

# Junior Varsity Assured Of Winning Season For '69

The Baby Gryphons have assured themselves of a winning season in their first year of existence by beating the Goldsboro Gougars Junior Varsity 40-0.

The win was the fifth win against only one loss and the third straight for the Gryphons under the direction of head coach Richard Hicks.

The Gryphons capably led by quarterback Frank Avent, scored on three straight possessions in the first half and then repeated the feat in the second half. Avent passed for two touchdowns and wingback Bobby Jo Bennett scored four times.

The defensive unit allowed the Goldsboro unit but one first down the entire evening, that in the final period.

The Gryphons scored first with the defense on the field. The Cougars took the opening kick-off and on second down the ball was snapped out of the end zone for a RMSH safety.

Rocky Mount's next score came after a 37 yard drive and Bennett dashed in from the 18. Howard McCullough booted the extra point.

The Gryphons came back to march 75 yards for their next score. The long penetration featured the running of Avent, Knight, and Bill Sheffield. But on fourth and seven Avent hit Bennett for the TD. The PAT failed.

A fumble by Goldsboro gave the Gryphons the ball back moments later at the Goldsboro 29. Avent promptly passed to Bennett for 19 yards then Sheffield tallied from the three. The Gryphons now owned a 21-0 halftime bulge.

Rocky Mount's first scor-

ing drive of the second half covered 48 yards. Bennett caught the scoring pass from Avent.

Their next possession came at the Goldsboro 34. Avent hit Davis for 18 yards and Bennett tallied on the reverse from seven yards out.

The last TD came in the opening moments of the last period after Inscoc's pass interception at the Goldsboro 35. Bennett darted 27 yards to the three and in two tries from their Knights hit over for his first touchdown of the season. McCullough kicked the extra point.

## World War III?

Right now in the days when national pride and freedom seem to be at an all time low and when there seems to be a rise in the old feeling of sectionalism; has it ever come to you that the basis of this sectionalism is being developed right here in Rocky Mount.

Yes, and it happens every week, too, when twenty to thirty boys gather on Sunday afternoon for a short period of sectional warfare in a vigorous game of football.

It's Nash boys verses Edgcombe boys fighting it out to the bitter end (bitter only to the Edgcombe boys says the editor and the sports editor of this paper, being loyal to their county.)

Could this be the sectional beginning of world war three? Come to the Episcopal Church of Christ across from D. S. Johnson School next Sunday and see one of the greatest conflicts of our time. After all, a football game can't be all bad if it's being played in a church yard.



WATCH OUT GRYPHONS; HERE THEY COME. The managers (left to right) are Paul Gower, Jody Fountain, and William Smith.

## 'You're Just A Dumb Manager.'

These words are often told to managers Jody Fountain, William Smith, Paul Gower, and Curt Alston by our football players. The fans don't tell them a thing. They don't even know they're around. These are the most taken-for-granted characters ever known.

At 3:30 every afternoon these fellows appear at the dressing rooms and begin a routine that lasts sometimes until 7:00. If you will look closely, you will notice the white powder behind their ears. It smells like laundry detergent, that's because it is. This is the result of laundering the towels that are constantly grubbed-up by our hard-working team.

These fellows also draw the job of keeping the team full of victory. This is almost like filling a bottomless pit.

The managers must also keep the piles of football equipment in order and have spares on hand.

At games they are perhaps the busiest fellows on the field. They run tirelessly back and forth carrying water, bandages, icepacks and replacement equipment. These guys, aided by player-manager Marvin Whitley, have fought their way through hostile crowds,



THIS IS NO TIME TO RELAX for Gryphons quarterback Pete Thompson.

travelled for hours on the road, and suffered with the team.

Incidentally, on the away trips sometimes they really suffer. For if all the bag lunches are eaten by the players they go without. Ten hours without food doesn't do wonders for anybody.

After they arrive home, many times they wash towels and work for several more hours. Spending your Friday night washing smelly towels just isn't my idea of fun.

So you're a dumb manager? Believe me, don't try it!



Dear Sports Editor,

Many times we students have hears through everyday conversation extensive criticism of our coaches and our entire athletic organization. It should be understood by each individual student that the merger of RMSH and BTW has not only combined the two educational systems into one but also introduced one of the finest athletic program ever established in either schools.

On August 8, 1969, our school's history began with the opening day of football practice. There we had our first acquaintance with the Rocky Mount coaching staff. Although some of us were a bit skeptical about the rumors of terror and pain that we had heard about, those thoughts were soon banished from our minds. IT IS TRUE that practice was hard and that the summer weather was extremely hot, but the only terror that we faced was the feeling in our hearts that

the transition of the two schools wouldn't work.

So now here we are with the first winning season since 1964, and as we look back all those months of so called terror that had spread through the summer really wasn't that bad but has now taught us for the first time in five years how to win!

But why has a team who began so weak come so far? We have not only learned to win but have learned to respect our fellow players and most of all our coaches. We've finally realized that those seven loyal men dedicate most of their free time to the game of football and most of all developing boys into men.

Yes, we know that they are dedicated men but the public should know that they had a big hand in our new schools winning ways and that they are certainly a credit to the coaching profession.

RMSH FOOTBALL TEAM  
1969

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