



**LONG STRETCH**—Mike Ruffin (21) makes the long stretch at first base in action against Wilson Fike. (Photo by Killebrew)

## In The Grandstand

By SKIPPER GREATHOUSE

Let us all offer a loud, long salute to the RMSH Blackbird baseball squad. They have played the type of baseball that should make everyone in this fine high school stand up the season, the 'Birds have and take notice. Throughout come up with clutch comeback victories, and now, as the season nears its end, they have a rather firm hold on the second place spot of the Eastern 4-A Conference.

Going into their last week of regular season play, the 'Birds had two games on their slate, one with non-conference Southern Nash, and one with conference foe, Durham. A win over Durham will secure a second place tie for the Blackbirds with Enloe, but if Enloe should drop either of its two conference games, the 'Birds will have undisputed control of the second slot as well as a berth in the State Championship Tournament.

Throughout the entire season, the Blackbirds have battled uncertainty in their own starting line-up, especially on the mound. Starting pitchers have seemed to get hurt, unfortunately, a few days before they are supposed to pitch, but their replacements have always come through with excellent jobs. This is the type of spirit that has prevailed within the Blackbirds for the entire season. They have want-

ed to win, and have played to win, no matter how many hardships they have faced. It is spirit like this that has carried the Blackbirds through championship tournaments in the past, and with a continuation of this spirit, will carry the 'Birds through this year's tournament also.

### Athletes Feted At Good Sports Annual Eat-In

The Good Sports Club sponsored its annual picnic on May 15 at 6:00 for all athletic groups.

Invited guests for the Thursday evening event were all coaches, wives and families, cheerleaders and their advisor, and all football, baseball, basketball, tennis, track and golf team members, managers and trainers.

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## Golfers Finish Strong In Loop But Falter In State Tourney

After a third place finish in the Eastern 4-A Conference, RMSH's golf team under coach Jim Tapp ended up in a distant twenty-second place in the state high school golf tournament played at Chapel Hill May 12-13.

Hunter Huss High School from Gastonia captured the state crown posting a score of 598 for the two-day tournament. Raleigh Broughton followed close behind with a team score of 600. RMSH's team score was 648.

Bill Fulkerson turned in the low Blackbird score of 80-79-159.

Tom Alexander, the low medalist for the conference did not qualify for the state tourney May 5 in Durham at the Duke University golf course.

In previous matches the Blackbird golfers placed third in a conference meet April 17 in Fayetteville at Irongate Golf Club. The RMSH linksters totaled 302 strokes while host Fayetteville Sanford took top honors with a total effort of 293. Conference Raleigh Broughton was second at 295. Tommy Alexander tied for second with three other players with cards of 71.

Alexander and Chris Griffin each fired three-over-par 75's to pace Rocky Mount to a second place finish in a golf meet held in Durham. The Blackbird linksters were three strokes off the winning pace set by Raleigh Broughton with a 307.

Following Alexander and

Griffin were Mike Berry 78, John Shelton 79, Bill Fulkerson 83 and David Weeks 88.

Rocky Mount also improved its team showing to fourth with 1,588 strokes. The leaders up to this point were Broughton, Fayetteville and Wilmington Hanover.

In their last meet RMSH needed just one stroke to capture the final weekly Eastern

4-A Conference event here at Benevenue Country Club May 1. The Blackbirds and regular season champion Broughton carded team totals of 299 each.

Alexander and Griffin both shot one-under-par 71's and the strong finish the last two weeks of the season enabled RMSH to advance from fifth to third place in the conference. Broughton was first in

## RMSH Thinclads Finish Discouraging Season Play

The RMSH track team gave its best performance of the year when it traveled for its last meet to Wilmington Hoggard. There against Wilmington New Hanover, Jacksonville and Hoggard, RMSH scored 32 points and grabbed third place behind New Hanover and Jacksonville and ahead of Hoggard. Leading the performance for RMSH were Phil Johnson, high jump; Billy Joyner, low and high hurdles; and the mile relay team of Robert Evans, Keith Harris, Robert Petway, and Richard Hewlitt.

This group of tracksters represented RMSH in the District meet at Raleigh Brough-

ton. Fayetteville Sanford, with 47 points dethroned Broughton as champs with Raleigh Enloe second, Broughton third, RMSH fourth with 8 points, and Wilson fifth. Phil Johnson, the defending district high jump champion, could manage only a second place in that event and was beaten by Alvin Banks of Enloe. Johnson's best jump was six feet. Billy Joyner, a senior hurdler, finished first in his heat, but could get no better than fifth in overall competition. Completing RMSH's points output was a fifth place finish by the mile relay team. Thus ended a rather unsuccessful track season for the RMSH thinclads.

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