

**THE CATSPA  
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**OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
OF RHSSHOF**

This issue of "The Catspaw" will continue a series of brief descriptions of teams that have been inducted into the Rector High School Sports Hall of Fame (RHSSHOF). The order in which they are presented will be the order in which they were selected and inducted. The fourth team that was selected and inducted was the 1966 Rector High School (RHS) basketball team which was inducted in 2015.

## **Blackcat '66 Hoops Team State Semi-Finalist**



The 1966 basketball team was made up of senior starters Phil Clayton # 32, Dennis Cate #40, Ricky Gatewood #44, Ted Glaub #54 and Allan Pruett #34. The first string of subs was senior Tom Pruett #42, and juniors Radius Baker #24, Carroll Clayton #20, Johnny Mack #30 and Odell Rogers #50. Team managers were Sam Cossey, Ronnie Stahl and Jesse Stafford. Head coach was Jess Bucy and assistant coach was Robert Rudi.

The 1966 Rector Blackcat basketball team joins the 2015 induction class of Rector High School's Hall of Fame. The team is noted as one of the best Rector teams of all time as state semifinalists with a 30-9 record.

In 1963 the senior players were just beginning as freshmen. The team won the junior high state championship by defeating Mountain Home in the quarterfinals, followed by wins over Watson Chapel and St. Joe schools. The Blackcats' record was 26-7. Allan Pruett was selected as MVP of the tournament and Alan Williams was selected All-State. The team as a whole averaged 30 wins per season from 1964 through 1966.

In 1964 the Blackcats were state semifinalists, and in 1995 state runner-up. The team was also state semifinalists in 1966. According to the Arkansas Gazette, "the 1966 loss broke an 18 game-winning streak." The team was also county and district champions all three years.

In 1966 Allan Pruett was named All-Mid South, All-State, Top 10 All-American by Royal Crown Cola Co., and was honored by being featured in the Coach and Athlete magazine. Dennis Cate was also named All-State.

Jonesboro Sun reporter Jamie Wallace wrote in an article the Rector Blackcats "are an unselfish lot who recognize the talent of their teammates, playing good defense with few mistakes."