

## In The Grandstand

By SKIPPER GREATHOUSE

The RMSH basketball team was a perfect study in determination. Their record might not have been the best, but they never quit reaching for the win column. They came on strong in the latter part of the season, and turned in some of the most exciting basketball that the people of the Rocky Mount area have seen in a long time.

To realize the determination that drove the Blackbirds all year, one needs only look at a cumulative record of their scores. Out of a schedule of twenty-one games, the Birds played in ten games which were decided by less than six points. In many other games, the 'Birds were in the games for one half or three quarters, and only fell in the late stages to teams with large edges in size and speed over the Blackbirds. The Blackbirds in most games gave up several inches to their opponents in every position, and yet they always ave their opponents some tight moments.

In the early part of the season, the Blackbirds had sev-

eral bad weeks when they were hurt badly by sickness and injuries in the squad. Most of their bad defeats came during this time. It might also be noted that during the early season going, the Blackbirds were playing without a home court. However, when the 'Birds got over their illnesses and injuries, and found a home court at the Wesleyan Gym, they immediately responded and began playing the close exciting, hustling ball that they wound up the season on.

The windup of the season was indeed in keeping with the trends of the just finished season. For the Blackbirds went down to a defeat in the last second of their final league game and then on the following night fell in the last seconds.

If the varsity had a poor record, the JV's were the opposite. They showed all year a great amount of poise, ability, and hustle. They posted the best JV record in years and boosted hopes for the Blackbird teams of the future.

## RMSH Star Performer Signs Pro Contract With Steelers

Jimmy Clack, a former RMSH football and basketball star, recently announced that he had signed a pro football contract with the Pittsburgh Steelers of the National Football League.

Clack wound up his college football career at Wake Forest University this fall and signed as a free agent with the Steelers after negotiating with the Dallas Cowboys of the NFL and the Buffalo Bills of the American Football League. Clack was signed by Fran Fogarty of the Steelers and received a two year contract and bonus. In the near future, he will travel to Pittsburgh and will report to training camp in mid-July.

Clack, a 6-4, 210 lineman, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Clack of Rocky Mount, and is married to the former Becky Edwards of Rocky Mount.

### Happy

"I am very happy with the terms," Clack stated, "especially after not being drafted. I was very disappointed when I was not drafted but, if I had been picked after the eighth or ninth round, I am glad I was not picked. At least, I could negotiate as a free agent."

Clack, after being a member of the Wake Forest Demon Deacons freshman football team, saw heavy action as asophomore for the varsity squad. In his sophomore season, Clack played linebacker and offensive center. In his junior year, he played linebacker and defensive end. This season, Clack played strictly at offensive tackle, and for his strong play will receive the Bill George Award for being Wake Forest's top offensive blocker for the season.



PRO GRIDDER—RMSH graduate and former athletic star Jimmy Clack recently signed a pro football contract with the Pittsburgh Steelers of the National Football League. (Photo by Killebrew.)

The Steeler's new coach Chuck Noe has indicated Clack that he will be used as an offensive center. Clack felt that he would have no trouble adjusting to offensive center and that at that position, he will not have to weigh

250 or 260 pounds.

"I played center in the Sudan All-Star game," stated Clack, and that is where I fell at home. I am on a weight program and believe that I can get up to the 240 pounds which Coach Noe suggested."

## Faculty Trips Students In FCA Basketball Tilt

The date: Saturday, March 8. The place: George R. Edwards Junior High School Gym. The event: The Fellowship of Christian Athlete of RMSH Student-Faculty Basketball Game. Indeed, this was the game of the season! It was to combine many of the coaches of RMSH, Edwards Jr. High, High, and R M Wilson Jr. High in a melee against the talents of the RMSH Chapter of the FCA. The outcome, a sterling upset, 64-56, by the faculty.

The faculty team was composed of the cream of the crop, as coaches go, from the three aforementioned schools. Some of the talented men racing up and down the floor were Coach Tapp (RMSH), Coach Bobbit (R M Wilson), Coaches Clinton, Myers, and Edge (Edwards).

This stellar faculty squad was cheered on to victory by the combined cheerleading squads of RMWilson and Ed-

wards.

On the slate for the student squad were Bob Brantley and Mutt Wilson (Coaches), Ross Horner, Ed Griffin, Jay Bobbit, Edgar Brown, Page Lea, Ken Thompson, Powell Jenkins, Harry Threatt, Colin Murchinson, and Frank Layton. This star filled student squad went out with the rooting of the varsity cheerleaders and expected an easy win. However, the faculty soon changed that.

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