

Baseball Team Opens Season Tuesday At York



Herald Sports

BY GARY STEWART

Baseball Nine Opens Season Tuesday

The 1965 Kings Mountain high school baseball team opens its season Tuesday when the Mountaineers travel to York, South Carolina to take on the York High Dragons. The Mounties return home Friday to play host to York before opening conference play March 30 at East Rutherford.

Afternoon practice sessions are being held at City Stadium with 36 high school boys seeking starting berths on this year's team, one that is attempting to round out a three-sport sweep for the '64-'65 school year.

Coach Bill Bates is beginning his second year as baseball coach and is sporting a 9-7 record. The Mounties finished the season last year in a four-way tie for third place in the Southwest Conference.

Nine lettermen will form the nucleus around which this year's team will be formed.

Among lettermen are returning starters Mickey Bell (2B), Richard Gold (SS), Pat Murphy (3B), Ronnie Rhea (LF), Claude Pearson (RF), Hubert McGinnis (C), Chip McGinnis (C), and pitchers Bill Mullinax and Seerley Lowery.

Many sophomores and juniors are now pushing seniors for starting positions.

Sophomores Roy Medlin and Nelson Connor are among infield candidates and juniors Jay Powell, Steve Wilson, Phillip Russ, and Roger Ross are also vying for various positions.

Hitting Will Be Biggest Problem

Hitting will present the biggest problem for this year's team. Only two boys, Bell and Gold, topped the .300 mark last season.

Bell led all batsmen with a .383 batting average, 18 hits in 47 official times at bat and added 12 runs scored.

Gold added 17 hits in 49 official times at bat for a .347 average. He also scored 12 runs. Seerley Lowery and Chip McGinnis followed with respective .277 and .238 averages.

Bell was awarded the John Moss Most Valuable Player trophy.

Many boys are capable of "swinging the big bat." Three-catchers, Chip McGinnis, Hubert McGinnis, and Roy Medlin have the power and the ability to hit. Infielders Bell, Gold, and Murphy, as well as left fielder Ronnie Rhea, should be consistent in their hitting.

Pitching Staff Is Well Balanced

The pitching staff, headed by junior Steve Goforth and seniors Bill Mullinax and Seerley Lowery, should be well balanced.

Goforth saw mostly relief duties last season but will be counted heavily upon by Coach Bates to start often this year.

Lowery and Mullinax both were starters last season and will again see duties beginning with the first inning.

Senior Tommy Black (asouthpaw) and sophomores Danny Sprouse and Tommy Goforth will also see duties on the mound, but mostly in relief.

Track, Golf Begin This Week

The high school track and golf teams also begin season play this week.

Coach Don Parker's boys will entertain the golfers from Lincolnton Monday afternoon at 4:00 at the Kings Mountain Country Club.

Seniors George Plonk and Mike Ballard will head the '65 golfers. Both boys are lettermen at the sport and both were essential to the many wins of last season.

Track Coach Bill Cashion is optimistic about the comeback of the track season this year. Cashion reports that if the odds go right his team will stand a good chance to win the conference championship.

Returning track stars include Steve Baker, Buzz Shuford, Mike Goforth, and Jimmy Cloninger.

Bowling In Home Stretch

Kings Mountain duckpin bowling teams are now going down the home stretch but no teams have any positions clinched as of yet.

In men's bowling, the Clyde Culbertson team, winner of the first half, is four games ahead of second place Plonk Oil and Bob Herndon.

Tignor & Russell could possibly finish in the first division as that team is currently in fourth place. Dilling Heating and Griffin Drug are now struggling to stay out of the cellar as both teams sport identical 25-31 records and are tied for fifth place.

Plonk's Department Store and Medical Pharmacy are fighting for the ladies' league lead with Belk's Department Store resting in third place.

Plonk's has led almost the entire second half but a late surge by the Pharmacy team has saw it come all the way from fifth place.

In mixed bowling only three weeks remain and the winner will either be Jenny Oates or City Paint Store.

Oates is currently on top by two games with four-game matches remaining with Betty Fite, Dot Tignor, and City Paint Store.

City Paint won the first half championship by finishing seven games ahead of the second place team, but, no matter which team wins this half, it will be much closer.

Shelby Seeks Fifth SWC Starting Nine Not Yet Certain

Championship In 10 Years

Southwest conference baseball action begins Tuesday, March 30 and continues through May 14 and in between those two dates fine high school baseball will be brought to the Kings Mountain area.

Out of the eight SWC teams Shelby, East Rutherford, and Kings Mountain will be the ones to look for to win the loop championship. The Shelby Lions will be looking for their fifth conference win in the history of the conference.

Shelby won the conference championship last season and turned back both Hickory and East Rowan in the playoffs. Righthander Billy Champion, who recorded both wins over Hickory and East, will again be at the helm of the Lion's pitching staff with assistance coming from Mitchell Self.

Ronnie Wilson and Tommy Pruitt head the infielders and centerfielder Joel McKinney will be "swinging the big bat" in the Lion's hitting attack.

Outfielder Don Blanton and catcher Doug Hauk, both all-conference in '64, will head the East Rutherford charge. Freddie Smith will be at the helm of the pitching corp.

Belmont's strong pitching staff could cause many SWC teams

Three All SWC Players Return To Infield Posts

The Kings Mountain Mountaineers begin their baseball season Tuesday afternoon when they travel to York to take on the York high school Dragons. Game time is 4:00.

A field of nine returning lettermen — including three all-conference players — head the 36-man Mountaineer team.

All-conference infielders Mickey Bell, Pat Murphy, and Richard Gold will hold down the second base, third base, and shortstop positions but much opposition is coming from three sophomores and a pair of juniors.

Sophomore Chucky Gladden is Murphy's only opposition at the hot corner. Junior Larry Morgan and sophomore Phillip Cash are competing against Gold at the shortstop position and Bell's opposition at second is coming from sophomore Nelson Connor and junior Phillip Bunch.

Returning lettermen Ronnie Rhea and Claude Pearson will be at the left and right field positions for the second straight season but the center field position is still to be filled.

Seeking a position at first base are juniors Chip Bridges, Steve Wilson and Jay Powell and senior Alvin Ellison.

Sophomore Roy Medlin is competing against seniors Hubert and Chip McGinnis for duties behind home plate. Both Medlin and Hubert are capable of playing first base and Chip saw action in the outfield last season, so all three of those boys could see starting duties at different spots.

Junior Steve Goforth and seniors Bill Mullinax and Seerley Lowery will head the pitcher's crew with sophomores Tommy Goforth and Danny Sprouse, along with senior southpaw Tommy Black, seeing much duty in relief.

Lowery posted the best win-loss record last season (5-2), while Mullinax was 1-1, and Goforth went winless, but was impressive as a reliever.

Juniors Roger Ross and Phillip Russ are among 11 outfield candidates and could see starting duties at the center field post.

Shortstop Richard Gold and '64 Most Valuable Player Mickey Bell will head the batsmen. Bell posted the best batting average last season, .383, and Gold added 17 hits in 49 official times at bat for a .347 average.

Sixteen Cagers Awarded Letters

Sixteen Kings Mountain high school basketball players were awarded "K" monograms for participation in at least half the games of the 1964-'65 cage season.

In order to be awarded a "letter" a person must see action in at least half the periods played. For example, a member of the boys team must have seen action in at least 44 quarters since there were 22 games (88 quarters) played this season. A girl would have seen action in 35 quarters.

Ten girls were tapped as compared to only six boys.

Girls receiving monograms were seniors Joan Howard, Marjorie Griffin, and Betty Fite.

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KMHS Opens Golf Schedule Monday

Ballard, Plonk, Wright Head Six-Man Team

Kings Mountain high school golfers open season action Monday afternoon at 4:00 at the Kings Mountain Country Club when they play host to Lincolnton.

Only six boys are on this year's roster as Coach Donald Parker lost Terry Leonard and Dwight Swan from last year's team which won seven matches and lost only three.

Seniors Mike Ballard and George Plonk will head this year's team with assistance coming from juniors Danny Finger and Fred Wright, Jr., senior Tommy Dean, and sophomore Dennis Connor.

The team will play 12 regular season matches beginning with Monday's meet and culminating with the KM at East Rutherford match on May 6. The association meet will be held at Statesville on May 10 at 9:00, at which time a 27-hole match will be held to determine the association champions.

1965 KMHS GOLF SCHEDULE

MARCH	TEAM	PLACE
22	Lincolnton	Here
25	Shelby	Here
29	Cherryville	Here
APRIL		
1	Belmont	There
5	Lincolnton	There
8	Belmont	Here
12	Shelby	There
15	Chase	There
22	R-S Central	Here
26	Lincolnton	Here
29	Chase	Here
MAY		
6	R-S Central	There
10	Assoc. Match	Statesville

Plonk Oil Downs Front-Runners

The Plonk Oil men's bowling team won three games from first place Clyde Culbertson Monday night to move within four games of first place. In other action, Griffin Drug moved into a tie for fifth place with a 3-1 win over Bob Herndon and Tignor & Russell moved into fourth place with a 3-1 win over Dilling Heating.

Bob Wells copped scoring honors for the Plonk Oil with a 148 line and a 360 set. Lee Norville was high for the losers with a 131 line and a 357 set. All team members of both teams rolled 300-plus sets.

Albert Brackett combined lines of 101, 136, and 147 for a 384 set, which was the night's high, as Tignor & Russell took a 3-1 win from Dilling Heating. John Dilling rolled a 126 line and a 332 set for the losers.

Red Morrison rolled a 133 line and a 326 set as Griffin Drug won three games off Bob Herndon to move into a tie for fifth place with Dilling Heating. Randy Blanton added a 312 set for the winners and Bob Herndon was high for the losers with a

Oates Heads Mixed Bowling Standings

City Ice & Coal moved into sole possession of third place in the Mixed Bowling standings Thursday night by taking four games from fifth place Dot Tignor. First place Jenny Oates took three of four games from Janet Parker and City Paint Store took a 3-1 decision from Betty Fite.

Albert Brackett rolled a 126 line and Allen Myers added a line set score of 313 for City Ice & Coal as it moved two games ahead of fourth place Betty Fite. Richard Culbertson had a 108 line and a 310 set for the losers.

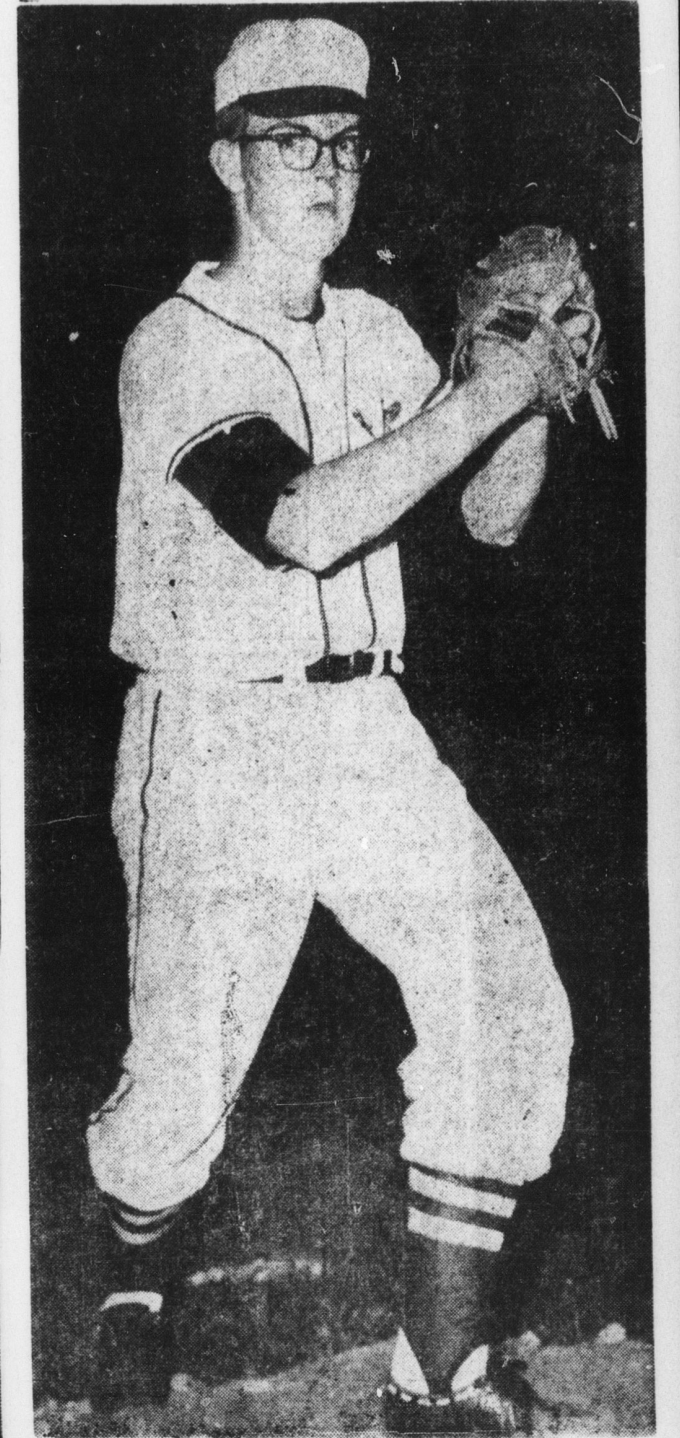
Jenny Oates copped line and set honors as her team took a 3-1 win from bottom place Janet Parker. Oates combined line scores of 147, 116, and 102 for a 365 set. Clarence Plonk added a 342 set for the winners and Bob Herndon was high for the losers with a 131 line and a 328 set.

John Dilling copped night line and set honors as second place City Paint Store won three games from Betty Fite. Dilling rolled lines of 151, 114, and 122 for a 387 set while Steve Rathbone's 113 line and 321 set was high for the losers.

Team	W	L	Pct.
Jenny Oates	29	11	.725
City Paint Store	27	13	.675
City Ice & Coal	20	20	.500
Betty Fite	18	22	.450
Dot Tignor	15	25	.375
Janet Parker	11	29	.275

Standings

Team	W	L	Pct.
Clyde Culbertson	33	23	.589
Bob Herndon	29	27	.518
Plonk Oil Co.	29	27	.518
Tignor & Russell	27	29	.482
Dilling Heating	25	31	.446
Griffin Drug	25	31	.446



MOUNDSMAN — Pictured above is Kings Mountain high school pitcher Seerley Lowery, who will head a mound crew of eight boys this season. Lowery, a senior, posted a 5-2 record in '64 as the Mounties won nine of sixteen games to finish in a four-way tie for third place in the Southwest Conference.

Tracksters Open Season March 25 At Cherryville

Goforth, Wright, Shuford To Head Team Of 61 Boys

Kings Mountain high school track coaches Bill Cashion and Bob Hussey reported Tuesday that 61 boys have signed up for this year's track team which begins action next Thursday at Cherryville.

Returning lettermen Mike Goforth, Buzz Shuford, Lyn Cheshire, Pat Ford, and Jimmy Wright are among the many stars on this year's team.

The tracksters will participate in five season meets before entering the conference meets at Shelby on April 30, the bi-conference meets at Morganton on May 7, and the association meets at North Rowan on May 15.

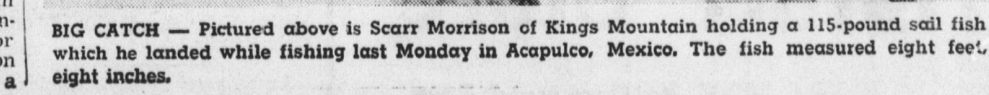
All meets are scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

1965 KMHS TRACK SCHEDULE

MARCH	TEAM	PLACE
25	Belmont, Chase, East Rutherford, KM, Lincolnton, R-S Central, Shelby	at Cherryville
APRIL		
1	Belmont, Chase, Cherryville, KM, Lincolnton, R-S Central, Shelby	at East Rutherford
APRIL 8	Belmont, Chase, Cherryville, East Rutherford, KM, Lincolnton, Shelby	at R-S Central
APRIL 13	Belmont, Chase, East Rutherford, Hickory, KM, R-S Central	at Shelby
APRIL 22	Belmont, Chase, Cherryville, East Rutherford, KM, R-S Central, Shelby	at Lincolnton

Bob Herndon Wins Turkey Trot Tournery

Bob Herndon copped top prizes in the local duckpin Turkey Trot tournament which ended this week. Herndon copped first and second places in the singles division with three-game scores of 675 and 670 worth a total of \$80. Clarence Plonk took third place and \$20 with a score of 640. Clarence Plonk was second in winnings with \$60 by taking



BIG CATCH — Pictured above is Scarr Morrison of Kings Mountain holding a 115-pound sail fish which he landed while fishing last Monday in Acapulco, Mexico. The fish measured eight feet, eight inches.

Medical Pharmacy Gains Ladies' Lead

The Medical Pharmacy ladies' bowling team won its protest with McGinnis Furniture to move into a tie for first place with Plonk's Department Store going into action Tuesday night at Mountain Lanes Bowling Center.

In action Tuesday, Medical Pharmacy won three of four games from Phillip's 66 and Belk's Department Store took three games from Plonk's to give Pharmacy a two-game lead over the second place team.

Oates-Henderson Shell split a four-game series with McGinnis Furniture to move into a tie for fourth place with Phillip's 66.

Barbara Miller rolled a 114 line and a 321 set to lead Medical Pharmacy into the number one position with a 3-1 decision over Phillip's 66. Ethel Tignor copped scoring honors for the losers with a 115 line and a 292 set.

Belk's moved within one game of second place with its three game win over Plonk's. Betty Fite led the way for the winners with a 124 line and a 333 set. Team captain Lib Gault was high for the losers with a 113 line and a 312 set.

Jenny Oates gained set honors for the night as she combined games of 118, 96, and 121 for a 335 set to lead O-H Shell to a two-game win over McGinnis Furniture. Peggy Ross added a 113 line and a 310 set for Oates and Evelyn Early was high for McGinnis Furniture with a 123 line and a 313 set.

Team	W	L	Pct.
Medical Pharmacy	30	14	.682
Plonk's Dept. Store	28	16	.636
Belk's Dept. Store	27	17	.613
Oates-Henderson	18	25	.409
Phillips 66	18	25	.409
McGinnis Furniture	11	33	.250

third place in the singles division and part of first and second in doubles competition. Plonk and Richard Culbertson took first place honors in doubles with a combined score of 1222. Plonk and Randy Blanton were second with a 1204 score, and Roddy Houser and Furman Wilson took third place with an 1188 total.