



SCHOOL SPIRIT . . . Let's have some at the game tonight.

# Birds Attack Durham In Homecoming Stand

The Rocky Mount Sr. High School Blackbirds will attempt to continue their string of homecoming victories tonight against the undefeated Durham Bulldogs. The Blackbirds have not lost a homecoming game in eight years.

Coach Bernie Blaney will bring one of the finest teams in the state to Rocky Mount. Rated first in the state in pre-season polls, Durham has proven themselves to be worthy of this honor by romping to an unblemished 9-0 record. The Bulldogs will be seeking revenge against the Blackbirds who last year spoiled their homecoming 6-0.

The Durham team is sparked by two all-state candidates Jimmy Beck and Brad Evans. Beck has been tagged as one of the best tackles in the state. Quarterback Evans is said by many to be the finest in the Conference.

The bulldog's defense is of

bone-crushing size, with the interior line averaging 215 pounds per man. The defense has allowed only three touchdowns this year. One of these was a blocked punt which was recovered in the end zone with the other two coming from scrimmage.

The interior offensive line averages 197 pounds, while the ends and backs average 175 and 165 respectively.

The Durham team runs from a strict loose six defense. (For you girls, this means six linemen, two linebackers, two halfbacks and a safety.)

When assistant coach Bobby Dunn, who scouted the Durham team, was asked to comment about them, he stated, "The people of Durham are comparing quarterback Evans with Rocky Mount's Danny Talbott. Beck and Dozier are Shrine Bowl candidates."

In previous action, the Bird's have lost three games; Fayetteville 28-7, Wilson 7-0, and Myres Park 27-7. The Birds defeated Jacksonville 6-0 and battled a tough Raleigh Broughton team a 7-7 tie. This tie all but eliminated Broughton from the Eastern 4-A race. The season record stands at 2-6-1 with only Durham left on the schedule.

# Hopes High For Winter Success

RMSH's prospects for a successful wrestling team this year are right indeed. With a good core to work from, Coach Walter Wiggins' grapplers should more than account for themselves with any team in the conference.

Coach Wiggins, who took over the reins of wrestling coach from Coach John Stott, will field a team that includes thirteen members from last year's team. There are lettermen returning in eight of the thirteen weight classes. The other five classes will be manned by boys who had plenty of mat experience last year. The returning seniors are: Ricky Dawes, Butch Thompson, Lynn Joyner, Keith Hubbard, Chuck Batts, Cole Rimmer and Billy Collins, RM's only representative in last

year's state tournament. The juniors are: Bobby Crocker, Donald Hundley, Haywood Cogdell, Bill Ezelle, and Skip Lee. Sophomores Nick Wicker and Bobby Pridgen are also outstanding prospects.

Even with so many holdovers, the success of RMSH's wrestling team will depend a great deal on the turn-out of sophomores and boys in the lighter weight classes.

### Basketball

Coach Bill Lundy's basketball squad this year will consist of four returnees and the offsprings of a J.V. team that sported a 10-7 won lost ledger last year.

Even with the definite lack of varsity experience, the outlook is hopeful. Junior Jack Collins and seniors Woody Webb, Warren Broughton, and Danny Williford are the only

holdovers from last year's state tourney team.

With definite rebuilding in sight, Coach Lundy feels that nevertheless, the Blackbirds can make a good showing for themselves with a little seasoning and a great deal of hustling.

## SPORT LIGHTS

By BUTCH THOMPSON

Crutchmakers of America have recently had a boost in business, most of it coming from RMSH. Walking down the halls, one is apt to believe that crutch-walking has become a fad among our students.

One of the main causes of injuries thus far has been the gym classes. Boys often kid girls about the easiness of girl's P.E., but judging from the number of sprained ankles and broken toes, the classes must be regular free-for-alls. Three girls seen hobbling down the halls as a result of rough gym sessions are Jan Corn, with a sprained ankle and a bruised one, Delores Davis, with a bruised ankle, and Brenda Burgess, whose broken toes will be in splints for quite a while. All of this they try to tell us came from playing soccer!

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