

Don't Worry! Santa Is On His Way

Gryphon Cagers Win 2, Lose 2

The 1970-71 basketball season opened in a positive direction as the Gryphon Cagers romped over Southern Nash by a score of 93-75.

This eighteen-point margin does not indicate that the Firebirds of Southern Nash were out of the game entirely. The first quarter proved that Southern was a greatly improved team. Their defensive play, along with poor shooting by the RMSH cagers, left the Firebirds with a 23-19 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter saw the Gryphons rejuvenate their talents as they moved to a 29-23 lead, outshooting Southern by 10 pts. to none. This comeback was sparked by the hustle of Sherlock Bynum, who was torrid on the boards. As a reserve, Bynum finished the game third in rebounds with eight. The shooting of Lewis Hardy who had 21 pts. and 13 rebounds, and Mike Long with 24 pts. and 12 rebounds, pushed the lead to as much as 19 points.

The fourth quarter seemed to be a time of old memories for the Firebirds as "their stuff was too ragged." High scorer for the Firebirds was Milton Mack with 21 pts. The final score was, Gryphons 93, Southern 75.

Defeated By Northern

The Gryphons second game of the year turned into a disaster. Their shooting was way off, and their mistakes were many. The ball-handling by the RMSH guards was ragged. However, one cannot overlook the fact that Northern Nash has a splendid team. The play of Northern's Robert Joyner and Sam Taybron was most instrumental. Joyner was the hottest shot from outside with 19 pts., but what's more important is that the Knights capitalized on the easy shots, where the Gryphons could not find the range.

The Gryphs were down most

of the game, but a comeback effort was triggered by sophomore Cleveland Howard, who had 13 rebounds and 11 pts. Bynum with 12 rebounds and 14 pts., and Hardy with 9 rebounds and 14 pts., were the high scorers.

Clobbered Southern

In a second meeting with Southern Nash, the Gryphons reigned supreme. They jumped out into a 6-0 lead in the first quarter, but Southern overtook the lead at an 11-7 margin. Sophomore Dan Speight came in to tie the game on two quick baskets. Speight, who was good for 19 points sparked the Gryphs to a 19 point lead in the first half. Speight was magnificent on the boards and finished with 12 rebounds.

Mike Long was "hot" from outside as he swished 22 points. Roscoe Batts provided the outside thrust that had been lacking from the guards as his "stuff" came through for 17 points. Most of Southern's scoring and rebounding was carried on the shoulders of Milton Mack with 27 pts. and 10 rebounds, and Marcellus Thompson with 21 pts. and 15 rebounds. Final score was 93-64.

Dropped by Northern
Northern Nash has now won three out of four games against

the Gryphon cagers. The Knights displayed a show of smart team-work as three of their players scored better than 20 points. Sam Taybron led the way with 26 points. Northern moved to an 11 point lead in the first quarter behind the play of Dan Ennis and Robert Joyner who had 23 and 22 points respectively. The Gryphs fought back to within 3 points on five quick points by reserve guard Ricky Bulluck.

The Knights jumped to a quick ten point lead in the second half as they upped the score to 56-46. They led by as much as 18 points as they capitalized on various Rocky Mount mistakes.

The fourth quarter proved to be the most exciting of the season. The Gryphs staged a determined comeback effort as they came to within four points of the Knights. Hardy, who was high scorer for the Gryphs with 25 points, led the attack as his hook shots started finding the range. Howard assisted with four of his 25 foot jumpers. Bulluck, Batts, and Speight displayed their best defensive efforts of the season.

Despite this great comeback effort, Northern moved ahead to a 10 point lead before the game ended. Northern-89, Gryph-79.



All these young men were named outstanding players in their division and conference. They are from left to right; Deacon Jones, James Hargrove, Roscoe Batts, Pete Thompson and Mike Ruffin. Back row: Howard McCullough, Craig Williams, Darnell Kimball and Chuck Laughtrige.

RM Players All Division; Jones 'Lineman Of Year'

As the football atmosphere descends from Rocky Mount, it is not surprising to find out that six Rocky Mount gridders were voted to the "All Division II" team and that four were victims of "Honorable Mention." But what's even greater, is the fact that Rocky Mount received the honor of having the Eastern 4A's "Defensive Lineman of the year." The recipient of this coveted award was none other than the vicious George (the Deacon) Jones. Jones led the Gryphons with tackles and with assists. Along

with his great strength, Deacon is also faster than most backs. He did, indeed, deserve this great honor.

The "All Division II" team that represented Rocky Mount was composed of Chuck Laughtrige - center, Mike Ruffin, the second leading receiver on the team at end, Pete Thompson, the Gryphs' leading receiver at one back, James Hargrove, the leading rusher and top college prospect at another back, Darnell Kimble, a tough defensive lineman at one tackle, and (the Deacon) at the other tackle.

"Honorable Mention" honors went to Craig Williams, a very good blocker on the Gryphon team, Doug Braswell, the Gryphs' co-captain and finest blocker was honored at tackle, Howard McCullough, the team's kicking specialist, was honored as a kicker as he booted eighteen consecutive conversions in the close of the season, and lastly Roscoe Batts, "the leader of the Pack" was honored at quarterback. Congratulations are in order for such a fine group of young athletes.

Gryphons Avgs.

Player	G	Pts.	Avg.	R
Hardy	4	66	16.5	53
Long	4	61	15.2	41
Speight	3	33	11	22
Bynum	4	38	9.5	24
Howard	4	37	9.2	24
Batts	4	33	8.2	14
Thompson	3	16	5.3	2
Bulluck	4	18	4.5	4
Sparrow	2	4	2	3
Raynor	3	5	1.7	5
Marshall	4	6	1.5	7
Dozier	2	2	1	2

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