

Kings Mountain Boys Capture First SWC Crown



SWC CHAMPIONS — Pictured above is the 1965 Southwestern 3-A Conference champions, the Kings Mountain Mountaineers. The Mounties finished one game ahead of second place Chase with a 13-1 conference mark. First row (l to r) are Ben Grimes, Mickey Bell, Mike Goforth, Jay Powell, and Scott Cloninger.

Second row — Chip Bridges, Phillip Russ, Neal Cooper, Steve Goforth, Dennis Bridges, Speedy Ramsey. Third row — Richard Gold, Jimmy Cloninger, Larry Burton, Ken Bunkowski, and Mike Ballard.

Mountaineers Down Wilkes Central In Opening Tournament Game 55-51

place Lincoln girls of the SWC defeated the NWC fourth-place Hickory girls 32-27. In action Tuesday night, the R-S Central girls downed the Taylorsville girls 35-33 and Shelby lost to Morganton 32-25. Coach Lloyd Little's Shelby boys played Valdese at 7:30 Wednesday and Chase was against Marion at 9:00. Kings Mountain will play the winner of the Shelby-Valdese game Friday night at 9:00 while Hickory plays the winner of the Chase-Marion game at 7:30.

In girls play, Valdese plays Lincoln tonight (Thursday) at 7:30 and R-S Central plays Morganton at 9:00. The winners of those games will meet Saturday at 7:30 to decide the playoff champion.

Final standings in the North-western Conference saw the Hickory boys go undefeated with a 16-0 conference record. Marion and Valdese tied for second with identical 11-5 marks and Wilkes Central tied for fourth place with Hudson with a 10-6 record.

In girls play, Morganton came out atop the standings with a 12-2 record. Valdese was second with a 12-4 mark. Taylorsville (11-5) was third, and Hickory finished the season in fourth place with a 10-6 mark.

TUESDAY'S BOXES

Kings Mountain (55)	16
F-Bunkowski	5
F-Cloninger	13
C-Ballard	5
G-Gold	13
G-Bell	8
Subs Scoring: None	
Wilkes Central (51)	17
F-Jones	7
F-Brookshire	15
C-Gant	0
G-Baldwin	4
G-Swofford	0
Subs Scoring: Rogers 8	
Halftime Score: 24-23 (KM)	
Score By Periods:	
Kings Mtn.	12 12 10 21
Wilkes Central	9 14 12 16

Mounties Down R-S Central 71-44

The Kings Mountain Mountaineers won their tenth-in-a-row Friday night to nail down the number one position in the South-west Conference boys' basketball race. The win was a 71-44 triumph over R-S Central.

Forward Ken Bunkowski bucketed a field goal from 15-feet out to put the Mounties ahead 4-2 with 6:55 remaining in the first period, and from that point on the visiting Hilltoppers were not in the game.

Richard Gold led the Kings Mountain scoring with 20 points, followed by Ken Bunkowski with 16, and Mike Ballard and Jimmy Cloninger with 14 and 9 respectively.

Gold bucketed seven field goals and six foul shots for his total and Bunkowski added seven field goals and two charity points.

Central's Jack Huss gained night scoring honors with 28 points. He was the only Hilltopper to score in double figures.

The Mountaineers led by their largest margin, 28 points, with 5:00 remaining in the contest when the second unit entered to play the remainder of the game. The score at that time was 61-33.

The Hilltoppers, playing against the KM "B" team, outscored the locals during the final five minutes by only one point, 11-10.

Kings Mountain led by six, 18-12, after one period and by 14, 38-24, at intermission. That lead was increased to 23, 52-29, going into the final stanza.

The second-place R-S Central girls won in the opener 49-33. Kings Mountain's girls led only once during the game, with 4:00 left in the half when Sharon Gold hit two foul shots to put Coach Bob Hussey's sextet ahead 13-12. But Central's Wilma Whitesides bucketed a field goal just 15 seconds later to put the Hill-

topperettes back into the lead, 14-13. From that point on, it was all Central.

Central went on to lead by five, 20-15, at intermission and by 15, 37-22, going into the final period.

Sandra Tomblin and Wilma Whitesides scored 20 and 18 respectively to lead the R-S Central girls' charge while Joyce Bolin and Sharon Gold were highs for Kings Mountain with 11 and 9 respectively.

The KM girls finished the season in sixth place with two wins over Belmont, two over Cherryville, and one over East Rutherford.

BOXSCORES

GIRLS	
Kings Mountain (33)	11
F-Bolin	9
F-Gold	7
F-Huffstetler	6
G-Howard	7
G-Ruff	0
G-Lowery	0
Subs Scoring: None	
BOYS	
R-S Central (49)	0
F-Shehan	18
F-Whitesides	18
F-Tomblin	20
G-Crowe	8
G-Moore	0
G-Smith	1
Subs Scoring: Scoggins 2	
BOYS	
Kings Mountain (71)	16
F-Bunkowski	9
F-Cloninger	13
C-Ballard	20
G-Gold	2
G-Grimes	2
Subs Scoring: Bell 3, Connor 4, Burton 2, Russ 2	
R-S Central (44)	
F-Huss	28
F-Davis	7
C-Sprouse	7
G-Goforth	0
G-Sinclair	0
Subs Scoring: Hill 2, Walter Dalton 2, Davis 1, Warren Dalton 2	

Herald Sports

BY GARY STEWART

First Mountie Conference Win In 20 Years

Kings Mountain Mountaineer basketball Coach Don Parker has hit quite a few milestones during his 22 years as the KMHS mentor and now he has added another.

The 1964 Mountaineer basketball team is the first KMHS team to win a Southwest Conference basketball crown.

However, it is not the only conference crown that Kings Mountain teams have won under the Coach.

Parker has coached two conference winning teams, 1945 and 1965. There's a big 20-year jump there and let's hope that it will not be 20 more before another Mountaineer team cops the championship.

The 1944 Parker-coached Mountaineer squad would have been a conference winner, also. But '44 was during one of those war years when, if you played any games, you scheduled them, as the season progressed.

Recalls '44 '45 Teams As Great

Parker recalls the 1944 and 1945 seasons as two of the best, but stated that he cannot compare those teams with this year's because of the elapse of time.

During those two seasons the Mountaineers won 29 ball games and lost only one. The year '45 was the team's winningest as it swept through the 15 season games without a loss.

Speaking of the '45 team the Coach stated: "That team couldn't be touched. In some games we'd build up a big lead during the first half and then get some P. E. boys out of the stands and let them play the second half."

Parker remembers some of the boys that represented KMHS in the years 1944 and 1945 as members of the Mountaineer basketball team: Jim and Houston Black, Jim Herndon, Jim Hullender, and Bob and Robert Neal, all of whom started during one of those two seasons.

Other players mentioned through the year's were Jimmy Kimmell, Dub Hicks, Jack Ruth and Herman Mauney of the 1949 squad, Don Fisher, and Steve Jones.

He stopped at the name Steve Jones — "Now that boy was a terrific shot," said Parker. "Hit from the corner? Now, brother, he could," added the coach. "He was terrific — wasn't big either."

Barely Missed In '49

"We barely missed winning the conference in 1949," said Parker.

Seeking the facts, I found out that the Mountaineers lost to rival Shelby by a close score of 50-49, but Kings Mountain's Herman Mauney shot a field goal during the closing seconds which went through the hoop but the officials said that the final whistle had blown.

Parker began his KMHS coaching career in 1943 and since then has "racked-up" victory after victory in making his overall record a winning one.

Mountaineer teams, undoubtedly, posted their best records in 1944, 1945, 1949, and 1965.

The 1944 team posted a 14-1 season mark, the Mounties were 15-0 in '45, 11-2 in '49, and 18-1 in '65 (not including tournament play).

'65 Team One Of Best

No one can actually say that this year's team was the BEST in the history of the school, but one can say that it was "one of the best."

The team suffered only one conference loss during the season — to Chase — and came out atop the standings with an impressive 13-1 record. PLUS, the '65 team handed Shelby a big 73-43 defeat, which was the largest margin of difference in the history of the two schools.

Parker turned out some "great names" this year also. The greats—Richard Gold, Ken Bunkowski, Mike Ballard, and Jimmy Cloninger — are the Kimmells, Joneses, and Ruths of two decades later.

Three Sport Sweep Possibility

It is possible that KMHS athletic teams can make a

Nine Veteran Players Seeking Baseball Berths

Fifteen boys will be seeking berths as either pitchers or catchers this week when baseball Coach Bill Bates yells the first call for spring training.

Thus far 36 boys have signed up for diamond duty, with eight of these boys signing up for duty on the pitcher's mound, the spot where skill will be needed mostly for this year's team. Candidates for pitchers are Tommy Black, Seerley Lowery, Bill Mullinax, Steve Goforth, Tommy Goforth, Danny Sprouse, Rickey Stewart, and Darrell Whetstone.

Last year's baseball squad finished the season tied for third place in the Southwest Conference standings with a 7-7 record.

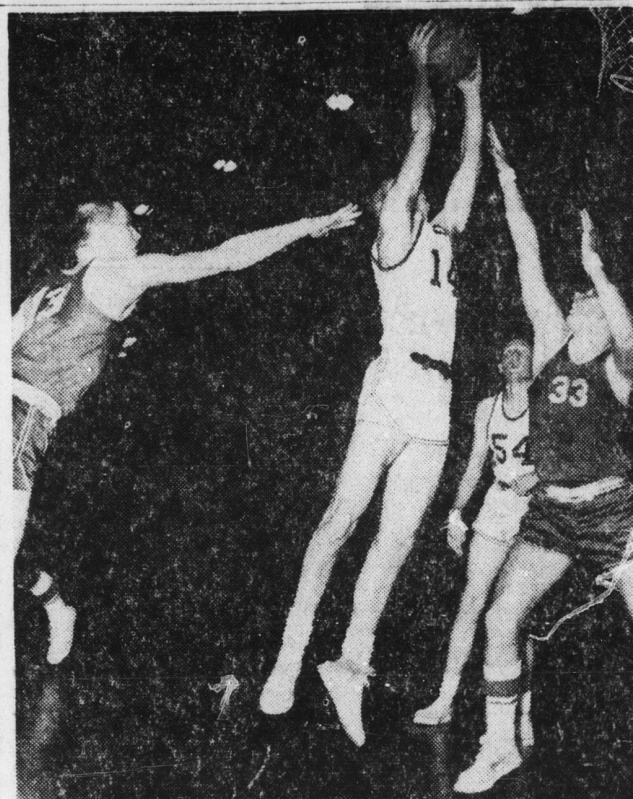
Nine returning lettermen will make up a part of the Mountaineer team, one that is going into training with a heavy load on its shoulders, that is, to attempt to round out a perfect season in KMHS sports.

Among the returning lettermen are two pitchers, southpaw Seerley Lowery and Bill Mullinax. Lowery was the Mountie's winningest pitcher last season as he posted five wins against only two defeats. Mullinax finished the season with a 1-1 mark. Danny Sprouse, Steve Goforth, and Tommy Goforth are expected to see much pitching duties.

Three members of last year's SWC All-Conference team make up a big part of the Mountaineer infield, second-baseman Mickey Bell, who was the leading batsman, shortstop Richard Gold, who is a four-year baseball letterman, and third-baseman Pat Murphy.

The list of returning lettermen include: second-baseman Mickey Bell, first-baseman Chip Bridges, shortstop Richard Gold, pitchers Seerley Lowery and Bill Mullinax, catcher Hubert McGinnis, third-baseman Pat Murphy, and outfielders Ronnie Rhea and Claude Pearson.

1965 KMHS BASEBALL ROSTER		
Name	Pos.	Grade
*Mickey Bell	2B	12
Tommy Black	P	12
Bill Bridges	OF	10
*Chip Bridges	1B	11
Phillip Bunch	2B	11
Charles Carroll	OF	10
Phillip Cash	SS	10
Michael Cobb	OF	10
Dennis Connor	OF	10
Nelson Connor	2B	10
Paul Gaffney	C	9
Chucky Gladden	3B	10
Steve Goforth	P	11
Tommy Goforth	P	10
*Richard Gold	SS	12
Eddie Hardin	OF	11
Myers Hambright, Jr.	C	12
Keith Kiser	OF	11
Tony Leigh	OF	10
*Seerley Lowery	P	12
Chip McGinnis	C	12
*Hubert McGinnis	C	12
Roy Medlin	C	10
Larry Morgan	SS	11
*Bill Mullinax	P	12
*Pat Murphy	3B	12
Steve Murphy	OF	10
*Claude Pearson	OF	12
Jay Powell	OF	11
*Ronnie Rhea	C	12
*Returning lettermen		



CLONINGER SHOOTS — Pictured above is Kings Mountain's Jimmy Cloninger about to get off a shot in KM's final conference game of the season against R-S Central. Cloninger scored nine points as the Mountaineers won 71-44. Number 33 is Central's Jack Huss who was the night high scorer with 28 points and number 54 is KM's Ken Bunkowski.

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