

Blackbird Quint Clashes With Durham Here Tonight

Return Game With Bulls Promises Fast Action On High School Court

Tonight at eight o'clock the Rocky Mount Blackbirds clash with the Durham Bulls on the home court. The encounter will be the tenth in conference competition for the Blackbirds and bids to be one of the best court games of the season.

The Durham boys are highly favored to take the Rocky Mount boys into camp, due to the fact that the Bulls are undefeated in conference competition and they hold victories over the Duke and Wake Forest freshmen quints. A well balanced team with capable players in each position will represent Durham. Moore and Puckett are plenty good at ringing the basket.

In a previous encounter in Durham the Bulls scored an impressive victory over the Rocky Mount five, downing them 39 to 10. The Bulls played a fast game and were especially effective on long shots and rebounds.

In preparation for the game, Coach Bob Eason has been working the boys hard in practice sessions. The Blackbirds have put up a fairly good defense but their scoring punch needs improvement.

The lineups for the two teams are as follows:

Rocky Mount	Durham
Johnson, f	Moore, f
B. Walker, f	McKinney, f
A. Felton, c	Puckett, c
Robbins, g	Whitfield, g
V. Felton, g	C. Loftis, g

W. D. Joyner of the Blackbird A outfit and will probably get into the action tonight.

Next Friday night, February 18, the Goldsboro quint will be here and Fayetteville will play the Blackbirds Tuesday, February 23, for the last home game of the season.

"B" Basketball Team Recently Disbanded

Intra-Mural Games to Replace Second Team Contests

Coach Emery Adkins, who turned down the chance to have a coaching vacation between the football and baseball seasons, has for the past four weeks sponsored a B squad in order to help the basketball cause. Although the B squad has been very successful in the few games that it has played, it was announced by Mr. A. M. McGregor, who had charge of arranging the games, that the B squad would be disbanded. All of the forthcoming games were cancelled and in place of the B games there will be intra-mural games.

During the short time that the B squad played they won four out of six games. The four that they won were played with the Wilson B team and two games with the Eastern Carolina Training school. They lost two games with the T.M.C.A. Juniors. Some of the outstanding B players are Junior Daughtridge, Howard Turner, Wade Pitt, Joe Vaden, Taylor Thorne, Mickey Bennett, James Griffin, and Milton Strickland.

Basketball is a sport which cannot be learned in a year or two. It takes constant practice to develop a good shooting eye, clever ball handling and proper footwork. The intra-mural games which started Monday of this week will provide the means whereby the boys can learn these fundamentals. Many boys just entering high school are too small to play on the varsity team, but no one is too small for intra-mural basketball.

Games are to be played on Mondays, Wednesdays, and every other Friday with four each day, except on Friday when eight games will be played. There will be two divisions of the league. The eight, ninth, and tenth grades will form the junior league with the eleventh and twelfth grade forming the senior league. Each league will have eight teams each with a captain at the head of each team.

Senior captains are Ray Daughtridge, Mickey Bennett, James Griffin, and Henry Coghill.

Junior captains are Billy Rooker, Howard Turner, Milton Strickland, Jim Vaden, Warren Huffman, Franz Holscher, Wade Pitt, and Richard Ryals.

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BIRDS GAIN WIN OVER GREENIES

Local Team Takes Revenge For Defeated Earlier In The Season

Ringing up the captain on the 1938 basketball season January 4, the Blackbirds of Rocky Mount dropped a close 15-13 battle to Greenville, the loop champions. The Blackbirds put up a stiff fight, but the more experienced Greenville quint nosed them out.

Durham defeated the Rocky Mount five 39-10 in a fast game at the Bull City, January 7. The Blackbirds made only one field goal after the half.

The Blackbirds crushed Raleigh 33-14 on the capital city court for their first conference victory January 11. Arkie Felton was the high scorer with 17 points.

The Eason coached quint took revenge over the highly favored Greenies by upsetting them 14-10 in Greenville, January 14. Coach Eason installed a new offensive to defeat a team from his own home town. The Blackbirds were fair on both offense and defense. Jim Johnson, Benveny star, proved an asset to the Rocky Mount team.

Even though Rocky Mount was favored, the White Cyclones staged a comeback rally to upset the Blackbirds 21-17, January 18. The lead changed often in the rough game in Wilson. Arkie Felton's temper caused the Blackbirds to lose several scoring opportunities.

January 21, the Eason coached quint downed Wilmington 37 on the home court. Coach Eason used all his reserves against Wilmington. The New Hanover boys' offense proved ineffective and they didn't score a field goal until ten seconds before the end of the third quarter.

Rocky Mount's Blackbirds defeated the Raleigh Purple Hurricanes 35-21 in the Rocky Mount gym, January 28. Raleigh scored several times on a long distance pass play from one end of the court to the other. Both teams missed numerous easy shots. Arkie Felton, with fifteen points, and Captain Robbins, with seven points, led in the scoring.

Varsity Tennis Team Arranging Schedule

Squad to Include Advanced Members of Club

"We expect to have a good team this year," stated Robert Bobbitt, president of the tennis club of Rocky Mount high school.

With Robert Bobbitt, president; Robert Grimes, vice-president; Julia Yates, secretary; and Ann Bennett, treasurer, the tennis club holds regular meetings twice a week. Over 60 boys and girls attend these meetings. The club is trying to interest more students in tennis and to have better teams to represent the school. Mr. George Hornbeck, local tennis authority, and Miss Dorothy Craighill, French teacher, are the club advisors.

Now that the gym is completed, demonstrations are given by Mr. Hornbeck and Rinehart Freeman. Beginners are taught the fundamentals of the game and advanced players will enter the future matches.

Last season the team lost matches to Wilson and matches with Fayetteville were rained out.

A large schedule has been completed with ten or possibly twelve matches to be played. Teams from Raleigh, Durham, Goldsboro, Wilson, and Fayetteville are some of those to be met during the coming season. Players left from the team last year are Rinehart Freeman, Ernest Wright, Tommy Harris, Charles Brock, Thomas Owens, and Robert Bobbitt.

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INTRA-MURAL GAMES BEGUN

Sixteen Basketball Teams For Girls Being Directed By Student Coaches

In place of a varsity program for the girls of Rocky Mount high school, an intra-mural basketball set up has been arranged. Miss Aileen Pendleton, girls' physical educational director, has charge of the program.

An intra-mural program gives everyone an equal chance to play. Over 170 girls are playing on the sixteen teams. Each team has 10 members including a student coach. Points to be stressed in practice are discussed with Miss Pendleton in regular meetings with the coaches.

The win or lose idea is almost lost by having the tournament with only girls in the high school. The girls play with each other.

After the tournament, in which each team plays several games, judges will select the ten best players who will compete with girls from other schools.

Under student coaches and referees, the girls enjoy hours of wholesome exercise rather than the intense training grind for the next "big" game. The student coaches and names of the teams are as follows:

Phyllis Bryan—"Dizzy Dames"
Elizabeth Speight—"Tin Pins"
Nonie Pitts—"Stars"
Grace—"Go Getters"
Dorothy Zimmerman—"Comets"
Mae Lancaster—"Blackbirds"
Ethel Overby—"Sky Rockets"
Julia Yates—"Hurricanes"
Grace Williams—"Pebbles"
Kathleen Halthcock—"Red Birds"
Chloris Parkes—"Gray Mules"
Neil Speight—"B Girls"
Marjorie Bell—"Blue Birds"
Frances Gardner—"Whirlwinds"
Phyllis Perritt—"Country Hicks"
Geraldine Barrett—"Hill Billies"

Blackbirds Score Win Over Wilson Cyclones

Getting revenge for their previous defeat in Wilson, the Blackbirds downed the Cyclones, 21-12, in the new gym at Rocky Mount, February 4. By emerging victorious in the Wilson encounter, the Blackbirds have a record of five conquests in eight meetings with class A conference members.

In an entertaining preliminary game, the Rocky Mount B quint scored a 39-17 win over the Wilson B squad. Beginning fast the baby Blackbirds tallied eighteen points in the first quarter.

Even though the Blackbirds missed many easy shots, the score was 6-1 at the end of the first quarter and 13-3 at the half in favor of the Rocky Mount five. Wilson's offensive wouldn't click for it scored only one field goal before the intermission.

The play in the third quarter added only two points to each team's score and in the last quarter the Cyclones outscored the Birds seven to six points.

Free shots were plentiful for both outfits, but neither could make them chalk up very successfully in their favor. Rocky Mount racked up on five of nineteen tries while Wilson accounted for two out of a dozen charity shots.

Two brothers, Arkie and Vernon Felton, were noted for their fine play. Arkie was high scorer with eight points, several of which were difficult shots and Vernon displayed fine style in coming up the court and setting up plays.

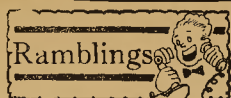
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Dinner — Twenty-five players and manager Thomas Owens were present with miniature statues of a player kicking a ball. On the front of the player is engraved, "All Eastern Team" and the player's name. Such well-known men of football as Chick Doak of State, Cardwell of Duke, and Eddie Berlinski of State were present. Two youthful and skilled taxidermists, Richmond Corinth and "Bug" Butler, like their hobby enough to work from 8 o'clock to 5:30 A. M. An eagle with a seven and a half foot wing spread, caught in a steel trap on the coast, was given to Richmond by a local man. He spent most of the night skinning the eagle. "Bug" was given a large, black fox squirrel the same night. He had a hard time skinning it and making a plaster of Paris cast for it. Though the boys lost some sleep, they feel rewarded for their efforts.

Short story: Coach Bob Eason walks into the library. Quite a few of his basketball players are there. He calls them over to a corner and proceeds to explain the time of basketball practice that afternoon.

Enter Miss Margaret Ricks. Quote: "You boys hurry and stop that talking."

And what does Mr. Eason do but meekly walk out of the library—he probably wants to run, but it's not in the script.

Because of the elimination of the center jump, basketball is a much faster game and affects a great number of people. The scorekeeper and officials have to be more alert. The players must have a great amount of energy and be able to break fast after a goal. The spectators must watch the game every minute in order to keep up with the game. Men that know basketball have argued both for and against the elimination of the center jump but no change has yet been made.

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BIRDS DEFEAT WILSON TEAM

Felton Brothers Star As Rocky Mount Boys Win By Score Of 21-12

The Rocky Mount Blackbirds gained their fifth conference victory in eight starts in Eastern Class A competition with a 21-12 win over the Wilson cagers Friday, February 4.

The Blackbirds galloped to a 13-3 lead for the first-half of play. The only Wilson field goal of this half was made by Benton.

In the third quarter each team scored two points and then Wilson made a scoring spurt by ringing up 7 points in the last quarter while the Birds tallied 6 points.

Arkie and Vernon Felton starred for the local. Arkie Felton chalked up eight points to head Rocky Mount's scoring while Vernon turned in some beautiful court work.

Leading scorer for Wilson was Benton, who made two field goals, while Pruitt and Cockerell made the remaining two.

Mickey Bennett tallied 13 points to rush the Rocky Mount B team to a 33-13 victory over the Wilson Bees in a preliminary game. Strickland starred for the visitors.

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