

# Sporting Views

By Clifton Barnes

Wilson Fike is still deciding whether to play us or Northeastern for their homecoming football game. I suspect they believe Northeastern is better after beating us. That would be a mistake.

Let's hope college scouts will overlook Mike Upchurch's unfortunate injury and take him for the fine athlete that he is.

Charlotte Ward is the best on the girls' tennis squad, but realistically she needs to be playing a number two or three. She's not winning playing number one while she could win consistently at two or three. But there's not much Coach Judy Bradshaw can do in this situation. With a respectable season this year, next year should be "THE" year for girls' tennis. Only one girl will be lost to graduation.

Since switching from Rocky Mount Senior High to Northern Nash, Kenny Moorefield has become an overnight sports star in football and tennis. Ben Gold and Milton Fesperman have similarly been successful at Rocky Mount Academy.

Last year's super-sophomore in basketball was Charles "Buck" Williams. Buck went to Philadelphia over the summer to a special basketball camp. It looks like an even better year for Buck and the rest of the Gryphon basketball team. My prediction is that we will be seeing a few scouts this season and maybe even coaches as in the exciting days of Phil Ford.

No it wasn't Sonny Jurgensen it was Jess Eberdt. Eberdt came in the Greenville game and on his first play from scrimmage threw a perfect touchdown strike of 33 yards. He also pinpointed a pass of 13 yards for a score. He ended up 2 of 3 for 46 yards with two touchdown passes. On second thought maybe Eberdt shouldn't be compared to Jurgensen . . . well they're both from North Carolina, anyway.

At the half of the Northeastern football game at Elizabeth City a referee asked me "What's the matter with 'em, dogged if they don't look terrible?" I stated "At least our band won." Another referee stated "In my opinion ya'll have the best band in the state." Three cheers for Mr. J. C. Sykes and the rest of the band.

Switching to the National scene: Is Muhammad Ali retiring from boxing? He may be retiring from boxing his wife, who has asked for a divorce, but I will not believe his retiring from the ring until I see it. Of course it may cost 20 bucks to see it.

Mike Voight, North Carolina running back, on a questionnaire that asked him to name his favorite person in history: "The girl who sat across from me in History 12."

Seven Oakland Athletic players became free agents at the first of this month. The seven are Sal Bando, Joe Rudi, Rollie Fingers, Campy Campaneris, Gene Tenace, Don Baylor, and Willie McCovey. Speculation has it that Vida Blue, Mike Torrez, and Billy North will also be gone because owner Charlie Finley will not pay the salary they want. The Oakland Dynasty is officially over.

The big boys of tennis may be Arthur Ashe, Jimmy Connors, Ilie Nastase, and Bjorn Borg but you can't find a better doubles team than Eddie Dibbs and Harold Solomon, not even Jimbo Thorpe and Olin Wilson.



RUN FOR FUN: Two of the twenty Cross Country runners running for fun. [Photo by Bulluck]

## Cross Country Faces Test

Most people would consider running a race three miles through woods, fields, and open ditches as plain nonsense. But perhaps the cross country teams feel differently. For them, running unremittently over the "course" is not only a challenge to see who can come out first, but it is an obsession as well.

Of the twenty some members of the team, the top five runners are Oie Osterkamp, Richard Fountain, Julius Jones, Charlie "Buck" Williams, Reggie Barrett and David Jones. After listing these members, Coach Stan Bastian said that of the top five runners, three of them, Reggie Barrett, Oie Osterkamp and Charlie "Buck" Williams, are members of the basketball team who merely wanted to get in shape for the upcoming basketball season. Coach Bastian feels that there will be a marked improvement in the basketball team due to the fact that fatigue will not play as big a roll as it usually does.

This year's cross country team faces a slate of 12 meets against the usual conference foes as well as from some from outside the conference, such as Durham Hillside and Ahsokie. According to Coach Bastian, the Divisional Meet, October 28, may possibly be held in Rocky Mount, and he feels that it may be something which the Rocky Mount Senior High student body may want to come and see.

## Coach Reaches Goal

"Every coach hopes to be a head coach on the high school level. I have reached that goal," says the new Head Basketball Coach, Coach Rederick Henderson.

Coach Henderson is new to Rocky Mount Senior High, but not new to the Rocky Mount School System. He was first employed at J.W. Parker Junior High School in 1968. Two years later, Coach Henderson went to R.M. Wilson Junior High School as a P.E. teacher and the basketball coach. During the total period of his employment as basketball coach, Coach Henderson lost only seven games.

Coach Henderson attended

C.H. Darden High School in Wilson. His interest in sports came from his high school coach, of whom Coach Henderson thought highly. Coach Henderson says he decided to be a coach after him. He won two scholarships: one to Winston-Salem State University and the other to Saint Augustine's College. He attended St. Augustine where he majored in Physical Education.

The six feet, five inch coach says that the Gryphs have a challenging season ahead, but he is anticipating having a good season. He would like to see the Gryphs win the division games and from there to go to the State Tournament in Greensboro.

## Homecoming Celebrated

Homecoming floats, the mini-parade, corsages, the Homecoming Queen and her court, and the head-on confrontation with, of all teams, Northern Nash, will all add up to make this year's Homecoming perhaps the best yet!

The Service Club, as usual, will sponsor the Homecoming Mini-Parade which was open for entries from all clubs, organizations, and homerooms.

The "ribbon girls" from Good Sports have sold the Homecoming corsages for the guys to take care of that special girl.

Lastly, the band is sponsoring the Homecoming Queen contest in which white and black senior girls will be queens and two more girls from the junior and sophomore classes will make up the court.

So, remember, the Homecoming game and related events are just around the corner...Friday, Oct. 29. In order for them to be a success, full class participation is needed.

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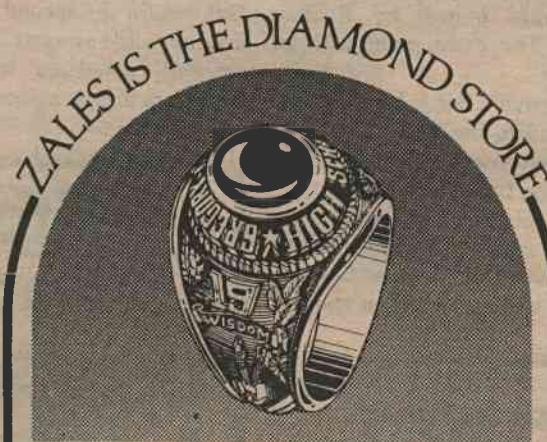
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