

Birds Take First Victory, Revenge Booker T. Lions

The RMSH varsity cage squad reaked revenge on the Booker T. Washington High School Lions in the Booker T. gym December 8, 61-41, for the defeat handed to them the Friday before.

The Blackbirds took their first victory of the season after two losses to Booker T. and Northern Nash High Schools.

The Rocky Mount five outshined the host squad in almost every aspect of the game.

The opening stanza showed the Birds trailing 18-12, but the RMSH varsity took advantage of the Booker T. mistakes in fouling and ball handling to take the lead and keep it the rest of the game.

Junior center Victor Knight who starred in the first game against Booker T., made a brilliant scoring performance. Knight popped in bucket after bucket for 21 points and pulled down 10 rebounds.

Senior forward Stephen Battle took advantage of many chances at the charity line to add 10 points with free throws and he made good two field goals for a total of 14 points.

Other scorers of the night were Ken Thompson and Denny Allen, each making eight points, Ben Alford with six points, and Dickie Berry and Phil Johnson, each with two points.

Allen captured the most rebounds for the Birds with 12

captures while Knight pulled in ten.

In the second stanza just as the Rocky Mount varsity became sparked, the Lions could do nothing right. The Blackbirds led 26-22 at intermission. Much of the scoring came from the charity strip as Booker T. committed 32 fouls compared to 13 for the Birds.

The third period showed Rocky Mount pushing their cushion higher. The RMSH varsity scored 22 points in the third stanza while the Lions added a scant seven.

The final quarter still found Rocky Mount with a substantial lead brought on by a three-point scoring of Knight, Battle and Allen.



SOPHOMORE DENNY ALLEN (32) fakes out a Knight cager and takes a shot in the game against Northern Nash here. (Sports Photos by Killebrew)

Blackbirds Suffer Second Loss Here To Northern Nash

The Blackbirds took their second loss of the season on December 5, at the hands of the Northern Nash Knights, 55-40.

A full house was on hand to witness the Birds launch ahead in the first period 9-6, and the margin widened to as much as 12-4 in the second stanza. A full-court press helped to slow the Knights in the opening half with the score standing at a 15-point deadlock, but the visitors moved past the Birds in the final half ending with a 15-point margin.

Allen Gets 13

The Birds seemed to do a repeat-performance of their previous game with poor shooting, but sophomore Denny Allen was brought from the bench to do an outstanding job to head the Blackbird scoring with 13 points.

Senior Ben Alford and junior Phil Johnson each added six points and senior Mike Brown, senior Stephen Battle and junior Ken Thompson each added four points. Victor Knight put up three points to finish the Birds' score for the evening.

Second Half

The final half saw the Birds trying to regain their previous lead, but the Knights began sinking bucket after bucket to push ahead. Northern Nash started a scoring streak which ran 11 points before Allen hit two charity shots. The sophomore took two more foul shots before the Birds sparkled and narrowed the scoring margin.

The Knights cushion was shortened to as few as six points but they were revived to top the Birds by a 15-point margin.

Power Poof Poses Problem

With four seconds left in the junior varsity game with Northern Nash, and with a crowd gathering outside for the varsity game, the lights suddenly decided to go out.

Now this wouldn't have been so bad if I hadn't been outside in the cold, and if I weren't so short. When the lights first went off, I didn't worry. I felt sure that they would be on in just a minute, but they didn't come on. The longer the lights stayed off, the closer the crowd

pushed to the door. Boy, did I get mashed!

I don't know why everyone was pushing so much. They couldn't get in. The police wouldn't let them in. They also made the people inside remain seated and stay quiet, so they wouldn't fall and hurt themselves.

No one knew what had gone wrong. Coach Lundy later stated that the blackout was caused by the circuits overheating, which tripped the main switch

and cut everything off.

After about thirty minutes of my being shoved, stepped on, elbowed and crowded, the lights flickered on — then off — then on — then off again. Finally, they came on and this time they stayed on.

This was the sign for a general rush to the ticket window. Some people have no consideration for people who are smaller than they are. I started out near the front of the line; but when he lights came on, I found that I had been pushed far back in the line. This made me mad, so I started slowly elbowing my way forward. Then this real nice man said, "You people are mashing this little girl up here. Why don't you let her through so she can get er ticket?"

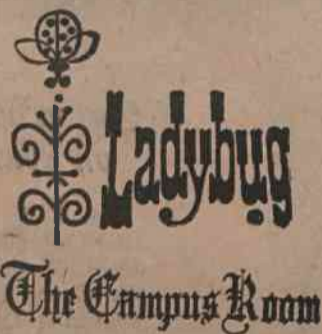
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