

Herald Sports

By GARY STEWART

Legion Baseball Program Unorganized

From the chain of events in Area IV Legion baseball of the past week, I would say that Kings Mountain's Little League baseball program is 10 times better organized than the Legion program.

Area IV and state officials have kept Kings Mountain, Hickory, and most of all, Belmont in a daze since last Saturday's disputed game here against KM and Hickory.

Kings Mountain Coach Bob Hussey protested Hickory's use of Newton pitcher Bob Whisnant against the Mounties. Hussey said that it was in violation of the playing rules that Whisnant could play for Hickory after being a member of the Newton team until it dropped out of the league two weeks after the season began.

Post 155 Athletic Director Carl Wilson was in Raleigh last Monday meeting with State Commissioner Bob Cruz who said that Kings Mountain should advance against Belmont and that he (Cruz) would send Hickory officials a telegram Tuesday informing them of his ruling.

Cruz sent Wilson a telegram Tuesday confirming his ruling and supposedly sent Hickory Coach Troy Washam a similar telegram. But Hickory showed up at Belmont Wednesday night, ready to play ball, and with a telegram from Area IV Commissioner Joe Phillips saying that Kings Mountain was out and Hickory was in.

It looks like the "little man" up at Shelby has more say so than the state commissioner because Cruz set up a meeting for Thursday afternoon in Shelby.

At Thursday's meeting the officials decided to call the Hickory - KM series even at 1-all and a playoff game was set up for Thursday night in Hickory. Both KM and Hickory officials were told that Thursday's playoff game would decide which team would play Belmont and that would be the end of the big squabble.

Kings Mountain defeated Hickory 8-5 and went to Belmont Friday and lost 14-1. A report in Friday's Shelby Daily Star indicated that Hickory officials were going to get a court order to stop the KM-Belmont series but nothing was done there.

State Commander Bob Davis then stepped into the picture and set up a meeting for Saturday afternoon in Salisbury, with Kings Mountain not being represented. Wonder why?

Phillips said that Davis told him Friday to call both the Belmont and KM coaches and tell them not to play at Belmont Friday. Phillips said that he called the homes of both men, but they were not there, and he told their wives.

Now that can't be right. He might have told Belmont Coach Neb Hollis' wife but he didn't talk to Coach Hussey's wife.

So, Saturday afternoon at 5:30 Kings Mountain officials were notified of the Salisbury meeting. The ruling was reported to have been 4-1 in Hickory's favor and the two Hickory players were ruled eligible.

Commander Davis, when confronted with the question as to whether or not Belmont and Gastonia can pick up some new players, said absolutely not.

Now, it all boils down to this. Davis is going to do what Davis wants to do and that calls for breaking the rules all to pieces. If Hickory can play Leatherman and Whisnant without the rules being changed it looks like Belmont and Gastonia can add players also.

The state commander is not supposed to have anything to do with settling a protest, that's suppose to be left up to the area and state commissioner. And the state commissioner is supposed to have the final say-so.

You Have To Give Hussey Much Credit

Kings Mountain's season ended in a dizzy but now let's look back over the rest of the year.

You have to give Coach Hussey much credit for turning out a winning team this year. He took mostly the same boys that posted a 4-10 record for Kings Mountain high school this spring and turned them into a winning team.

The Juniors posted a 15-11 mark for the season and finished in fifth place in the regular season standings.

I would have to point out Nelson Connor and Roy Medlin as the outstanding players of the year with Mickey Adkins the spotlight of the pitching crew.

Connor led the team in hitting with a .404 mark and Medlin's six home runs set a record for a KM player and also led Area IV. Adkins worked a total of 63 innings, posted a 3-1 record, and was one of the top relief pitchers in the league.

Connor hit safely in all but one game this year and his smooth fielding gained him respect from every coach in the league. Medlin's ability to hit the long ball had every pitcher in the league pitching him carefully.

Medlin set a total of eight records this year. He broke the all-time home run record with two grand slammers against Bessemer City. He went into that game with three round-trippers and tied for the lead in all-time homers with Jerry Morris. Medlin blasted a grand-slammer in the second inning of that game to break the record and came up later in the fifth and smacked another.

Shelby Game Was Most Exciting

The most exciting game of the 1966 season, to me, was the 11-inning contest with Shelby which KM won, 2-1. It took a ninth-inning homer by Medlin to tie the game and an 11th inning double by Roy to win it.

Also exciting about that game was the pitcher's duel between Steve Goforth and Shelby lefty Tommy Hayes. Hayes had just led the Crest high school team to the State Class A championship and was a sure bet to offer stiff competition to Area IV Legion teams.

Hayes had just knocked Forest City from the unbeaten ranks the following Tuesday night and had KM batters stiffled until the ninth.

Kings Mountain came to bat in the ninth with only two hits off Hayes. Medlin led off the inning with a homer but the southpaw got the next three in order.

Connor and Tony Leigh led off the 11th with back-to-back singles and Medlin came up with a double to win the game.

All But Two Players Back Next Year

Kings Mountain will be in good shape again next year. Pitcher Steve Goforth and outfielder Ronnie Rhea are the only two players who terminate their eligibility.

Goforth posted a 5-5 record for the Mounties this year while Rhea was second in hitting with a .269 average. Both will be missed next time around but Post 155 will have capable players taking their places.

Rhea was a three-year starter for the locals and Goforth has seen much duty for the past three years. Before this year, however, Goforth has worked in relief.

Juniors Ruled Out In Meeting At Salisbury

COPY OF TELEGRAM FROM NATIONAL BASEBALL COMMISSIONER GEORGE W. RULON TO KINGS MOUNTAIN POST 155 ATHLETIC DIRECTOR CARL WILSON

To: Carl Wilson
From: George W. Rulon

Dept. Committee has apparent disregard for North Carolina's rule concerning players' participation with more than one team regrettable. Despite disagreement with Saturday's meeting action, must accept final decision reached under National Rule 7. Suggest that rule concerning players' participation with more than one team be adhered to in the future or deleted from your rulebook. Rule as presently written follows a true concept of program. Would appreciate full discussion of matter at your earliest opportunity.

Teener All-Stars Beat Cherryville

Kings Mountain's Teener League All-Stars defeated Cherryville two straight games on Monday and Tuesday to advance to the state playoffs which begin Monday in Greenville, N. C. The Teeners will leave Kings Mountain Sunday.

The locals beat the Cherries by a 7-2 count here Monday but squeezed by 3-2 Tuesday in Cherryville.

Southpaw Rocky Goforth gained the pitching win Monday and right-hander Darrell Whetstone picked up the victory Tuesday. Both pitchers went the distance.

In Monday's game, Kings Mountain rallied for four runs in the second inning and added singletons in the third, fourth and sixth while Goforth checked the Cherries on only four hits.

The locals collected only five hits off Cherryville pitchers Far-

rell Patterson and Scott Hefner but took advantage of three Cherrie errors, four bases on balls and two hit batters.

Goforth, with the exception of the fourth inning when the visitors scored their two runs, was never in serious trouble. He struck out six batters and walked seven en route to the win.

Catcher Clarence Ashe led the locals at bat with two hits in three trips to the plate. Gene Putnam, Geepie Howard and Goforth collected KM's other hits.

Kings Mountain's defense did not commit an error.

Clean-up batter Glenn Perkins led off the KM second with a walk and went to second on an out later when Howard singled to rightfield. Ashe reached base on a fielder's choice and Perkins scored the first run when Ken Mitchem walked.

Goforth then reached base on an error to score Howard and Ashe and, after Joe Cornwell flied out, Putnam singled to send in Mitchem. Mike Smith flied out to end the inning.

Kings Mountain added its fifth run in the third inning when Ashe driving home Wayne Mullinax after Mullinax walked and stole second.

Cherryville brought the game closer at 5-2 in the fourth by scoring two runs on two hits. Catcher Mike Burgess, who got three of Cherryville's four hits, led things off with a single but was forced at second when Patterson hit a grounder to short.

Goforth then issued walks to Tommy Stroupe and Norris Beam to load the bases and shortstop Ronnie Walls singled in the runners from second and third.

Goforth singled to lead-off the KM fourth, went to second when Cornwell was hit by a pitched ball, took third when Putnam reached base on an error and scored two outs later when Mullinax drew a base on balls.

In the sixth, Cornwell was hit by a pitched ball, stole second and scored when Putnam reached base on an error.

Tuesday at Cherryville Kings Mountain scored one run in the first inning and two in the fourth while Cherryville scored singletons in the first and fifth.

Cornwell scored for KM in the first, coming all the way from first base on a double by Smith. Cherryville came right back in the bottom of the first to collect four hits but poor base running held the hosts to only one run.

In the KM fourth, two errors, two walks, a wild pitch and a single by Perkins produced two runs. Whetstone scored his final run on a walk, an error, a stolen base and a single by losing pitcher Allan Lindsay.

Cherryville offered a tough threat in the seventh inning as shortstop Farrell Patterson led things off with a double. But Whetstone tightened down and struck out two batters and got another to fly out to end the game.

Kings Mountain collected six hits off Lindsay with Smith's 2-for-3 performance showing the way. Lindsay gave up only one earned run, walked four and struck out seven.

Whetstone gave up seven hits, one earned run, walked two and fanned four.

Patterson's 3-for-3 performance topped the home team's hitting.

The annual double-elimination Doubles Tourney is now underway, with first round play beginning Tuesday.

In action Tuesday Mike and Tony Ware defeated Don Freeman and Richard Etheridge 6-4, 4-6 and 6-4 and Robby Suber and Sandy Mauney beat Beattie Leonard and Robby Whisnant 6-2 and 6-0.

Second round action Wednesday had the Ware brothers playing against the team of Suber and Mauney and today's action pits Freeman and Etheridge against Leonard and Whisnant.

The winners play Friday with the losers of today's matches being eliminated.

Suber and Mauney are the defending doubles champions.

Kings Mountain's American Legion Juniors found themselves ruled out of Area IV competition Saturday after a meeting at Salisbury between state and area commissioners.

State Commissioner Bob Cruz was over-ruled by the other officials and the protest ruling was reversed and the quarter-finals series between Hickory and Kings Mountain was awarded to Hickory.

The big KM-Hickory squabble began last Saturday night at City Stadium when Post 155 Coach Bob Hussey protested Hickory's use of former Newton pitcher Bob Whisnant.

Kings Mountain Athletic Director Carl Wilson went to Raleigh last Monday to present the protest to State Commissioner Cruz. Wilson received a telegram from Cruz Tuesday morning informing him that KM was to play Belmont Wednesday night in Belmont.

Post 155 traveled to Belmont Wednesday night only to be greeted by Hickory. Wilson immediately telephoned Cruz in Raleigh and Cruz told both Hickory and KM not to play and that he would set up a meeting for 4:30 Thursday afternoon in Shelby.

Hickory's reason for showing up at Belmont Wednesday was, of course, to play but the Hickory officials had received a telegram from Area IV commissioner Joe Phillips of Shelby which said that Hickory was to advance against Belmont.

At Thursday's meeting in Shelby officials decided to call the KM-Hickory series even at one game each and a final playoff game was set up for Thursday night in Hickory.

That game was won by Kings Mountain, 8-5, and the Mounties went to Belmont Friday night for a game which Belmont won 14-1. The two teams were to meet here Saturday night but at 5:30 Saturday afternoon, Coach Hussey received word that KM was out and Hickory was in.

Hickory and Belmont played Saturday night in Belmont with Hickory losing by a 2-1 count.

Saturday's meeting in Salisbury was set up by State Commander Bob Davis. Five officials voted on the matter and the outcome was 4-1 in Hickory's favor. The only vote for KM was supposedly put in by Cruz.

Second on the hitting list was Ronnie Rhea who played the outfield, first base, third base and was a relief pitcher. Rhea was 25-for-93, good for a .269 average.

Catcher Paul Gaffney was the only other regular to hit over the 250 mark. Gaffney collected 22 hits in 84 times at bat for a .262 average.

Roy Medlin led the team in slugging with 11 extra base hits. Medlin clouted six home runs, one triple and four doubles, led the team in runs batted in with 30 and was third in runs scored with 17. Medlin collected a total of 22 hits in 98 times at bat for a .224 average.

Post 155 had three pitchers to post a winning record with Mickey Adkins' 3-1 tab tops for the club. Adkins had the best earned run average, 2.43 and gave up the least number of hits for a starter, 53.

Steve Goforth posted a 5-5 record while leading the team in strikeouts with 88. Tommy Goforth was 3-3 on the season and posted a 4.20 earned run average.

Post 155 posted an overall record of 15 wins and 11 losses, however, three of those wins were by forfeit.

reached base when hit by a pitched ball, and took second on a single by Goforth.

Hickory tallied its final two runs in the eighth, also. Catcher Mike Mallan doubled to lead things off, Richard Dellinger walked and both runners scored on a two-out double by Ted Spencer.

Ron Hastings started on the hill for Hickory and was tagged with the loss. Mallan led the Hickory hitting with two doubles in five times at bat.

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E-Gaffney, Adkins, Rhea, DP-Hickory 1, LOB-KM 5, H 8, 2B-Mallan 2, Spencer, Rhea, 3B-Leigh, HR-Medlin, HBP-Gladden, Hoffman, WP-Hastings. BALK-Hastings.

Medlin led the 12-hit Mountaineer attack with a home run, and two singles in five times at bat. Leigh had a triple and single in five times at bat and Rhea added a double and single and two runs batted in.

Shortstop Nelson Connor and second baseman Phil Cash also collected two hits each for the Mounties and rightfielder Tommy Goforth got the team's other hit, a single.

Kings Mountain tallied six of its runs in the sixth and seventh innings, getting three in each frame. Leigh, Rhea and Cash had singles to produce the runs in the sixth with a single by Connor, a triple by Leigh and Medlin's towering homer turning the trick in the seventh.

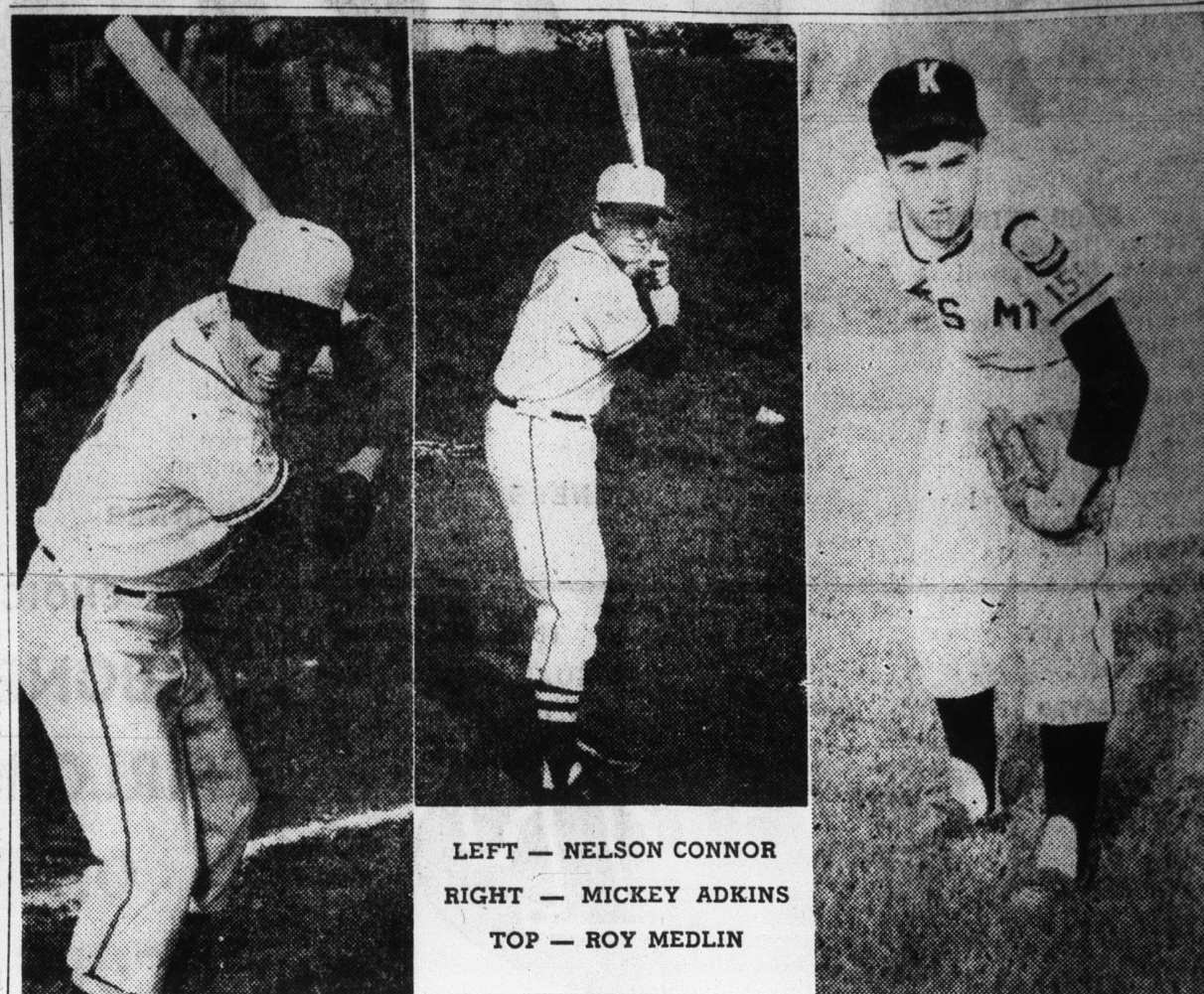
Post 155 struck for a 1-0 lead in the first inning with Rhea driving Connor home with a double to deep centerfield. But Hickory came back in the bottom of the first for two runs on a single by Larry Sisk, a stolen base and a KM error aiding the cause.

Hickory made it 3-1 in the third with second baseman Clement Huffman scoring on an error after reaching base on an error.

Leigh led off the KM sixth with a single, stole second and made it 3-2 an out later when Rhea home with a single and scored himself later on a balk, making the score 4-3.

Post 155 tallied three more runs in the seventh to make it 7-3 and pretty well insure the win. Connor led off with a single, Leigh sent him home with a triple and Medlin then connected for his sixth home run of the season, a towering drive which cleared a building over the centerfield fence.

The Mountaineers scored their final run in the eighth with Chucky Gladden coming home on a single by Connor. Gladden



LEFT — NELSON CONNOR
RIGHT — MICKEY ADKINS
TOP — ROY MEDLIN

Connor's .404 Batting Mark Leads Juniors For 66 Season

Shortstop Nelson Connor led the Kings Mountain Juniors in hitting this season with a .404 batting average.

Connor, who made all-conference for KMS this past season while leading that team in hitting, collected a total of 38 hits in 94 times at bat. Nelson also led the team in doubles with five, was second in runs scored with 20, had 12 runs batted in and tied for the lead in triples with one.

Connor was the only regular to hit over 300.

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Legion Individual Statistics

Ronnie Burton, of	1	0	1	1.000
Nelson Connor, ss	94	20	38	.404
Ronnie Rhea, inf.-of	93	17	25	.269
Paul Gaffney, c	84	12	22	.262
Roy Medlin, c-3b-of	98	17	22	.224
Phillip Cash, 2b	96	12	21	.219
Bruce Jones, of	5	2	1	.200
Tommy Goforth, p-1b-of	70	10	13	.186
Tony Leigh, of	98	21	17	.172
Chuck Ray, inf.	13	1	2	.154
Chucky Gladden, 1b-3b	86	7	13	.151
Steve Goforth, p-of	23	3	3	.130
Mickey Adkins, p-inf.-of	39	4	5	.128
Bill Bridges, of	35	0	4	.114
Stanley Laughter, 1b	2	0	0	.000
David Norris, p	4	0	0	.000

PITCHING RECORDS

Mickey Adkins	3	1	62%	24	63	2.43
Steve Goforth	5	5	72	62	88	2.50
Tommy Goforth	3	3	59%	27	48	4.20
David Norris	1	2	12%	9	14	5.25
Ronnie Rhea	0	0	6%	6	3	6.00

HOME RUNS — Medlin 6, TRIPLES — Connor, Medlin, Rhea, Leigh, one each. DOUBLES — Connor 5, Medlin 4, Gaffney 3, Rhea 3, Cash 2, Leigh 2, Adkins 2, Bridges 1, T. Goforth 1, RBI — Medlin 30, Cash 14, Gaffney 13, Connor 12, Rhea 12, Leigh 11, Gladden 9, T. Goforth 5, S. Goforth 3, Ray 3, Adkins 2, Bridges 1, STOLEN BASES — Leigh 9, Rhea 8, Connor 4, Gaffney 1, Cash 1, Medlin 1, T. Goforth 1, Gladden 1, S. Goforth 1.

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