

# Bates Recalls His 14 Years Of Coaching In KM

With the resignation of Bill Bates as head football coach and athletic director of Kings Mountain High School, the "old breed" of coaches at that school has moved on.

Bates was the last of the crew of coaches which put the Mountaineers on the football map in the mid-fifties.

Shu Carlton, now at Ashbrook in Gastonia, the late John Gamble, Fred Withers and Don Parker made up the staff which coached KM to its first Southwest 3-A Conference title in 1955.

They repeated in '56, going undefeated for the second straight year, and then Carlton moved to what was then Ashley High School. Bates then came on the scene and Gamble was named headcoach to replace Carlton.

With Gamble as head man and Bates as top assistant, the Mountaineers continued their winning ways until 1961 when Gamble's health began to decline. Confined to a wheel chair with multiple sclerosis, Gamble retired at the end of the '61 campaign and Bates was named head coach.

After a 4-5-1 record in his first year, 1962, Bates coached the Mountaineers to a co-title in the SWC in '63, finishing 9-0-1, and he led the KM club to an unbeaten season and the conference title in '64.

Withers stepped down from the coaching staff in '63 and Parker, who coached several outstanding basketball teams at KM, retired in '67. "I'm the last of that old crew," said Bates. "And coaching all

boils down to the people you work with. Outstanding men like John Gamble, Fred Withers and Don Parker. And, of course, the kids you'll never forget. I honestly believe that people in athletics are the finest you'll ever meet."

"I had never really considered getting out of coaching before. I'm not really sure of it now. You never know if you're making a mistake. But I had to give them (the administration) an answer. I felt like I couldn't turn it down. The pay will be better and I'll be able to spend a lot more time with my family."

Bates said he had considered leaving Kings Mountain before for other coaching jobs but added "a coach has real good administrative support here. They don't interfere with your business at all.

"The criticism that I've got here is real small considering the pats on the back," he added. "That's why I say Kings Mountain is one of the real fine football towns in North Carolina."

Bates said several persons had a big influence on his athletic career.

"Red Moore, my high school coach at Cowpens, S. C., got me to go to college," said Bates. "The only reason I went was to play football. Then, Norman Harris at Gardner-Webb and Jim Brakefield at Wofford pushed me more into the coaching aspect of athletics."

"After I began coaching, Don Parker, John Gamble, and Fred Withers here at Kings Mountain and Shu Carlton at Gastonia played a big part in my success." Bates admitted that he had been disgusted the past few

weeks but didn't say whether it had any bearing on his decision to get out of coaching.

His big disappointment of late was over the selection of all-conference teams. He had only one player (John Grier) on the team despite finishing third in the conference with a 7-3 record.

"The Shrine Bowls and All-Conference teams aren't right," he said. "I talked to three coaches the other night who said they voted for our quarterback, Geep Howard, for all-conference, but if they did, I don't see how he was left off the team. And I don't see how they could leave Johnny Hogue, our defensive end, off."

You won't find a better defensive end anywhere. And we haven't had a Shrine Bowler since 1957. "This (his new job) is a soul-searching thing," he added.

"They've been after me and I had to let them know something. I had been disgusted. . ."

Bates said he has no idea who'll replace him. "With me out of the picture, I think it should be up to Mr. Atkinson (KMHS Principal) to work with the school board in finding a coach. I would be glad to help in any way I can, but I think the final decision should be left up to Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Jones, the Superintendent."

Bates recalled some of his good teams and players.

"I'd have to call the '64 team my best but we had good teams in '59 and '60, when John was head coach. I'd put that '69 or '60 team up against anybody right now. They didn't have as much depth as our '64 team but the first unit was just as strong." Bates recalled names such as

James Robbs, Punch Parker, Don Fisher, Fred Dixon, Warren Gofforth, Lynn Cheshire, Hubert McGinnis, Pat Murphy and Richard Gold, whom he said were not only good football players but "a good MOE & MORE & MORE & MORE bunch of boys, period."

Bates said football is better now than it was when he first began coaching. "But football players aren't any better," he said. "Now we have full programs. We use 27 boys on the team, now we have that many boys on just as good back then."

Bates said his biggest disappointment didn't come on the playing field.

"In '66 or '67 we had a bunch of boys that went out and got into trouble," he recalled. "It

caused a lot of dissention on the team. It had been going on all year and we didn't find out until late in the season."

Bates said his biggest disappointment on the field came in '64 when the Mounties were 10-0 during regular season but were upset 6-0 by Hickory in the opening round of the playoffs.

"We looked past Hickory to Thomasville," said Bates. "Frank Barger (the Hickory coach) had his team better prepared. He taught me a lesson about looking ahead."

Asked if he'd do anything differently if he had his coaching career to live over, Bates replied: "I honestly don't know. You see a lot of things you think you'd try to change. You can win a lot of games on Monday that you lost on Friday night."

## Cagers Open On Tuesday Night At BC

### Both BC Teams Regarded As Top Loop Contenders

Kings Mountain's high school basketball teams will open season play next Tuesday night at Bessemer City. Game time is 7 o'clock.

Bessemer City will already have two practice games under their belts and KM coaches Blaine Fronberger and Alan Dixon say their teams will have to put forth a great effort to win.

Both Bessemer teams are regarded as top contenders in the Gaston County 2-A Conference. The BC girls lost only two players off last year's team, which finished second in the conference, and the Yellow Jackets are regarded as being even better than last year, when they had All-American Tony Byers, a 30-point scorer, and Gary McNair, an 18-point scorer.

Coach Dixon of the Mountaineers said he is still not sure of his fifth starter. He said Geep Howard, Jim Jolly, Al White and Ben Brown will definitely be in the starting lineup and that the fifth spot will probably be manned by either Chuck Carpenter or Vernon Crocker.

Bessemer City, under veteran coach Jackson Parker, is a well-balanced team. Heading the BC attack are 6-5 Charles Curry, 6-2 guard Wayne Gooch and 6-2 forward Theodore Smith. Parker says he has several young boys up from the ninth grade and jayvee squads who are good prospects.

"Our boys are beginning to get things in order," said Dixon, in his first year as Mountaineer mentor. "We've installed our offense and look like we're beginning to come around a little. Defense is what we're going to have to do best."

### Leaders Lose But Hold Lead In Bowling

The leaders tumbled but continued to hold on to slim leads in bowling league action at Mountain Lanes Bowling Center this week.

Men's leader Quality Sandwich dropped four games to Vincent's Union 76 Monday night but managed to hold on to a one-game lead over Albert Brackett and Dilling Heating, still tied for second.

In ladies' league action Tuesday, first place Plonk Brothers dropped three to Griffin Drug but held on to a two-game lead over second place Griffin.

Mull Ramsey sparked Union 76 to its big victory over Quality Sandwich, rolling a 138 line and 353 set. Gerald Hipps had a 120 line and 351 set for the losers.

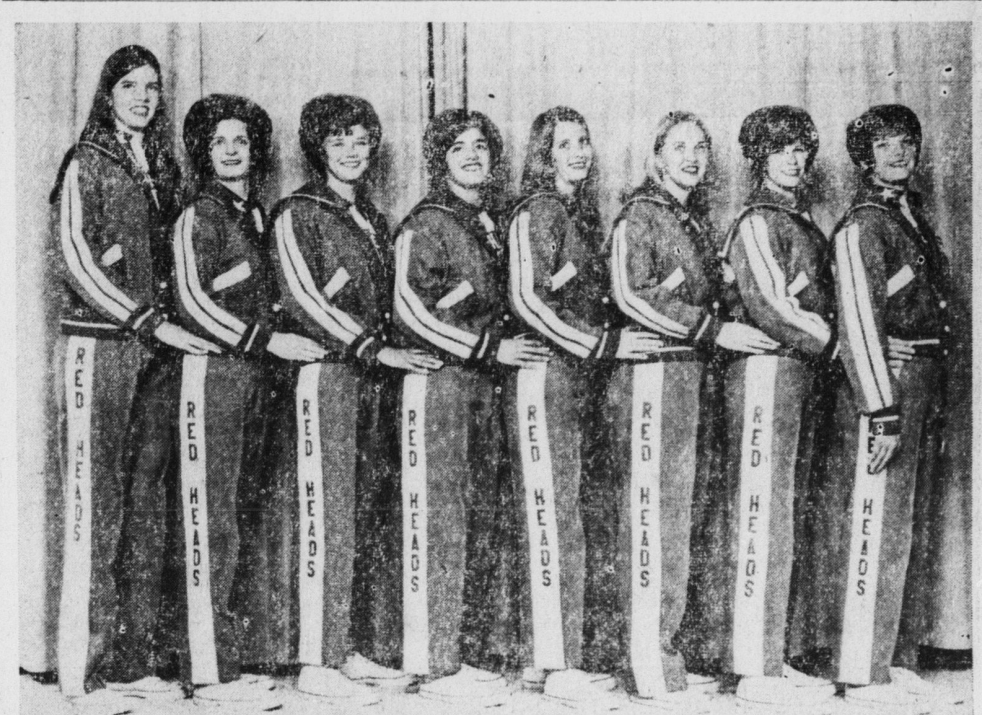
Dilling Heating and Brackett split a four-game set, stopping either club from taking over the lead.

Ronnie Culbertson rolled a 127 line and 347 set to pace the Dilling team while Bob Herndon's 134 line and 381 set stopped the Brackett attack.

Plonk Oil Co. moved out of the basement and into a tie for fifth by sweeping four games from Ranny Blanton. Richard Bridges led the winners with a 120 line and 345 set and Bob Ramsey topped the losers with a 124 line and 322 set.

Griffin Drug edged a step closer to the top of the ladies' league standings with a three-game to one edge over Plonk's. Bobbie McKee scored a 129 line and 320 set for the winners while Betty Cherryville at Burns and Louise Dover added a 297 set for the losers.

Drewes Tax hurt Oates Shell's chances of moving up in the standings by sweeping four games. Becky Bannette's 128 line and Pat Panther's 308 set led the winners while Jenny Oates topped the losers with a 114 line and 320



ALL-AMERICAN RED HEADS — Pictured above are the All-American Red Heads who will appear in Kings Mountain at the Community Center on Sunday, Dec. 6. The Red Heads will play an all-star men's team.

### Red Heads Play Here On Dec. 6

Those colorful sensational and very exciting ALL-AMERICAN RED HEADS Basketball Team are slated to be in Kings Mountain Dec. 6, at the Community Center.

The RED HEADS, Queens of big time basketball and undisputed world champion women's basketball team will be appearing through the sponsorship of the Kings Mountain Recreation Department.

The "RED HEADS", a truly great basketball attraction will meet the All Stars men's team. The game will be played by regulation men rules. Last season the RED HEADS played 203 games, all against men teams. The RED HEADS won 169 of these games.

The RED HEADS feature top girl basketball talent found anywhere — and "Living it up on the court" has been their trade mark — and "How They Play the Game" has become their way of life.

The ALL-AMERICAN RED HEADS "Magic at the Gate" makes this attraction great, and as always the Red Heads are drawing them through turnstiles in tremendous numbers. Roy Pearson said that his organization was most pleased at being able to get this much sought after attraction to appear in Kings Mountain.

Dellinger's Jewelry edged into fifth place by winning three games from the American Legion. The losses dropped the Legion team into the cellar.

Glenda Bek's 113 line and 290 set topped the winners. Betty Wells had a 114 line and 290 set for the losers.

Clarence Plonk claimed scoring honors in the mixed league Thursday, rolling a 134 line and 376 set in leading the Tubes to three wins over the Radios.

Jenny Oates scored a 126 line and 366 set to lead Bob Ramsey's team to three wins over Dilling Heating. Ranny Blanton and Bob Herndon split a four-game set.

Table with 3 columns: Teams, Won, Lost. Lists Quality Sandwich, Albert Brackett, Dilling Heating, Union 76, Ranny Blanton, Plonk Oil.

Table with 3 columns: LADIES LEAGUE, Won, Lost. Lists Plonk Bros., Griffin Drug, Oates Shell, Drewes Tax, Dellinger's Jewelry, American Legion.

## Freshmen, Central Open Season Dec. 4

Kings Mountain's eighth and ninth grade basketball teams open 1970-71 play on December 4 against Cramerton Junior High at Central Gym.

The freshman team this year will be coached by Tommy Pruitt and John Blalock will again handle the eighth grade team. Both teams will compete in the Bi-County Conference.

Pruitt will have mostly the same team which led the Central team to a banner season last year. Top prospects include Butch Blalock, John Plonk, David Lee Bell and Wayne Leach.

Top prospects on Blalock's eighth grade squad include Carl Osoboro, Tony Falls, Steve Southwell, Kenny McCoy, Mike Paysour and David Lancaster.

Table with 3 columns: DATE, TEAM, PLACE TIME. Lists games for Dec 4, 9, 14, 17, 18.

Table with 3 columns: Home/Away, Team, Time. Lists games for Dec 4, 9, 11, 15, 18.

HERALD SPORTS logo and text.

### Pee Wee Team Blank Cherries In Bowl Contest

The KM Pee Wee Team brought home another post-season bowl winners trophy Saturday by defeating Cherryville 20-0. This brought their season's record to eight wins against only two defeats.

Kings Mountain kicked off and, after each team had exchanged punts, Joey Ormand pounced on a loose ball on the KM 45 yard line. It took KM only five plays to score from there with Thomas McNeil sweeping right end for the TD from 30 yards out. The PAT failed and KM took a 6-0 lead into the dressing room at halftime.

Eddie Mauney received the second half kickoff on his own 15 yard line and was still pulling away from the Cherryville defenders when he crossed the goal line 85 yards away. The extra point try failed and KM led 12-0.

Cherryville had its best sustained drive during the third quarter but Scott Rhea, who was outstanding both on offense and defense, put a stop to it when he recovered a fumble on the KM 20 yard line.

On the next play, Thomas McNeil broke loose on a fine 80-yd. run for the score that put the game on ice for KM. Eddie Anderson added the extra points and KM led 20-0. At this time the reserves took the field and finished the game.

Both coaches praised the defense for their fine play allowing Cherryville only four first downs, recovering four fumbles, and intercepting three passes during the game.

The Little Mountaineers close out their season next Saturday when they play the West Broncos from Charlotte in the Little Textile Bowl to be played at Belmont.

Coach Jimmy Littlejohn, in his sixth year of working with these young boys, says that he believes this is the best KM team he has ever had.

## Jones Says He Will Begin Interviewing Coaches Soon

Six men have applied for the post of head football coach and athletic director at Kings Mountain High School, according to school Superintendent Donald Jones.

Jones said that several others had applied about the job but had not officially applied yet. "We haven't interviewed anyone yet," said Jones, "but we intend to start around the first of December."

The job came open last week when Bill Bates, who had been on the KMHS coaching staff since 1956, resigned to take the post of director of school-community relations. Bates had been head coach and athletic director since 1962.

Although several names have been tossed about, Jones did not mention any of the applicants. "I'm hesitant to call any names because some don't care for their

present employer knowing," he commented. "I really prefer to wait and announce who the person is. We have had some coaches from this area to apply and I would hate to put them on the spot by mentioning their names."

Jones said that no member of the present KMHS coaching staff has applied for the post.

"But they know we will look at them first," said Jones.

### SWC BASKETBALL CARD

Table with 2 columns: Date, Game. Lists basketball games from November 23 to December 15.

Table with 2 columns: Date, Game. Lists basketball games from December 18 to January 19.

Continuation of the SWC Basketball Card table, listing games from February 2 to February 5.

(Continued On Page Eight)

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