

HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

Charlie Barnes

Charles Barnes, former All-Southwestern Conference standout for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers, is battling for a starting berth on Appalachian State's 1971-72 basketball squad.

Barnes, who helped lead KMHS to two SWC titles in three years under Bobby Hussey, averaged 24 points per game for last year's Appalachian freshmen squad and he's pushing returning starter Bobby Tate for a spot on the Mountaineer squad.

Barnes' scoring partner at guard last year, Stan Davis, has already been tabbed by Coach Bob Light as a starter but Light says Barnes will surely see plenty of action. Davis averaged 22 points per game for last year's freshman team.

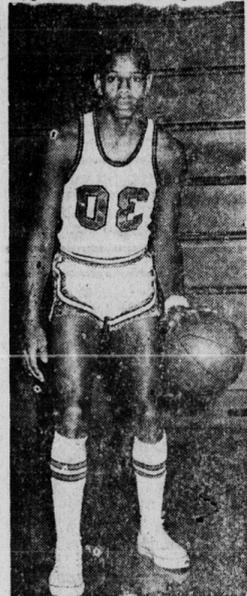
Light says this year's club, which opens its season on December 1, faces the toughest schedule in Appalachian's history. Still, he says his Mountaineers will be much-improved over last year.

Mars Hill will furnish the opposition for Appalachian's season opener on December 1 in Boone. UNC-Wilmington is in Boone for a December 4 outing and Pembroke State visits the Mountaineers on December 6.

"We'll find out a lot about our team during those three games," states Light.

The remaining three pre-season games will likely give the veteran Appalachian mentor gray hairs. After the three previously mentioned contests, the Mountaineers go against NCAA major college opponents, Furman, Virginia Tech and Davidson. Furman has been ranked as high as 20th in the nation in pre-season polls and is favored to win the Southern Conference championship for the second straight year under former Jacksonville mentor Joe Williams.

Appalachian is now in the Southern Conference and though the Mountaineers aren't eligible to win the regular season title, they will be competing for the tournament championship in Greenville, S. C.



CHARLES BARNES

Light has five lettermen returning from last year's squad and his guards seem to be the team's strong point. In addition to Barnes, Tate and Davis, the Mountaineers also return Tim Parker, who started alongside Tate last year. Tate, the former Avery County standout, and Parker combined for 19.8 points per game last year.

Jake Lane and Walt Turner, who averaged 11.5 and 11.1 points, respectively, last year, return at the forwards and John Rutt, who averaged 8.9 points per contest, will probably start again at center. Light says he has improved considerably.

Light also has some junior college transfers who expect to give the returnees a battle for starting berths. Erwin Hill, a 6-4 leaper from Ferrum Junior College, is a strong bet to start at one forward and Rick Dermott of Pittsburgh, Pa., is looking good at the other forward.

Larry Dudas, the starting center on last year's freshman squad, will see a lot of action at both forward and center, and Stephen Anspaugh, a junior college transfer from Wawaka, Ind., will give the Mountaineers still another good guard.

"This team has a good 12-man squad," says Light, "and competition is running quite high."

Light says the Apps should be better in every phase of the game. Rebounding and defense should be more aggressive, he says, and shooting and ballhandling should be improved with the addition of Barnes and Davis.

Parker is the only senior on the squad so inexperience could be a problem, especially since the Mountaineers face a rugged schedule. But when the younger players learn to play together, Light expects his club to make some noise.

Holbrook: Adams Better Than Last Season

By GARY STEWART Herald Sports Editor

It's hard to imagine how Gardner-Webb All-American George Adams could improve over his performance of the past two years but Bulldog mentor Eddie Holbrook says the Kings Mountain native is headed for his best year yet.

"I think Adams is better at this stage of the season than he's ever been," says Holbrook, whose club will play in the Kings Mountain Invitational Dec. 3-4 at Kings Mountain Community Center.

"Adams is usually a late starter," added Holbrook. "But he's looking real good."

Holbrook has Adams playing both inside and outside this season and the former Lenoir Rhyne standout says "Big George" has adjusted easily. "He is shooting well from the outside," says Holbrook, "and he handles the ball good for a man his size."

Gardner-Webb, which opened its season Tuesday night with a victory over Piedmont College, plays in the UNC-Asheville Tipoff Tournament this weekend before coming to Kings Mountain for a two-night tournament with Elon, St. Augustine and Barber-Scotia.



BETTER THAN EVER — Gardner-Webb All-American George Adams, a former Kings Mountain High basketball sensation, is headed for his best year ever, according to his coach, Eddie Holbrook. Adams and his Gardner-Webb teammates will be participating in the Kings Mountain Invitational on Dec. 3-4 at the KM Community Center.

Dec. 3-4 Proclaimed As George Adams Day

Mayor John Henry Moss has proclaimed Friday and Saturday, December 3 & 4 as George Adams Achievement Days in Kings Mountain.

Adams, a native of Kings Mountain and an All-American basketball star at Gardner-Webb College, will be honored during special ceremonies in December 3's opening round of the Kings Mountain Invitational Basketball Tournament.

Gardner-Webb will meet St. Augustine in December 3's 9 p.m. contest. Elon will play Barber-Scotia in the tournament opener at 7 p.m. Opening night losers will play at 7 p.m. on Saturday, December 4, and opening night winners will play for the championship at 9 p.m. Saturday. All games will be played at Kings Mountain's 3,000-seat community center on Cleveland Avenue.

Though Gardner-Webb, Adams has been selected to nine All-Tournament teams, the exact number of tournaments the Bulldogs have played in during Adams' career. Tabbed by many cage experts as the best basketball player in North Carolina, he is being sought by several professional teams.

"Any of the four teams is capable of winning it," says Holbrook. "The Kings Mountain tournament is certainly going to let us know how we stand in District 26."

Holbrook says his team's goal is to win the District 26 title and go to the national tournament. But, Elon, ranked as the 10th best team in the NAIA, is also playing here and the Fighting Christians also have the same goal.

Elon, coached by former University of North Carolina star Bill Miller, has an All-American of his own in 6-3 guard Tommy Cole and the Fighting Christians are defending champions in the Carolinas Conference.

Elon's opening night foe, Barber-Scotia, finished 15-5 last year and handed Gardner-Webb one of its four defeats. The Sabres are led by a pair of Gastonia Ashley prep products, Larry Garvin and Eric Bynum.

The four teams participating here combined for 66 wins last year. Elon won 21 games, Gardner-Webb 20 and Barber-Scotia 15.

Tickets for the tournament are on sale in Kings Mountain at KM Drug and Herman Blalock Grocery. Admission is \$2.00 for adults and \$1.50 for students.

Adams, a 6-5 senior, led Kings Mountain High school to a 45-2 record during his two years there and was a prep All-American his senior year. He has averaged 30 points per game his last two years at Gardner-Webb, where he

Looking to the Kings Mountain tournament, Holbrook said, "Right now I'd have to say Elon is the team to beat but I think any of the four teams is capable of winning it."

Gardner-Webb, ranked fifth in the nation, is trying to improve on a 20-4 season. Adams, who led Kings Mountain High to two straight Southwestern Conference titles in 1967 and '68, is going for his third straight 30-point average season. Adams has already broken all the Gardner-Webb scoring records and anything he does this year will be icing on the cake.

Holbrook says his starting unit for the Asheville tournament this weekend will have Dennis DeSanctis at the point, Tony Spagnola and Richard Thomas at the wings and Adams and seven-foot Henry Boyd at the posts.

"We feel like Spagnola and Thomas are playing a lot better than they did last year," said Holbrook. "Spagnola is much-improved and should have his best season."

"Boyd is also looking a lot better," he continued. "Henry missed two weeks with the flu but he's healthy again now and should have a better year than last season."

Holbrook said Boyd will play the post when the Bulldogs run a single post offense. He said the Bulldogs will

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With All-American Cole And Trautwein Back Elon's Eyeing Trip To National Tournament

With six lettermen, including All-American Tommy Cole, returning from last year's team which finished 21-3 and won the Carolinas Conference regular season and tournament titles, Elon's Fighting Christians expect to make a strong run toward the NAA national basketball tournament this season.

In order to make it to the nationals, the Fighting Christians must first win the District 26 title and they'll find out just how they stack up in district play December 3-4 when they meet three other District 26 foes in the Kings Mountain Invitational.

Coach Bill Miller's club will open the KM tourney on December 3 at 7 p. m. against Barber-Scotia. Gardner-Webb's Bulldogs will take on St. Augustine at 9 p. m. Losers will play for third place at 7 p. m. on December 4 and the opening night winners will meet for the title at 9 p. m. December 4.

Cole made two small college All-American squads last year and is looking forward to more honors this year. The 6-3 senior guard from Burlington is being scouted by several pro teams and is expected to go high in this year's draft.

Cole averaged 23.2 points per game last year and was named most valuable player in the Carolinas Conference. Miller won CC Coach of the Year honors and Christian center Larry Trautwein, a 6-9 sophomore, joined Cole on the CC All-Conference team.

While Cole and Trautwein give the Christians a 1-2 scoring punch that is hard to match, they are not the entire team. Returning lettermen Robbie Hicklin, Dicky Ross, Tommy O'Berry and Charles Schoderbeck played a big part in Elon's success and a group of outstanding recruits add even more depth to the squad.

Speaking of his material on this year's team, Miller remarked: "I think Cole will be even more outstanding. He's stronger this year and is definitely a pro prospect. Trautwein came on strong last season and he's still coming strong. He ought to be one of the best big men in the league this year."

"Hicklin and Ross have both improved and have worked hard for this season," added Miller. "I'm expecting big things from both of them, and Ross could really be outstanding. Hicklin is an exceptional defensive player."

Miller's optimistic that his team can repeat as Carolinas Conference champs and take the District 26 title. "I think we're capable of repeating as conference champs and we're shooting for that," he says.

The Fighting Christian mentor hopes to be able to blend one of his outstanding freshmen into the starting lineup and he has two frosh he believes will be able to battle with anyone. Guard Skip Ball and forward Thomas Moore are the top recruits and Miller says they'll fit right in the Elon system.

Elon will play a 23-game regular schedule and it includes three tournaments. Elon will be host to its own Civitan Turkey Classic this weekend and will host the Carolinas Conference tournament in addition to playing here.

"There are no easy teams on our schedule," said Miller, referring to such clubs as Gardner-Webb, Lenoir Rhyne, Western Carolina, High Point, Campbell, and others. "Everybody will be shooting for us."

But, unless something drastic happens, the Fighting Christians should repeat as Carolinas champions. Cole and Trautwein both hit well over 50 per cent of their field goal efforts last year and are said to be even better this year. Trautwein, in fact, led the Carolinas Conference in field

be revolving in and out of a double post.

Gardner-Webb's lineup is similar to last year's when the Bulldogs made it to the District 26 tournament. All five starters started at one time or another last year.

The Bulldogs will have better depth this season with the addition of several freshmen prospects, Kirby Thurston, a 6-9 forward from Florida, and Billy Ellis, a 6-0 guard from Statesville, are pushing for a starting berth.

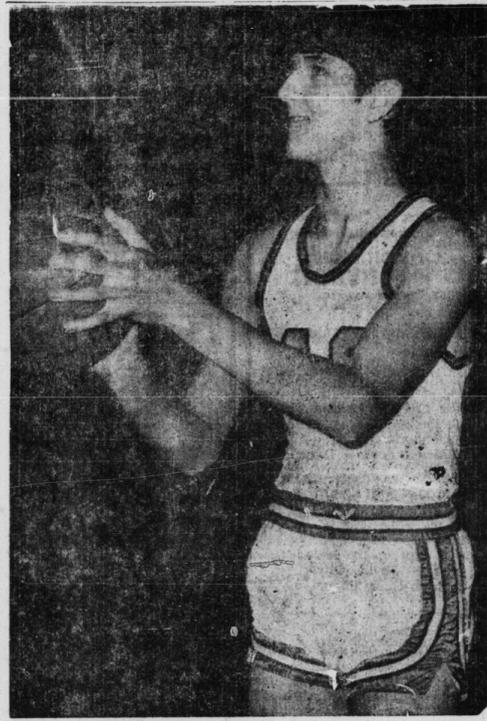
"Ellis has been looking real good," says Holbrook. "He's the hardest working boy we've got on our team."

Another freshman with great potential is 6-8 Donald Elliott of nearby Dallas. "Elliott needs to improve on defense," said Holbrook, "but he's probably the best shooter on the team and he's getting a lot stronger."

Gardner-Webb will play St. Augustine in the KM Invitational's opening night second game. Elon and Barber-Scotia open tourney play on December 3 at 7 p.m. Opening night losers play at 7 p.m. December 4 and opening night winners meet for the title on December 4 at 9 p.m.

Tickets are on sale in Kings Mountain at KM Drug and Herman Blalock Grocery. Admission is \$2.00 for adults and \$1.50 for students. Fans are urged to purchase tickets in advance to avoid standing in line on game nights.

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RETURNING STARTER — Junior Jim Jolly is one of the returning starters on the 1971-72 KMHS boys basketball team. At 6-4, Jolly is the team's biggest player and will be counted on to shoulder most of the rebounding load this season.

Wrestling Schedule

- December 2 Kings Mountain at Hudson
December 6 Country Day at Kings Mtn.
December 9 Valdese at Kings Mountain
December 14 East Lincoln at Kings Mtn.
December 16 Kings Mountain at Watauga
January 4 Kings Mtn. at East Lincoln
January 6 Kings Mountain at Newton
January 12 North Gaston at Kings Mtn.
January 20 Lenoir at Kings Mountain
January 27 Kings Mtn. at Alexander Central
January 31 J.D. Well at Kings Mountain
February 1 South Rowan at Kings Mtn.
February 3 Avery County at Kings Mtn.
February 10 Kings Mtn. at Wilkes Central

Crawford, Lawing On Shrine Bowl Team

Two Southwestern Conference football stars have been selected for the North Carolina Shrine Bowl squad, which meets South Carolina's best seniors in the annual charity game in Charlotte December 11.

Running sensation Scott Crawford of South Point and quarterback John Lawing of Lincolnton are the two representatives from the SWC.

Crawford was player of the year in the SWC and was joined by Lawing on the All-Conference team.

include Mike Thombs, Ben Brown Al White, John Grier, Vernon Crocker, Marshall Logan, Jeff Hedden, Jim Jolly, and Tim Hunter. Newcomers seeking a position include Butch Blalock, Harlee Davis, Wendell Dawkins, Mike Baily, Danny Rodes and Wingo.

SWC Cage Schedule

- November 30 Crest at Hunter Huss*
December 2 Tournament at East Rutherford*
December 3, 4 Tip Off Tournament at Burns*
December 6 Shelby at Crest-Girls*
December 7 Cherryville at North Gaston*
December 8 Kings Mountain at Bess. City
December 10 Lincolnton at Burns
December 14 Burns at East Rutherford
December 17 Burns at South Point
December 18 Chese at Rutherfordon
December 21 Hunter Huss at Crest*
December 22 Rutherfordon at Burns
December 23 South Point at Chase
December 24 Crest at Cherryville
December 25 East Rutherford at Shelby
December 26 Lincolnton at Kings Mountain
January 7 Burns at Kings Mountain
January 8 Chese at Crest
January 9 Cherryville at East Rutherford
January 10 Shelby at Lincolnton
January 11 Rutherfordon at South Point
January 12 Burns at Burns
January 13 Lincolnton at Chase
January 14 Crest at South Point
January 15 Kings Mtn. at Cherryville
January 16 Lincolnton at Rutherfordon
January 17 Crest at Burns
January 18 Lincolnton at Chase
January 19 South Point at Cherryville
January 20 East Rutherford at Rutherfordon
January 21 Shelby at Kings Mountain
January 22 Burns at Burns
January 23 Chese at Crest
January 24 Cherryville at Lincolnton
January 25 East Rutherford at South Point
January 26 Rutherfordon at Kings Mtn.
January 27 Burns at Cherryville
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KINGS MOUNTAIN INVITATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT DEC. 3-4 7 & 9 P.M. COMMUNITY CENTER Gardner-Webb - St. Augustine Elon - Barber Scotia TICKETS \$2.00 ADULTS \$1.50 STUDENTS ON SALE AT KM Drug - Herman Blalock Grocery