



Howard McCullough puts the tag on a Durham player, with the help of Gryphon Randy Warrick.

Ange Heroics Lead Gryphons Over Raleigh In Ten Innings

Gary Ange-winning pitcher, game - tier, game - breaker, home run slugger - all these traits were in evidence as the Gryphon diamondmen out-played Raleigh Enloe, coming up with a clutch performance to beat the Raleigh squad, 6-3.

As starting pitcher, Ange had difficulty in the first inning, and it appeared that he might leave the game early as he walked three of the first four batters to lead the bases after one out.

A slow dribbler to first baseman Sonny Wooten led to Enloe's first run, as Wooten bobbled the ball, thus allowing one run in. Jimmy Bass of Raleigh then got a soft hit past first base, scoring another run. Phil Ford then handled a grounder for a double play to retire Enloe.

Pitcher Jim Helfert of Enloe contained Gryph hitters in the first three innings; however, things changed in the fourth. Sonny Wooten led off with a single and was moved to second

by Randy Wunderlich, who sacrificed at first. Terry Leonard slammed a burning grounder to third, where the opposing third baseman made an errant throw to first, thus moving Wooten in for the score. Howard McCullough slammed a triple, moving Leonard in for the tying run.

After Enloe regained their lead in their half of the fourth, Rocky Mount started knocking at the door in the following inning. James Lewis and Larry Daughtridge knocked consecutive singles to threat.

Howard McCullough's and Randy Wunderlich defensive play put down a Raleigh rally in the bottom of the fifth by McCullough picking off a runner at first. Randy then followed by reaping the next two fly-balls, one of which sent him flying into the fence.

Ange, first man up in the seventh, tied things up as he swatted the ball over the right field fence. Helfert then retired the side.

Raleigh's biggest threat came in the seventh inning. With one out and runners at first and third, Ange had worked himself into a real predicament. The Rocky Mount pitcher then struck out Robert Redd, and left fielder Larry Daughtridge sent the game into extra innings with his grab of a high fly.

After two innings of scoreless play, things began to happen in the tenth. Randy Warrick led the spurt off with a single to left, and he was sacrificed to second. Howard McCullough then got on first. Ange then was at the plate, and after fouling off a number of times, he hit his three-run homer to win the game.

Following the crack over the centerfield wall, Randy Warrick came in to pitch, retiring the side to secure the victory.

Superb, fantastic, amazing. Whatever the adjective, it will be quite time before another Rocky Mount Senior High baseball player will be able to do a repeat performance of Gary Ange's clutch heroics in the Raleigh Enloe game.

To win a game in extra innings by a home run is within the realm of many home run sluggers. But to also tie the game to send it into extra innings and be named the winning pitcher, well, that borders the bounds of reality. It's hard to believe that it all happened in one afternoon.

With a 5-2 record at the time of this writing, the Gryphon diamondmen seem to have started off a successful campaign. This year's edition of Gryphon baseball can fill the bill for most any fan.

There are spectacular catches in the outfield courtesy of Hilton Sykes, Larry Daughtridge, and Randy Wunderlich; double-plays by Randy Warrick, James Lewis, and Sonny Wooten, who usually team up with Phil Ford. For near-perfection in pitching, Larry Daughtridge is hard to out-throw; and for home run surprises, Gary Ange can provide plenty of excitement. Of course, the fan likes a little variety, so we can throw in a few errors here and there. For one of the most exciting plays in baseball is the running-down of baserunners when caught off-guard. Howard McCullough, RMSH catcher, is well-qualified for this type of play (See photo).

Track

The cinderman appear to be having hard times, but there

are some bright spots to be found. Layne Diddy, a junior, is considered one of the best two-milers in the division. Who would have ever thought that the Gryphs could place in the pole vault, an area which was considered to be the weakest weakness (if that is possible) at the beginning of the year? With some fine sophomore talent, such as Keith Lanier in the 880 and others, the forecast for future years will not have to be so clouded.

TIME FOR TENNIS

The Gryph netters at the time this was written, own an unblemished conference record. Tennis is a sport that is exciting to watch, and to me, it is amazing to see how the guy sitting next to you in class whom you always regarded as a weakling, can that same afternoon, turn into Rod Laver or Arthur Ashe, dismantling his opponent with lightning serves and quick returns. RMSH possesses some great talent on the courts, both boys and girls.

Whatever the sport may be, this is the time of year to get out and see your team in action. With warm weather and low or free admission, there is no real excuse not to get out and see the squads, for to many, spring sports are the most exciting of the year.

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