

LT. EDSON DRAPER: We have not received a letter from Ted but from what we can hear, we believe that he is in the midst of the action somewhere in the Southwest Pacific. We hope he will have an opportunity to write to us soon. Good luck, Ted.

1943 BLACKBIRDS

Contributed by: Miss Evelyn Hedgepeth & Mr. H. K. Landis

For a team picked to win about two games, the Blackbirds of Rocky Mount High School have been surprise foot ball team of the state. Coached by Joe Caruse, the team at present has won six games while losing only one and tying one. The season was opened against Kinston with a 26 to 7 victory followed by victories over Goldsboro (46-2), Fayetteville (13-6), Wilson (19-6), and Durham (19-13). The Blackbirds even looked good while going down in defeat against Greensboro (19-13). During the Greensboro game, a Blackbird pass completed into the end zone was called back due to off side penalty. Fellows, that was tough to lose this much needed score. Although they scored six touchdowns against Walmington, the Blackbirds had to be satisfied with a 12 to 12 tie as four touchdowns were called back. The last game against Oxford Orphanage was uncomfortably close. The Blackbirds made one touchdown due to a fumble by the orphanage. The Rocky Mount boys blamed this low score to leaving their mud cleats at home. At any rate, the final score--Rocky Mount 6--Oxford 0.

The first string members now in action are: ENDS; Jimmie Landis, Jimmie Corinth---TACKLES; Tommy Matthews, Dan Wheelless---GUARDS; Fred August, George Kessler---CENTER; Jack Hedgepeth---BACK FIELD; George Grant, Brooks Page, Pat Patterson, Leo McDuffie, Ernie Lamb, John Watkins, and Bo Carpenter.

Jimmie Landis' father, H. K. Landis, heads up the Shipping Department. Pat Patterson and Dan Wheelless were Carcmount employees during last summer. The 1943 Blackbirds make a light but a fighting team. The top scorers for the season are "pass snazzing" Jimmie Landis and Co-Captain, Pat Patterson. John Watking and Bo Carpenter pass the old pigskin with the greatest of ease and with incredible accuracy. The complete pass of 30 to 40 yards is not unusual for this aerial combination. Locally the game has been improved considerably for the spectators due to a public address system. During the Durham, Rocky Mount game, the announcer stated that one of the Carpenter--Landis pass plays was good for 55 yards. We'll string along with the announcer for these boys are playing a swell game.

The game between the Blackbirds and the Raleigh Caps November 19 at Rocky Mount will decide the Eastern North Carolina conference winner as the Caps now lead Eastern North Carolina with the Blackbirds as the runner-up position. This game will most likely be the outstanding high school football game of North Carolina for this season. If you are in Rocky Mount, plan to attend this game.
