



HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

Letter To Santa

I know it's late and you probably have your sleigh loaded and ready to go. But, this Christmas would you consider bringing the following:

A national championship for Eddie Holbrook's Gardner-Webb Bulldogs. And a big fat pro basketball contract for G-W's All-American George Adams.

A return to the top of the Southwestern Conference for Kings Mountain's boys basketball team. And a conference title for the girls, something that they've never had in the history of the SWC.

An undefeated season for the Central Junior High cage squad, which has an outstanding coach in Porter Griggs.

An Orange Bowl victory and national championship for Alabama's Crimson Tide and a Gator Bowl title for North Carolina's Tar Heels, who have come a long way the past few years under Coach Bill Dooley.

A Southwestern Conference baseball championship for Kings Mountain High and coach of the year honors for its mentor, Barry Gibson, a fine coach and gentleman as well.

All-American honors for Kings Mountain's four young men playing college basketball: George Adams at Gardner-Webb, Otis Cole at Florida State, Charles Barnes at Appalachian and Ken Mitchem at Pan American.

A winning season for Coach Bob Hussey, in his first year as a college mentor at Belmont Abbey. And, also for Hussey, a big school coaching job. He's too good to have to stay at the Abbey very long.

Grid Success

Plenty of success for future Kings Mountain High football teams and their fine young coach, Bobby Jones. Santa, Coach Jones deserves a much better effort than his team gave him this year.

Happiness in coaching for John Blalock, who is finally getting back into high school coaching. Blalock turned out some outstanding teams at Compact but was overlooked by KM High when integration came in.

A new, modern bowling alley for C. H. (Cat) Houser, operator of Mountain Lanes Bowling Center. And continued success for KM's duckpin bowlers, who have brought national recognition to our city by winning several national titles.

A college scholarship for Kings Mountain's fine full-back-linebacker John Grier, a two-time All-Southwestern Conference choice. And, Shrine Bowl honors next season for Mark George, KM's outstanding linebacker who was overlooked by the SWC coaches when they picked the 1971 All-Conference team.

A return to coaching for former KMHS grid mentor, Bill Bates. I know he's happy in his new job, Santa, but he's a great influence on young people, especially athletes.

A midjet football program for Kings Mountain. The midjet league was disbanded several years ago and high school football here has suffered because of it.

And, while we're on kid sports, Santa, how about more summer sports for the children and less for the adults. Adult softball has been given top priority here the past few years. Sports for the adults is fine but the kids should come first.

Legion Success

A good season for the Post 155 American Legion team next summer. Our boys haven't fared too well the past couple of seasons, but we can remember the day when KM was always near the top of the standings.

Another good college basketball tournament like we had here a few weeks ago but for next year's event, Santa, how about less snow?

A hole-in-one for my good friend and golfing buddy, Jackie Hughes. And, I'd like to have one too, Santa.

A lot of suckers in Kings Creek, so this year's gigging season will be exciting.

An Atlantic Coast Conference basketball title for N. C. State's Wolfpack and All-American honors for their 7-foot-4 sophomore from Newland, Tommy Burleson. Even though Burleson ended KM High's undefeated season a few years ago, Santa, I still wish him the best.

A return of professional baseball to this area. Since Shelby and Gastonia dropped out of the Western Carolinas League, the few devoted baseball fans who are left don't have a chance to spend an enjoyable Sunday afternoon at the ballpark.

Another good year for Gardner-Webb's baseball team and continued coaching success for Bulldog mentor Jerry Bryson. Ditto for the G-W football squad and its fine coach, George Linton.

A good Babe Ruth League program for Kings Mountain, Santa. And make this program for Kings Mountain boys and not kids from Gastonia. Gastonia is big enough to have its own recreation programs.

Continued success for Kings Mountain's contribution to the college football coaching ranks. Pride Ratterree, an assistant mentor at the University of South Carolina.

Another Gold

A speedy recovery and a return to racing for Kings Mountain's Don Bungardner, who was seriously injured in a wreck at Concord last summer. And a lot of racing victories for another fine local driver, Freddy Smith.

A Western N. C. High Schools Activities Association golf championship for Kings Mountain High golfer Jim Jolly and a team title for Coach Blaine Froneberger's Mountaineers.

A starting position on Appalachian's football team for my brother-in-law, Donnie Rogers of Taylorsville, and another undefeated season for Kings Mountain's Richard White, football coach at Taylorsville Junior High.

Another three-sport athlete at Kings Mountain High School like Richard Gold, a young man who excelled in every sport an din the classroom as well.

Many more coaching victories for Kings Mountain's Mike Ware, head football coach at Newberry High School. And a return to coaching for Jimmy Kimmell, former Newberry coach who stepped down last year after putting the South Carolina school on the grid map.

And, Santa, how about a few more professional athletes like former New York Yankee great Bobby Richardson, a man who realized that he was put on this earth for purposes other than attaining personal goals. And some more colorful athletes like Yogi Berra and Jim Piersall.

And, finally Santa, for everybody, good health, peace and a very Merry Christmas!

Mountainettes Beat East, Mounties Beaten

G-W Hosts Cage Tourney, Mounties In Burns Event

Looking for something to do next week? If you're a basketball fan, you can have a field day. A top small college basketball tournament and a Cleveland County high school tournament are on tap the first four days of next week.

Monday and Tuesday night, Gardner-Webb college will host its annual Holiday Tournament

and on Wednesday and Thursday, the four county high schools will participate in the Burns High School tournament.

At Gardner-Webb, the undefeated and nationally fifth-ranked Bulldogs will play host to three of the top small college teams in the south. They are Lenoir-Rhyne, Belmont of Nashville, Tenn. and Mars Hill.



EYES TOURNAMENT — Gardner-Webb College All-American George Adams, a Kings Mountain native, will carry a 35-point scoring average into the Bulldogs' annual Holiday Tournament at Best Gym Monday night. The Bulldogs host Mars Hill in Monday's opening round second game. Lenoir Rhyne plays Belmont College of Nashville, Tenn. in the opener. Gardner-Webb, fresh from a 103-99 win over UNC-Asheville, carries a perfect 8-0 record into the event.

Lenoir-Rhyne, which should bring a huge following to East Gym, will open the tournament at 7 o'clock Monday night against Belmont, a team which is ranked alongside Gardner-Webb as the pre-tourney favorite. Gardner-Webb will take on Mars Hill in the 9 o'clock nightcap. Opening night losers will play Tuesday at 7 p. m. and the winners will meet for the tourney title at 9 o'clock.

Belmont participated in last year's event, which saw four games decided by a combined total of only eight points. Belmont lost a 120-118 double overtime decision to G-W in last year's opening round, then lost a one-point decision to Elon in the consolation game.

Gardner-Webb is off to its best start ever under Coach Eddie Holbrook. The Bulldogs are 8-0 and have already won two tournament crowns, the Asheville Topoff and the Kings Mountain Invitational.

The Bulldogs are paced by Kings Mountain All-American George Adams, who is averaging 35 points and 12 rebounds per game. Adams scored 36 points Saturday night to lead Gardner-Webb to its eighth straight win, a 103-99 decision over UNC-Asheville in the Charlotte Coliseum.

The tournament will feature several players who played their high school basketball in the area. Gardner-Webb has Adams, Don Elliott of Dallas and Al Graves of Cherryville and Lenoir Rhyne has Andy Anderson of Gastonia and Hal White of Dallas.

In the high school tournament at Burns Wednesday, Shelby will take on Crest in the 7:15 p. m. opener and Kings Mountain will battle host Burns at 9:15. Opening night losers play Thursday at 7:15 and winners play for the title Thursday at 9:15.

Shelby, which handed Cherryville its first loss last Friday, is the pre-tournament favorite, but Crest, the SWC's defending champion, will give the Lions all they can handle.

Kings Mountain coach Alven Dixon has been drilling his Mountaineers overtime in preparation for their game with Burns. Dixon will be playing before familiar faces since he was once a star cager at Fallston high school, which is a part of the consolidated Burns.

The game will have another added highlight in that Burns coach Bill Powell was once coach at Bethware high here. Burns, which beat KM twice last season, has most of its players back and the Elders got off to a blazing 3-0 start before dropping their last two games to East Rutherford and South Point, a pair of undefeated outfits.

Kings Mountain hasn't won in five outings but the Mountaineers have been in every game, save their season opener when they bowed to Bessemer City 75-55 and their final game last Friday when they lost to East 85-65. It should be pointed out, however, that both EC and East are undefeated in seven outings.

After the tournament, which will be an annual event between the four county schools (the tourney site will move each year), the Mountaineers will be idle until January 4 when they resume Southwestern Conference play.



MOUNTAINETTE LEADER — Senior Susan Cash, pictured above, is one of the main reasons Kings Mountain High's girls basketball team is off to a 4-1 start. The Mountainettes, who are 2-1 in Southwestern Conference play, are idle until January 4 when they play host Lincoln.

Victory Gives Girls 4-1 Mark, Boys Now 0-5

Kings Mountain High's cagers closed out their pre-Christmas schedule Friday night at East Rutherford by splitting a Southwestern conference twin bill.

Coach Blaine Froneberger's Mountaineets, continuing to look like a threat for the SWC title, romped to their fourth win in five outings, winning last year's conference co-champions 43-32.

The Mountaineers, however, went down to their fifth straight defeat, 85-65. It was the seventh straight win for the Cavaliers, who are tied with South Point for the SWC lead.

The victory by the East boys, avenged an upset loss to the Mounties in last year's final regular season game. The 55-31 win by Kings Mountain knocked the Cavaliers out of second place.

Coach Connie Hamrick's club was not to be derailed Friday, though. The 85 points were the most points the Cavaliers have ever scored against a Kings Mountain team.

Tommy Simmons scored 29 points, Bill Mayse added 18 and Sammy Watkins 16 for the Cavaliers. But Blalock, a sophomore, led the Mounties with 48 and Mike Thomas and Wendell Dawkins added 16 and 10, respectively.

Senior playmaker Diane Cornwell played her best game of the year, scoring 14 points to pace the Mountaineets to their 10-point victory. The win ran KM's SWC record to 2-1 and dropped East to 1-2.

Carolyn Mitchem with 13 points and Deborah Crockett with 10 added the KM cause. Lydia Poole scored 13 points to lead the East girls. Kings Mountain held East's top scorer, Jane Biggerstaff, to only six points.

(GIRLS GAME) Kings Mountain (42) — Crockett 10, Mitchem 13, Cornwell 14, Lovelace, Lee 4, Henderson 1. East (32) — Poole 13, Biggerstaff 6, Murray 5, Hauk, Macopson 2, Riegert 2, Ashley 2, Albert 2.

(BOYS GAME) Kings Mountain (65) — Dawkins 10, Brown 4, White 3, Blalock 13, Wingo 6, Thomas 16, Jolly 2, Crocker 6.

East (85) — Philbeck 10, Mayse 18, Harrill 6, Simmons 29, Watkins 16, Towery 2, Cobb 2, Walker 2.

Holiday Tourney At G-W College

POILING SPRINGS, N. C.—Four fine small college basketball teams will be featured in the fifth annual Gardner-Webb College Holiday Basketball Tournament, set for Monday and Tuesday nights, December 27-28. Gardner-Webb will host Mars Hill, Lenoir Rhyne and Belmont College of Nashville, Tenn.

The first game will match Lenoir Rhyne and Belmont College. Gardner-Webb and Mars Hill will play in the nightcap of the double header on Monday night. Tuesday night the losers will play in the opening game and the winners will play for the title. Opening game time is 7 o'clock each night.

Patriots Drop 46-39 Decision

Central Junior High's Patriots had their unbeaten string broken Monday at Belmont, 46-39. The loss came just three days after the Patriots set a school scoring record of 104 points against Gaston Day School.

The Patriots jumped off to a 9-2 lead only to see the hosts' hit 12 foul shots for a 14-10 first period lead. The Wildcats went on to lead 24-10 at the half. Patriots couldn't catch up. Central failed to place a player in double figures for the first time this season. Four players scored eight points each. Heavy Monday at Belmont, 46-39. The Patriots set a school scoring record of 104 points against Gaston Day School.

The game was the final one of the season. They don't play again until January 10, when they host Asheville in Gastonia.

Central (39) — Manning 8, Jackson 8, Southwell 8, Mason 8, McLean 3, Thompson 4. Belmont (46) — Beale 4, Davis 8, Stowe 5, Williams 13, Heavener 14, Hope 1.



MODERN CLEANERS Abie Martin

We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year SILVER VILLA RESTAURANT 606 EAST KING STREET KINGS MOUNTAIN, N. C. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1971 11 A. M. UNTIL Baked Virginia Ham Raisin Sauce Mixed Green Salad Mashed Potatoes Buttered Green Beans Rolls - Butter Tea or Coffee Fruit Cake \$1.50 (tax included)



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