

SPORTSLIGHTS

by William Bennett

In closing the winter regular season, the total won-lost record for RMSH varsity sports



Gryphon star James Hart goes up over a Hillside defender for two.

since the beginning of the school year is an incredible 41-9-1, which includes an 8-2 football team, a 2-4 cross country team, an 11-1-1 wrestling squad, and, at the time of this printing, 20-2 basketball squad.

This amazing balance comes from three major factors -- an excellent athletic program staffed by some of the ablest men serving in the prep ranks today, an abundance of extremely talented, versatile athletes unlike anything usually found in one school at one time, and just as important, the most rabid fans in the state. There has not been a year like this for athletics since the days of RMSH's triple state champs. If everybody does his part this year, we can't help but win some kind of title this year.

"SUPERFANS!"

Although much has been said, not enough can be said for the enthusiasm displayed by the many followers of Gryphon sports. At the last game with Kinston, however, this writer was particularly impressed with the genuine effort made by many of the members of the RMSH student body to extend a truly courteous welcome to the visiting team. Although there has some booing to be heard (no doubt stemming from the unpleasant experience in Kinston earlier this year), a significant number of Gryphon fans stood up and clapped when the Vikings were introduced.

This is simply the mark of a very classy group of people. All I can say is keep it up, Gryphons.

Number One!

Gryphs Capture Tourney As Jones, Wilson Shine

The Gryphon Grapplers came through in the Division II wrestling tournament last Thursday, standing a barrage by a some tough New Bern wrestlers in the final round to win the tournament trophy.

"I'm real pleased," said an elated Coach Harris following the victory. I knew we had a good chance, but it wasn't until David Jones beat his man that we finally knew."

The new Division II Champs were behind by three points going into the 185 and 195 pound weight classes, which featured Roland Wilson and David Jones who both came through with victories.

"Goldsboro really helped us out, the coach added. We had only 11 of our starting thirteen

going into the afternoon round, while New Bern had all their starters, but when some of Goldsboro's wrestlers like Hamilton and Devon Ford met New Bern, we luckily came out on top since they knocked off each other.

Earlier in year, the Gryphs knocked off both New Bern and Goldsboro in tightly contested matches. The grapplers now move to the sectional tournament held at J. H. Rose High School in Greenville, held this past Saturday.

Streaking Gryph Cagers End Spectacular Regular Season

An incredible 36-6 first quarter paced the Gryphs to a 97-63 win over the Goldsboro Cougars.

The Gryphons featured very balanced scoring and Goldsboro featured not much more than an extremely angered coach. Cleveland Howard lead the way with 22 points followed by Phil Ford with 20. Randy Warrick with 18, and James Hart with 17. EAT YOUR HEART OUT, PROS

A 111-109 score would have to be the result of one of three things: (1) NBA or ABA contest (2) A meeting of two top college cage powers, or (3) The Durham Hillside - Rocky Mount game. This time it was number three as Rocky Mount nipped the Hornets in Hillside's own gym.

This double-century point explosion continued the precedent set in RMSH's gym last year when John Lucas led Hillside to a 106-101 victory over Rocky Mount. Phil Ford was the hero this time as he hit a 20 foot jumper with two seconds left for the win.

GOLDSBORO FALLS AGAIN
The Gryphs captured a tense 88-81 win over the Goldsboro at Goldsboro to take a solid hold on second place in Division II.

The Cougars held the upper hand for much of the second half of the contest, but the powerful Gryphs and a technical foul on Goldsboro's coach broke the Cougars back.

Durham Senior was the Gryphs next victim, but the Bulldogs were no pushovers as RMSH gained a close 53-48 win.

Phil Ford's four fouls and the Kinston game looming in the near future compounded the Gryphs problems.

"A-A-AMEN"

To the strains of "A-a-a-men" from a partisan hometown crowd, the Gryphons pulled away from the rugged Kinston Vikings in the final minutes to capture a crucial 74-68 victory.

The win moved the Gryphs into a tie for first place with the Vikings, who had upset RMSH earlier this year in Division II action.



Jimmy Weeks, rugged RMSH center, attempts to steal the ball from a Sanderson player during Holiday Festival action earlier this year.



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