

Cool Hand Mike eats way to win

By ART BUSHNELL
Of the Emerald

Mike McKinley is no Cool Hand Luke.

But the freshman baseball player proved he's half-way to matching Luke's "50 eggs in a hour" Tuesday night.

The right-handed pitcher downed 25 eggs in an hour to soundly defeat Terry Green in the University's first egg-eating intramural contest.

From the start, the contest was reminiscent of Luke's race against the clock. Many of the rules were similar (no throwing up or your man is automatically disqualified), there was money at stake (though not nearly as much as bet as changed hands in the movie) and a rather large crowd stood by to cheer on the efforts of the contestants — and their stomachs.

In the end it was McKinley's stomach that emerged the victor — over both Green and the 25 Safeway double AA extra large hard-boiled eggs.

But at the outset of the contest, things didn't look too good for Mel Krause's varsity pitcher. His opponent entered the "Caswell Coliseum" early, wearing a pink flowered track suit and jumping rope. The small, wiry Green — who usually weighs in at 128 pounds — reversed the rope in mid-air as he jumped and looked as if his determination would more than make up for his lack of size — and stomach.

When McKinley entered the lounge, which was packed nearly as full as the Pit, the "Champ" sign on his back looked like so much talk. Even his varsity green sweat suit with his name on the back didn't match his opponent's attire.

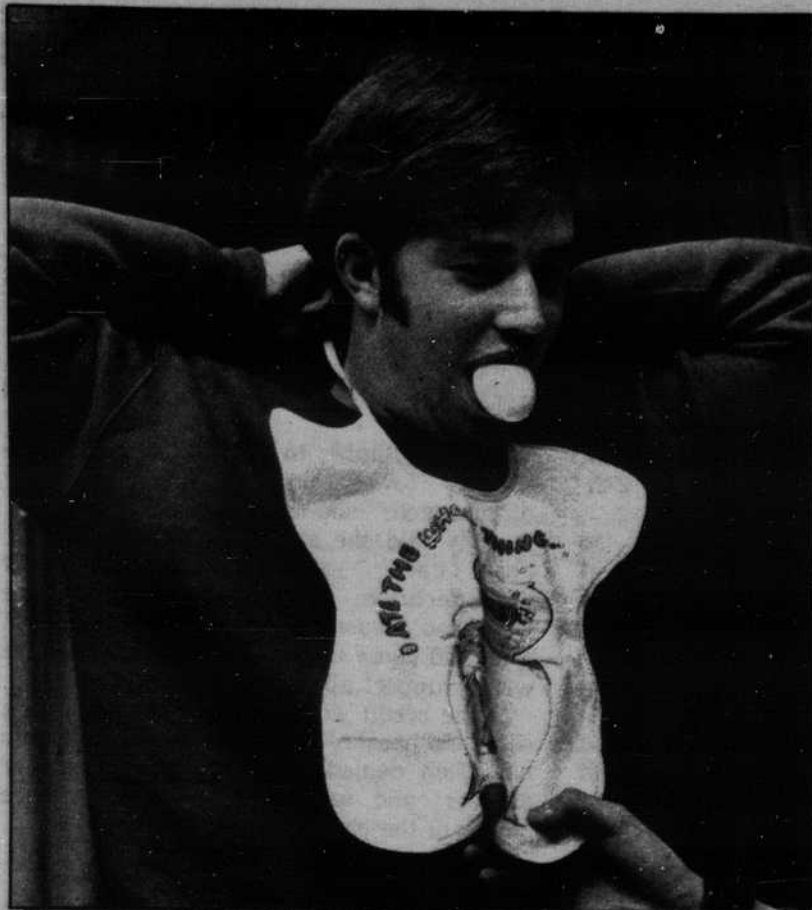
After the first minute of eating, McKinley and Green were tied 2 to 2 — on a pace of 120 eggs in the allotted hour.

But after that, things slowed down considerably.

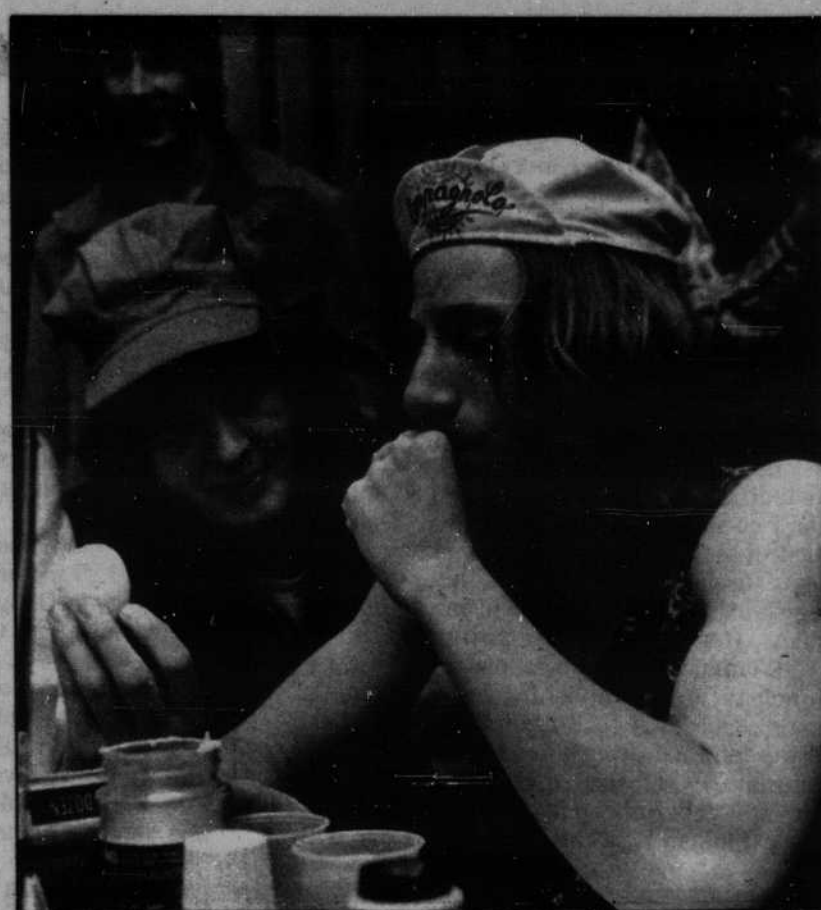
McKinley took an early one-egg lead, but after a loud belch Green reached the dozen mark first. Green continued to belch throughout the competition and constantly joked with the audience. "You could get sick doing this," he prophetically said after catching McKinley.

At the first dozen mark — reached in fifteen minutes, a 48-egg-an-hour pace — things still looked bad for McKinley. Green got up and jumped rope some more — and McKinley's egg-counter had miscounted one egg putting him down two.

And Mike was about finished. He looked at his trainer and said,



The thrill of victory . . .



the eggony of defeat

Photos by Phil Waldstein

"I don't know if I'm full, but I sure feel sick." It looked as if the only real contest was between Green and the clock.

At 14 eggs, McKinley had caught up and Green — still belching quite frequently — left to go to the bathroom at the half-way point. Rumors that he'd thrown up circled through the room, but the judge ruled Green had been unable to vomit and the competition went on.

Now McKinley's humor had returned, he didn't look nearly as green and he started kidding with the audience. It was apparent the tide had turned — and so had Green's stomach.

With the next belch, Green violated the main rule and the cheering crowd cleared a path for his hasty retreat to the bathroom.

McKinley then battled the clock down to the last second as he finished off seven eggs in the last 15 minutes.

On egg number 22, the counter again erred — this time in Mike's favor — so the score became accurate. But with only a minute and a half left, McKinley still had more than one egg left. As he sprinted to the finish, his stomach almost gave out on him twice.

And with the judge counting down the last ten seconds, he still had the white of an entire egg in his mouth. But as the judge reached zero, McKinley opened his mouth dramatically and — just like Luke — revealed no egg.

Afterwards, McKinley said he felt "heavy" as he stood around autographing egg cartons and holding his 15 dollar prize.

But his ordeal may not be over — and Luke's record might not be entirely safe.

Caswell resident assistant Don New announced that every Monday night next term would see more of this eggs-traordinary competition in his dorm.

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