



The Eagles entered the 1981 season with hopes of another playoff appearance and maybe a shot at the Class A State Championship. After three excellent weeks of practice and a good week of camp the Eagles seemed primed for the test. However the first two weeks seemed almost disastrous for the Eagles. After a 20-6 loss to Thornwell and a 9-6 heartbreaker at Catawba, the Eagles finally got untracked. For the next three weeks the Eagles looked unbeatable — wins over Wardlaw, King, and James F. Byrnes followed. Perhaps the most memorable moments during this span of victories was at Byrnes. The Eagles held the Trojans for 4 downs at the 1 yard line and then marched 99 yards for a touchdown. RWA had another tough loss in week 6 — 23-12 at the hands of Thornwell.

Catawba traveled to "Eagle Country" for game 7 cocky and confident of a playoff berth. However, the Eagles with "war-paint," green-gold jerseys, and blood in their eyes completely destroyed the Indians 40-12. RWA wrapped up a playoff berth the following week and by week 10 the Eagles had turned what looked like a very dismal year into another successful season of RWA football.

Confident and very proud the Eagles traveled to St. Stephens for the opening round of the State Playoffs. Thomas Boswell and Robert Stidham both were out with injuries but nevertheless at the half TWA led by a score of 7-6. An early third quarter injury to Pat Westbrook destroyed the Eagles passing game which had been ever so potent in the 1st half. The Tigers took advantage of the situation and went on to win not only the game, but also the State Championship.

The team of 1981 will probably be remembered best for its goal line stands, the passing combo of D. Melton to Pat Westbrook, the intensity of the defense, the kickoff returns by Jay Frazier — but most of all they will be remembered as one of the proudest and most dedicated groups ever to wear a RWA uniform.

Nine Seniors will be graduating from the Eagles of '81 but the memories that they carry with them will be fond ones. Twenty-three wins and two playoff appearances in the past three years is quite an accomplishment. Let us hope all our Seniors in the future can leave on such a good note.