

Birds Drop Season Opener

Plagued By Bad Shooting

On December 1, the final roster for the 1965-66 varsity basketball squad appeared on the boys' locker room door. Twelve names were listed and were as follows: seniors, Woody Webb, Bill Robbins, Warren (Shorty) Broughton, Mike Colombo, Robert Edwards, and Don Holt. The juniors were Chuck Ball, Tony Davis and

Tony Bossolono. The sophomores were Bill Griffin, Dickie Berry and Tim Ballou.

These were the boys that Coach Lundy thought would do the best job out of the boys that tried out. During those two weeks that the players went through numerous exercises, Lundy paid particular attention to such things as coolness under

pressure, accuracy in shooting, defense and ability to play as a team.

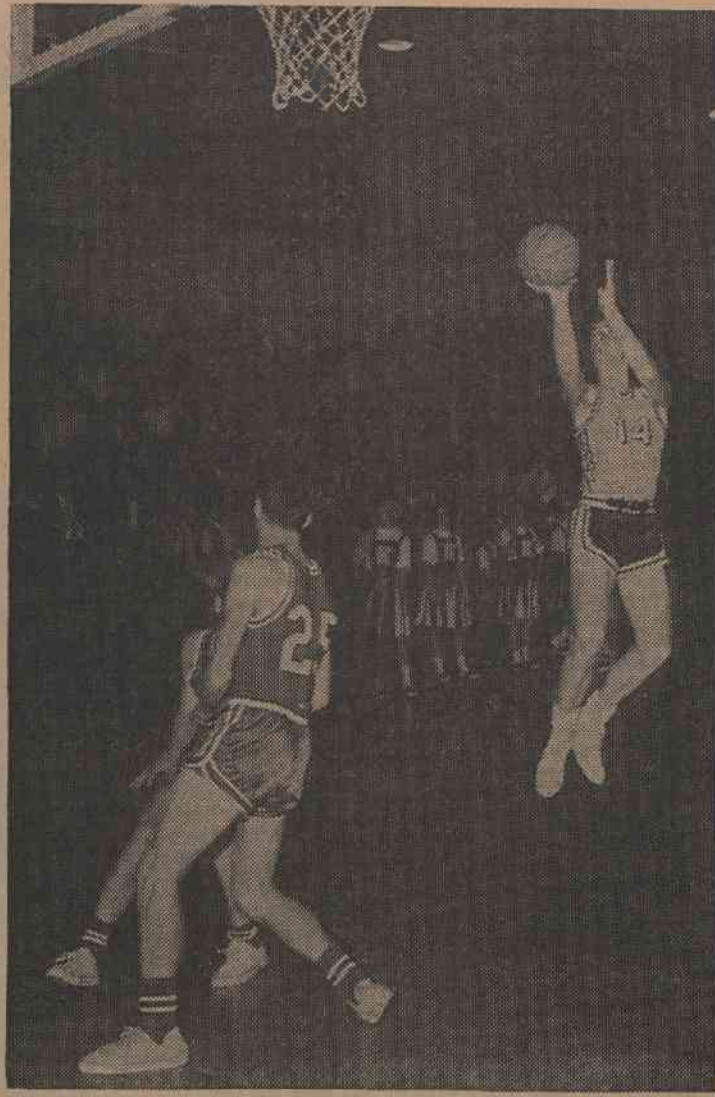
The Blackbirds started off the 1965-66 basketball season against Kinston here on December 7 losing to the Red Devils 54-40. The Birds just couldn't hit the basket either from the floor or from the free throw line as Kinston raced into a 30-9 lead over the Birds with three minutes left in the first half.

Going into the third quarter, Rocky Mount clamped down with some heads-up defense, better shooting and began to control the ball better. The Birds then came within nine points of the Red Devils at 25-34. But going into the fourth quarter, Kinston began to once again pull ahead with great shooting accuracy and a scrappy defense. One of the main set backs was the cold shooting from the free throw line as Rocky Mount hit only 12 out of 36 attempts.

Lundy commented that Kinston's tough pressure defense caused our inexperienced team to make as many mistakes as they did. After that first game, the boys will begin to blend together and play good basketball.

Rocky Mount didn't have any players in the double figures but Warren Broughton had nine, Bill Robbins with six, Mike Colombo, Chuck Ball and Woody Webb each putting in five, Tony Davis and Robert Edwards both scoring four and Dickie Berry for two totaling up the 40 points for Rocky Mount.

Tonight the Blackbirds are traveling to Kinston to once again take on the Red Devils in a non-conference battle. With the experience already gained from Kinston plus the game with Wilson, our Birds should really give a good showing.



R. M. ACTION—Bill Griffin goes up for a jump shot against Kinston here on Dec. 7. Kinston won the game 54-40. (Photo by Killebrew)

JV's Face Kinston After 58-54 Victory

On December 7, the Jayvees won an impressive victory over the Jayvees of Kinston by a score of 58-54.

Before the game Coach Ray Durham was a little concerned over the lack of height on the team as compared to that of Kinston, but as the game progressed, Rocky Mount put out an outstanding effort to command the boards for most of the game. Coach Durham said later that rebounding, along with continuing hustle and strong desire, were the strong points of that game.

He also pointed out that missing 19 free throws, lack of consistent good defense and overall poor shooting were among the weak points. Improvement through the season will make a big difference in future games because the team is becoming more patient in their offense and with nearly all the boys

having fine potential, diligent work along with the desire already shown, our Jayvees will have a winning ball club.

Three boys, who would ordinarily start for the Jayvees, were brought up on the varsity. These are Dickie Berry, Tim Ballou, and Bill Griffin. The Babybirds have only one boy who is over six feet, Mike Viverette, 6'1" center.

The outstanding offensive players were Steve Battle with 19 points and Steve Broughton hitting 15. Leading the defensive efforts were Rob Pitt and Mike Viverette, who pulled down 14 rebounds.

Tonight the Babybirds will travel to Kinston to play them again, but Coach Durham believes that Kinston will be more than ready to play us on their home court. However, Kinston is not the most "feared" team that we will play.

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