

R. M. Fans Witness One Of Best Years In Athletic History

Mark the year 1961-62 with an asterick, an X, or some other figure denoting exception, because this year has been exceptional, particularly in RMSH sports.

In the fall of 1961, our football team was insulted by being called "average of a little better". Their determination swept them past eight foes while they lost one and tied one, earning them a spot in the state championships. That team will be remembered as one with a will to win like never before at Senior High.

Early in December, the Blackbird cagers opened their season rated somewhat than the football team had been. With more ups than downs, they too won a place among the 4-A's elite. Rocky Mount went into the tourney against two of the state's better teams, causing most to overlook them as a serious contender. After crucifying those two teams, the Birds fell short in the finals. Nevertheless, it was the best effort ever by a RM basketball team.

And then it was April, time for baseball. Lack of practice hurt the Birds at first, but then they bumped off rivals continuously, falling short of the East's title in their final two outings.

Looking back to 1940, Blackbird teams as a whole have never bettered the success of these.

It is better to tell the truth and run, than to lie and get caught in the act.



Ready for action are three of many of our outstanding members on the Blackbird Baseball team. Pictured above are Bill Campbell, Danny Talbott, and Wayne Dunn. Photo by Killebrew

Track Records Are Smashed As Blackbirds Wind Up Year

With the closing of track season it is interesting to note the track records that were either broken or tied. Of the 13 events, five come under this category.

Events not broken were the **High Jump**, Donnie Sallee; **Discus**, Mike Lundy; **Mile**, Lanny Shuff and Bill Whitehurst; **Broad Jump**, Terry Newell; and the **220 Yard Dash**, Ronnie Jackson.

Records that were broken are the **Pole Vault**. Tommy Clay tied Gus Tulloss's leap of 10'6" at the Rocky Mount, Fayetteville, and Durham Relays (Durham) and al-

so at the meet in Raleigh; 440, Jep Rose did 51.9 at the Rocky Mount, Fayetteville, and Raleigh (at Raleigh) April 27, 1962. (This breaks the record set by Wrennie Pitt); 880, Dennis Williamson, he did it in 3.10 at the Conference Meet (at Raleigh) May 3, 1962. (Emmitt Johnson held the old record.); **Low Hurdles**, Tommy Clay broke this record with 21.6 at the District Meet (at Greenville) May 11, 1962; and Mike Smith, Ben Weeks, Joe Williams and Bill Bonner broke the **Mile Relay** at the Raleigh, Rocky Mount, Fayetteville Meet (at Raleigh) April 27, 1962.

Blackbirds Miss Title With Two Late Losses

Two late season setbacks knocked the Rocky Mount High School Blackbirds out of the Eastern 4-A Conference baseball title picture for the second straight year.

The Birds, who led the conference for most of the season, suffered defeats at the hands of the Raleigh Caps and the Goldsboro Earthquakes in their final two games, to once again keep the Blackbirds from the conference championship.

The journey to Raleigh proved to be the first of two disasters that the Birds would encounter.

A leaky Blackbird defense committed nine errors that opened the door for the Caps. Raeligh also banged out 16 hits in taking a 16-7 victory over the Birds.

Dennis Newell and Bill Campbell each collected two hits for Rocky Mount.

The Blackbirds still had a chance for the conference title after the Raleigh loss, but the Goldsboro Earthquakes turned all the lights out for the Birds with a 5-2 victory behind the three-hit pitching of left-hander Johnny Barwick.

Of the three hits off Barwick, Talbott collected two, including a booming triple.

In other recent games the Birds were more fortunate, getting wins over Durham, Wilson, and Fayetteville.

Against Durham, two runs in the seventh inning pulled the Birds out of a 2-2 tie and handed them a 4-2 victory. Talbott was the winning pitcher in relief for Rocky Mount, while Wayne Dunn led the hitting with four safe blows.

In the Wilson game, Rocky Mount unleashed its biggest offensive attack of the year, scoring 17 runs on 15 hits, to take a 17-4 win. Dunn once again rapped out four

hits, while Eddie Allen collected three.

The Blackbirds took a close 11-10 victory over the Fayetteville Bulldogs, scoring two runs in the 8th inning to come from behind once again. Fayetteville built up a 9-3 lead after five innings, but the never-quitting Birds fought back to get the win.

Billy Warren rapped a homer and a single in two trips to the plate for Rocky Mount.

'Birds' Rewarded With Scholarships

Three seniors of Rocky Mount Senior High have been awarded valuable athletic scholarships to two colleges.

Ricky Creech, center of the runners-up for the state 4-A basketball championship, is the recipient of a \$400 scholarship at Louisburg College in Louisburg, North Carolina.

Wayne Dunn, outstanding guard and captain of that team, received a scholarship that will pay one-half of his expenses at Fredrick College of Portsmouth, Virginia.

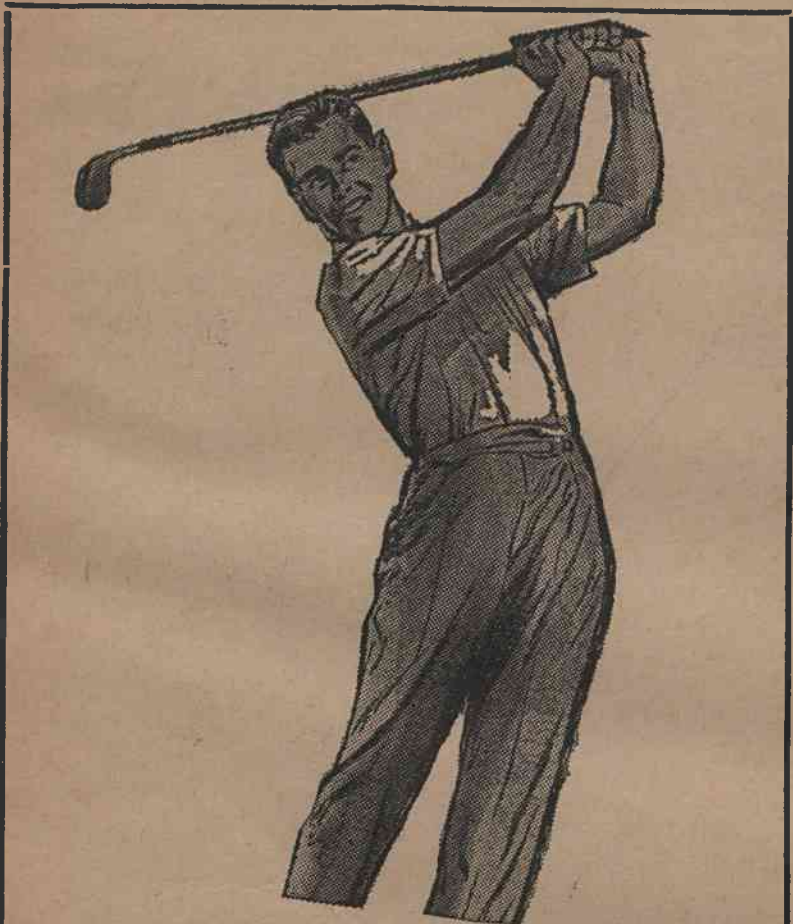
Again from Fredrick, Warren Downing has been honored with a scholarship paying all his expenses. Downing was a rugged tackle on the Senior High football team that went to the semi-finals of the state championship.

Team play was cited by each of the RM coaches as a prime victory factor. This limited the number awards to individuals to a minimum, but that team play reaped much for the teams as a whole.

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