



WARD SLIDES IN — Gary Ward safely slides into third base against Northern Nash.

Carter's Machine Fails As Season Ends

Rocky Mount traveled to Richmond County carrying a 7-6 record and a bag of hopes for the Easter tourney. The Gryphons won the first two games by overwhelming scores of 9-2 each. Unfortunately the Easter Bunny's charms wore off too quickly and the Rocky Mount natives fell victim to their own sloppy play as they allowed Richmond County to bowl over them 7-2 to capture the tourney honors. The Gryph's return home was met by two successive defeats at the hands of Bertie and Northern Nash.

For their first appearance in the Pete Hogan Invitational Tournament, the Gryphons did not fare to badly as they brought home second place honors. Mike Upchurch, RMSH catcher, was named to the all-tourney team.

In their first game, the Gryphs met Raeford-Hoke. Carter's Machine surprised their opponents and blasted them off the diamond 9-2. On

the second day Rocky Mount defeated Wadesboro Bowman 9-2. They were aided by Buddy Luper's home run and Garry Ward's two hits.

Rocky Mount advanced to the finals in a game against tourney host Richmond County. Two errors in the fifth inning proved to be the Gryph's downfall. The game changed from a 2-2 tie into a 5-2 Raider runaway. The Raiders added two more runs to end the tournament with a 7-2 victory over Rocky Mount.

With an improved 9-7 record the Gryphs travelled to Bertie and fell to the Falcons 7-3. The Gryphons visited Northern Nash hoping to avenge a previous 5-4, eight-inning defeat. For three innings, the teams shared a 1-1 tie. Three Northern hits started the Knight's rally. Rocky Mount tried unsuccessfully to battle back. They were able to score two more times to leave the final score 5-3. The Gryphon effort included seven hits.

In Conference Play

Gryphs Hit Hot Streak

Conference championship hopes grew considerably higher for the Lady Gryphons as they defeated conference foes Northeastern and Greenville. Running their record to 1-2, after losing two games to non-conference opponent West Edgecombe and picking up a win from Kinston, the Gryphons went on to defeat their next three opponents, with only one loss, and turn a 1-2 record into a 4-3 record. Mary White ran her record to 4-2, while Merlyn Joyner, Gail McClain, Arlinda Harrison, Mary White, and Donna Arrington emerged as leading hitters.

The Lady Gryphons, led by an attack of 27 hits, avenged their loss to West Edgecombe by defeating Kinston 15-6. Rocky Mount, although falling behind 5-4 in the third inning, came back under a hitting attack by Merlyn Joyner with five hits, and Gail McClain, Diawana McNair, Kelly Bullard, and Mary White with three hits each. Redding, Loffin, Patterson, and Alves each had two hits for Kinston.

Mary White increased her record to 3-1 and Rocky Mount increased its record to 3-2 as the Lady Gryphons defeated conference foe Northeastern 15-8. Rocky Mount was led by the home run hitting on Arlinda Harrison and Mary White, who hit one home run each, and the hitting of Merlyn Joyner and Donna Arrington, with four hits



MARY WHITE IN ACTION — Mary White follows through on her pitch during the Greenville game.

and three hits respectively. Cindy Meekins led Northeastern with four hits.

The hot bats of the Lady Gryphons cooled off for their game with Greenville. Pounding out only eight hits, the Gryphons still defeated Rose 6-1. Rocky Mount was led by Gail McClain and Arlinda Harrison with two hits each. Mary White picked up her fourth win against one loss. Leading hitter for Rose was

Barbara James with two hits.

The Lady Gryphons dropped their first conference game of the season to Bertie, 6-2. Although Bertie had only two hits, they were able to pick up their six runs from 11 costly Rocky Mount errors. Arlinda Harrison led the Gryphon six hit attack with two doubles. Mary White picked up the loss and her record for the season dropped to 4-2 while the team conference record dropped to 2-1.

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