

Coaches Salute

Debbie Webb, who loves athletics, competition, and working with young people, doesn't coach one sport but two. She has been coaching softball for 17 years and volleyball for 12 years. She hopes that both teams will make the playoffs this year and that the softball team will end up number one, but says "the volleyball team is young and inexperienced so more than likely they won't make number one. I have no secret weapons up my shirt but the players are working up to their potential says Coach Webb. They have some weaknesses but grades aren't among them. All the players are on the A and B honor roll. Each year I try to teach the same basics over. So far the future is at their fingertips."

Volleyball

- 1 Tanika Hudgins
- 2 Maggie Hester
- 3 Erin Warren
- 4 Olivia Sessoms
- 5 Kelly Clairmont
- 11 Elisabeth Richardson
- 12 Elisha Farrow
- 13 Katy Bales
- 14 Crystal Collier
- 15 Shante Richardson
- 20 Erika Smith
- 21 Meredith Holt



(Mrs. Webb smiling about girls efforts in Volleyball.)

2000 Soccer

The last soccer match of the season on Oct. 20 was a tough one. The Gryphons found themselves behind by one point at the 27 mark line of the first half. They were able to make two goals leaving the Knights standing with their jaws open wide at the end of the game. They have won 7 games this year. "Hope they can do this good next year" says one student.

Tennis is gone

This year's season is now over, so how did the girls do? Very well. One student said "they were so great this year, I hope they do like that next year." This year the team won 13 of 17 games. In conference they won 9 games out of 10, finishing 8 in the season.

Sports Safety

Sport safety has become a major issue in today's schools. An overwhelming number of incidents involving sport related injuries have occurred across the nation, making the public question the safety of school sports. Coach Hammett, one of Rocky Mount Senior High's football coaches, states that RMSH takes stringent measures to assure the team of the greatest amount of safety possible. Our school has an orthopedic surgeon on call to consult the team's injured players. Players also receive free health care if they are injured Saturday morning after a game. In practice the team is taught proper ways to tackle, preventing head and neck injuries and injuries to the opponent. In September a high school football player was killed during a game in another county. His chest was hit between heartbeats when he was tackled. Coach Hammett says this type of injury is "extremely rare in football and more likely to be found in baseball. Although many precautions taken to prevent injuries, hundreds of injuries still occur. Accidents will always happen. If proper conditioning training and good sportsmanship are practiced however, the numbers of deaths and injuries on the playing field can go down.

Homecoming

Fans filled the bleachers Friday, October 27, 2000 as the Gryphons played D.H. Conley. Conley scored in the beginning of the second quarter leading 7 to 0. In the last few minutes of the second quarter Senior, Brandon Holland had a 70 yard kickoff return for the touch down to tie with Conley. Then in the second half Kelly Hudgins a Senior, made two touchdowns to end the game 21 to 7. Hudgins set a Rocky Mount High school record for most carries in a game beating his brother's record. Making this the first homecoming game the Gryphons have won in 4 or 7 years.

The Gryphons played their last game of this season, Friday, November 3, 2000 at the Rocky Mount Sports Stadium, against the Northern Knights. This loss meant the Gryphons did not advance to the playoffs.

The Family Ties

The Hudgins family is one of the most talented families around. The family has two famous athletes who played for the Gryphon football team. Kelly Hudgins is the younger brother of former Gryphon standout running back Calvin Hudgins. Calvin is now playing for Elizabeth City State University. The elder Hudgins set the bar high for Kelly, rushing for 1,200 yards in his senior season. On October 27 Kelly beat his brother's record by rushing 1,261 yards. Kelly said "I talk to my brother two or three times per week and after every game." Kelly set a school record with 31 carries on the 27 of October. It looks as though Kelly is likely to follow in his brother's footsteps.