

BASEBALL OPENING

THIRTY-ONE CANDIDATES FOR JUNIOR JACKETS BALL CLUB

(By WYLIE WARREN)

Roanoke Rapids' High School Junior squad of Yellow Jackets, fielding a team of inexperienced but hustling boys are ready to defend the "Gold and Black" once again after a lay off of three years. Rock Venters will handle the coaching assignment and already has the boys in top condition.

The last time that a Junior squad has represented here was in 1942, when Rex Carter was coach.

Venters has more than 30 boys out for the team, these coming from the seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth grades. Not any of these boys have had any previous high school experience.

Like the varsity, pitching appears to be the chief worry. William Wheeler and Troy Hasty, both righthanders are the most promising twirlers and should see plenty of action. Venters has two southpaws in William Lewis and Carl Jones, who will probably serve as relief men.

At the catching post is Robert Wright, D. W. Etheridge and Bobby Bright. Wright holds the edge thus far because of his hitting ability.

There are four first base candidates led by Dwight Elting. Julian Armstrong is the other leading contender. Rueben Slade and Harry Talley show signs of improving and may see action there.

David Cox, one of the team's leading hitters, is slated for full-time duty at the keystone sack. Billy Wood is a capable substitute and so is Buster Britt. Both should play in several contests.

Clifton Acree has the inside track as the shortstop guardian, and Herbert Moore and Edison Nicholson are putting on a battle for the second-string berth.

At third base, Herman Deaton holds a slight edge although James Mac Daniel is giving him quite a scrap for the regular job. Billy Nixon is the other "hot corner" candidate.

In the outer garden, there are 10 who rate about equal in sessions thus far. Venters has Earl Waters, "Bubber" Matthews, and James Warren working for the left field slot; Kenneth Mizzell, James Butler, and Rudolph Deaver in centerfield and Oris Edmondson, Tommie Wheeler, Hubert Lowder and Howard O'Neil at the rightfield post.

That completes the squad, which is showing much improvement everyday and should come through in true Jacket fashion.

Town Talk

Mrs. A. O. George spent Thursday in Emporia with relatives.

Miss Mary Louise Ray of Richmond spent the week end with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ray.

Mr. and Mrs. John Grant of Emporia spent the week end with relatives here.

Jake Johnson has returned to his home after being a patient at the Roanoke Rapids hospital for several days.

C. F. Ogletree is expected to return to his home in Enfield this week after being a patient at the Roanoke Rapids hospital for some time. Mr. Ogletree was in a car wreck recently but not seriously injured.

Miss Lillie Liverman spent the week end in Lasker with relatives.

Mrs. Henry O'Neal of Gaston is a patient at the Roanoke Rapids Hospital.

Mrs. Elmer Ashby left Tuesday for her home in Wilmington, Del.

after being the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Thompson for a week.

Mrs. George Garner left last week to meet her husband in Raleigh who is expected to get his discharge immediately from the U. S. Services. He has just returned from overseas.

Miss Rothie Hansley left for Richmond, Va., this week.

Mrs. L. A. Tilley and Mrs. Vernon Daughtrey are attending the North Carolina Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service at Duke Memorial Methodist Church in Durham.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Wyche left Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Francis Wyche of Petersburg, Virginia for a trip to the azalea gardens in this state and South Carolina and other points of interest.

1946 SCHEDULE

By WYLIE WARREN

The 1946 edition of the Yellow Jacket baseball team will play approximately seventeen games this season. The schedule will call for twelve Northeastern Conference games and four or five non-conference battles.

In the 1945 campaign, the local squad copped fourteen contests and lost only to Emporia, a team that they defeated earlier in the season. Most notable fact about the 1945 team was the batting average of the combined squad which was a nifty .303.

The schedule is listed as follows:
 April 2—New Bern -----There
 April 5—Elizabeth City -----Here
 April 9—Greenville -----Here
 April 10—Weldon -----There
 April 12—Greenville -----There
 (Continued on page 6—Sec. C)

JAX BASEBALLERS PREPARE FOR ANOTHER BANNER YEAR

Coach Cranford Hoyle's 1946 edition of Yellow Jacket baseballers, having had three weeks of practice under their belts, are finally rounding into condition and appear ready to play their first ball game.

Hoyle has thirty boys out for the varsity squad and all should see considerable experience this season. He has already issued twenty four uniforms and will probably give the other six boys a uniform in due time. Hampered by bad weather, the Jax have not had much of a chance to practice this week although they have had a few light sessions.

The Yellow Jackets will field a veteran at every position, and from the looks of things so far, they should even have a two year vet-cran at every position on the field,

including the pitching slot. Hoyle has ten boys out for pitching and all seem to be coming along fairly well. Ted Etheridge is the only returning hurler that has had any previous high school experience. Etheridge twirled in a brace of contests last year, winning one and going in as a reliefer in the other. Charles Wright and Archie Lee Moody, both southpaws, have been showing up well in the intrasquad games thus far. Fred Etheridge is the other portside who should see action. Hoyle has five righthanders who show promise of some action from the hill. Howard Short and Ed Taylor should be the standouts, Short having had more experience. He pitched for Jackson last season.
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