



Gryphon tacklers stop Crumpler cold. (photo by Allen)

Despite Losing, Gryphons Draw Praise From Coaches And Fans

The mark of a winning football team is usually the record it compiles, but not always. A team can win by learning the true meaning of pride or the meaning of respect. They can win by being sportsmen. Is this to say that every team is then a winning one? No, it is not.

For many great teams are great because of their records. This is not to say that having a good record, one which makes a team great, is not desirable. I am simply saying that often a team that is never even heard of is the greatest of all teams.

The Gryphons are not considered by many as a great team. The coaches of course have respect for the boys who have given so much of their time to their school. But few people think that we really had a winning season.

This is totally wrong. We did have a winning season here at RMSH because the football program helped to hold the school together when trouble arose. When we were having trouble here at the school, the Gryphons went and smeared Greenville and then in their best game of the year, upset Goldsboro. These two victories helped to bring the school back together again.

The Gryphons also had a winning season for another reason. They were able to forget the criticism which unknowing and unsportsmanlike fans threw their way. Of course it bothered the team that some of their own classmates were against them, but they withstood the criticism and played their hearts out for the very ones which were cutting them and harassing them.

They were a winning team for one other reason. As they expressed in their letter to the Speak Out column of this paper, they learned respect for their coaches. Respect is one of the greatest assets that a team can have.

All of these reasons support the fact that the Gryphons were a winning team.



Hargrove for first down yardage. (photo by Allen)

Cagers Optimistic About First Basketball Season

Spirit and hustle are two of the greatest assets that the first RMSH basketball team has. Since practice began on November 1, they have only had one bad practice and all fifteen members of the squad have adapted well to the type of offense and defense which Coach Hicks is hoping to run this season.

An amazing number of 110 boys tried out for the team and of these, Coach Hicks has kept 15 and Coach Chesson has kept 15 for the junior varsity. "We were well pleased with the amount of boys who tried out for the team," commented Coach Hicks.

"We are going to have pretty good height," contended Hicks. "With both our centers (Mike Long and Mitchell Wiggins) standing 6-5 and with six forwards over 6-0, we feel like we can get the rebounds."

Another asset which the team will have is speed. "We will depend on speed, yet we are not going to be a running team," said Hicks. "We will have a medium slow offensive attack and try to work for the good shot."

This is not to say that speed will not be useful on defense.

This year the coaches decided to pick the players on the following: 1. cleanliness, 2. physical condition, and 3. if the boy fit in well with the other boys in the group. "We did this so that we would have a bunch of clean boys, not only clean physically but also mentally; strong boys, but most important, a group that would be together," Hicks explained.

The cagers have really been looking forward to the season. "We have been impressed with the amount of spirit which the team has shown," Hicks said. "They are really out to have a good season."

Three new teams will enter the basketball clutches of the Gryphons this year. New Bern,

Greenville, and Kinston have moved up to the 4A ranks after numerous years of success in the 3A division. "We expect all of the teams in our division to be tough," Hicks commented. "I think that it will be a fight right down to the finish in our division and I think that we will be right in the middle of it."

Only two boys from the old RMSH and two from the old BTW schools are returning to play this year. "This lack of experience scared me at first but I was amazed at how fast these guys have adapted to the type of stuff that we have introduced to them," Hicks said. Coach Hicks commented that many of his future plans depend on this type of adjustment.

This Gryphons begin their season on December 3 when Southern Nash travels here to meet them. The Firebirds, under the direction of Head Coach Bill Price, will have their hands full but Hicks is not taking them lightly.

"We have to win them as they come and if we don't think highly of every team we play then they will beat us," contended Hicks.



The Gryphons of the Week for the last five games were left to right Mike Wright, Ernie Murray, Troy Brown, Steve Howard, Darnell Kimble, Pat Henry, Graig Williams, Mutt Wilson, Roscoe Batts, Andre Sparrow, and Carson Robinson. These boys were picked by the coaches for outstanding performances in these games. (Gryphon photo by Perry.)

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