

As Seen in The Mirror's
SPORTS
REFLECTIONS
of Athletes
and Events

No one can deny the importance of good shooting and clever ball handling in a basketball game, but just as necessary for the team that wants to go places is the ability to control rebounds.

On those occasions this season that the New Bern High school Bears made a particularly good showing, they at least held their own under the basket. It will always be true, and that of course goes for college and pro ball too.

Nothing disconcerts the opposition more than losing possession of the ball every time a toss at the basket misses its mark.

On the other hand, a ball club with rebounding strength often wins even when its shooting is below par. As long as you have the ball, there's always a chance to try and try again, until the goal is

achieved.

These are facts well known to every coach and every player, but it isn't easy to make the wish for excellence blossom into reality. Unless a team has one or several tall men to rely on, the going is bound to be rough.

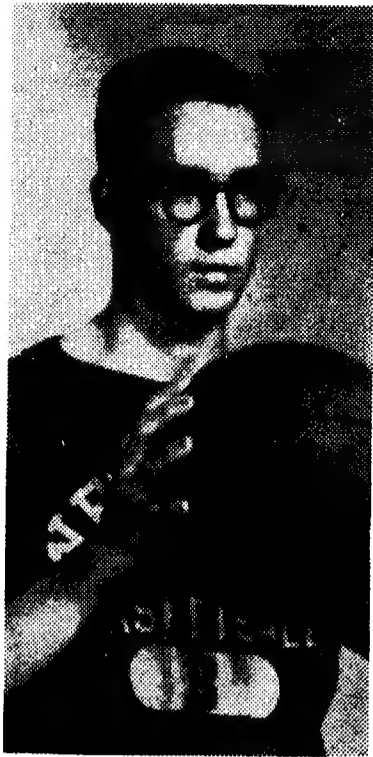
Being tall isn't enough. Unless your tall man is agile and aggressive, he is apt to be ineffective under the basket and a definite liability in the mid-court action.

In fact, almost every team has somebody who is tall warming the bench while a teammate of shorter stature is out there in the thick of things. Even so, every coach dreams of stumbling over a flock of youngsters who measure well above six feet.

Incidentally, it is this corner's opinion that some of the officiating here this season has been rather inferior. The New Bern-Kinston game was a glaring example. No one was robbed, but both the Bears and the Red Devils suffered from bad calls.

We don't have much patience with the coach, player or fan who thinks every official is a Jesse James, intent on stealing ball games for the team he allegedly favors. But an honest official who isn't qualified can hurt you almost as much as the referee who is downright dishonest.

A second-rate official can ruin



SERIOUS BUSINESS—Mark Dunn, Jr., lives basketball during his hours awake, and probably dreams about the game at night. He is a conscientious striver for perfection, as a performer for the New Bern High school Bruins. — Photo by Billy Benner.

a first-rate ball game, and what is more disturbing, he usually lets the game get away from him. When it happens, unpleasant incidents bob up like weeds in an untended garden.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

En route to purchase the 1959 auto tags, my wife asked if we bought the city tags at the City Hall. I told her we bought the tags at the AAA office on Craven street. The car was parked across the street from the AAA office, and she remained in it while I got the tags.

Upon my return, she asked why I had told her we did not have to go to City Hall, when I actually went in the building with a huge sign emblazoned on it — "CITY HALL."

Inasmuch as the Court House has been ordered properly marked as such, do you think that a campaign could be started to switch the misplaced sign over to City Hall and eliminate another location hazard?

Cordially,
Philip A. Fecher

While passing through your historical town, I purchased a copy of the New Bern Mirror on a newsstand.

Being an outsider who lives above the Mason-Dixon line, I think I can speak objectively about your weekly. Your style of personal journalism is very appealing, and it is my candid opinion that your human interest stories, columns and editorials can be classified with the finest newspapering

in any city, small or large, in America today.

I didn't have time to really visit New Bern, but I'm sold on any community that supports a paper such as yours. I'll be coming back

to take a good look. Who knows, I might decide to become a Rebel, and get acquainted with the people you write about so well.

John Norton,
Philadelphia, Pa.

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