



MIKE LEWIS SCORES — Jess Eberdt throws a perfect spiral into the waiting hands of wide open Mike Lewis for a 33 yard touchdown. [Photo by Barnes]

The Gryphs Unveil Strong Offensive Performances

Rocky Mount's last three games all ended with a different result: a tie, win, and a lose. The tie came against state ranked Hillside. The Gryphons passed their way by Greenville Rose, last year's state champions, and then lost to conference threat Northeastern.

RM vs. Hillside

This game was filled with excitement, but ended in a disappointing 26 to 26 tie. But the second half was encouraging as the Gryphons unleashed some offensive punch that had been missing in earlier games.

The Hornets completely dominated the first half by scoring on its first four possessions. The Hornets' powerful wishbone had drives of 75 and 93 yards.

After receiving the kickoff with six minutes left in the half, the Gryphons drove 71 yards for the touchdown. Lloyd Bynum swept right for the last 9 yards. This made the score 26-8 Hillside, at the end of the half.

The second half belonged to Gryphons because the Hornets were held to just one first down.

Rocky Mount's first score of the half came when Linden Willis connected with Mike Lewis for 13 yards after Gaither Weeks had recovered a Hornet fumble. The Gryphons then drove 46 yards after a poor Hillside punt, for the score. The Gryphons held again and obtained the ball on the Hillside 44 with 2:24 remaining. The Gryphs battled to the 16, and there Willis' aerial hit Dee Whitley for the final score. Rocky Speight's extra point was blocked, causing the game to end in a tie.

RM vs. Greenville

Aided by an abundance of turnovers the Gryphons whipped Greenville-Rose 23 to 8.

The first half saw both teams exchange possessions with only three points scored on a Rocky Speight 26 yard field goal.

The Gryphs drove 71 yards on their first possession of the half. Willis found Dee Whitley for 23 yards to keep the drive alive. Bynum plunged in from 2 yards out for the score.

Dennis Colt alertly recovered a Rose fumble on the 48 yard line and on the very next play Willis got a hurt and Jess Ebert entered the game and threw a perfect spiral to Mike Lewis for a 33 yard touchdown. Coit again recovered a Rose fumble and Ebert drilled a 10 yard touchdown pass to Whitley making the score 23-0.

Rose finally scored on the last play of the game.

RM vs. Northeastern

Numerous fumbles and interceptions kept the Gryphons off the scoreboard and as a result lost to the Northeastern Eagles 6-0.

Twice in the first half and four times in the second half the Gryphon offense drove the ball deep into Eagle territory only to lose the ball on a turnover. In fact Rocky Mount had the ball first-and-goal from inside the ten yard line twice but fumbled.

A first half Eagle drive primarily using work horses,

Frank Beasley and Maryland Bright ending on a 33 yard run by Beasley was all the Eagles needed for victory.

In the fourth quarter the Gryphons got the ball at the Eagle 40 yard line following a punt. A pass from Linden Willis to Dee Whitley gave the Gryphs at first down at the 22 yard line. Wendell Wright then bulled his way down to the five yard line. After one play Lloyd Bynum carried the ball down to the one yard line.

On a third down call, Wright was stopped at the line of scrimmage. On fourth-and-goal a fumble put away Gryphon hopes of scoring again.

After the Eagles ran the clock down to 1:30, the Gryphons took over at mid-field.

A 20 yard pass from Willis to Mike Lewis gave the Gryphs a first down at the 30 yard line with 58 seconds left. On the next play another interception killed all Gryphon hopes of victory.

JV's Improving

The Rocky Mount Junior Varsity strengthened its chances for the conference title and improved its record to 4 and 2. The JV beat a 3-A school, North Lenoir and then overcame Greenville. The Gryphs then fought tough before falling to the hands of Northeastern.

RM vs North Lenoir

The Gryphons completely outclassed the little school of North Lenoir at North Lenoir by the score of 50 to 0.

The Gryphons were only able to score 12 points in the first half, but in the second half the offense exploded and seemed to score at will.

RM vs Greenville

The Gryphon Jayvees picked up another win with a 28-14 victory over Greenville Rose.

The Baby Grphys scored first culminating a long drive, on a four yard plunge by Rodney Birth. The extra point was no good.

Greenville came back to take the lead in the first period 7-6, but that was their last score until the final quarter.

Between the Rampants' two touchdowns, Rocky Mount dominated. Birth scored again in the second period on another

four yard carry. This time the two point conversion was successful and made the score 14-7.

At the end of the first half the Gryphons scored again on a 40 yard pass play from Billy Luther to Linwood Silver. The conversion was good, and at the half the score was 22-7. Each team swapped touchdowns in the second half as Cordell Davis scored for Rocky Mount on a 60 yard run. The final score was 28-14.

RM vs Northeastern

The Gryphs played Northeastern October 14 at Munciple Stadium and were beaten by conference foe Northeastern by a score of 36 to 20.

The Gryphs kept up with the larger Eagles through most of the first half. The Eagles led 20 to 14 after Northeastern returned a touchdown 74 yards. But then in the second half, the Eagles pulled away as the young Gryphs committed too many turnovers and penalties.



SPEIGHTS' KICK GOOD — Rocky Speight makes the score 3-0 on his 26 yard FG. The Gryphons won 23 to 8. [Photo by Barnes]

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