

Athletes making the grade

BRAD BARNES
Circulation Manager

How hard is it for an athlete to play a sport and maintain passing grades in school? "Very difficult," said defensive tackle Dexter Vaughn, Jr. "Football is a very demanding sport. It takes long hours of practice and dedication." Junior defensive tackle Shelton Wiggins said, "Getting classwork done is difficult but you have to make time for studies." Wiggins also said, "If my grades slack off, I just push myself."

A rule change governing academic progress has relieved some of the pressure. Last year the student athlete who wanted to play a sport and, most importantly, stay on the team, had to pass four classes every grading period. Now to participate in the next season of a sport, the athlete must have passed four courses the year before.

Dennis Taylor varsity football defensive tackle said, "It feels secure to know you're on the team. It takes pressure off you. It keeps my mind off football when I'm in the classroom."

Security as a team member doesn't mean the athlete can forget the academics. Taylor said, "You can't slack up on your studies just because you're on



Photo by Andrew Carpenter

Tops on the field

Quarterback Jeff Thomas pitches to fullback J.J. Jones who heads toward the end zone in a game against Tarboro High. Jones' running game helped the team to post a 16-6 victory over the Vikings.

the team. You must be conscious of your studies at all times." Senior Stan Horton, linebacker, said "You must keep your grades up. They just don't look at you on the field anymore."

Teachers keep athletes on track. "No they don't let athletes slide just because they play a

sport," said senior Derek Smith, defensive tackle. "They may work with you a little more but they certainly don't let you slide," he added.

History teacher Claudia Fuerst said that she doesn't slack off on students just because they play a sport. "I treat an athlete

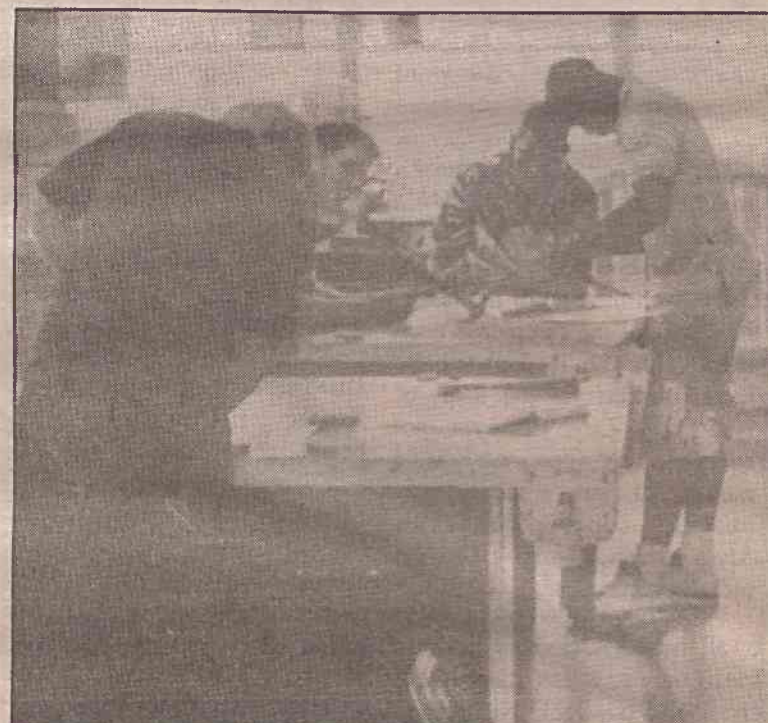


Photo by Brad Barnes

And in the classroom

J.J. Jones gets involved in his cabinet work because he realizes he must pass five classes to stay on the football team. Jones must budget his time between school and sports to maintain his goal in each.

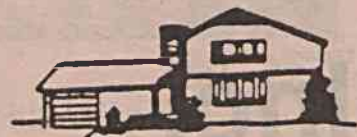
just like any other student. If he can play a sport then he should be responsible enough to keep up with class."

"A student's main job is school. If he participates in sports it's by choice," Fuerst said. Curtis Rushing, history teacher said he shows no student

special privileges just because that student plays a sport. "He must work just as hard as any other student in my classroom," Rushing added.

1989 Varsity Football Schedule

Oct. 13	Northern Nash	Away
Oct. 20	Kinston (Homecoming)	Home
Oct. 27	Wilson Hunt	Away
Nov. 3	Greenville Rose	Home
Nov. 10	State Playoffs	TBA



ARVELLE MOORE
BROKER

Moore Realty Co.

"If you want to Sell or Buy . . . Give us a try."

102 S. RALEIGH ST.
SUITE 7 COLONIAL SQUARE
ROCKY MOUNT, NC 27801

Read

THE ROCKY MOUNT
EVENING & SUNDAY TELEGRAM



FRESHENS

THE PREMIUM YOGURT

3643 SUNSET AVE.

937-2261



**One Hour
Photo**

Stephen Krall
Manager

Golden East Crossing

(919) 972-6831