

# It took thirty years, but RCHS's first Homecoming King awaits his crown

BY PAULA ROWLAND

This fall marks the thirtieth anniversary for a Homecoming Queen at RCHS. In 1972, the first queen was crowned, and thirty years later a king will walk by her side.

Some people think it's way overdue.

"It's about time we [the school] crown a king here," said teacher Polly Abney. "So many people have been trying for so long to get one. We should have had one sooner than this, but I'm glad that we finally have one."

The policy allowing for a Homecoming King was passed at last month's Site Based Decision Making Council meeting, but having a king is a bit unusual for many schools, not just RCHS.

"We have just been following suit with all of the other schools. Not many even acknowledge a Homecoming Queen, let alone a king," said SDBM Council member Connie Riddle. "It's great that we finally have one, but it really isn't that big of a deal."

Senior football player Tanner Abney agrees that a king really wasn't necessary.

"I guess some guys actually look forward to it. The game is more important to me and I am sure a lot of other schools feel the same

way."

Some other changes have also become a part of the preparation for Homecoming. This year, the students and their escorts will be lined up according to grade level and in alphabetical order. Anyone not running for king or queen will not be permitted to participate. In the past, candidates were required to locate their own escorts.

Some of the candidates aren't certain if they like this new policy.

"I have a boyfriend running for king, but his last name isn't anywhere near mine in the alphabet, so we can't march together," said junior candidate Sheena Swinney, "but I'm still thrilled to be marching in it period."

Though some candidates don't like the new line-up procedure, teachers are a little more positive.

According to Homecoming Coordinator Dana Singleton, it will remove pressure off of the teachers.

"We don't have to worry about who wants to walk with who, or who is going to break up with each other before the event and then not want to walk with each other anymore," she said.

Even with all the changes, she is very excited about this year's run.

"Everyone seems to like the new

idea so that excites me even more!"

Requirements for both king and queen will stay the same as the years before. The only major change is that football players cannot participate in the football homecoming, and basketball players cannot participate in the basketball homecoming.

Senior quarterback Aaron Anderkin isn't bothered by the fact that he isn't allowed to participate in the festivities.

"I mean, I'm in the locker room getting ready for second half so I don't have time to worry about it," he said.

"Most of us guys don't even pay attention to who wins. Aren't the homecoming candidates there because of our game anyway?"

Senior Travis Burton has a different outlook on Homecoming.

"I think it is a positive change for our school and it will hopefully lead to more and bigger things in the future," said Burton, who initiated the change.

"It seemed like no one really cared about the Homecoming events, or who won for that matter, and as former junior class president I noticed we needed to add some excitement so that more people will be involved with our school."

All of the student council members worked very hard over the summer to have this honor now. We have tried in years before, but we never really got anywhere."

Despite any disagreements about the need for a Homecoming King, one opinion has stayed the same between all the male candidates.

Burton laughed at the thought of fighting over this year's crown.

"I'm excited about it of course, but I'm not going to fight over it. Whoever wins, wins because he deserved it. It would be kind of funny if someone did fight over it though."

Junior Timothy McIntosh doesn't expect anyone to come to blows.

"I think it's cool that we have one this year, but I am very doubtful that I'll be fighting over any crown. I am a little bit excited, but really only because I want to see who wins."

Other changes to the Homecoming policy have been rumored, such as a GPA requirement.

"We've brought other ideas before the board, but we're trying to keep this as simple as possible this year," said Singleton. "In the years to come I am sure that there will be more requirements, but this year we are just trying our best."

as posters for Homecoming King and Wednesday before the game.

## Homecoming Queens 1972-2001

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1986                  | 1996             |
| Sandra Hunter         | Amy Whittier     |
| 1987                  | 1997             |
| Julie Dowell          | Wendy Himes      |
| 1988-89 Not Available | 1998             |
| 1990                  | Jennifer Cromer  |
| Lisa Bullock          | 1999             |
| 1991-92 Not Available | Tara Abney       |
| 1993                  | 2000             |
| Natalie Albright      | Chelsen Stratton |
| 1994                  | 2001             |
| Lindsey Dowell        | Angie Boreing    |
| 1995                  | 2002             |
| Jill Cummins          | ?                |



Med 2002 Football Homecoming Queen, crowned Homecoming King. Due to heavy e inside the middle school cafeteria.

