

# Sports Review

with

## Gerry Gardner

As we all know, a pep rally was held on the Thursday night before the Oxford game two weeks ago. It was one of, if not the most, successful ever had in Rocky Mount high. This was thought by both cheerleaders and students.

Unfortunately that bang-up send-off to the new season has dwindled considerably in the following games. What has happened is quite a mystery. The cheerleaders are doing their best as certainly the boys on the field are. Nevertheless the cheering has slackened—this sort of puts the students on the spot.

Johnny Warren and Bobby Patterson, both backs, have won "Blackbird of the week" honors, by their performances in the Oxford and Greensboro games respectively.

Warren's extremely hard running accounted for over one half of the Blackbirds' yardage on the ground in the Oxford affair. In action only seven times, he rolled up one hundred and thirty-six yards. His average for the first two games is dazzling, at 14 yards per try.

It was Patterson's all-round ability which won him the honor in the second game. Of the 107 yards gained passing by Rocky Mount, his hand was in 88 of these. On the ground he was responsible for 38 of the 59 yards made by rushing. The local Sportsman's Club named the winners.

It was the general opinion of the experts that the powerhouse of the South will again be Georgia Tech, with Alabama and Duke coming in second and third respectively. The latter statement is somewhat confused, however, in that Alabama opened its season by losing 25 to 19 to a team that is strictly from nowhere. So perhaps the experts are wrong altogether; maybe Duke is the powerhouse with Tech running second. At any rate, November 21 will bring the answer as the two teams clash.

# Birds Win One; Fumble Another

After opening the season with a 26-14 win over Oxford Orphanage, the elated Blackbirds were knocked down a few pegs by a tough Greensboro club, 14-0.

Capitalizing on Rocky Mount fumbles, the ever shifting Whirlies scored early and continued strong, never giving the dazed Blackbirds a chance to get started.

Although driving within scoring range several times, the Blackbirds never made a go of it, as fumbles plagued them on every occasion. Outstanding for the Birds was right half back Bobby Patterson whose sparkling all-around ability kept the Birds in the running. The defensive show was led by halfback Bobby Deans and linemen Bo Gupton and Berry Lamb.

In the opening game, led by fullback Johnny Warren's charging runs, the Blackbirds coasted to a 26-14 win over Oxford. Warren, the leading Bird ground gainer set sail on runs of 73 and 37 yards setting up one TD and scoring another.

The Orphanage struck back however, playing bang-up ball to the very end, giving the much heavier Blackbirds quite a workout. So good in fact, that it made Head Coach Knocker Adkins an unhappy man.

"We've got a long way to go," said Coach Adkins, "if we're going to be ready for the tough ones."

It appears that he was right, as rough Greensboro proved too tough to handle.

### FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

- September 11—Oxford Orphanage
- September 18—Greensboro
- September 25—Greensboro (there)
- October 2—Wilmington (there)
- October 9—Fayetteville
- October 16—Washington
- October 23—Durham
- October 30—Greenville
- November 6—Wilson (there)
- November 13—Raleigh.

# Blackbirds Defeat Quakes, 13-7



Co-captains Bobby Deans and Baxter Savage with Coach Adkins seem to be peering into the future and wondering what it will bring. The results so far keep one guessing.

Photo by Barringer

Goldsboro proved to be a tougher team to beat than the Birds had anticipated. Both of the Blackbird's T. D.'s were scored in the final quarter after an evenly-matched battle through the first of the game last Friday night in Goldsboro. Neither team penetrated to scoring position in the first quarter. This was due largely to fumbles and a tough defense by the opposing team.

First score of the game came in the final minutes of the second quarter. A 22-yard pass spelled a touchdown of the Quakes. Goldsboro converted and at the half the score stood at 7-0.

Fumbles again in the third quarter kept the Blackbirds from driving with the ball. The home team just couldn't seem to get the ball into Goldsboro territory. A Goldsboro drive to the Rocky Mount goal line was stopped just short of pay dirt.

In the last six minutes of the final frame, Bobby Patterson completed a 26-yard touchdown pass to James Chandler. Smokey Lancaster kicked the extra point and brought the score to 7-7. Three minutes later, Rocky Mount got the ball again. Successive long runs by Raymond Highsmith and a quick Patterson-to-Chandler pass put the ball on the Goldsboro goal line. Two plays later, Ray Harper scored from the one-yard line. The extra point was missed but the score was Rocky Mount 13 Goldsboro 7 and that's the way the ball game ended.

Bo Gupton was the outstanding lineman and Raymond Highsmith stood out in the backfield. Coach Adkins said after the game, "I think Highsmith won the game for us with his running."

## New Coaches, Former Students

Two new coaches have joined the Blackbird football staff this year. They are W. M. "Pat" Patterson and Horace Felton.

Patterson, who is working with coaches Adkins and Cleetwood on the varsity, is a twenty-seven year old native of Rocky Mount where he attended school.

As a junior, Coach Patterson was an All-Eastern halfback, and as a senior he made All-Southern. He continued to play when he entered Wake Forest. From there he went into the services where played for the Bolling Field "Flyers," the Mid Atlantic champs. When discharged he went to A. C. C. and starred for three more years.

"Pat" taught at Benvenue for two years. Last summer he

finished his graduate work and came to RMHS to teach.

The varsity backs are fortunate indeed to have such an able coach with ten years' football experience as Horace Felton, who finished at RMHS where he starred in basketball. He received further education at Appalachian State Teachers College.

Coach Felton taught at West Edgewood last year and joined the faculty at the junior high school this fall where he will assist Coach C. V. Lundy with the "B" squad Babypards.

These promising additions to a fine coaching staff give the local schools one of the best.

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