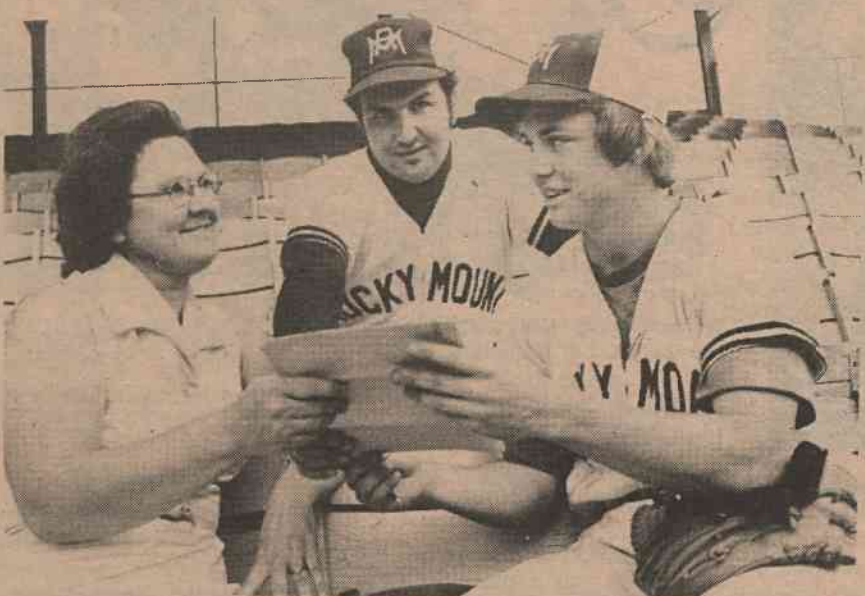


RMSH Athletes Sign Grants



CROCKER SIGNS WITH STATE — Tommy Crocker proudly shows his signature to his mother, Mrs. Fred T. Crocker, and Coach Jerry Carter. Tommy received a four-year scholarship to N.C. State University.



HENLEY RECEIVES GRANT — Doug Henley recently received a four-year baseball scholarship to Wake Forest University. Present for the signing were his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Henley and Coach Jerry Carter.

Tommy Crocker and Doug Henley, outstanding senior members of the 1975 RMSH Baseball team, have received grant-in-aids from major ACC colleges: Crocker to North Carolina State and Henley to Wake Forest.

Tommy Crocker

Tommy Crocker, a well-known RMSH athlete, signed a four-year contract with North Carolina State May 5 at Municipal Stadium. Crocker was recruited by Sam Esposito of N.C. State over college scouts from various other large schools. He chose to attend State over a two-year school because its league, he feels, is stronger, and also because transferring often involves difficulties. "I feel that I will gain more experience at State," Crocker says. He also quickly adds that NCSU just recently won the conference championship.

A natural athlete, Tommy has been involved with sports since he was old enough to play on a team. However, at RMSH, his efforts have been aimed totally at baseball. He has played varsity baseball for three years, playing the outfield, third base, and the shortstop positions. "My most memorable experience came when I was a sophomore. It was a broken-bat single during the State Playoffs." The hit Tommy was referring to drove in the tying and winning runs. The Gryphs continued to win the State Championship in 1973.

Crocker fluently compliments Coach Carter. "In my sophomore year, (my being young and playing with the older guys) he helped me in the winter with my hitting, and after school with my fielding. Tommy feels that his

association with Coach Carter has done more to increase his baseball ability than with any other individual. "When it comes to baseball, you won't find anyone who knows his stuff better and can teach it to you." Crocker's parents have also been helpful by backing him 100% and never forcing him to play.

On the field, Crocker is a leader in team spirit. His talks with the pitchers in tight spots are frequent, and on the bench, Crocker is the one calling for more hits. There was really no leadership last year, so Doug (Henley) and I tried. This year, I decided that I'd try to give it all I had." As a result, the team unity was good and spirit was always there. Crocker was recently honored with the Leading Hitter Award for finishing the season with the highest batting average.

Tommy plans to play American Legion ball this summer before leaving for Stat. "My dream has always been to play baseball on TV." If he doesn't make playing ball a career, Crocker has considered coaching. If Tommy continues to play with the same natural talent, energy, and zest, it will not be a surprise to anyone who knows him to one day see Tommy Crocker, RMSH

veteran, playing professional baseball on the tube.

Doug Henley

Doug Henley, three-sport star at Rocky Mount Senior High, signed a baseball grant-in-aid with Wake Forest University May 23. Athletic Director Dr. Gene Hooks was the representative for Wake Forest.

Although Wake Forest has at the present a rather weak (but quickly developing) baseball program, Henley is excited about pitching for the Deacons next year. Recruited heavily by numerous ACC scouts, Henley chose Wake Forest "because I know that I will get a better chance to play there. I will also be able to play football." (Henley was named to the 4-A All Conference Football Team as a punter this year.) By playing in the Atlantic Coast Conference, Henley will be facing tough competition. When asked if he were excited about the prospect of pitching to former teammate Tommy Crocker (who recently signed with North Carolina State) Henley coyly replied "Did Al Downing look forward to pitching to Henry Aaron?"

The name Doug Henley has been seen with frequency on local sports pages. Starting with Small Fry, Little League, and

Pony League Baseball and Midget and Flag Football, Henley has been in the sports spotlight a major part of his life. Henley burst onto Rocky Mount Senior High stardom when, in 1973, as a sophomore, he helped propel the Gryphon baseball team into the State play-offs and won the 4-A championship game that gave Rocky Mount the State title. After this game, Henley was heard muttering "It was luck-just luck." But Henley proved it wasn't a fluke by having another highly successful year in the 1974 baseball season, and this year he led the Gryphon staff with an 8-1 record and a sparkling 1.14 ERA. Henley also has been a valuable starter on RMSH varsity football and basketball teams the last two years.

Henley credits Coach Jerry Carter for his recent baseball success. "Coach Carter has aided my development as a baseball player far more than any other person," Henley said.

"He has stuck by me in tight situations and has registered

his faith in me as I have in him."

Henley's probable major at Wake is economics; although his career goal is professional baseball. Henley feels that, at this stage, experience is the thing he needs most. With four years of excellent experience at Wake, he should be easily able to achieve this career goal.



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