

Freshman Mike Smith Leads Mounties Past Chase



By GARY STEWART

Mounties Might Just Be Big Threat

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers haven't been considered as being a contender for the Southwest Conference title this season but with a few breaks this young and inexperienced team might just turn out to be one of the loop toughies this time around.

Coach Bill Bates' diamondmen are not much for hitting the cover off the ball but the Mountaineers can offer one of — if not the toughest pitching staffs in the conference.

Bates undoubtedly has a good one-two combination in brothers Steve and Tommy Goforth and sophomore Darrell Whetstone will be one of the toughest relief men in the conference.

Darrell, a righthander, has better control than either Tommy or Steve and will probably see some starting assignments as well as relief work.

Tommy, the younger brother, a junior, has been hampered with sickness so far this year but after hurling a one-hitter and fanning 12 at York Friday, seems to be well enough.

Steve is the only letterman of the three having worked behind aces Seerley Lowery and Bill Mullinax last season. Tommy saw action in one game last year but Darrell's in his first year as a starter.

Going into Tuesday's game at Chase, the three had only given up seven hits in two games. Only two runs had been registered against them and both of those were unearned.

The three struck out 17 batters in the two games against York with Tommy getting 12, Darrell 3 and Steve 2.

All Three Seem To Have Good Control

The good thing about the progress of KM's big three is that all seem to have good control. In the two pre-season games, only five batters reached base against them via walks.

The thing that the Mountaineers need to do now is to concentrate on hitting the ball. Should the boys start meeting the ball squarely they will probably finish high in the standings.

Coach Bates now has two freshmen in the starting lineup. Both boys show signs of being good ballplayers and good, sound infielders.

At second base is Mike Smith, a smooth infielder and a consistent hitter. In his first starting assignment at York Friday, Mike was one-for-three at bat and scored the winning run, plus, did not make an error.

At third base for the Mountaineers is Wayne Mullinax who batted in the second run of the day Friday. Wayne failed to get a hit but swings the stick real well.

Coach Bates has switched junior Chucky Gladden from third to first and has switched Nelson Connor from second to short. Both boys were one-for-three Friday and should be two of the top hitters on the team this year.

Nelson, a real smooth operator, is one of two lettermen on the team. He started in all but four games last year and went the entire season without making an error. He has committed one this year but it's a good bet that he will not make a habit of it.

Excluding pitchers, Bates has five juniors, one sophomore and two freshmen in the starting lineup.

The outfield is all-junior with Tony Leigh in left, Charles Carroll in center and Bill Bridges in right. The sophomore member of the starting team is catcher Paul Gaffney.

Both Leigh and Carroll are capable of becoming good hitters and Leigh has shown good speed on the base paths. Leigh is without a doubt the best hustler of the three. Since the beginning of the '66 season, he has learned to conquer the leftfield bank at City Stadium like it was another park.

Play Lincolnton Here Friday Afternoon

The Mountaineers open their conference home slate here Friday afternoon against Lincolnton, the team which has been chosen as the one to beat in this year's race.

Coach Bates will most likely send Tommy Goforth to the mound and Lincolnton Coach Perry Brown is expected to use Virgil Cline, a sophomore or ace Harry Graham.

The Mountaineers will be at home again Tuesday against R-S Central, another team picked as a contender. The Mounties then travel to Shelby Wednesday and come back home again next Friday against East Rutherford.

Clyde Culbertson, Bill Mullinax Lead Bowling Wins Monday Night

Clyde Culbertson rolled a 151 line and a 394 set to lead his team to a 3-1 win over City Paint Store Monday night and to increase his team's lead to five games over Dilling Heating in the men's bowling league race.

Plonk Oil Co. won four games off Dilling Heating to move within one game of second place. In the other match Monday, Griffin Drug Co. defeated Morrison Loan Co. three games to one.

Culbertson got a little assistance from Lee Norville and Harold Barber. Norville chipped in 135 line and a 355 set and Barber added a 351 set. High man for the losers and runner-up to Culbertson for night scoring honors was Ranny Blanton with a 140 line and a 392 set.

Bill Mullinax combined lines of 114, 135 and 132 for a 381 set to

lead Plonk Oil to a 40 win over Dilling Heating. All five members of the Plonk Oil team posted 300-plus sets. Richard Culbertson led the losers in scoring with a 198 line and a 370 set.

Bob Herndon registered a 125 line and a 350 set to lead Griffin Drug Co. to a 3-1 win over Morrison Loan. Furman Wilson added a 344 set for the winners and Tommy Gamble had a 131 line and a 346 set for the losers.

Plonk Oil Co. topped team set honors with a 1768 total.

Team	W	L	Pct.
Clyde Culbertson	39	25	.609
Dilling Heating	34	30	.531
Plonk Oil Co.	33	31	.516
Griffin Drug Co.	31	33	.484
City Paint Store	29	35	.453
Morrison Loan Co.	26	38	.406

Eighth-Inning Triple Drives In Winning Run

Freshman second baseman Mike Smith hit a two-out triple to send home Bill Bridges with the winning run in Kings Mountain high school's 4-2 win over Chase Tuesday.

The game opened Southwest Conference play for both teams.

Smith, since moving into a starting role last week, is rapidly making a name for himself on the KM diamond scene. He was the team's leading hitter Tuesday, collecting two hits in three times at bat and scoring one run. He now leads the team in hitting with a .429 batting average.

Senior righthander Steve Goforth went the distance for the Mountaineers, picking up his first win of the season. Steve gave up five hits, walked five and struck out nine.

The Mountaineers struck first in the top of the fourth with sophomore catcher Paul Gaffney scoring. With two outs, Gaffney singled, stole second, went to third on a wild pitch and came home after Chucky Gladden and Bridges walked and Smith reached base on an error.

Chase tied the score in the bottom of the fourth with shortstop Bobby Bridges scoring after the Mounties committed two errors and Goforth tossed one wild pitch.

The Mountaineers went ahead again in the fifth. Leftfielder Tony Leigh singled to lead off the frame, was sacrificed to second by Nelson Connor and batted in with a triple by Wayne Mullinax.

Chase knotted the score again in the bottom of the sixth with Bridges again scoring. Bridges walked to lead off the frame, went to third on a single by Doug Hamrick and scored on a single by Al Radford.

Kings Mountain broke the game open in the eighth when Bridges got on by error after Gaffney fanned and Gladden grounded out. Bridges was batted in by Smith's triple and Smith later scored on a wild pitch.

Bridges singled to lead off the Chase eighth. Hamrick got on by an error and Radford went down swinging. Goforth then intentionally walked Mauney to load the bases. Goforth struck out James for out number two and Smith made an unassisted force out of Mauney at second when Ken Hamrick hit a grounder.

The Mountaineers collected seven hits off Chase pitcher Mike Powell. Each team committed errors.

BOXSCORE	
Kings Mtn.	AB R H BI
Leigh, lf	5 1 2 0
Connor, ss	3 0 1 0
Mullinax, 3b	2 0 1 1
Carroll, cf	3 0 0 0
Gaffney, c	4 1 1 0
Gladden, 1b	3 0 0 0
Bridges, rf	2 1 0 0
Smith, 2b	3 1 2 1
Goforth, p	2 0 0 0
27 4 7 2	
Chase	AB R H BI
Dewberry, 3b	4 0 0 0
Bridges, ss	3 2 1 0
D. Hamrick, lf	3 0 1 0
Radford, cf	4 0 1 1
Mauney, 2b	3 0 1 0
James, c	4 0 0 0
K. Hamrick, 1b	3 0 0 0
Mason, rf	3 0 1 0
Powell, p	2 0 0 0
29 2 5 1	

E—James 2, Mullinax 2, Mason, Dewberry, Gaffney, Gladden. SAC—Connor. SB—Goforth 2, Leigh, Gaffney, Gladden, Mason. 3B—Mullinax, Smith. WP—Powell 3, Goforth.

Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Goforth (w)	8	5	2	1	5	9
Powell (l)	8	7	4	1	7	6

Recreation League Banquet Saturday

The first annual City Recreation Basketball League Banquet will be held at the American Legion Building Saturday night at 7:00.

The banquet is being given by the Recreation Department honoring members and coaches of teams entered in the 1965-66 Recreation League. Teams participating were Belk's, Lithium, All-Stars, Jaycees, Mountaineers and ARP Church.

Recreation Director Elmer "Mag" Ross and Department President Roy Pearson are in charge of the program.

ROTARY PROGRAM

Mayor John H. Moss will speak on "Kings Mountain's Need for an Effective Recreation Program", at Thursday's Rotary club meeting at 12:15 at the Country club. Mayor Moss is a Rotarian. Rev. Howard Jordan is program chairman.



IN PITCHING WINS — Tommy and Steve Goforth posted pitching wins for the Kings Mountain high school Mountaineers during the past week. Tommy (left), a junior, tossed a one-hitter and struck out 12 against York Friday for a 2-0 win and Steve, a senior, beat Chase 4-2 Tuesday with a five-hitter and nine strikeouts.

Goforth One-Hits York For 2-0 Win

By GARY STEWART

Tommy Goforth fired a one-hitter and struck out 12 batters to pitch Kings Mountain's Mountaineers to their first baseball win of the season Friday at York, 2-0.

The junior righthander struck out at least one batter in each inning and walked only one en route to his first high school victory.

Goforth was engaged in a pitching duel with KM Legion hurler Mickey Adkins throughout the game. Adkins, who is now 1-2 on the season, sent 13 batters back to the bench via the strikeout route. He walked one batter, also.

Kings Mountain collected only four hits off Adkins but took advantage of some good breaks in the fifth inning to bring two runs across.

Freshman second baseman Mike Smith singled to lead off the inning and went to second on a wild pitch. He then went to third on another wild pitch. Adkins then issued a walk to Tony Leigh who immediately stole second base.

Smith scored the winning run on a wild pitch with Leigh moving to third on the same play. Leigh scored an out later when the York shortstop booted a grounder off the bat of Wayne Mullinax. Mullinax swiped second base but was stranded there when Charles Carroll fanned.

Kings Mountain had runners in scoring position in each of the first three frames but went down in order in the fourth, sixth and seventh. Leigh reached third base in the first inning after getting on by error. Paul Gaffney reached third in the second and Tommy Goforth and Nelson Connor each reached scoring position in the third.

Only three York players reached base off Goforth. First-base man David Norris got on by error in the second. Melvin Mullis singled in the fourth and Robert Bolin walked in the fifth. Mullis was the only York runner to reach second base.

York threatened in the seventh when freshman Rocky Goforth issued three walks to load the bases. With one out, Coach Bill Bates brought Tommy back in. He struck out the last two batters on six pitches.

Goforth was also KM's leading hitter with a double in three times at bat. Chucky Gladden, Nelson Connor and Mike Smith collected one hit each.

Dick Gold Elected Captain Of Florida State Freshmen

Former Kings Mountain high school and Post 155 American Legion baseball standout Richard Gold was recently elected captain of the Florida State University Freshman team by a vote of his teammates.

Mounties Host Lincs Friday, Central Tuesday

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers lay out the welcome mat to Lincolnton Friday in the second Southwest Conference game of the season.

Both teams won loop openers Tuesday, the Mountaineers whipping Chase, 4-2, in eight innings and Lincolnton beating R-S Central 5-1. In other games Tuesday, Shelby whitewashed Cherryville 15-0 behind a one-hitter by Mitchell Self and East Rutherford defeated Belmont, 8-5.

Other games Friday pit Shelby against Belmont, Chase against R-S Central and Cherryville against East Rutherford.

Junior righthander Tommy Goforth is scheduled to pitch for the Mountaineers against either Virgil Cline or Harry Graham of the Wolves. Cline is a sophomore southpaw and Graham, the Linc ace, is a senior.

Goforth is fresh from a one-hit 2-0 shutout over York last week and is expected to be in top form against the Wolves. Tommy struck out 12 York batters Friday and had good control as he walked only one.

Mountaineer Coach Bill Bates might make some changes for Friday's game but it's a sure bet that the infield will be the same.

At first base will be Chucky Gladden, at second freshman and leading hitter Mike Smith, at third will be freshman Wayne Mullinax, at short will be Nelson Connor and behind the plate, Paul Gaffney.

Tony Leigh, a junior, will open in leftfield with centerfield and rightfield being up for grabs. Bates will most likely change his batting order, moving Smith further up the line.

Smith has been hitting in the number eight slot, however, his consistent hitting in the last two games will undoubtedly win him a higher spot on the batting order.

The Mountaineers are at home against R-S Central Tuesday at 4:00 and then travel to Shelby for a game Wednesday afternoon. Sophomore Darrell Whetstone will probably receive the starting call for Tuesday's game and either Tommy or Steve Goforth will go against Shelby.

Golfers Downed By Chase, R-S

Kings Mountain high school's golfers suffered two losses during the past week, losing to Chase 8-4 on Thursday and getting "skunked" by R-S Central 12-0 on Monday.

William McSwain and Leslie Joy were the only KM lads to win a match Thursday. Three other KM linksmen, John Van Dyke, Fred Wright and Stan Yarbrough halved their matches Thursday.

Wright and Van Dyke, along with Chester Melton of Chase, who was Wright's opponent, shared medals; honors with 40's. Joy carded a 48 to win his match over Alan Lane, 4-2, and Yarbrough came in with a 47 and a tie with James Robbins who had a 45.

The Mountaineers registered some good scores at Rutherfordton Monday, however, five of Central's eight men broke 40.

Jay Powell, KM's lead-off man, was low for the Mountaineers with a 39. Medalist was Steve Smith of R-S Central with a 37. Coach Don Parker's boys play two home matches this week, hosting East Rutherford Thursday and Shelby Monday.

THURS. RESULTS

SINGLES
Tate (C) def. Powell (K) 3-2; Melton (C) and Wright (K) halved; Harris (C) and Van Dike (K) halved; Pace (C) def. Cheshire (K) 2-1; McSwain (K) def. Webb (K) 3-2; Yarbrough (K) and Robbins (C) halved; Joy (K) def. Lane (C) 4-2; King (C) def. Finger (K) 1-up.

DOUBLES
Tate-Melton (C) def. Wright-Powell (K) 3-1; Harris-Pace (C) def. Van Dyke-Cheshire (K) 2-1; McSwain-Yarbrough (K) and Webb-Robbins (C) halved; Lane-King (C) def. Joy-Finger (K) 1-up.

MONDAY'S SCORES
R-S KM
Oates 39 Powell 39
Smith 37 Wright 41
Love 41 Davis 42
Walker 42 McSwain 46

Gold, who was one of the top Legion hitters in the state last year with a .470 batting average, is currently playing second base instead of his old familiar shortstop position.

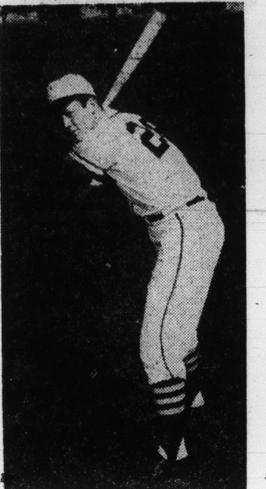
Richard leads his team in runs batted in with 10, has one home run and four doubles to his credit and is currently hitting at a .280 clip. Dick also has seven stolen bases.

The FSU frosh just returned from a road trip to Gulf Coast Junior College at Panama City, Fla., where the two teams split a doubleheader, FSU winning the opener 7-0 and Gulf Coast winning the second, 4-3.

Florida State's Freshmen are 9-9 for the season (through Saturday, March 26). Richard reports that five of those nine losses were by one or two runs. FSU has 11 games remaining on its schedule.

While at KMHS, Gold won 10 monograms and was named all-conference five times, twice in baseball and basketball and once in football. He was all-conference in all three sports his senior year.

Dick was also all-state in football, was the Most Valuable Player in football as well as MVP of the Legion baseball team. One of his many records at KMHS is that of the all-time basketball scoring title. In his three years as a KMHS cager, Dick tallied 826 points for a career 14.2 scoring average.



CAPTAIN — Former Kings Mountain high school and Post 155 American Legion baseball standout, Richard Gold, was recently elected captain of the Florida State freshman team by a vote of his teammates. Richard, now a second baseman, is currently hitting .280 and leads the team in runs batted in with 10.

Davidson Seniors Banquet Speakers

Gault, Oates Post Top Bowling Scores

Lib Gault and Jenny Oates posted top scores of the night in ladies' bowling league action Tuesday.

Gault, captain of the Elsie's Beauty Shop team, was high scorer with a 149 line and a 376 set, however, her team lost three games to the Outcasts.

Oates, captain of the Oates-Henderson Shell team, which is now in fourth place, rolled a 140 line and a 373 set to lead her team to a 3-1 win over Kings Mountain Drug.

Pat Panther was high scorer for the Druggers with a 113 line and a 308 set and Ethel Tignor was high scorer for the Outcasts with a 107 line and a 300 set.

Plonk Brothers moved into second place in the loop standings with a 3-1 win over McGinnis' Furniture with Louise Dover's 112 line and 298 set leading the way. Pat Herndon chipped in a 296 set for the winners and Betty Fite was high for the losers with a 117 line and a 307 set.

Oates-Henderson Shell claimed team high set with a 1442 total.

STANDINGS

Team	W	L	Pct.
Elsie's Beauty Shop	31	17	.646
Plonk Brothers	28	20	.583
Kings Mtn. Drug	27	21	.563
Oates-Henderson	23	25	.479
Outcasts	19	29	.396
McGinnis Furniture	16	32	.333

"Hickory 250" On Tap Sunday

HICKORY — Stock car racing's touring professionals will rear off Sunday at Hickory Speedway in the annual "Hickory 250," with hard-driving David Pearson trying to expand his lead in the national point standings.

A field of 20 to 25 cars and a crowd of 10,000 or more are expected to be on hand for the 2:30 p.m. start of the NASCAR Grand National event. Qualifying time trials are scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday.

The race will be the main attraction of a program that also includes a 50-lap race for the NASCAR late model sportsman cars which compete in weekly races here.

Pearson, in a Dodge prepared by Cotton Owens of Spartanburg, S. C., was the first driver to file an entry from the Chrysler camp. Among his opposition will be a Ford contingent headed by Ned Jarrett and Bobby Isaac, two veterans who got their start in racing at Hickory Speedway.

Track manager Grafton Burgess said that entries were expected from Plymouth-driving Richard Petty, the "Daytona 500" winner, and from Curtis Turner — who may make the first racing start for Ford's intermediate-size Fairlane model car.

April 7 Kiwanis Club Banquet Honoring Cagers

The first annual Kiwanis Club High School Basketball Banquet will be held at 6:00 Thursday, April 6, at the Woman's Club.

The banquet, honoring members of both Kings Mountain high school varsity squads and their coaches, will be highlighted by Davidson All-American Dick Snyder and senior teammate Phil Squier and Ronnie Stone.

All three Davidson stars will speak briefly to the members of the KMHS squads. Snyder, All-Southern Conference for two seasons, was named All-American on every major team. He was instrumental in leading Davidson to its best season in history and to the Southern Conference Championship and Southern Conference Tournament Championship.

Snyder, a 6'3 forward, set an all-time regular season scoring record at Davidson this past season. The North Canton, Ohio, senior was also named the Southern Conference "Player of the Year" as well as the Southern Conference Tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Squier, a 5-11, 165-pounder, was the team's playmaker and an outstanding ballhandler. Stone, the only one of the three from North Carolina, was Coach Lefty Driesell's top reserve. All three boys were lettermen last year.

Most Valuable Player trophies will be presented to the outstanding boy and girl players Thursday. The boys' trophy will be named in honor of the late Dr. W. P. Gerberding and the girls' award will be given by Captain Meek Ormand.

J. A. Neisler, Jr., is in charge of the program.

Isaac is rated as one of the top favorites for two reasons. In addition to the "track savvy" he has as a result of starting his career in weekly events here, he will be driving a car prepared by Hickory Speedway master Junior Johnson.

Johnson, who retired from the driving end of the sport last year, has won eight Grand National races at Hickory — a NASCAR record for victories at a best track. He's regarded as the best in the business in setting up a car for the power-sliding technique required on the four-tenths of a mile-banked clay track.

Don Tilley of Statesville and Ken Houston of Conover, both in Fords, will be trying for repeat wins in the late model sportsman race on the same program. Tilley won the March 13 season opener here, and Houston was the victor in a 50-lap feature last Sunday.