

Scotty Miller

Lions Hit Losing Streak

The Lions upped their losing streak to five games with losses to District 26 foes Lenoir Rhyne and Gardner-Webb. With these setbacks Mars Hill dropped to 1-6 overall and 0-2 in the district.

In Hickory, the Lions jumped out to an early 10-7 lead at the 14:31 mark of the first half but then proceeded to go six minutes without scoring and were out-produced 34-12 the rest of the half. The Bears took a 40-22 first half margin into the dressing room. In the second half, the closest Mars Hill could pull was within 14 at 48-34 after reeling off eight straight points, but it was too little and too late. Lenoir-Rhyne shot 38 out of

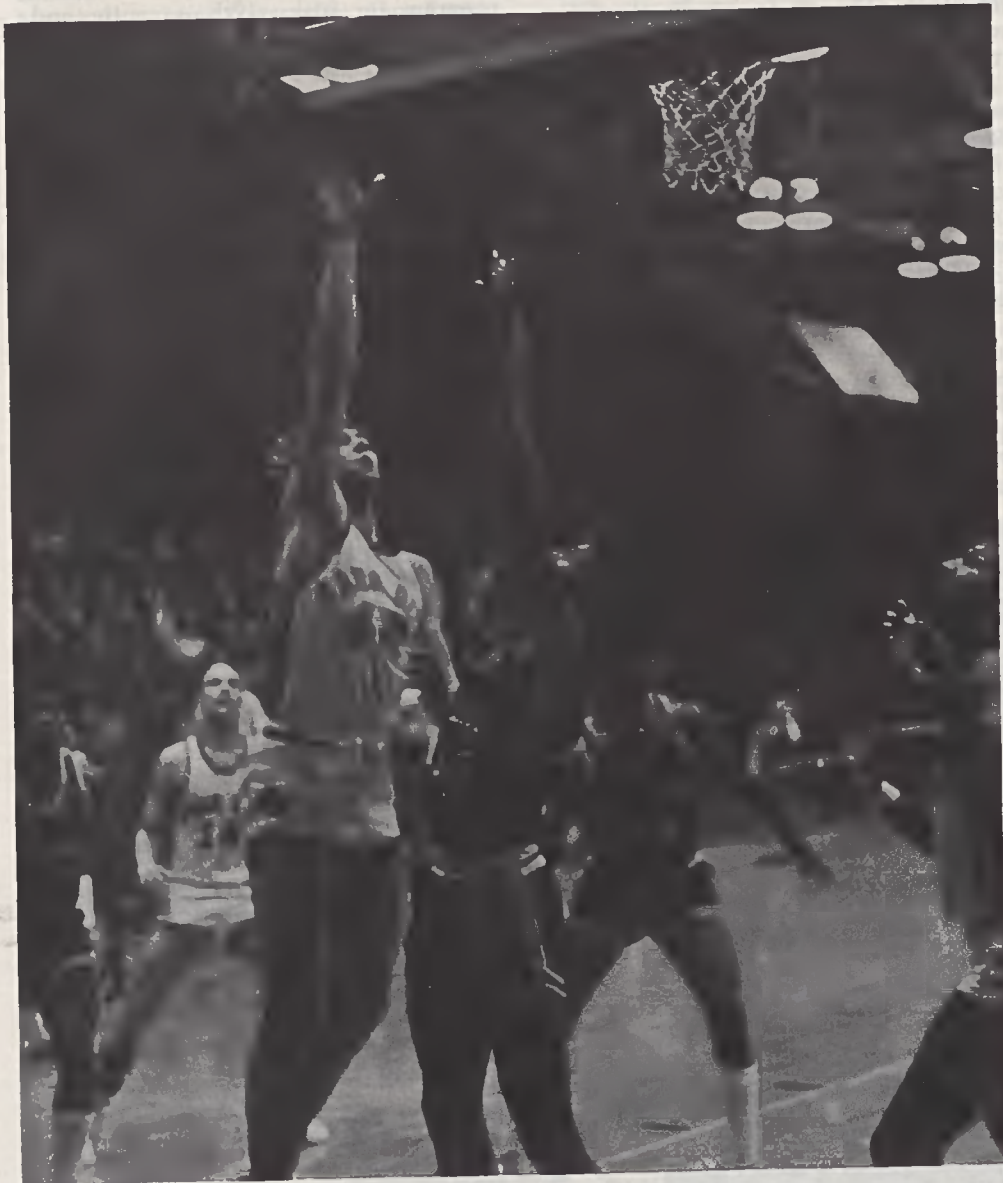
69 from the floor for 55%, including a 69% shooting spree in the second frame. The Lions were outrebounded 47-30 while shooting a measly 35% from the field. The final margin showed Mars Hill on the short end of a 90-59 outcome. Lenoir-Rhyne was able to set up and do what they wanted to on offense." For Mars Hill, sophomore forward Don Icenhower had 16 points and nine rebounds to lead the Lions in both categories.

Mars Hill then returned home to face the nationally ranked Gardner-Webb Bulldogs. The Lions went into a deliberate, open-middle offense and looked only for the high percentage shot. The

strategy payed off well in the first half. After falling behind 6-0, Mars Hill fought back to tie it up at 10 and shortly thereafter took the lead 16-15 at the 6:09 mark on a short jumper by Kim Deweese. The Bulldogs came back to take a 29-27 halftime lead. Precision shooting from Gardner-Webb and another long cold shooting spell by the Lions iced the contest for the Bulldogs. Gardner-Webb shot 76% the second half, while Mars Hill went 8:42 without tallying a point. Carl Martin hit his last 11 shots to pace the Bulldogs, and the Lions lost their fifth in a row, 68-47. Deweese shot 100% from both the floor and the free throw

line in leading Mars Hill's scoring with 15. Icenhower and James Allen added 12 apiece to round out the double figure scorers for the Lions. Despite the 21 point loss, Lytton was fairly complimentary towards his team. "Our kids played well, particularly early in the contest. We missed some scoring opportunities in the second half that allowed Gardner-Webb to open it up. Overall, I was pleased with the effort; it was our best game in the last three."

The Lions travel to S.C. for a road trip this week. Mars Hill plays USC Aiken in Aiken, and on Saturday they challenge Voorhees College in Denmark.



Freshman James Holmes, No. 42 lays in two pointer over Voorhees defender, as Greg Simpson (right) and Kim Deweese (background left) watch intently.

Photo by Tommy Burton

Fall in Home Opener and Shriner's Classic

By Scotty Miller

In their home opener against District 6 foe Voorhees, the Lions blew substantial second half leads and lost 73-69. Coach Lytton stated it best when he said, "We played like all we had to do to win was show up." With the score tied at 31 with 2:48 to play in the first half, Mars Hill reeled off 8 unanswered points and went into the dressing room leading 39-33. A James Hannah 18 foot jumper with 16:58 to play staked the Lions to their longest lead of the contest, 49-39. The Tigers then hit a hot streak of their own, scoring 12 points in a row to take the lead 51-49. The lead

switched hands several times thereafter until two free throws by Randy Wingo with 12 seconds left to play iced it for Voorhees. The Lions had balanced scoring, with Kim Deweese and James Allen sharing scoring honors with 14 apiece. Allen also added 11 assists to his scoring effort.

Mars Hill traveled to Savannah, Georgia to participate in the Shriner's Classic, their second tournament in a week. The Lions drew Armstrong State in the first round. Missed free throws down the stretch spelled doom for Lytton's crew, as the Pirates claimed an 85-79 victory. Mars Hill jumped out to an early ten point lead in the first half but squandered it away and trailed 39-38 at half-

time. The second half saw the lead change hands 17 times. Foul trouble plagued Mars Hill, as the three starting big men all fouled out and were largely ineffective the second half. A 20 foot jumper by Deweese with 1:08 to play cut Armstrong's lead to 79-78, but Keith Ochs hit both ends of a one and one with 12 seconds left to put the contest out of reach for the pirates. An Armstrong layup at the buzzer ended the scoring at 85-79. Freshman guard Perry Somers came off the bench to score 19 points for Mars Hill in only 23 minutes of playing time. Deweese added 16 in the losing effort.

The consolation game Saturday night saw the Lions pitted against a taller

quicker Savannah State squad. Free throws kept Mars Hill in the contest the first half, as they converted 21 of their 25 attempts compared to only four for the Tigers. Shooting from the floor proved to be the key, as the Lions shot 55% compared to 31% for the Tigers. The Tigers ran off eight unanswered points early in the second half to improve on a narrow 42-39 halftime margin. The Lions lost their third straight game, this time by the score of 91-76. Greg Simpson led the Mars Hill scoring with 17 before fouling out with 5:25 to play. Freshman James Holmes came off the bench to haul in nine rebounds to lead the Lions in that category.

Lady Lions Open Basketball Season

By L. E. Williamson

The Lady Lions Basketball team opened up their season on Wednesday, November 30 at 7:00 p.m. at East Tennessee State University.

Mars Hill returns four starters from last year's 13-5 team which finished fourth in North Carolina Division II (small colleges). Missing from last year's team will be 6'3" center Esther Hollingsworth, who will be out this season due to illness.

Leading Mars Hill will be 5'11" senior, center Linda Robinson from Mars Hill and 5'6" junior guard Paula Corbin, from Franklin, N.C. Both of these girls were All-Division players last year while Linda was also named to the college all-state team for the third consecutive season.

Junior Billie Boyd from Canton's Pisgah High will add steadiness to the lady Lions team. The other returning starter, Raelene Spencer, a sophomore Erwin High product will direct the Mars Hill offense.

The fifth starting position will be filled by either 6' sophomore Joy Muse from Tuscola High, Loretta Spencer, 5'9", a transfer from Bryan College, or

Rhonda Suggs 6'1", a transfer from Wingate College.

Last year's sixth player, Cheryl Mann, who is the only other senior on the team, will add experience to the team. Other returning players are junior Lynn Plemons from Marshall, N.C., and sophomore Claudia Bragdon from Greenville, Tenn. and Jody Self from Columbia, S.C. These returners should give the Lady Lions more bench strength than usual.

There are 3 freshmen on this year's team. Mountain View's Sandy Oden, Stecoah's Kathy Cabe, and a Clie, S.C. product, Angelia Johnson. With some seasoning these players should see some action.

The Lady Lions will be competing in the Western District of Division II along with Western Carolina, Davidson, and newcomers Lenoir-Rhyne, and UNC Charlotte. Western Carolina appears to be the strongest contender for the district title, but Lenoir-Rhyne won Division III last year and could prove to be a tough opponent. In Division II, High Point, last year's champion, promises to be almost as good this year and is a season favorite to repeat this year. Division II Tournament will be held at Mars Hill, Feb. 23-25.

Stateboarding
Quarterback
Guard
Tackle
Runningback
Tackle
Defensive end
Defensive back
Note: Freshman
our division
DATE
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Dec. 10
Dec. 19
Dec. 22, 23
Jan. 10
Jan. 17
Jan. 19
Jan. 21
Jan. 26
Jan. 30
Feb. 2
Feb. 9
Feb. 11
Feb. 13
Feb. 16
Feb. 18
Feb. 21
Feb. 24
Feb. 25
Feb. 28
Team
Elon
MARS HILL
Gardner-Webb
Presbyterian
Lenoir Rhyne
Carson-Newberry
Newberry
Catawba