

HERALD SPORTS

By JIM DEAN
Wildlife Afield

I suppose how fond you are of bears depends, to a large degree, upon how close you happen to be to the subject.

For instance, a couple of years ago, I camped for a week on Hazel Creek in the Smokies. My interest in bears cooled considerably after spending four sleepless nights while several large black bears ambled around the tent looking for an edible morsel which I fervently hoped wasn't me.

The fact is, though, that the Tar Heel state's black bears are getting few and far between. Not only that, but the future doesn't look good, and bear hunters will undoubtedly feel the pinch first.

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is working on a study of the state's bear population. The study covers breeding habits, hunting practices, feeding habits, bear range and several related topics.

The study revealed some interesting things. Hunting bears with dogs is by far the most popular method in the state, and it was found that the average successful bear hunter—who hunts with dogs—owns an average of 12.3 dogs that he values at \$401 each, uses 13 dogs per chase, hunts with 11.5 other hunters each hunt, chases a bear 6.4 miles and kills it 1.36 miles from the nearest road. This he attempts to do 13.8 times a year.

More significant—and distressing—were the findings of recent statewide kill surveys. During 1968, hunters killed 431 bears with 237 of them being killed in the mountains and 194 in the coastal plains. But in 1969, hunters killed only 180 bears, 79 in the mountains and 101 on the coast.

"We feel certain this indicates a sharp drop in the total number of bears in the state," says Frank Barick, Chief of the Division of Game for the Wildlife Commission. "A rough rule of thumb says that the bear population will run five or six times the kill conditions where the total bear population is stable. The annual reproductive rate for bears appears to be about 16 percent, so if you harvest more than 16 percent, the total population will drop off quickly.

"Partly because of the big drop in the 1969 kill, we feel that we've been killing too many bears, and killing many before they reach the age when they can breed." (Biologists are concerned about indications that bears do not breed until at least three and a half years old.)

"It's true that we reduced the season in 1969, but not enough to cause such a drastic drop in the kill."

"If we can't turn this trend around," continued Barick, "we may not have any bear hunting at all in the state in a few years, and that's one reason the season has been cut back again this year. It may be necessary to take even stronger measures to save North Carolina's bears. We are interested not only in preserving bears, but also the popular sport of hunting bears with dogs because we feel it has developed to a high stage in the state, and we have a strong obligation to bear hunters who own dogs to preserve their sport."

It is interesting to note that the kill in the mountains during 1969 showed the most extreme drop, probably because mountain bears depend largely on the annual mast crop. When the mast crop is slight—as it was in 1968—bears move around a lot, exposing themselves to hunters. The result is a higher kill. In the east, bears are not as dependent upon the mast crop, and therefore don't expose themselves as often. Therefore, the eastern bear kill is more stable.

Even so, the bear population in the east is in the greatest danger of being wiped out.

In the eastern part of the state along the coast, land is being cleared at a rapid pace. Part of the study concerns charting potential bear range across the state on tracts of forest land which have 35,000 acres or more. Preliminary figures show about 6,084 square miles of bear range in the eastern part of the state, of which only about 3,976 miles are actually occupied by bears. There are 5,217 square miles of potential range in the west, with about 2,184 occupied.

But although there is more bear range left in the east right now, it is being lost to development at a dizzying rate. In the west, the bear population is more likely to survive because of the vast Smoky Mountain National Park—a half-million acre bear nursery—and because land is not being cleared nearly so fast.

So despite fluctuations in the western kill, the mountain bear population is in less immediate danger of extinction.

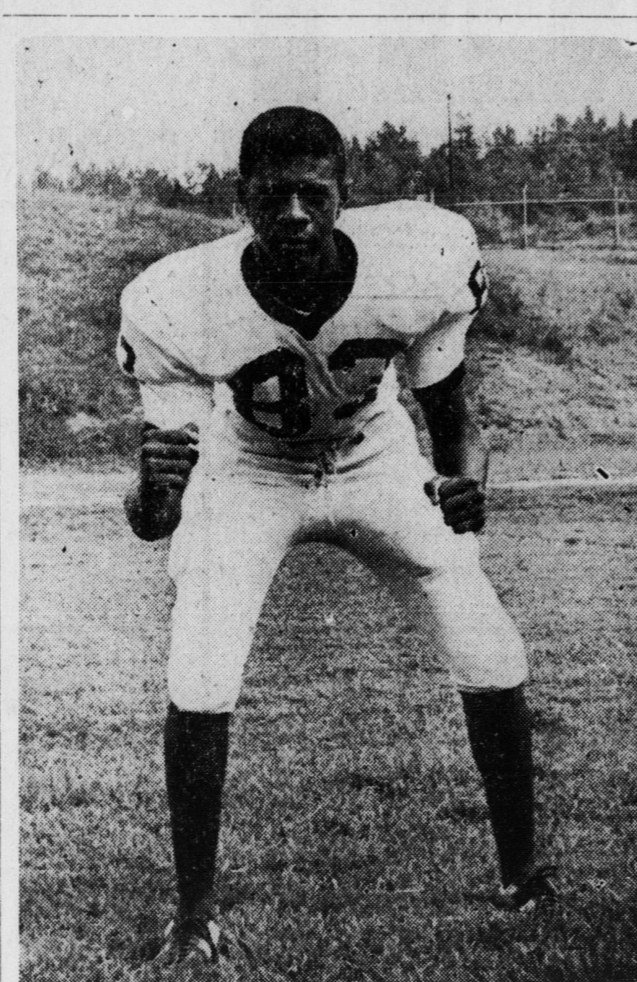
Hopefully, some solution will be found to preserve the bear and re-establish it in some of this suitable, but unoccupied, range. For now, the only solution seems to be to limit the kill and continue the studies.

What will eventually happen is anybody's guess, but the future doesn't look bright.

"I'll say this," says Barick, "we don't underestimate the difficulty of the challenge. It's not going to be easy to save our bears."

Bates Says Mounties Must Play Perfect Game

Mountaineers End Central Jinx, Winning By 20 To 7



OUTSTANDING ON DEFENSE — Johnny Hogue, above, played an outstanding game on defense Friday as Kings Mountain defeated R-S Central 20-7 in a Southwestern Conference football contest. Hogue intercepted a pitchout and returned it 87 yards for one Mountaineer touchdown.

Five-year jinxes by a pair of Rutherford County football teams over Kings Mountain are now a thing of the past.

Earlier in the year, the Mountaineers blanked Chase's Trojans 26-0 for their first victory over that team since the KMHS championship days of 1961.

Friday night before the home fans, the Mountaineers defeated R-S Central 20-7 for their first victory over the Hilltoppers since the same '64 campaign.

Kings Mountain, in registering its fourth victory in six games overall and its third Southwestern Conference win in five outings, scored in each of the first three periods while limiting the Hilltoppers to only a fourth period touchdown.

The loss was the fourth in seven games for the Hilltoppers of Worth Johnson, but their 2-4 conference record is still good enough for a share of the Division One lead with Burns.

Though he didn't score, senior quarterback Geep Howard was the big gun in the Kings Mountain attack, gaining 133 yards rushing in 17 carries and also hitting on two of six passes for 83 yards.

It was the second straight victory for the Mountaineers, who traveled to Shelby Friday to play the unbeaten but once-tied Golden Lions.

Marshall Logan, who gained 62 yards rushing, put the Mounties on the scoreboard in the first quarter, going over from the one yard line to cap a 63-yard drive. Chuck Carpenter added the point after from placement and the Mountaineers led, 7-0.

Howard had a 27-yard run from the option play to set up the touchdown.

Kings Mountain's second score, in the second quarter, came on a one yard run by sophomore Frankie Stokes following a 23-yard pass from Howard to Stokes. The play capped a 47-yard march and Carpenter again added the extra point.

Defensive end Johnny Hogue, who played a great game, picked off a Hilltopper pitchout in the third quarter and romped 87 yards to end the Kings Mountain scoring. The great defensive play came immediately after Hogue had overtaken a Rutherfordford player who intercepted a pass and was headed for paydirt.

R-S Central's lone score came late in the game when Mike Lewis passed 45 yards to Dennis Dukes.

STATISTICS		KM	RSC
First Downs		18	11
Yards Rushing		229	98
Passes		2-6	7-15
Passing Yardage		83	102
Passes Int.		1	1
Fumbles Lost		0	2
Punts		5-33	6-30
Yards Penalized		37	20
Score by quarters:		1 2 3 4	—
R-S Central		0	0 2 7
Kings Mountain		7	7 6 0-20
Scoring:		KM: Stokes, 1 yd. run; Logan, 1 yd. run; Hogue, 87-yd. run with pitchout recovery. PAT: Carpenter 2 (kicks).	
Scoring:		RS: Dukes, 45-yd. pass from Lewis.	
		PAT: A. Carpenter, kick.	

McRee Leads Bruins To Victory Over ASU

HICKORY — In the 1970 edition of the usual heated football clash between the Lenoir Rhyne Bears and the Appalachian State Mountaineers the Bruin team combined a good offensive effort with a stingy defensive performance to drop the Mountaineers to a 21-12 loss Saturday night.

The game, like most of the Lenoir Rhyne-Appalachian contests of previous years, was close all the way with the victory not decided until Bruin tailback Mike McRee broke loose around left end for a 77-yard touchdown with slightly over two minutes left in the final period.

McRee's last-minute touchdown scamper put the finishing touches on the Bruin tailback's most impressive performance of this season. He carried the ball 16 times for 225 yards on the ground, and he passed for 58 more yards on 2 completions in 7 attempts.

Despite the capable performance of the Bruin offense, the key to the victory over the Mountaineers was the Bears' tight defense. Several times the Bruin defenders stopped the Mountie offense short of six points when it was deep inside Lenoir Rhyne's territory, and their heavy pass rush and tenacious pass coverage severely handicapped Appalachian's throwing game.

Freshmen Lose To Ashley, Hit Mt. Holly Away

Kings Mountain's freshman football team travels to Mt. Holly today for a Bi-County Conference game.

The Little Mountaineers, 1-2 overall, saw their conference record dip to 0-2 last Thursday when they lost a heartbreaking 60 decision to Gastonia Ashley.

Ashley's lone touchdown came late in the fourth quarter when John Wellborne scored on a five-yard run following a pass interception on the Kings Mountain 20.

Wayne Leach scored for Kings Mountain on the second half kickoff, returning it 89 yards, but the officials ruled he stepped out of bounds and called it back.

Hart completed seven of ten passes for 82 yards and in the second half connected on five of five passes for 66 yards. He carried the ball ten times for a net gain of 15 yards.

"Leo was a real field general during the West Virginia game," continued Harp. "He mixed his

Hart Leads Duke Win Over West Virginia

DURHAM, N. C. — Many have accused Duke quarterback Leo Hart of not being able to produce touchdowns. But ask those who saw his winning performance against West Virginia and they'll tell you different.

Although Hart's passing totals were the lowest in his three year career at Duke, the West Virginia game was probably the best game he ever played.

The senior from Kinston, N. C., led the Blue Devils on three touchdown drives, two of 56 yards and one of 81 yards, for scores as Duke upset the 11th ranked Mountaineers. The first 56 yard drive was engineered in 18 plays, the next 56 yards in five plays and the 81 yard drive in 12 plays.

"Leo called a perfect game," commented Duke head coach Tom Harp. "His over-all leadership was outstanding and he came up with several big third down plays."

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LOOKS TO LIONS — Junior fullback David Bolin, above, has his sights set on Shelby's Lions. The Mountaineers travel to Shelby Friday night for their biggest Southwestern Conference contest to date.

Central Cops Third Straight Over Ashley

Hogue, Logan Named Players Of The Week

For the first time this season, Fulton's Department Store has co-players of the week.

Halfback Marshall Logan and defensive end Johnny Hogue are saluted following outstanding performances in Friday's 20-7 Southwestern Conference victory over R-S Central's Hilltoppers.

Logan, in his second week as a starter, gained 62 yards rushing and scored one touchdown while Hogue intercepted a Central pitchout and romped 87 yards for WM's longest scoring run of the season.

Hogue, in fact, covered almost 200 yards in two plays. He ran almost the length of the field to halt a Hilltopper following a pass interception just moments before his interception.

As a result of being selected as players of the week, Hogue and Logan will receive gifts from the men's department of Fulton's.

Blanton Scores 390 Series In Bowling Action

Ranny Blanton gained scoring honors in the local bowling leagues last week, posting a 390 set in mixed action Thursday night.

Blanton had single games of 124, 139 and 127 to lead his team to four straight wins over Bob Ramsey's team. Ramsey had a 118 line and Jenny Oates had a 322 set for the losers.

Lib Gault rolled a 110 line and 319 set to lead Clarence Plonk's team to three wins over Bob Herndon. Herndon had a 131 line and 340 set for the losers.

John Dilling rolled a 148 line and 343 set to lead his team to three wins over Mull Ramsey. Ramsey had a 146 line and 382 set to lead his team.

Ronnie Culbertson scored a 144 line and 382 set to gain scoring honors in men's league action Monday, but his team still dropped three games to Albert Brackett. Bob Herndon led the winners with a 132-371.

Plonk Oil split with Ranny Blanton. Wimp Bowen's 119 line and 346 set led Plonk Oil while Blanton had a 132-352 to lead his team.

Richard Culbertson rolled a 131 line and 357 set to lead Sandwich to four wins over Vincent's Union 76. Mull Ramsey had a 125 line and 340 set for the losers.

Becky Barnett rolled a 137 line and 324 set to lead ladies' league action Tuesday. Her performance led Drewes Tax to three wins over Dellinger's. Sara Cash's 128-315 led the losers.

Pat Herndon's 106 line and 301 set led Griffin Drug to three wins over Oates Shell. Jenny Oates led the losers with a 109 line and 314 series.

Plonk Brothers won three games over American Legion as Betty Fite tallied a 113 line and 314 set. Margaret Wilson had a 117 line and 289 set for the losers.

Downs, Duke and N. C. State will meet Saturday, October 17, at 1:30 in Raleigh's Carter Stadium.

Shelby Seeking Third Straight Win Over K. Mtn.

Kings Mountain High School football coach Bill Bates says his Mountaineers will have to play a perfect allgame in order to defeat the Shelby Lions Friday night.

The Lions, 5-0 in Southwestern Conference play and 5-0-1 overall, will be trying for their third straight victory over the Mountaineers.

Kings Mountain hasn't defeated a Shelby team since 1967, when Wayne Mullinax engineered a 19-7 upset at John Gamble Stadium. Shelby has won the last two games with ease, 32-0 and 48-13.

Shelby is fresh from a 41-7 victory over Crest while the Mountaineers are coming off a 20-7 win over R-S Central.

"Shelby's got another fine ballclub," says Bates. "They're physically strong inside. And they have the speed and experience in the backfield."

Kings Mountain's big problem Friday night will be stopping Shelby's All-Everything candidate, Marcus Mauney. Mauney, a senior, has been All-Conference since his sophomore season while leading the Lions to two straight conference titles.

Mauney, however, has a lot of help in the backfield in quarterback Tommy Hamrick and halfback Jim Miller.

"Hamrick doesn't throw as well as Bobby Reynolds, who quarterbacked them last year," says Bates. "But their running is real strong."

For the first time this year, the Mountaineers appear to be in top physical condition. Jacob Bridges, who missed last week's game with the flu, and Ray Hughes, who missed last week due to blood poisoning, are both back.

Steve Ingle, who missed the first half of the season with an ankle injury, started last week's game and played well.

Coach Bates said he was pleased with the team's overall showing last week, although the Mountaineers did let down in some spots.

"We played a real good first half and cashed in on a couple of breaks," said the veteran Mountaineer mentor. "But in the second half the game more or less settled down to a regular game. We have had a letdown but R-S Central never generated much of a offense."

Kings Mountain and Shelby have played only two common opponents, Cherryville and R-S Central. The Lions blanked Cherryville 48-0 while KM nipped the Ironmen 21-4. Shelby defeated R-S Central 28-14 while KM whipped the Hilltoppers 20-7. So, if common scores mean anything, Friday's game at Shelby could be one of the tightest KM-Shelby scraps in several years.



Saturday Bargain Day At Rockingham Track

ROCKINGHAM, N. C. — North Carolina Motor Speedway will offer one of the best "bargains" in stock car racing during a double-header program on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 24-25.

The "bargain" day is Saturday preceding the sixth running of the American 500-mile race at the scenic one-mile superspeedway. Five events, beginning at 11 a.m. and ending around 4:30 p.m., are scheduled for a \$5 price tag.

Feature attraction for the day will be a 100-mile event for NASCAR's Grand American Division. Grand National drivers will kickoff the day's proceedings with qualifying tests from 11 a.m. until noon to determine the final 10 positions in the American 500. More than 15 drivers are expected to compete for those 10 spots in the \$92,500 race.

The fourth annual Rockingham-Union 76 Pit Crew Race, featuring Grand National pit crews changing two outside tires and putting in 14 gallons of gas, is slated to start at 1:15 p.m. Defending champion is the Junior Johnson crew with Herb Nab as crew chief. The Wood Brothers won the first two contests.

The first of two 10-lap qualifying heats to determine the starting positions for the 100-mile feature will begin at 2:30 p.m. A field of around 30 Camaros, Mustangs, Firebirds, Cougars, etc., is anticipated.

The Grand American 100, marking the first appearance of the new NASCAR division drivers since 1968, will begin at 3 p.m. Several drivers, including David Pearson, Bobby Isaac, Tiny Lund and Buck Baker, have indicated they would like to compete in the 100-miler and the American 500.

Lund plans to drive the Pepsi Cola Camaro, the car in which he has won 17 GA events this sea-

Checkers Open Season With Greensboro Team

CHARLOTTE, N. C. — The Charlotte Checkers open their home season in Eastern League competition against their most heated rival, the Greensboro Generals, here on October 16. And word is out the Generals are loaded.

Greensboro, which is training within a 20 minute drive of the Checkers' camp at Fort Erie, Canada, has 20 rookies in camp. Few are expected to make the grade since the Generals, champions of the Southern Division last season, have an abundance of veterans returning.

Pre-season predictions by league hockey writers suggest that Greensboro once again will be the team to beat in the South. The Checkers will find out just how damaging the Generals can be in their home opener. Excellent tickets are now available at the Checkers' office in the Coliseum.

Actually, the Charlotte rink will be home for the Generals in early season. The Greensboro Coliseum is being enlarged and won't be available until October 30. Greensboro will work out here all

next week as "unwanted guests" of the Checkers.

Coach Fred Creighton of the Checkers, a stern taskmaster, still wears a frown in camp. The fact that four of his seasoned players came back wearing belts of lard visibly angered the ex-defenseman.

"When we open the season," predicted Creighton, "my squad will be in shape. Anyone who isn't won't be around."

First player to feel the wrath of Creighton was Neil Clark, who has been a top scorer over the past two campaigns. Clark has been suspended for a training rules violation.

The Checkers have a half-dozen promising rookies in uniform and at least four are expected to make the squad. Latest to report were Winger Cal Booth and Defenseman Blaine Rydman, who were cut from the Tulsa roster.

The Checkers have two exhibitions with Salem next week and then open the season in the Virginia city on Thursday, October 15. They return home the next night against Greensboro.