

SPORTS SCOPE

—by—

Johnnie and James

Rocky Mount has been going strong and is looking good. Losing only one game in the first half of play to Raleigh, the Blackbirds stormed through its conference games and was feared by all opponents.

There may be trouble for a few of the colleges in the NCAA basketball tournament. Several of the players may be ineligible due to the fact that they are playing their fourth varsity year. Ranzinio and two other State players may not be able to play.

In Spring Hope the people are planning to have a bowl of their own. They have decided to call it the Memorial Bowl and the proceeds will go to civic improvements.

More colleges have dropped football from their activities, due to the emergency. If this keeps up only the big colleges will be having games.

Recently two more baseball greats were voted into the Hall of Fame. They are two of baseballs greatest home run sluggers, Mel Ott and Jimmy Foxx. The baseball Hall of Fame is located at Cooperstown, N. Y.

The emergency we are in now is going to affect baseball clubs this year. It seems that we will be having a year of war-time sports.

Billy Murray, a former Rocky Mount high school student and athlete, has been appointed head coach at Duke University.

In the heavy-weight division, Joe Louis has improved greatly since his Ezzard Charles fight. In a recent bout he won a 10 rounder in 4 rounds on a technical knock-out. It took Charles, in a previous fight, 14 rounds to floor the same man. Men who know the ring have stated that Louis looked better and was in better shape than he has looked in a number of years. This may mark Louis' come-back, and is something to bear in mind if Louis and Charles fight again, and that is rumored.

Blackbirds Win, 60-28

By dumping the Bulldogs of Fayetteville, 60-28, the Rocky Mount Blackbirds had little trouble getting back into the win column. It was their easiest game of the year.

There was never any doubt as to the outcome of the game and the Blackbirds pulled out in front where they stayed the entire time. The score at halftime was 28-12. The Bulldogs were not able to find the basket and only managed to score 16 points in the last half. They scored only 5 points in the second quarter.

Big Ben Futrell, with 10 points, was second in the scoring column behind Herring. Ed Bandy trailed him with 9 points.

Ray Vincoli was the high man for the Bulldogs with 8 points. McArthur along with Vincoli sparked what little defensive the Fayetteville team had.

By starting Bob Britt at guard along with Dan Herring, Coach Bill Lundy pulled a surprise. Futrell and Bandy played forwards and Bob Bartholomew started at center. Bartholomew is bothered with a bad bone bruise on his left shoulder sustained in the Raleigh game. He held Nick Kanos, the Bulldog center, down to 5 points.

Herring's scoring performance was the highlight of the game. When he left the game in the fourth quarter he had scored more points than the entire Fayetteville team.

Justice Accepts Job As Assistant Coach

Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice was named assistant football backfield coach at the University of North Carolina after he was released from a three year contract with the Washington Redskins.

Justice, a celebrated former All-American, has had quite a time making up his mind as to what his future would be. He accepted a post with the North Carolina Medical Foundation when he graduated from college. He then asked for a leave of absence to play professional football with the Washington Redskins. He signed a three year contract with them and now he has been released for the coaching job at the University.

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BILLY GRAY, BLACKBIRD GUARD



Pictured above is Billy Gray, who has played a fine game this year. —Photo by Killebrew

Birds Win 5, Lose 1

Promise of great things to come have been displayed, this year by the RMHS basketball team. Already the Birds have played twelve games and won eleven of them. Six of them were Conference games.

The Blackbirds first conference game was with Durham. The team beat Durham 35 to 33 for the first time in about twenty-two years. Next the Blackbirds defeated Wilmington 43 to 40 for the first time in a good many years. Another win was when Coach Lundy's boys beat Goldsboro 49 to 45 for their third Conference win. When the Birds met Raleigh they lost first place in the Conference by the final score, 45 to 47. The Blackbirds came back to the winning column by defeating Fayetteville 60 to 28. To regain first place in the conference the RMHS basketball team defeated Wilson 46 to 36.

So far, during the season, Rocky Mount high school has had a good basketball team, mainly because they have a good coach, Mr. Lundy; and because they are learning how to play as a team and not as individuals.

NIT TICKETS ON SALE BEGINNING ON FEB. 10

New York—The ticket sale for the first and quarterfinal rounds of the National Invitation Basketball Tournament opens at Madison Square Garden next Saturday morning, Feb 10.

The 12-team tournament will be held in the Garden, March 14, 12, 13, 15, and 17. The first round will be played Saturday, March 10, with afternoon and evening doubleheaders. The quarterfinals will be played March 12, and 13.

Richard A. (Doc) White is Carolina's basketball trainer.

Blackbirds Beat Cys

Rocky Mount took its fifth conference win by the score of 46-36 when they defeated the Wilson Cyclones.

The Cyclones gave the Blackbirds a rough time all through the game, but the Birds managed to pull ahead and win by a 10 point margin.

Wilson used a pressing defense during the game, and the Blackbirds had a hard time gaining its victory.

Big Robert Bartholomew led his team mates in the scoring column. The tall center dropped a total of 16 points for the Black-

birds.

Next came Captain Dan Herring with 9. It was Herring's second game at the forward post.

Following Herring was "Big" Ben Futrell, a forward, who dropped three through the loop for 6 points.

This ended the first round of conference play, and for this round the Blackbirds have a 5-1 record.

In the preliminary game the Wilson "B" squad turned back the Babybirds, 43-35. Jimmy Daughtridge lead the Babybirds with 14 points in scoring.

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