

# SPORT LIGHTS

By MACK PRIDGEN

Many colleges and universities are adopting or, at least, moving toward the adoption of policies which will de-emphasize athletics on the college campus.

This de-emphasizing to them means the removal of the barriers athletics offer toward scholarship and learning. Many boys, according to them, are spending more time on the athletic field than in the classroom or in the dorms studying. But this is not the major reason for this new fad—the real reason lies more in scholarships than anywhere else. Top high school athletics have their choice of any number of schools that they can attend on full athletic scholarships. Many of these boys lack the grades and or college board scores to make the top-ranked academic schools but they somehow do it anyway.

Even so, the defenders of college athletics and the adversaries of de-emphasis have many solid arguments in their favor. They say that athletics are responsible for the rounded education of students and that they provide major character building experiences. Boys learn to co-operate with their coaches and teammates, to follow the playmaker or quarterback, to act unselfishly, to learn to meet crises and act coolly under pressure, and even to overcome the temptations of life.

One major college, noted for its outstanding academic records and basketball teams, which is considering a slow de-emphasis of athletics is Duke University. The heads of the school believe, for some reason not exactly clear, that the school has become too athletic minded and they evidently feel that this is harmful.

No doubt, any immediate de-emphasis would result in thousands of irate Duke alumni and Duke supporters. It would also take Duke out of the spotlight of a very important national sport and the school would lose valuable publicity — publicity which would draw well-rounded

students which might not even know Duke existed under other circumstances.

Sports and athletics provide an irreplaceable and all important facet to college life. Without them, many schools would fall into a humdrum regularity which would do more to retard education than poor athletic policies could ever do. Let's just hope that our colleges realize the importance of athletics and scholarship in their relation to one another.



—PHOTO BY KILLEBREW  
DICKIE BERRY (20) fights for the rebound against Broughton player in the Raleigh-Rocky Mount game.

## 5-5 At Midseason

# Babybirds Win Some, Lose Some

After starting the basketball season in a blaze of glory and victory, the RMSH junior varsity basketball team has since felt the sting of defeat too often.

The Babybirds of coach Ray Durham started the season with easy wins over Northern Durham and Wilson, displaying hot shooting, alert defense, and a minimum of errors. But fortunes have changed!

December 19 the JVs met Raleigh Enloe, suffering their first loss, 57-36. Buddy Edgerton's nine points and Tommy Delbridge's and Greg Copley's rebounding were bright spots in the loss. The winning ways continued when the Birds defeated the Fayetteville JVs here 50-44, two days later. Powell Jenkins with eleven points, and the rebounding of Copley and Delbridge were major factors in the victory.

January 4 was the first game of the new year, but the Babybirds got off to a bad start, losing to Durham, 55-34. Suffering a terrible first half and plagued by mistakes due to Durham's press, the Birds just weren't enough for the hot-shooting Bulldogs.

January 6 Goldsboro felt Babybird revenge as the Birds won their fifth game of the season, 37-33. Page Lea with eleven points and Ken Thompson with eight rebounds were the leaders for the JV team, which hit on forty-seven per cent of its shots from the floor.

Following this game the JVs

Babybird Statistics			
Player	FG	FT	Rebounds
Thompson	17	21	27
Delbridge	32	11	52
Jenkins	24	15	25
Johnson	3	3	24
Alford	5	4	11
Copley	15	3	36
Watson	1	0	9
Firth	0	1	2
Edgerton	28	27	35
Lea	28	27	15
Woodard	1	1	2
Brown	1	0	1
Joyce	5	1	5

felt the pang of defeat three games in a row, losing to Wilmington 42-40, Raleigh Broughton 50-41, and to Jacksonville 45-30.

The Wilmington game was a thriller, the Birds losing in the last few seconds. Tommy Delbridge's twenty points, Ken Thompson's ten points and the rebounding strength of Delbridge was not enough to offset Wilmington's fast break.

Poor shooting was the downfall as the Birds lost to Broughton. High scorer for the luckless JVs was Powell Jenkins with eleven points.

January 18, despite the shooting and rebounding of Buddy Edgerton and Ben Alford, the Babybirds lost to Jacksonville. The Birds were never in the game as Jacksonville led from the start, and the Babybirds hit another shooting slump.

## Powderpuff Game Features Battle Between The Girls

February 3 the students of RMSH will be afforded the opportunity of watching one of the wildest, funniest, rip-roaring sports events to ever appear in the Rocky Mount area. The Student Organization will sponsor a powderpuff football game that day. For those who do not comprehend the term "powderpuff", it simply means a football contest between two teams consisting entirely of . . . FEMALES!!!

The game is to be held in the RMSH gym during activity period on that Wednesday. There will be a slight admission of fifteen to twenty cents charged each student who attends. Attendance at the game is not mandatory. Those wishing to do so may stay in an assigned study hall for the duration of activity period. Proceeds from the game will go to the Student Organization.

This year's game features the senior all-stars from the gym classes against a team combined of both junior and sophomore "grid stars". Coach Dudley Whitley, RMSH's own head

varsity football coach will practice with and coach the senior girls. The "underclasswomen" will be coached by Coach Dale Thompkins, head junior varsity football coach. The game is expected to consist of some hard-hitting, swift-moving football play as well as some humorous action.

Although the teams and starters have not yet been named, try-outs have been held and practice is currently underway.



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