

ATHLETES HONOURED

Two hundred - twenty civic club members and athletes from Mt. Gilead, Troy, and Wadeville gathered in the cafeteria of the West Montgomery High School last Friday night, March 30, at 7:00 P. M. The occasion: gala athletic banquet held in honor of all athletes of West Montgomery High School.

The program was opened by the Reverend Paul Edwards who gave the invocation. The feast, which followed, consisted of turkey with dressing, string beans, tossed salad, cranberry sauce, and coconut cake, all prepared by the West Montgomery cafeteria staff and served by volunteer student waitresses. A choice of beverages included milk or coffee. Robert Greene, a teacher at West, at the organ and Benjy Haywood of Mt. Gilead at the piano provided entertainment throughout the meal.

Immediately following the banquet came a cordial welcome and the recognition of special guests by Thomas L. White, West principal. Judge David Harris then introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Ernie Williamson, head of recruiting at the University of North Carolina. Williamson stressed the importance of athletics now and in the future in an inspiring address directed at every member in attendance. He made clear the fact that anyone interested enough to put forth 100% effort could go to college, if he had the grades. North Carolina is well blessed with major higher education institutes. Said Williamson "You (the students) are fortunate to live in North Carolina. This state is

one of three in the nation with 14 colleges in major conferences." Information was given in regard to North Carolina's education facilities. In closing, Williamson expressed a hope that civic clubs would continue in the future to do everything possible to encourage sports.

Presentation of the basketball letters earned during the season was next item on the agenda. Fred Brady, girls' coach, awarded the cherished awards to the following girls: Lorraine Safrit, Stancil Treecę, Sarah Ingram, Diane Thompson, Carolyn Hurley, Loretta Gray, Nancy Helen Bruton, Dorothy Hubbard, and Marsha Armstrong. Minimum requirements for earning letters are forty quarters played and coach's approval. Brady expressed his pleasure in working with the girls and stated, "We built a lot of character this year,.....something to carry over."

Coach James Walton next presented boys' letters. Those receiving were Charles Crouch, Gene Pridgen, Charles Bruton, Fincher Jarrell, Jimmie Harris, B. W. Holt, and Johnny Ingram. Walton commented that he was "very proud" of the boys.

Following the letter award presentations came the presentation of trophies by various members of the clubs. Those who received trophies were selected by the individual members of the respective squads, their teammates. Football awards went to the following: Most Improved, Charles Bruton; Best Line-man, Joe Houston; Best Back, Jerry Wooten; Sportsmanship,

Baseball Needs Support By: Larry Kearns

Baseball is just as important to a school as football or basketball. It needs the same school spirit and support from the student body that is given to other sports.

I say this not only because I am on the team, but because the whole team feels the same way. We're out to work as a team and to win. But win or lose, the support the school gives, helps hold the team up and keeps it closer together.

We have a pretty good ball team at West Montgomery this year, and have just as good a chance as any other team to come out on top. All we need is a chance and a little support. We, the team, can work our way for that chance and you, the students at "west", can supply the support. All it takes is some school spirit. If you think of your school as tops, you will give the baseball team your support.

Benson Morris, Most Valuable, B. W. Holt. Girls basketball laurels were bestowed in this order: Most Improved, Nancy Helen Bruton; Sportsmanship, Sarah Ingram; and Most Valuable, Carolyn Hurley. These awards were presented to boys on the basketball team: Most Improved, Jimmy Harris; Sportsmanship, Fincher Jarrell; and Most Valuable, Johnny Ingram. Trophies were generously donated by the civic clubs.

Mr. White appropriately closed the evening as he expressed a desire to "make West Montgomery the best school with the best athletes in this section of North Carolina."