

Two Games Ahead, Mounties Enter Second Round



SOPHOMORE STARTER — Here's Chuck Carpenter, sophomore first baseman for the KMHS Mountaineers, who has performed well both offensively and defensively. Carpenter will be in the starting lineup Friday afternoon when the Mountaineers host R-S Central at City Stadium in the first game of second round play in the SWC.

Mounties Slip Past Ironmen, 1-0

Goforth Pitches Two-Hitter In Besting Lindsay

Ace lefthander Rocky Goforth fired a two-hitter and third baseman Wayne Mullinax singled in the only run of the game Friday afternoon as Kings Mountain nipped Cherryville 1-0 to stretch its Southwestern Conference lead to a full two games.

Goforth struck out 10 batters and walked four in posting his seventh victory of the year. He bested Cherryville's Alan Lindsay, also a lefty, who gave up five hits, walked only one and struck out 15.

Goforth gave up only a scratch single to J. D. Bridges in the second and a leadoff single to Jimmy Bridges in the sixth in making the Ironmen his second shutout victim of the season.

The Mountaineers won the game in the top of the third when Jack Bell cracked a double to deep left-center and Mullinax followed with a sharp single over second base.

Mullinax, with 2-for-3, was the only player for either team to get over one hit. Kings Mountain had two extra base hits off Lindsay, doubles by Bell and Mike Smith.

A single by Mullinax and Smith's double put runners on second and third for KM in the first inning but Lindsay worked his way out of trouble by striking out Clarence Ashe and getting Geeper Howard on a ground-er back to the mound.

The Mounties had two more hits off Lindsay in the third, when they scored, and the only other hit was a one-out single by freshman David Bolin in the fifth.

Lindsay, in losing his first game after four straight victories, struck out everybody in the Mountaineer lineup at least once, except Mullinax, who had two singles and a fielder's choice.

Goforth struck out everybody in the Cherryville lineup except J. D. Bridges.



LEADS WIN — Third baseman Wayne Mullinax (above) drove in Jack Bell with the only run of the game Friday as KMHS nipped Cherryville 1-0 in a key SWC game. Mullinax was the only player for either team to obtain two hits. He was 2-for-3 against Ironmen ace Alan Lindsay, who struck out 15 Mounties.

Smith's .520 Batting Mark Tops, Goforth 7-0 On Hill

Senior shortstop Mike Smith is the only member of the Kings Mountain High baseball team hitting over .300.

Through games of Friday (Cherryville), Smith sported a .520 batting mark with 13 hits in 25 times at bat. He also leads the team in runs scored with six and runs batted in with nine.

Smith, a four-year varsity starter for the Mountaineers, has hit safely in every game this year. He has one home run, two triples and three doubles to his credit.

Number two swinger for the Mountaineers is sophomore Geeper Howard, who is hitting at a .286 clip with six hits in 21 times at bat. Howard is also second in runs batted in with six.

Third is pitcher-outfielder Rocky Goforth, who has seven hits in 25 times at bat and a .280 average.

Goforth sports a perfect 7-0 pitching record. He has given up only 13 hits and three runs in 40 innings.

He is 6-0 against conference opponents and has hurled two shutouts, 7-0 over Belmont and 1-0 over Cherryville. He has walked only 10 batters and has 50 strikeouts to his credit.

Following Goforth in the batting department is Wayne Mullinax at .269. Others over the .200 mark are Jack Bell at .259 and Clarence Ashe at .238.

MOUNTIE BATTING

Player	ab	r	h	rbi	AVG.
Smith	25	13	9	5	.520
Howard	21	6	6	2	.286
Goforth	25	7	5	2	.280
Mullinax	26	7	1	2	.269
Bell	27	7	0	2	.259
Ashe	21	5	5	2	.238
Carpenter	22	4	1	1	.182
Bolin	17	2	2	1	.118
Francis	18	2	3	1	.111
Bridges	3	0	0	0	.000
Etheridge	4	0	0	0	.000

PITCHING

Player	W	L	Pct.
Goforth	7	0	1.000
Bolin	1	0	1.000
Etheridge	1	1	.500



LEADING HITTER — Senior shortstop Mike Smith is the Southwestern Conference's leading hitter with a .520 batting average. He leads the Mountaineers in every offensive department and is the main reason the Mounties sport a two-game lead in the SWC chase.

Tough Central Here Friday, Hit Shelby Away

With a two-game lead in the Southwestern Conference baseball chase, Kings Mountain High enters second round play here Friday afternoon against defending league champion R-S Central.

Tuesday's game with Chase was rained out and was to be made up Wednesday afternoon, weather permitting.

Friday's contest will probably see ace lefthander Rocky Goforth (7-0) of the Mountaineers go up against righthander Larry Dalton of the Hilltoppers.

The Mountie, defeated Dalton, 3-2, in the season opener, with Goforth picking up the victory in relief of freshman righthander David Bolin.

R-S Central stands 5-3 in league play and shares second place with Cherryville and Shelby. Kings Mountain is 7-1 in the conference and 9-1 overall.

Larry's brother, Gary Dalton, and basketballer Stacey Lall are big men at the plate for the Hilltoppers, who have six starters back from last year's title-winning club.

For Kings Mountain, shortstop Mike Smith carries a conference-leading .520 batting average, but no other member of the Mountaineer squad is hitting .300.

Tuesday afternoon, the Mountaineers face another big test as they travel to Shelby. In their last meeting with the Lions, the Mountaineers eked out a 2-1 decision, with Goforth again the winner in relief.

Coach Bob Hussey of the Mountaineers figures every game from here on out will be a key contest as the SWC is the most balanced it has been in years.

For instance, KM's only loss was to an East Rutherford team which has won only two ball games.

The Mountaineers were scheduled to start righthander Bobby Etheridge against Chase and Etheridge (1-1) will probably get the starting call again Tuesday at Shelby.

Friday's Mountaineer lineup will probably show sophomore Chuck Carpenter at first base, junior Jack Bell at second, Smith at shortstop, senior Wayne Mullinax at left, senior Phillip Francis in third, sophomore Geeper Howard in center, Bolin in right, senior Clarence Ashe behind the plate and Goforth on the mound.

Southwestern Conference Standings

Team	W	L	Pct.
KINGS MOUNTAIN	1	1	.875
Cherryville	5	3	.625
R-S Central	5	3	.625
Shelby	5	3	.625
Belmont	4	4	.500
Burns	4	4	.500
Lincolnton	3	5	.375
Chase	2	5	.286
East Rutherford	2	5	.286
Crest	2	6	.250

Nation's Top Drivers Expected To Participate In Sunday Race

NORTH WILKESBORO, N. C. — A field of 35 to 40 is expected at North Wilkesboro Speedway this weekend as the nation's top drivers swarm into the five-eighths of a mile asphalt track for Sunday's ninth annual "Gwyn Staley 400" NASCAR Grand National stock car race.

Most of the sport's elite names are expected to be among the 30 drivers who win starting positions for the \$28,000 event, which is scheduled to get the green flag at 2 p.m. Sunday. Among them are David Pearson, Richard Petty, Lee Roy Yarborough, Bobby Isaac, Bobby Allison, Buddy Baker and James Hylton.

Two other top-notch cars were still awaiting assignment of drivers.

Pearson and Petty will be in 1969 Fords, and will enter the event tied for the lead in the circuit standings. Pearson overtook Petty in the point rankings by winning last Sunday's 150-mile race at Richmond, Va.

Yarborough, the "Daytona 500" winner who lost the circuit's money-winning lead to Pearson last week, could regain it by winning this event — which offers a first prize of more than \$5,000 from a total purse of \$28,000. Yarborough will drive a 1969 Mercury.

Isaac, Allison Baker and Hylton will be in 1969 Dodges. Another 1969 Dodge, owned by car builder Cotton Owens and vacated by the resignation of driver Charlie Grotzsch, was entered here and awaiting assignment of a driver.

Also awaiting a driver assignment was the 1969 Plymouth entered by home county car builder Bill Ellis. It is the first Plymouth regarded as capable of winning to be entered in a Grand National race this season. Ellis has produced one winner here, in 1966 when Jim Paschal drove his Plymouth to victory, and Allison put an Ellis-built Plymouth in the pole position for this race a year ago.

Speedway president Enoch Staley said that, with good weather, a crowd of 15,000 or more is expected for Sunday's 400-lap (250) miles race.

Starting positions will be determined by qualifying trials Friday and Saturday. The first eight spots will be decided by trials from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Friday. The 9th through 20th positions will be determined by more trials from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, with the final 10 berths to be chosen by a 20-lap qualifying race that is scheduled for 4 p.m. Saturday.

The race honors the memory of the late race driver Gwyn Staley, brother of the speedway president, who was fatally injured in a 1957 racing accident at Richmond, Virginia.

Herald Sports

All during baseball practice last week, Kings Mountain High School Coach Bob Hussey stressed defense as his charges prepared for a Southwestern Conference showdown with Cherryville's Ironmen.

Tuesday afternoon, the Mountaineers went to Crest tied for the league lead with the Ironmen. The Mounties won, 10-5, but Cherryville dropped a 3-1 decision to R-S Central, giving the Mounties sole possession of the conference lead.

That also gave the Mountaineers a golden opportunity. They had to defeat Cherryville to stay on top.

During Wednesday afternoon's practice session at the high school, Hussey told his players, "I'm sure we're going to face Lindsay (Alan) Friday at Cherryville, and I hope we do, because if you're going to be a first place team, you have to beat the best."

Hussey further told his players, "If we can score one run, we can beat them. We can shut them out." And, come Friday afternoon, that's exactly what the Mountaineers did. They scored once in the third inning and made the run stand up for a 1-0 victory.

As expected, it was a pitcher's duel between Lindsay and KM's Rocky Goforth. Lindsay gave up five hits, struck out 15 and walked only one while Goforth gave up only two hits, walked four and fanned 10.

The victory gave Goforth a perfect 7-0 record while Lindsay slipped to 4-1.

The victory also gave the Mountaineers a full two-game lead as Lincolnton nipped Shelby 4-3. That three second place into a three-way tie between Cherryville, Shelby and R-S Central.

Now, all the Mountaineers have to do is keep winning and there's nothing that can stand in their way of a second SWC championship in three years. The Mounties won the title in 1967 with a 12-5 record.

But, most SWC followers feel that the toughest team in the league at this point is R-S Central, the defending champion.

The Hilltoppers lost three of their first five games, but are greatly improved. Their three losses were all by one-run margins and included in their last three victories was an 11-1 blasting of Belmont.

The Mountaineers nipped the Hilltoppers 3-2 in the season opener in Rutherfordon. Friday afternoon, the two clubs square off again at City Stadium as second round play begins.

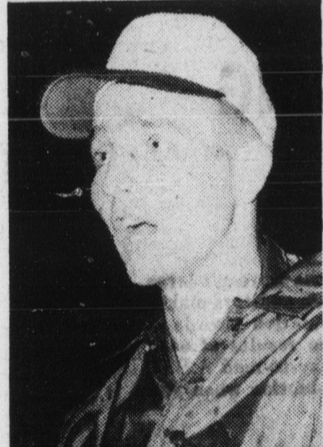
The local club is sure to face Central's ace, senior Larry Dalton. The Mountaineers will probably counter with their ace, Rocky Goforth.

The second half schedule is against the Mountaineers as they play five of nine games on the road. At home, they meet R-S Central, Belmont, Crest and Cherryville while they must visit Shelby, Burns, East Rutherford, Lincolnton and Chase.

And, too, since the Mountaineers are ahead of the pack they're sure to face the other team's ace every time out. And that's quite a problem since the Southwestern Conference is dominated by outstanding pitchers such as Lindsay of Cherryville, Rick Cherry of Belmont, Don Bright of Shelby, Dalton of R-S Central, Roger Wilkerson of East, and others.

Two SWC hurlers have tossed no-hitters already, and several others (including KM's Goforth and Bobby Etheridge) have come close. Shelby's Tom Dover no-hit East Rutherford and a Chase pitcher no-hit Belmont.

Baseball is a game that has no upsets. But, one thing about the SWC race, there are 10 teams and the other nine are the ones that have to play catch up.



BOB HUSSEY

KM - Cherryville Boxscore

Player	ab	r	h	rbi
Kings Mountain	4	1	1	0
Bell, 2b	3	0	2	1
Mullinax, 3b	3	0	2	1
Smith, ss	3	0	1	0
Ashe, c	2	0	0	0
Howard, cf	3	0	0	0
Goforth, p	3	0	0	0
Carpenter, 1b	3	0	0	0
Francis, lf	3	0	0	0
Bolin, rf	3	0	1	0
TOTALS	24	0	2	0
Cherryville				
J. Bridges, 2b	3	0	1	0
Paysear, cf	1	0	0	0
Bennett, rf	2	0	0	0
Stroupe, rf	0	0	0	0
Huss, c	1	0	0	0
Heavener, 1b	3	0	0	0
Moss, 3b	3	0	0	0
J. D. Bridges, lf	3	0	1	0
Allen, ss	3	0	0	0
Lindsay, p	2	0	0	0
E. Allen, Goforth, Bolin, LOB—				
KM 6, Cherry, 5. 2B—Bell, Smith.				
DP—Smith, Bell and Carpenter.				
WP—Goforth (7-0) LP—Lindsay (4-1).				

Patriots Cop Fourth, Play Friday Night

Central Junior High ran its baseball record to a perfect 4-0 Friday afternoon with a 10-5 victory over Myrtle of Gastonia.

Coach Barry Gibson's lads play host to Flint Groves Friday night at City Stadium. Game time is 7:30 and admission is free.

In Friday's victory, Central scored two runs in each of the first two innings and added a single in the third to jump off to a 5-0 lead.

Myrtle came back with four in the top of the fourth to cut it to 5-4 but the Patriots scored three in the bottom of the fourth to stretch their lead to 8-4.

Frankie Sokes cracked a triple to drive in both of Central's first inning tallies.

Lead-off hitter Wayne Bridges reached base four times for the Patriots, twice on singles and twice on walks.

Linescores:
Myrtle 000 401 0-5-36
Central 221 311 x-10-85

Things Could Get Interesting For Wake Forest Baseball Team

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.—Neil Johnson, in his first season as coach of the Wake Forest baseball team, isn't exactly overjoyed with the current 6-10 record of the Deacons, but at the same time he isn't really unhappy.

"Frankly, I feel pretty good about the way things have been going in the last few games," he said. "I really didn't know exactly what to expect at the start of the season, but now it appears things are falling into place and we could have an interesting season."

The Deacs, who return to action here Friday against Virginia, won only two of nine games on their southern trip, but since returning have captured two of three ACC contests.

"If our pitching was just a little stronger I would definitely say we would be solid contenders for the ACC crown," Johnson added. "I thought at the beginning the hitting would be our biggest weakness, but we have been getting some pretty good stick work in the past few games."

The Deacon coach was overjoyed with the long-range hitting of outfielder-pitcher Bob Blanton in the 43 win over North Carolina

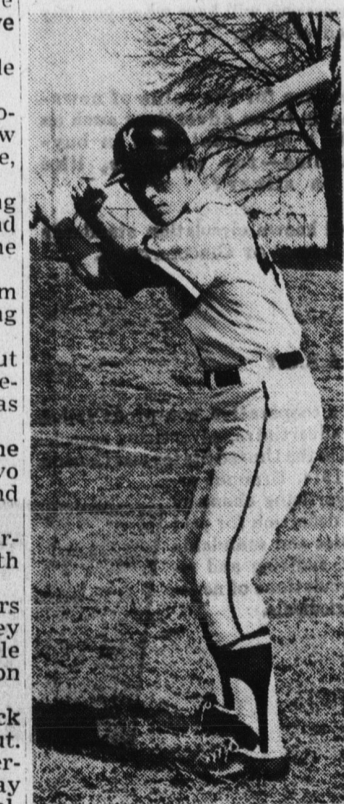
at Chapel Hill Saturday. "Bob just cranked up and blasted a couple of pretty good drives out of the park. Then he comes on and give us two innings of shutout relief hurling to save the win. As long as we get that type of play we will do alright," Johnson said.

The biggest concern at the moment is the uncertain status of pitcher Bobby Harris, who is nursing a back injury. Harris, who has credit for two of the six wins, strained his back reaching for an erratic throw by first baseman Bill Seltzer in the first game against Clemson last week.

"We don't know just how long Harris will be sidelined," Johnson stated, "but we need him this weekend for the games with Virginia and Maryland."

Harris, Blanton and Ruffin Brannan have accounted for five of the six wins. The other victory went to Seltzer, who pitched against South Carolina in a non-league game during the southern trip. Brannan got credit for the win over North Carolina for his first after 10 setbacks in a row over the past two seasons.

Third baseman Bruce Bergman is the club's top batsman at .391.



SCORES — Second baseman Jack Bell scored the winning run Friday as Kings Mountain nipped Cherryville 1-0 to increase its SWC baseball lead to two full games. Bell doubled and scored on a single by Wayne Mullinax. A junior, Bell is in his second year as a starter for the Mountaineers.