

## Sport Shorts



By Ed Justa

Spring sports have long been a memesis to the making of good grades toward the end of the school year; and since I have participated in spring sports for four years, I feel that I am qualified to express some of the drawbacks and advantages of the program.

One of the biggest drawbacks

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## In Last Game

### Locals Beat Earthquakes

The Blackbird's steadily improving diamond nine ended its season with a convincing 14-3 decision over the hapless Earthquakes of Goldsboro, May 10.

Victory number four boasted the Birds into a fifth place tie with the Bulldogs of Fayetteville, both having identical 4-8 won-lost records. Winning Bird pitcher was Alton Oakley, a junior, and Don Birchfield's three hits and homer

of the program is the time element. Athletes are away from school so much and they are forced to miss so many classes that it is almost impossible to catch up unless teachers plan make-up work before or after scheduled sports activities. However, this places extra work and is a great hardship on the already overloaded teachers at this time of the year. Yet it seems that these poor athletes should have some program worked out to help them.

Spring sports are essential for the many boys that don't play winter and fall sports, because competition teaches the brotherhood of man. Athletics also teach students honor, fairplay, and respect for their fellowmen. It helps to discover and developed talented athletes of the future.

To do away with the disadvantages of spring sports solutions should be suggested, and I would like to offer a few. Reduce the size of the sports schedule, arrange games on Saturdays, and encourage athletes to seek special coaching would be my answer to the problem.

Since I am graduating this year, I want to leave these suggestions and hope they will be followed in some form to help correct mistakes that are now made.

lead the batsmen.

Earlier in the season the locals defeated Goldsboro and, by also gaining victories over Raleigh and Fayetteville, accounted for their four victories.

Wilmington with a 11-1 record, was top team in the conference this season. Raleigh finished the season in second place with a 9-3 record and Wilson third with an 8-4 record.

## Male Cheerers

### Let 'Em Go, I Know 'Em

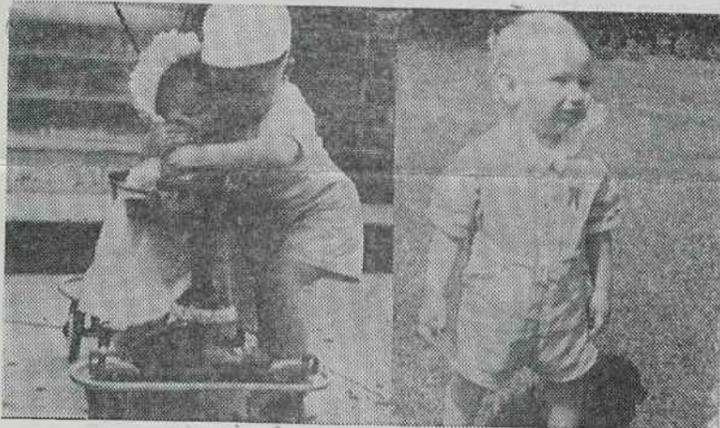
Like the stately dodo bird and the great auk, male cheerleaders have become extinct — a thing of the past, — not again to be seen roaming the halls and playing the fields of dear old RMSHS.

Blackbird cheerleaders from this day forth will be all female in accord with the other AAA class high schools of North Carolina. Rocky Mount clung to the tradition of mixed schools of North Carolina. Rocky Mount clung to

the tradition of mixed cheerleaders longer than any other school in this section, but now — it too has fallen into line.

Last of the "Old Guard" male cheerleaders finished out their usefulness at the end of basketball season and slowly drifted into oblivion to be the tradition go, but faculty members decided that an all-girl squad would simplify uniform and transportation problems.

## Take A Long Look



Here are Mike Williford and Frank Brake, two of the last boy cheerleaders in the school's history as they used to look. Pick 'em out.

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## RM Golfers Fourth In State Tournament

Local golfers finished fourth teamwise while first man Ed Justa finished second in the individual scoring in the North Carolina high school golf championship at Chapel Hill, May 13.

Odell Massey, Durham senior, captured the individual title with a record six under par 138 as he carded a pair of 69's to edge Justa by three strokes. Justa, who also broke the old record of 142 with his 72 and 69 rounds, missed too

Larry Beck of Kinston and Ronald Mann of High Point each carded 146 and tied for third. Defending champion Verner Stanley of Myers Park High, Charlotte, and four other players tied for fifth with 148. Included in the tie were Scronce and Smith of Asheville, Jim Rouse of Raleigh and Bill Dickson of Winston-Salem.

Other team scores are Charlotte, Myers Park 621, Greensboro 622, Wilmington 628, High Point 631, Salisbury 633, Durham 640, Burlington 693, Roxboro 695, Gastonia 702 and Henderson 719.

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