



Jerry Parker in action earlier in the season.

## Cagers End Losing Streak

The New Bern game was one of the most controversial and certainly the most exciting Gryphon basketball game in quiet some time. In overtime, the New Bern Bears defeated the Gryphons 76-75. One must give the Bears a lot of credit for the win. Whether Rocky Mount lost its poise or New Bern began to play good ball is something one can contemplate.

The fourth quarter of the New Bern game was one of the poorest played by the Gryphons all year. The Gryphons had the chance to pull out the win with no time remaining on the clock and Dan Speight at the line with a crucial one-and-one opportunity, but his attempt fell short.

In overtime, New Bern had the lead and the ball, by a stroke of luck Rocky Mount stole the ball. Cleveland Howard hit the shot a millisecond after time had expired.

### Fall To Kinston

The Kinston Vikings roared into Rocky Mount and came out with a comparative easy victory. The stage was set, lead by the league leading scorer Doug Potter. Kinston showed its superiority early in the contest. The Vikes lead by eight in the first, and 14 points at the end of the third quarter. The score was a disappointing 67 to 51.

The rematch between Raleigh Broughton and the Gryphons proved to be an interesting meeting. The Caps avenged the earlier setback but it wasn't easy (84 to 75). Broughton had several men 6'4" and weighing over 200 pounds. With

this tremendous rebounding power, the Caps inside game was devastating. Dan Speight, (who seems to play his best ball against the best opponents) had 22 points (10-11 from the field). Roscoe Batts had his best scoring game of the year with 19 points.

## Grappler Coaches; A Gate Attraction

The classification of the variety sport of wrestling is "minor". "Minor" because of its lower attendance as compared to football, baseball, and basketball. But this status may change, largely due to the efforts of two individuals who encourage these athletes, and in doing so, draw larger crowds. Of course, there is the main gate attraction - the flashy wrestling of flyweight Freddy Williams, the nose-bleeding of big, burly David Jones, and the first period pins of tenacious, terrifying "Tank" Leonard. They are all very exciting.

We really have two electrifying individuals here at RMHS who are none other than Coaches Phil Harris and Stan Bastian, who are truly men of extreme emotion. Fifty cents is a small price to pay to see them in action - sliding into

REVENGE! Yes, this was the theme presented Tuesday night, February 31, as the Gryphon Grappler's cast of thirteen completely outperformed the Northern Nash Knights in a home bout. Starring roles presented by Freddy Williams, Ray Brinn, Cleveland Harris, and Mike Stills made the faces of mentors Phil Harris and Stan Bastian light up almost as brightly as the 36-29 score which shone from the scoreboard. The Rocky Mount matmen had been handed their worst defeat of the season by the Knights only two weeks previously.

### Lightweights Build Lead

In the 100 lb. weight class, "Big Fred" Williams pinned Kenny Williams of Northern Nash.



the edge of the mat, jumping in jubilation over a pin, or holding their heads in defeat. Why, they have more moves than a worm on a hook! The spinning, twirling, twisting motions set the team and the fans on fire.

Where these moves were developed, we don't know. It's not the kind of thing a coach would acquire at a coaching clinic, and these moves aren't reminiscent of "The Pearl" or of anything else on the basketball court. No other coach has copied these moves, so evidently Coach Harris is the originator, and maybe Coach Bastian just took them up from his superior (this is just a theory).

At any rate, they're really something to see. And for a small fee, it's worth it. So come on out and support the team and watch these two dedicated coaches in action.

to put Rocky Mount out in front, 6-0. 107 pound Jerry Battle was pinned to tie the score, but the official deducted one point from the score due to the behavior of the Northern bench. Gryphon Russell Harper proceeded in the 114 division to outman John Bengal, 8-1. Harvey Beddingfield fell to Ray Brinn in the 121 weight class, as he was pinned in the final period. Dwight Jordan decided Kenneth Mullins, who had just regained entrance into the starting lineup, and Mike Stills came through with a pin over Ronald Branch in the 134 lb. division.

### Harris Pins Davis

Cleveland Harris completely outfought and outthrust Ray Davis for a pin in the 140 pound class, and Pete Tapia, wrestling a much heavier Alvin Sessoms, was pinned in the 147 pound match. Randy Price of Northern decided Gary Kirkman, and in the 169 bout, "Tick" Vick was pinned by Frank Cooper. MacDonald Vick pinned Rocky Mount's Johnny Carr in the 187 pound grouping.

A bloodbath occurred when David Jones and Leon Manning collided with Manning winning by decision. Tank Leonard won by forfeit to insure Rocky Mount their fourth victory of the year.

The Gryphon Grapplers chalked up their third win,

Thursday, January 27, with a conference victory over Kinston, 37-21. The Rocky Mount matmen were also helped out by the flu epidemic which had depleted the ranks of the Kinston squad.

In the 100 pound class, Jerry Battle collected six points by forfeit. Freddy Williams, who moved up to 107 for this match, was decided by Greg Manly. Russell Harper worked Doug Schultz over for a four-point decision, and Ray Brinn fell to his first defeat as he was upended by Jeff Taylor by decision. Probably the high point of the match was the 134 contest, which pitted Cleveland Harris against Mike Stephenson. Harris took charge right from the start, and before he could work up a sweat, Stephenson was pinned in just 31 seconds.

### Heavyweight Action

Mike Stills, who moved up to the 140 pound class, devastated Jim Rapier for three points. Pete Tapia was pinned in the 147 pound division, and Brooks Bolyston decided Gary Kirkman. Quick-moving Oliver "Tick" Vick decided Gary Green, and Johnny Carr was pinned by Ray Rause. In the 197 lb. division, David Jones pinned Charley Coward, and "Tank Leonard" continued his unbeaten string of 10 wins with a victory by forfeit.

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