

# Juniors Play At Hickory Friday, Here Saturday

## Herald Sports

By GARY STEWART

### Teeners Should Be Hard To Beat

Kings Mountain's Teener League all-star team is going to be tough to beat this year. The locals finished third in the state tournament last year and seven of the 15 boys named to the team this year started last time around.

Coaches Bob Moore, Mike Ware and Warren Goforth will offer tough pitching, fielding and hitting, and I've always been told that's what it takes. The Teeners are sponsored by the Frank Glass Post 9811 of the V.F.W. and this is KM's second year of participation in Teener League play. Last year's team lost out to Gastonia, which lost to state champ Shelby.

Kings Mountain has power hitters at almost every position with infielders Ken Mitchem, Mike Smith and Wayne Mullinax heading the list. Mullinax cracked a home run in last year's tourney. The locals have two Negroes on the team, Mitchem and catcher Clarence Ash. Both boys played for Margrace.

Mitchem, a standout on last year's high school basketball team, in fact, the team high scorer, was very valuable to Margrace this year. He cracked several home runs and can move around well at first base.

Ash is a good hitter as well as a fine receiver and he's always talking it up. He's a team leader in almost every respect.

Smith, who played for second place Craftspun, also cracked some homers this year. The smooth fielding second baseman was a member of the Kings Mountain high school team and hit at a .238 clip. He led the Mountaineers in hitting through the halfway mark.

Mullinax was also a member of the high school team. He hit .135 for the Mountaineers and also had three stolen bases to his credit.

Other returning starters on this year's squad are outfielders Joe Cornwell and Glenn Perkins and infielders Eddie Black and Gene Putnam. Kings Mountain has one 13-year-old, Geep Howard of Spangler's and one 14-year-old, Jack Bell of Margrace. Jack is a brother of Mickey Bell, who made all-conference for KMHS two years running.

**Margrace Took Loop Title With 9-0 Mark**  
Margrace, which led the all-star selection list with six boys, won the regular season championship with a perfect 9-0 record. Coach Bob Moore's boys had stiff competition only from Craftspun which finished second.

This was Margrace's second straight championship and this is also Moore's second year as head coach of the Teener all-star team. Last year, Bud Bumgardner assisted Moore.

The local league featured very good hitting with the boys mentioned above providing much power. Whetstone and Goforth were, of course, the league's two top hurlers but Moore says that he may use Mullinax and Ash some in the state tourney, if needed.

Smith also did some pitching during regular season play but his home will be at second base during the playoffs.

**THE WEEK OF JULY 18th** has been set aside for district playoffs. These games will be played on home-to-home basis and will be best-of-three series. Last year Kings Mountain drew Cherryville and won two straight.

"I would like for everyone that can to come out and watch our boys play and give them your moral support," said Pearson. "I appreciate these fellows (coaches) helping me and working with these teams during our league play," he added.

### Teeners Will Strengthen Legion Team

Kings Mountain's Legion team should be the team to beat in Area IV next season, mainly because Post 155 loses only two players this year and all these 15-year-old Teeners will be on the Legion squad also.

Only Ronnie Rhea, a first baseman-outfielder, and pitcher Steve Goforth terminate their Legion eligibility, so, with the experience the team has gained this year, plus all the boys who will be coming up next season, KM should have a powerhouse.

Next year's team should have good pitching as well as hitting with Whetstone and Rocky Goforth joining Tommy Goforth and Mickey Adkins on the mound. Nelson Connor, Post 155's leading hitter, will be back again next season and Mitchem, Smith, Cornwell, Mullinax, and others should give some stiff competition to the Legion veterans.

A couple of this year's Legion players graduated from the Teener ranks. Tommy Goforth was a member of the all-star team last year and outfielder Bruce Jones, who just recently worked into a starting position, played on the Margrace team.

Junior catcher-Paul Gaffney, who has been bothered with foot trouble here lately, was also a member of last year's all-star team. Gaffney is currently fourth on the team hitting list and Jones, although he's been to bat only four official times, is third with a .250 mark.

Goforth has been doubling most of the year as a pitcher-outfielder. He has a 2-3 mound record and has stayed around the .200 mark in hitting.

The boys have carried poor fielding from high school

### Juniors Defeat Hickory, 7-5, In 11 Innings

Kings Mountain's juniors defeated Hickory 7-5 in 11 innings at Hickory Tuesday night to pull into fifth place in the final Area IV regular season standings.

Post 155 draws a bye into the second round of eliminations as a result of finishing fifth. The locals will now play Hickory, which finished fourth, in a best-of-three series.

Tommy Goforth gained the pitching win for KM, his third of the season against three losses. Goforth relieved starter Mickey Adkins with two out in the ninth after Hickory had scored two runs to knot the score at 5-all.

Roy Medlin and Tony Leigh were KM's bat leaders, Leigh with a 3-for-5 performance and Medlin with a 3-for-6 showing and four runs batted in. Larry Sisk had 4-for-6 for Hickory, including a triple in the ninth inning that started the two-run rally.

Kings Mountain struck for two runs in the first inning with Nelson Connor, Leigh and Medlin connecting for hits. Connor hit the first pitch of the game for a double, Leigh singled, and after Leigh and Connor pulled off a double steal, Medlin sent Leigh home with a single.

The locals scored an unearned run in the top of the third before Hickory came back in the bottom of that frame to get two runs and make the score 3-2.

Larry Fisher and Sisk each had singles in the Hickory third and Adkins walked two batters to add to the home team's rally. The hosts tied the game at 3-all in the seventh with second baseman Clement Huffman drawing a base on balls, stealing second and coming home later on a single by Sisk.

Post 155 went back ahead, 4-3, in the eighth with Tony Leigh walking, taking second on a wild pitch and scoring later when Phil Cash bounced out. Kings Mountain made it 5-3 in the ninth with Tommy Goforth singling going to second when Connor reached base on an error and scoring when Leigh singled.

Sisk's triple, a single by Richard Dellinger and a double by Steve Lail produced two runs in the ninth for Hickory and sent the game into extra innings.

Post 155 got one man on base in the 10th, Chucky Gladden drawing a base on balls after two outs. Goforth got the hosts, three-up, three-down, in the bottom of the tenth. Goforth led off the KM 11th by getting on base by an error. Tommy stole second, and after his brother Steve fanned, Connor reached base on an error. Leigh struck out for out number two but Medlin drove both runners home with a single.

Sisk led off the Hickory 11th with a single but was stranded on first base as the locals got the next three men in order. Hickory used three pitchers against the Mounties. Mike Martin, the third, was tagged with the loss.

BOX SCORE table with columns for Team, AB, R, H, E. Kings Mountain 44, Hickory 44.

Individual player statistics table with columns for Player, AB, R, H, E.

LODGE MEETING table with columns for Player, AB, R, H, E.

REGULAR COMMUNICATION OF FAIRVIEW LODGE 339 AF&AM will be held Monday night at 7:30 p.m. at Masonic Hall, Secretary T. D. Tindall has announced.

Dr. Paul K. Ausley's sermon topic Sunday morning at the 11 o'clock worship service at First Presbyterian church will be, "The Meaning of Worship."



TEENER ALL-STARS—Pictured above is the 1966 Teener League all-star team which will represent the city in the state tournaments this year. Shown above, front row, left to right, are Johnny Reynolds, Joe Cornwell, Eddie Black, Glenn Perkins and Jack Bell. Second row, left to right, Warren Goforth (coach), Larry Carroll, Mike Smith, Geep Howard, Rocky Goforth and Corky Fulton. Back row, Mike Ware (coach), Darrell Whetstone, Ken Mitchem, Wayne Mullinax, Clarence Ash, Gene Putnam and Coach Bob Moore. (Photo by Lem Lynch).

## Seven Returning Starters Head Teener All-Star Team

Seven returning starters off last year's Teener League all-star team, which finished third in North Carolina, head a list of 15 boys named to represent the league in this year's tournament. The all-star team was announced Friday by Roy Pearson who has served as president of the league for the past two years. Coaches of this year's team is Bob Moore, who piloted Margrace to the regular season championship again this year, Mike Ware and Warren Goforth. Margrace heads the list with six boys receiving an all-star nod, Craftspun, which finished second this year, placed five players, Spangler's Concrete has three and V.F.W. placed one player to an all-star berth.

The local V.F.W. Post 9811 is sponsoring the all-star team for the second straight year.

Last year's team advanced to the semi-finals of the state tourney in Greenville before losing out to Gastonia.

Of the 15 players named to an all-star berth, 13 are 15 years of age, one is 14 and the other is 13.

This year's team will feature tough hitting and fielding and also has two tough pitchers, Darrell Whetstone of Margrace and Rocky Goforth of Craftspun. Both boys were members of the Kings Mountain high school team this past year and both were Teener all-stars last year.

Goforth, a southpaw, has a no-hitter to his credit so far this year. Other returning starters are third baseman Wayne Mullinax, shortstop Gene Putnam, outfielders Joe Cornwell and Glenn Perkins and infielder Eddie Black. Black doubled as a third baseman-shortstop last year.

The team features power hitters at almost every position. At first base will probably be Ken Mitchem, 191-pound Negro who has been tearing the league apart so far this year. Mitchem, a standout on the high school basketball team last year, was a member of the KMHS jayvee team this past season.

At second base will be Mike Smith, also a power hitter, who hit 238 in high school ball this year. The rising sophomore led the high school hitting through the first half of conference play. Mullinax will be at either third base or catching with Putnam at shortstop. Other infield hopefuls are Jack Bell and Eddie Black, with Negro Clarence Ashe the probable starter behind the plate.

Top outfield prospects are Cornwell, Perkins, Larry Carroll and Geep Howard.

1966 TEENER LEAGUE ALL STARS table with columns for Player, Team, Pos., Hgt., Wgt., B-T, Age.

### Juniors Lose To Granite Falls; Goforth Strikes Out 14 Batters

Steve Goforth deserves better backing. Monday night the fireballing righthander struck out 14 batters and gave up but four hits during eight innings but lost the game to Granite Falls, 10-2.

Steve gave up five runs, only one earned, and walked only four before giving way to his brother Tommy after the eighth. Steve also led the Mountaineers in hitting with a 2-for-3 performance.

Of course, you can't take anything away from G-Falls pitcher Ken Brooks either. Brooks checked the Mounties on five hits, and struck out 11, although he did walk eight.

Steve rolled along with ease until his defense shattered and began to throw the ball away. Twice during the game Steve had five strikeouts in a row. Granite Falls tallied its first run in the third inning with Bob Brown coming home on an error by KM third baseman Chucky Gladden. Brown reached base on a fielder's choice, stole second and scored when Barry Hayes bounced one to Gladden who, in turn, threw the ball low at first base.

The eventual winners came back in the fourth for two runs on a double by catcher Bobby Billings, a single by clean-up hitter Dale Gantt and another KM error.

Kings Mountain brought the game closer at 3-1 in the fifth with Bruce Jones scoring after walking, taking third on Goforth's single and coming in when Nelson Connor bunched out.

Granite Falls scored two more in the eighth on a double by Gantt, two bases on balls, an error, a sacrifice and a stolen base. G-Falls came back in the ninth to get five runs on two hits and another KM error.

Kings Mountain got its final run in the bottom of the ninth with Tony Leigh driving home Paul Gaffney after Gaffney walked, took second on a single by Goforth, and went to third when Connor walked.

Billings was Granite Falls' leading hitter with a single, double and triple in four times at bat. Goforth's two hits led KM while Connor, Phil Cash and

### Juniors Fight Off Big Rally, Beat Cherries

Kings Mountain's juniors had to fight off a five-run Cherryville eighth inning Friday night before claiming an 11-9 win over the Cherries in an Area IV Legion contest.

Coach Bob Hussey's lads jumped to a 7-0 lead after two innings but were cooled off when Cherryville ace Harry Graham relieved starter Virgil Cline.

Kings Mountain held a comfortable 11-4 lead going into the home half of the eighth but the Cherries erupted and nearly pulled the game out of the bag. Tommy Goforth started on the hill for KM and worked the first seven innings before giving way to his brother Steve. Cherryville jumped on Steve from the word say go and Coach Hussey had to recall Tommy to put out the fire.

Tommy picked up the win, his second of the year against three losses. Cline was tagged with the loss.

Kings Mountain tallied three runs in the first on hits by Nelson Connor, Ronnie Rhea and Chucky Gladden. Connor led it off with a single to leftfield, Tony Leigh walked, and after Roy Medlin flied out, Rhea singled to left, but Cherry leftfielder Bobby Smith booted the ball and Rhea went all the way to third.

Rhea scored an out later on Gladden's single to center. Singles by Bruce Jones, Medlin and Rhea produced four more runs for the Mounties in the second. After Bill Bridges grounded out to leadoff the inning, Tommy Goforth drew a walk, Jones singled, and after Connor struck out, Leigh walked to load the bases.

Medlin sent all three runners home with a sharp single to left-center and he took second on the throw-in from the outfield. He then scored on Rhea's second hit of the night.

Cherryville took advantage of a triple by Chuck Pendleton and a single by Graham and a Mountaineer error for two runs in the second and came right back in the third to get a run on a triple by Wade Bean and a single by Larry Davidson.

KM added two runs in the fifth on singles by Connor and Phil Cash, a walk, hit batter, another Cherryville error, and a sacrifice by Jones. Cherryville added another in the bottom of the fifth on a single by Larry Sain, a base on balls, a fielder's choice and a KM error.

A walk by Graham and another Cherryville error gave KM another tally in the seventh and a single by Cash, another base on balls and another error produced its final tally in the eighth.

Steve Goforth got off to a shaky start in the eighth, letting his first two men get on by errors. He proceeded to walk two, then strike out two, and issue back-to-back hits to Sain and Bobby Smith. Coach Hussey then recalled Tommy who got Pendleton to fly out.

Tommy got into trouble in the ninth but Connor forced two men at second and Cash turned a hot bouncer into an out and KM preserved the win.

Connor was KM's leading hit-maker with 3-for-6 while Rhea and Cash chipped in two hits

### Juniors Finish Fifth; Enter Playoffs Friday

Kings Mountain Post 155 American Legion juniors travel to Hickory Friday night to tee-off a best-of-three series as the second round of the Area IV Legion playoffs begins.

The two teams will meet here Saturday night and the third game, if needed, will be played at Hickory Monday.

Kings Mountain draws a bye in the first round of eliminations as a result of finishing fifth in the 11-Team Area IV standings. Hickory finished fourth.

Post 155 Coach Bob Hussey will probably pitch Steve Goforth (5-3) at Hickory Friday and come back with either Tommy Goforth (3-3) or Mickey Adkins (2-1) here Saturday.

Adkins hurled the first 8 1/2 innings at Hickory Tuesday night before giving way to Tommy Goforth in the bottom of the ninth. Goforth went on to pick up the pitching win when the locals beat Hickory 7-5 in 11 innings.

Steve Goforth leads the pitching crew in just about every department. The fireballing righthander has worked a total of 66 1/2 innings and leads the team in strikeouts with 82 and has the lowest earned run average, 2.18. Steve has lost his last two outings, losing to Forest City and Granite Falls. Against Granite Falls he fanned 14 batters and gave up only four hits.

Post 155 finished the regular season standings with a 13-9 record, only a game behind Hickory, 14-8. The Mounties stayed around fourth and fifth spot all season long.

Shortstop Nelson Connor will lead the team into the playoffs as the leading hitter. Connor has so far collected 28 hits in 76 times at bat for a .373 average and he also leads the team in runs scored with 18.

Third baseman Roy Medlin is the team leader in almost every slugging department. Roy has five home runs, four doubles and 28 runs batted in. He is now hitting at a .238 clip.

The winner of the Kings Mountain-Hickory series will play the winner of the Belmont, Henrietta-Cherryville series, those games being played July 13-16. Henrietta and Cherryville meet in a one-game playoff tonight (Wednesday) in Harris.

### FINAL AREA IV LEGION STANDINGS

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct. Kings Mountain 13, 9, .591.

### Nelson Connor Leads Juniors With .373 Mark

Shortstop Nelson Connor leads the Post 155 Juniors in hitting as the team heads into the Area IV Legion playoffs this week.

Kings Mountain begins a best-of-three series Friday in Hickory, and through the regular season, Connor has collected 28 hits in 75 times at bat for a .373 batting average, one of the best marks for a regular in this area.

Connor leads the team in total hits, runs scored with 18 and is tied for the lead in doubles with four and triples with one. He has batted in a total of nine runs so far.

The smooth fielding shortstop, who was all-conference for Kings Mountain high school this season, has hit safely in all but one game this year.

Second on the hitting list is Ronnie Rhea, who has been doubling as an infielder-outfielder and has seen some mound duty. Rhea is 20-for-76 and is hitting .263 with two doubles and a triple and 10 runs batted in.

Roy Medlin leads the team in slugging with five homers, four doubles, a triple and 28 runs batted in. Medlin is 19-for-80 and is hitting .238. He is third in runs scored with 15.

Paul Gaffney and outfielder Bruce Jones are the only other Mounties hitting over the .200 mark. Gaffney thus far is 16-for-68 and hitting .235 while Jones is hitting .250.

Steve Goforth heads the pitching crew with a 5-3 won-loss record and 82 strikeouts. He has an earned run average of 2.18, best on the team. His brother, Tommy, has won three and lost three and Mickey Adkins is 2-1.

Tony Leigh is leading the team in stolen bases with eight and is second in runs scored with 17 although he's hitting only .167.

BATTING AVERAGES table with columns for Player, AB, H, R, Avg. Nelson Connor .373.

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