

RMSH Babybirds Suffer Bad Season, Losing 8 Games

The junior varsity has almost completed its cage competition for this season. They have won four and lost eight but there have been some bright spots.

Coaches Dudley Whitley and Charles Fountain feel that this season has not been successful in terms of wins and losses. However, they added that there was considerable improvement on the part of most of the players and that several JV's are prime prospects for the varsity in coming years.

Hot and Cold

In the season's opener, Kinston's junior varsity defeated the Babybirds, 33-30. Greenville dropped their game, 35-34, on a wrong-goal layup. Kinston won their second tilt with RM, 43-38.

Beginning the play with future Eastern 4-A opponents, the Babybirds won games with Fayetteville, 51-42, and Goldsboro, 43-27. The Babybirds then began to slip as they dropped three straight games to Durham, 48-42; Raleigh, 53-43; and Fayetteville, 50-32.

After bouncing back to post a 54-45 win over Wilson, the JV's suffered another three game slide. Goldsboro won 44-31; Wilmington, in overtime, 50-49; and Durham 58-36.

The Babybirds have games with Wilson and Fayetteville to complete their schedule.



Robert Ricks lays the ball up for two crucial points in the Blackbirds overtime victory against Wilmington. Ricky Creech gets position underneath for a possible rebound.

Photo by Killebrew

Cagers Receive Honor

Robert Ricks, Wayne Dunn, and Danny Talbott have been selected as "Players of the Week" for the month of February by the Phalanx Club.

Robert, a scrappy 5-11 guard, received his honor for his great defensive play against the Raleigh guards in the back court, stealing passes and forcing the Raleigh boys to commit careless mistakes. The fact that Raleigh did not move the ball well was a big help to the Birds, and Robert was a major part of this defense.

6-0 senior captain Wayne Dunn recovered from a bad ankle sprain in time to lead the Birds to victory over arch-rival Wilson. Wayne

scored 11 points, hitting one of four from the floor and nine of twelve from the line.

Danny Talbott was selected for this honor due to the part he played in the Birds' victory over Wilmington. Danny had a prolific first half in which he collected 16 points to give the Birds a 34-33 advantage at the break. He collected six more points in the second half, two of which came with four seconds left in the overtime to give the Birds the 66-64 win.

Overheard in the hall: "Of course I wouldn't say anything about her unless I could say something good. And, oh boy, is this good!"

Birds Are Strong In 4-A Play; Rolling Toward Tournaments

After a convincing win over Fayetteville, and a snowed-out game at Wilson, the Rocky Mount Blackbirds continued their grueling Eastern 4-A schedule and headed for the post-season tournaments.

Rocky Mount squeaked Goldsboro, 49-47, on two pressure-packed free throws by Tom Parrish with only two seconds left. Danny Talbott led the attack with 16 points and Parrish contributed 14.

Durham Takes Win

In a battle for first place of the Eastern Conference, Durham survived a rally by the 'Birds and posted a 49-44 victory. The Blackbirds scored nine straight points to tie the score at 42-42, but the Bulldogs pulled ahead again to win the game. Talbott and Ricky Creech carried the bulk of the scoring load. Woodside of Durham was high for both teams in scoring.

Raleigh was the victim of Rocky Mount's bounce back into their form. Talbott, Creech, and Parrish led the 63-38 onslaught with a constant barrage of field goals and free throws. The outcome was never in doubt as the Blackbirds began early to sink their shots with deadly accuracy.

Fayetteville Falls

The 'Birds took their second victory at the expense of Fayetteville, 64-49. Rocky Mount led throughout in a game marred by frequent fouling by both teams. Nevertheless, the 'Birds were again hot from the floor and couldn't be stopped. Creech, Parrish, Dunn, and Talbott scored in double figures for the winners as Jordan scored high for the Bulldogs.

Wilson's tough zone defense and their sharp eye from outside kept them ahead until the final minutes when the Blackbirds went ahead to win, 52-44. Ricky Creech hit for 16 points while Dunn and Talbott

popped the nets for 11 each. Free throw accuracy proved to be the final margin of victory.

The Earthquakes of Goldsboro, seeking revenge for a previous last-second defeat by the 'Birds, found Rocky Mount in one of their unusual slumps and won the game, 35-30. The game was notable for its many fouls and few foul shots. Turlington was high scorer for the Quakes.

Eastern 4-A Standings

Team	Con. (W)	Con. (L)	All
Wilmington	9	2	11-4
Durham	8	3	14-4
Rocky Mount	7	3	12-4
Goldsboro	5	6	13-6
Fayetteville	3	7	7-9
Raleigh	3	7	6-11
Wilson	2	8	9-8

Wilmington lost a heart-breaker to the 'Birds in overtime, 66-64. At the end of four quarters, the score was tied 62-62, but the RM cagers outscored the Wildcats 4-2 in the three minute overtime to win the game. Talbott scored 22; Dunn, 17; and Creech 15, but the game's high scorer was the 'Cats' Moore who bombed in 26. Creech and Talbott also rebounded well against the outstanding height of the Wilmington Club.

For the second time this season, the Birds were unable to defeat Durham's fast Bulldogs. A fast start produced a permanent lead that ranged from 7 to 13 points, with the Bulldogs finally winning. Creech and Talbott were the offensive leaders for RM, while O

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