last Saturday played a major factor in the 20-7 victory. And there's no reason in this case why history shouldn't repeat itself.

Men's Tennis

by Robin Turley

The men's tennis team at Mars Hill is returning this year with a long-awaited winning record of 5 wins and 4 losses. Returning this year with the team, headed by Coach Alex Robins, are seniors Mark Brewer, Paul Hibbett, Barney Pannell and Jimmy Zimmerman. Also with the team from last year is junior John Trammel and sophomore Steve Wilent. However, several new transfers this year seek to add a greater potential and strength to the team. Altogether, there are about twelve men going out for the team.

There is a limit of six men who play the ladder (term used to describe the set-up and rank of the top six players) during the scheduled matches. These same six men play the three double matches scheduled against their opponents. The other players who are

not on the ladder have the chance to challenge any of the players already on the ladder, and can move up to a higher position should they be victorious.

Looking towards the 1977-1978 season, the leading contender for the number one position is Barney Pannell. The holder for that position last year was Sidney Piosalan who did not return this year. Also encouraging is John Trammel, who won the Most Improved Player last year, and Mark Brewer, who won the highest number of matches last year.

So far, no matches have been scheduled for the fall season, but it is still up in the air as to a few possible matches. Their busiest season is, of course, in the spring. As of now, the team is sticking mainly to practice games and challenging matches. The team is optimistic and hopes to improve on last year's record.

Intramurals Emerge

by Scotty Miller

At Mars Hill College everyone can be an athlete. Part of the total educational process that one can experience lies in extracurricular activities. As a matter of fact, some of these activities could prove to be the most rewarding endeavors of your college career. The intramural department offers a wide variety of interests for every student.

Last year there were 1160 participants in intramural programs. Competitive sports began in September and continued all the way into May. This year should bring more of the same. Kicking off the academic year will be softball, providing opportunities for both men and women. Generating more interest and acting as a better mixer, softball has replaced tag football as the fall intramural sport. The games are already under way, and a single elim-

ination tournament in a few weeks will determine the champion.

As November rolls around, volleyball will be ushered in. A mini-mester basketball season will begin in February; a racquetball tournament will be held in the near future. Additional two day competitions, such as a free throw shooting contest, will be a part of the program this year.

Leading the planning and organizing for intramurals is Mr. Don Henderson, whose office is located in the lobby area of Chambers Gymnasium. Any questions or ideas will be readily listened to and taken care of by him. A need exists for officials of the above mentioned sports. If you have some experience and would like the chance to officiate some ball games, get in touch with Mr. Henderson. The key to having a purpose at Mars Hill is to become involved. Intramurals provide the opportunity for that involvement.



One of the highlights from the Mars Hills Hill vs. Presbyterian College football game. Photo by Sam Tunstall.

Mars Hill

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