



## Gryphs Crush Rose High In Tournament's Opener

The Rocky Mount Gryphon basketball team has shown great promise in the later half of the basketball season. The Gryphons are led by the sophomore sensation Phil Ford and two stalwarts of the court Cleveland Howard and Dan Speight. Also of late, the clutch scoring of Roscoe Batts.

On the night of February 4, the Gryphon gymnasium was filled nearly to capacity. The fans were not too disappointed. In one of the most prolific scoring games in North Carolina the Durham Hillside Hornets defeated Rocky Mount 106-101. John Lucas led the Hornet assault with 45 points. The Gryphs were led by Howard's

31 points, Speight's 19 pts. and Batts' 16 pts.

### Scoring Record Set

On the following Tuesday the Gryphons set a school scoring record by an unbelievable 117-92. The second quarter scoring burst by Rocky Mount broke the game open. Leading the scoring assault was Ford's 35 points and Batts and Howard's 23 points and 21 points respectively.

In the next game, not only did the Kinston Vikings ruin Rocky Mount's revenge chances but clinched the regular season championship. The Vikes broke a close game with five minutes left in the fourth quarter. Phil Ford again led the Gryphons with 28 points.

### Gryphs Fall to Durham

The Durham Bulldogs defeated Rocky Mount 78-70 on February 16. The Bulldogs broke up the game late in the final quarter. Cleveland Howard led the Gryphs with 27 points with Dan Speight adding 14 pts.

The grand finale of the regular season was one of the most exciting games of the year. Upset minded Wilson lost a heart break (77-75) to Rocky Mount. Phil Ford hit a jumper just as the buzzer sounded.

### Tourney Play

In the tournament quarter-finals of District II, the Rocky Mount Gryphons humiliated the Greenville Rampants 106-76. Richie Lucas swished in the 100th point with 1:34 left in the final quarter. This is the fourth time this year the Gryphs have scored 100 points or more in a single game. The Gryphons were led in their continuing fight for the state championship, by Phil Ford's 34 points, Cleveland Howard's 16 points and Dan Speight's 22 points, Richard Bulluck played a masterful floor game by coming off the bench with 14 points.

## Cleveland Harris Receives Award In Tournament

Cleveland Harris, a RMSH Junior, has been awarded the Outstanding Wrestler Trophy at the Sectional Wrestling Tournament held in Greenville February 17-20.

Cleveland was surprised to say the least when his name was announced as the winner. Immediately after, he was swamped by his eduberent teammates. The reward was something of a Dream-come-true for the outstanding Gryphon wrestler, for last year this time his record was just about the opposite, quite a change from his 14-2 record going into the State Tourney this year.

The trophy, a relatively large cup, is the first of its kind to be awarded to a Gryphon Grappler in the modern history of wrestling at RMSH. The GRYPHON staff would like to congratulate Cleveland on his achievement and we wish him and his teammates continued success in the future.

tallation en route to his championship by pinning Gary Walton of Greenville. Walton was one of the few wrestlers who defeated Harris during the regular season.

Finally, Tank Leonard continued his unbeaten string by decisioning New Bern's Claude Banks in the tourney's final bout.

Consolation champions were Dwight Jordan at 129 lbs., Mike Stills at 141 pounds, Oliver Vick, the 158 pounder, and 197-pounder also David Jones, who finished the season on a winning note.

### Sectional Tournament

Rocky Mount faired well in the Sectional Tournament in Greenville, finishing fifth out of eleven teams. D. H. Conley took first place honors.

Perhaps the biggest thrill of the tourney was the awarding of the Outstanding Wrestler Trophy. This honor, determined by the officials was earned by Cleveland Harris of Rocky Mount. This was the first award of this kind ever earned by a Gryphon Grappler in modern RMSH history.

## Leonard, Harris Lead RM, Finish Second Divisionally

The Gryphon Grapplers ended the Division Two Tournament in fine fashion, boasting four divisional champs while coming in second behind Goldsboro's Cougars.

The Rocky Mount matmen also had four consolation champs, and one second -- place finisher.

The first division victor was Freddy Williams, Rocky Mount's fighting flyweight, who wrestled an inspired match. His win over Wilson's Anthony "Ant" Brown started things rolling. Brown previously was the number one flyweight in the division.

### Harper Gains Revenge

The Gryphs didn't have to wait long for another first place wrestler, as 115 pound Russell Harper pinned Mike Whitley of Wilson. Whitley was also the number one-seated matman divisionally. In addition, Harper's win was sweet revenge for a loss earlier in the season.

Ray Brinn, 122-pounder, was the lone second-place finisher, losing to Greenville's Angelo Daniels in the finals.

Cleveland Harris gained re-

## ★ TRACK SCHEDULE ★

Thursday, March 23 . . . New Bern, Rocky Mount, Wilson . . . at Wilson; Thursday, March 30 . . . Rocky Mount, Greenville, New Bern. . . at New Bern; March 30, 31, April 3, 4 . . . SPRING HOLIDAY.

Thursday, April 6 . . . Rocky Mount, Goldsboro, Greenville . . . at Greenville; Wednesday, April 12 . . . Greenville, Wilson, Rocky Mount . . . at Rocky Mount; Saturday, April 15 . . . Duke - Durham Relays . . . at Durham; Thursday, April 20 . . . Wilson, Kinston, Rocky Mount . . . at Rocky Mount.

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