

A voice echoes...

By Ashley Avery

There is a voice that is familiar to all spectators at Rocky Mount Senior High games. Unfortunately, that voice has been silenced forever. The man behind the voice was Frank Hayden.

Hayden lived and breathed sports. He spent well over 50 years of his life involved in high school sports, and he did a wonderful job. He eventually got into sports broadcasting in the early 80s and projected his overpowering love for sports onto the listening public.

Fans remembered how much he talked and always had an opinion ready. That characteristic earned him the nickname "the Mouth." All in all, it was a well-

served name. Many people saw a man with a very large ego, but perhaps it was more an enthusiasm that no one but Frank Hayden could understand.

Frank Hayden was a retired air traffic controller at Rocky Mount -Wilson Airport. All of his children graduated from Senior High. That may have been the origin of his love for sports. Assistant principal George Kelly said, "I think that he had a lot of hours off during the day, and he ended up coaching his children's sports teams, and got hooked."

Frank Hayden was 72 when he died of cancer in October 1996. Coach Ray Durham may have expressed it best when he said, "Frank Hayden has always been the voice of the Gryphons. We will all miss him".

... a voice continues...

By Meredith Harris

Frank Hayden was the Voice of the Gryphon for over 30 years. Before Hayden recently died of cancer, English 10 teacher Tim Taylor took his place on 1390 WEED radio. During football season, Taylor and friends Steve Dickens and Charles Alston, all RMSH graduates, announced the home games line on the air.

Dickens, the color commentator, had no previous radio experience but did an admirable job, according to Taylor. Although Alston, the statistician, had extensive newspaper experience with the *Telegram*, the three had not worked together on live radio before. "We had to learn how to work with each other and how to play off each other's words," Taylor said. Each Friday night of a home game, the three would start the pre-game announce-

ments around 7:15. They would then broadcast the game play-by-play for about three hours.

The radio broadcast of home games has flourished since the mid-60's, and the three announcers did not want the tradition to end with Hayden's death. "It was our way of giving something back," Taylor said. Alston, Dickens, and Taylor missed the broadcast of the first two home games, the first because Hayden was too ill, and the second because of Hurricane Fran.

Taylor has been in the radio business since his high school days. He started announcing at age 16 and continued part-time until college. During college, Taylor could be heard on the radio and part-time even after college. He has done radio broadcasting and various commercials for 17 years.



Photo by C.J. Cash

REMEMBER WHEN--Parents, athletes and coaches mingled, ate and reminisced on the fall sports season at the Athletic Banquet on Dec. 12.

Athletes receive awards

By James Anderson

Outstanding athletes received recognition at the Athletic Banquet held on December 11 at 6 o'clock in the school cafeteria. Principal Jerry Carter welcomed the athletes, coaches and guests. The coaches presented the awards.

Soccer players receiving awards were Brandon Stussie, Ronnie Allen and Nate Ota. Stussie was named Most Valuable Player and Allen, the Most Improved. Ota received the Coach's Award. Junior Varsity award winners were Graham Nelson, Most Valuable Player; and George Tsai received the Coach's Award.

Three volleyball players received awards. Coach Debbie Webb gave Tara Green the Best Spiker Award. Amy Tsai was named Most Valuable Player and Dana Long was selected as the Best All Around player.

Players from the junior varsity football team and the varsity team received recognition. Calvin Hudgins received the award for being the Best Offensive Player on the junior varsity team and Tony Perry was named the Best Defensive Player.

Seven varsity football players received awards: Outstanding Offense, Brandon Toomer; Outstanding Defense, Carnell Brown; the Billy Smith Award, Sasha Taylor; the Coaches' Award, Greg Moore; and the Most Valuable Player award, Brian Edge. Co-captains Roman Kelley and Jeremiah Parvin received awards.

Cross country award winners were Most Valuable Players, Nick Winkel and Lori Wright. The Coaches' awards went to Kristi Carraro and Stewart Edwards.

Tennis coach Barry Nethercutt awarded Wesley Barker the Coach's Award. He named Sarah Peterson and Angela Odom as the Most Valuable Players.



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