

Penalties, Poor Passing Plague Junior Varsity Squad Season

After four games, the RMSH junior varsity football squad has compiled an 0 and 4 record. With the exception of the Wilmington game, the coaches have been extremely pleased with the effort that the squad has shown.

"In the first two games, the boys did a fine job; however, against Wilmington the boys just weren't ready to play ball," commented Coach Jerry Carter in reference to the first three games.

"Against Enloe the team as a whole played poorly. The boys didn't give very good effort. I was very disappointed, but I hope the team will come around in the next four games," Coach Carter commented.

Penalty Prevents Win

The jayvee squad was denied a tie with the Broughton junior varsity by a five-yard illegal procedure penalty on September 7. Unable to launch a consistent offensive in the first half, the Babybirds continuously fought back Broughton threats.

Raleigh's first score came in the first half after a 54 yard drive.

After receiving the kickoff in the second half, Broughton marched 60 yards to score and take a 13-0 lead over the RMSH jayvee squad. A sagging Rocky Mount team was revived by a pass interception by Butch Barbee. On the first offensive play after the theft, Barbee connected with end Charlie Rose for a 35 yard TD. The conversion attempt failed.

Late in the final period, the Babybirds took over possession of the ball on the Raleigh 48 in hopes for another score. Monden then broke loose on a 35 yard sprint. The ball was moved to the two yard line by Medlin and carried in to paydirt on the next play; however, the touchdown was nullified by an illegal

procedure penalty. Rocky Mount's drive was stalled and Barbee's fourth down pass attempt was batted down. The scoreboard remained at 13-6.

Fumbles Down Birds

The Babybirds dominated the opening half against Goldsboro on September 14, but dropped a close 10-6 in the final periods.

All during the first half, the jayvees stayed in Goldsboro territory. The offensive unit picked up 175 yards of total offensive rushing and passing with the defense holding a tight line. The Birds were leading 6-2 at halftime.

The aerial attempts of quarterback Butch Barbee and the rushing of halfbacks Glenn Medlin and Josh Mundon sparked three opening half threats, but the jayvee squad were held to only one touchdown. Mundon was able to cross the goal following a successful 28 yard drive.

The Goldsboro safety was made when Mundon was caught in the Rocky Mount end zone.

Late in the third period, Goldsboro added another safety with Roland Valentine being tackled in the end zone.

Mistakes which had plagued the Babybirds throughout the game increased in the final period. A fumble in the last quarter on the Rocky Mount 13, with Goldsboro recovering. On the first down Eddie Lane drove the 13 yards to capture their first TD.

Wildcats Win

On September 21, the jayvees fell to the Wilmington Wildcats by a score of 35-6.

Rocky Mount scored their only touchdown in the first period when the Babybirds drove 60 yards with the score coming on a 40 yard pass from Barbee to end Charlie Rose. Glenn Medlin was taken out of the game in the first quarter with an ankle injury.

Wilmington scored twice on the ground, twice in the air, and once on a blocked punt.

Folds To Enloe

On Thursday, September 28, the jayvees fell to Raleigh Enloe by a score of 12-7. Coach Carter expressed disappointment in the performance of the Babybirds.

In the game played under intermittent rain, the jayvees started off strongly. After receiving the opening kickoff, the Babybirds promptly marched for long yardage for the TD.

Quarterback Butch Barbee connected with Charlie Rose on a 17 yard pass for the score. The conversion was successful.

After kicking off to Enloe, the Babybirds recovered a fumble on Enloe's offensive play of the game. They were forced to punt after the fourth down after they were unable to move.

After stopping an Enloe threat on the Rocky Mount 20, the Babybirds promptly lost the ball to Enloe on a fumble. Moving from the Rocky Mount 11 yard line, Enloe scored on a fourth down sweep right with Bridgers carrying the ball over. The conversion failed.

After the kickoff, a Barbee pass was picked off by Enloe in the air, Enloe was soon on the Rocky Mount 3. From there, Smith carried the ball in for another TD.

When the Babybirds received the kickoff, Barbee began throwing the ball more. After two incomplete tosses, Barbee hit Mundon, but his next pass was intercepted.

Enloe drove to the RM seven and scored, but had the TD called back on a holding penalty.

In The Grandstand

By LEIGH WHEELER

True to the old adage about "every tree having at least one bad year in every four," the Blackbirds have bounced back to the team that Rocky Mount remembers. The students have answered this comeback with overwhelming participation in both the home games and the games away.

The players, when asked about the chances for another victory, replied almost the same each time: the spirit is high and with continued support, it will be hard to destroy.

Looking at the up and coming opponents for the team, the toughest challenger will be Raleigh Broughton with a record of no losses. After the boost of spirits after the Enloe game, the Blackbirds will go into the game against Broughton with a winning attitude. Regardless of the final score, the gridders will know that they have put forth their best effort.

Coach Jim Tapp who has the respect of every boy on his squad, has been training the Birds to work under all condi-

tions without regard to score. He is especially proud of his defensive team that "has withstood the beatings of several tough opponents."

It is felt that the defense is better this year since the boys had a bit harder time getting and staying on the squad under the new coach. Each afternoon they undergo a session of drills and scrimaging.

The Blackbirds have been extremely lucky this season, having a minimum of injuries and sickness among the players. Bill Griffin has been sidelined for the past several games but he should soon be able to see some action. Danny Allen who suffered injuries in the Goldsboro clash bounced back to play against Wilmington with renewed strength.

Although the Birds may have a slim chance of getting into the finals, with continuing support by the people of Rocky Mount and the students of RMSH, they will stay in the game fighting to the very end, win, lose, or draw.



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