



HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

Ex-Major Leaguers In ACC Look For Banner Seasons

Former major leaguers at two Atlantic Coast Conference schools and one at a former ACC university are looking for banner seasons this year in baseball.

Bobby Richardson, former New York Yankee great, is sending his South Carolina Gamecocks against their toughest schedule ever but Bobby feels his Birds will better last year's 18-11 mark.

A former Kings Mountain little league star, Mike Sisk, now of Columbia, will probably be one of the Gamecock's top stickers. Another freshman, shortstop Eddie Ford, is expected to be a big hit with USC fans. Young Ford is the son of another former Yankee great, Whitey Ford.

N. C. State, coached by former White Sox great Sam Esposito, lost two of its all-time greats, pitcher Mike Caldwell and third baseman Chris Cammack, but Espo still thinks his Wolfpack will be in the thick of the ACC battle.

"It's next to impossible to replace kids of their calibre," says Sammy, "but if our young pitchers develop as I anticipate, we'll be in the race for the conference championship."

Chief reason for Esposito's confidence is the presence of junior college transfers Rick Richardson and Wayne Currin along with freshmen mound prospects Mike Dempsey and Tim Stoddard. Richardson, a 6-5 first baseman, hit .471 last year at Louisiana State University, the same team Currin played for.

Esposito's Wolfpack opens its season tomorrow at South Carolina.

Another former Yankee great, Enos Slaughter, heads the fortunes of Duke University and the Blue Devils are a cinch to better last year's 15-14 record.

Slaughter has 14 lettermen and eight starters back from last year's fine club, which won two of three games from North Carolina. It was the first time Duke had beaten the Tar Heels since 1967.

The Blue Devils open their season next Monday with a doubleheader against West Liberty.

—Adams Handles Smith

Short cuts from the world of sports:

Last Wednesday's meeting of All-Americans George Adams of Gardner-Webb and David Smith of Western Carolina turned out to be a mismatch. Adams played one of his best games ever, scoring 45 points and hauling down 22 rebounds. Adams held the 6-8, 220-pound Smith to only eight points. Smith, incidentally, manhandled a referee last Saturday at the Baptist College of Charleston and was suspended from further play in the NAIA.

The first phase of the ABA draft is scheduled for Friday. Kings Mountain's George Adams is a cinch to go but his name was not included on the Carolina Cougars list which was published last week. Rumors have it that Adams would like to play his pro ball with the Atlanta Hawks of the NBA.

Up until a few weeks ago, Duke basketball fans were after Coach Bucky Waters' hide. Now, since the Blue Devils have registered upsets over Carolina, Virginia, N. C. State and Maryland, they'll probably be giving him a pay hike.

—Yellow Jackets 20-0

More on Babe Ruth baseball: A local mother wasn't too happy with last week's article concerning Gastonia boys playing on KM's Babe Ruth team. Seems she didn't like it because I said there were only three KM boys on the '67 team and there were really five. Well, what's the big difference? I think there should be 15 local kids and none from Gaston County. She did say she was against outsiders playing here but added that Bessemer City would be entered in the league this summer.

Speaking of Bessemer City, the BCHS basketball team, which whipped Kings Mountain twice early in the season, is 20-0 and playing in the state 2-A tournament. I, for one, hope the Yellow Jackets go all the way. They have a wonderful coach and gentleman, Ace Parker.

Smack Proctor, our sports writing buddy from Lincolnton, wasn't too happy when I predicted an eighth place finish for the Wolves' basketball team this season. Smack wrote a personal note in his column asking the Wolves "Are You, or are you not, an eighth place basketball team?" Smack said he didn't think so, and he was right. The Wolves didn't finish eighth, they finished ninth.

Roseboro And Jordan Lead Little Mounties

Freshman Carl Roseboro paved the way in scoring and sophomore Thurman Jordan led the rebounding department for the Kings Mountain high junior varsity basketball team this season.

Roseboro scored 284 points, an average of 14.4 per game to lead the Little Mountians to a 14-6 record. Jordan pulled in 12.6 rebounds per game and finished second in scoring with 277 points and a 13.9 average.

Tony Falls, a freshman, was the only player to average double figures. He scored 199 points for an average of 10.1 per contest.

The 14-6 record by the ninth and tenth graders was the best in six years. It was, in fact, the only winning record in the past six campaigns.

Five players scored 100 points or better for the Little Mountians and all 11 members of

Mountainettes Meet Mooresville On Friday

Kings Mountain High's girls basketball team will face North Piedmont Conference champion Mooresville Friday at 3 p. m. at Lenoir Rhyne College in the opening round of the Western N. C. High Schools Activities Association tournament.

The Mountainettes, 40-32 winners over Burns in the semi-finals of the Southwestern Conference tournament Monday at Mooresville, will advance to the regular season championship South Point. These two clubs met last night at Burns for the SWC tournament championship.

This marks Kings Mountain's girls' first trip to the association tournament since 1962, when a team coached by Bill Bates lost to Taylorsville in the opening round of the tourney. That Mountainette team finished the season with a 20-3 overall record after finishing second in the SWC. The East Rutherford boys, along with the winner of last night's South Point-Crest game, will also participate in the association tournament.

Mooresville finished with a 14-2 regular season record, compared to Kings Mountain's 13-5 mark. The Mountainettes were 17-5 overall going into last night's tournament championship game.

Kings Mountain's association tournament hopes will ride on the scoring of Deborah Crockett and Carolyn Mitchem, plus the playmaking and defensive work of Diane Cornwell, Susan Cash, Debbie Lee and Jane Lovelace. All gave great efforts in leading the Mountainettes to a third place finish in the SWC and Mitchem, Cornwell and Crockett were named all-conference.

The game was tied 18-all at halftime but Crockett scored nine of her game-leading 13 points in the fourth quarter to give the Mountainettes their second win over Burns in three outings.

Cash followed Crockett in scoring with nine points. All-Conference Sherry Dixon paced the Lady Bulldogs with 10 markers. The score was tied seven times and the lead changed hands 11 times before the Mountainettes surged ahead in the closing moments. The loss knocked Burns

out of the association tournament for the first time in four years. The association tournament will run through next Wednesday night.

The winner of Friday's Kings Mountain-Mooresville game will play the winner of the Friday game between Northwestern conference champ Martin and the number two team from the South Piedmont conference. That game will be at 3 p. m. Monday.

South Point's girls will play at 4:30 Saturday against the number two team from the North Piedmont. The Raiderettes, if they win, would then play at 4:30 Monday against the winner of a game between South Piedmont champ Statesville and the number two team from the Northwestern conference.

The East boys will open tourney action Saturday night at 8:30 against the North Piedmont's number two team. The Crest-South Point winner will play at 7 p. m. Friday against West Rutherford.

The Mountainettes won their SWC opening round game Saturday afternoon over Cherryville, 38-32. It was the third straight win of the year for the Mountainettes over the Ironwomen.

Crockett paced a balanced KMHS attack with 12 points. Cash added eight and Mitchem and Lee had seven apiece.

Defense played a major part in the Mountainette victory. No Cherryville player was able to score double figures. Karen Putnam was high for the Cherryville team with nine points.

Kings Mountain led through out the contest. The Mountainettes held a 15-9 lead at half-time. Cherryville cut the difference to three points, 25-22, in the third period but the Mountainettes kept their poise and never allowed the Ironwomen to catch up.

SATURDAY'S GAME
Kings Mtn. (38)—Mitchem 7, Crockett 12, Cornwell 4, Cash 8, Lee 7.
Cherryville (25)—Hope 1, Delinger 4, Giles 6, Gaston 6, Putname 9, Banks 1, Paires 5.

MONDAY'S GAME
Kings Mtn. (40)—Mitchem 6, Crockett 13, Cornwell 4, Cash 9, Lee 2, Lovelace 4, Henderson 2, Burns (32)—Meads 3, Warlick 4, Ramsey 9, Dixon 19, Pryor 1, Bolt 5.

BOWLING right down your alley.....

Mixed League

Ranny Blanton claimed individual scoring honors in local duckpin bowling action last week, scoring a 375 set in Thursday night mixed league action.

His high series, which included a 133 game, led his team to a split of its four-game set with Mull Ramsey's team. Ramsey led his outfit with a 142 line and 341 series.

Several other bowlers recorded high scores in mixed action. John Dilling tallied a 119 line and 347 set in his team's three-game loss to Bob Herndon. Herndon led his team with a 117 line and 335 set.

Jenny Oates' 139 line and 343 set led Plunk Oll to a four-game sweep of Robert Ramsey's team. Wimp Downen's 122 line and 338 set led the losers.

Men's League

Joe Beam claimed individual scoring honors in men's league action Monday, scoring a 127 line and 367 set to lead Mull Ramsey's team to three wins over Dilling Heating. Gerald Hipps topped the losers with a 151 line and 354 set.

Ranny Blanton's 129 line and 340 set led Childer's Roofing to three wins over Cub's Paint Co. Wimp Bowen's 110 line and 306 set led the losers.

Bob Ramsey's 151 line and Randy Culbertson's 350 set sparked Quality Sandwich to three wins over Albert Brackett's team. Brackett led his crew with a 115 line and 341 set.

Ladies League

Betty Wells took top honors in ladies league play Tuesday night. She scored a 122 line and 317 set in leading West End American to three wins over Plunk Brothers. Bobbie McKee led the losers with a 105 line and 305 series.

Jenny Oates was second best, scoring a 112 line and 315 series in leading Oates Shell Service to three wins over Cleveland Radiator service. Top scorers for the losers were Jo Dyer with a 114 line and Becky Barnett with a 280 set.

Helen Ballew scored a 102 line and Louise Dover added a 297 set to lead Drews Tax Service to three wins over the American Legion. Barbara Miller led the losers with a 108 line and 305 set.



ALL-CONFERENCE — The three Kings Mountain High girls cagers shown above were this week named to the 1972 All-Southwestern Conference basketball team. On the left are Carolyn Mitchem (top) and Deborah Crockett and on the right is Diane Cornwell.

Cornwell, Mitchem, Crockett All-League

Kings Mountain's girls and East Rutherford's boys topped the selection lists for the 1972 All-Southwestern Conference basketball teams, announced this week by W. C. Clary, executive secretary of the Western N. C. Activities Association.

Carolyn Mitchem, Diane Cornwell and Debra Crockett were the Mountainettes named to the all-star squad. Kings Mountain's boys did not have a representative on the all-SWC team for the second straight year.

Blaine Fronberger, KMHS girls mentor, finished second in the voting for coach of the year in the girls division. Earl Lingafeldt, whose South Point girls won their first SWC title in history, was coach of the year and Jerry Bridges of Burns was third in the voting.

Connie Hamrick, who coached East to an unbeaten season and its first SWC title in history, was boys coach of the year. Mike Haddock of South Point finished second in the voting and Dick McCleeny of Shelby was third.

Shirley Hart of South Point and Charles Simmons of East Rutherford were named players of the year.

The three KMHS all-conference players led Coach Fronberger's team to a third place in the SWC with a 13-5 conference record. It was KM's best record since 1968, when the Mountainettes finished third with an 18-3 overall tab.

For Mitchem, this marked the second straight year for all-conference recognition. It was the first time for Cornwell, a senior, and Crockett, a junior and the team's leading scorer.

South Point and Crest trailed, KMHS in the all-SWC voting, placing two girls each on the star-studded outfit. South Point's representatives were Hart and Beth Beatty and the Crest players honored were Libby Washburn and Wanda Nesbitt.

Other girls gaining all-conference recognition were Debbie Barbee of Shelby, Debbie Poole of East Rutherford and Sherry Dixon of Burns.

Like Kings Mountain, East Rutherford's boys were represented by three players. They were player of the year Simmons,

Big Second Quarter Does In Mounties

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers gave undefeated East Rutherford all it could handle in the first quarter Friday night but the Cavaliers came back to whip the Mounties 70-61 in the opening round of the Southwestern conference basketball tournament at Burns high school.

The loss ended Kings Mountain's season at 6-17 overall. It was the Mountaineers' second straight losing season under Coach Allen Dixon.

The Mountaineers led the highly-favored Cavaliers 9-6 after the first period but the East machine got into high gear in the second period. The Cavaliers outscored the Mounties 24-5 in the second quarter for a 30-14 halftime lead. KMHS could not recover, even though it came on strong in the final chapter, to shave the final margin to nine points.

Melvin Watkins paced the East attack with 17 points. Three other East players scored in double figures with Charles Simmons and Al Mayse getting 12 each and Danny Philbeck 11.

Vernon Crocker paced the Mountaineer attack with 15 points, Mike Thombs added 13 and Randy Wingo 12.

East Rutherford (70)—Philbeck 11, Watkins 17, Mayse 12, Cobb 8, Harrill 10, Simmons 10. Kings Mountain (61)—Wingo 12, Brown 8, Thombs 13, Blalock 8, Jolly 2, Crocker 15, Hunter 2, Hedden 1.

Graves and Dennis Tate. The other member of the all-conference team was Jerry Hunt of Crest.

The Chase, Lincolnton, R-S Central and Cherryville girls and the Chase, Lincolnton, R-S Central, Burns and Kings Mountain boys were not represented on the all-conference teams.

Kings Mountain's Crockett finished second in player of the year voting and Debbie Barbee of Shelby was third.



RETURNING STARTER — Junior second baseman Robbie Moore is one of several returning starters on the 1972 KMHS baseball team. The Mounties open season play here Tuesday against 4-A Hunter Huss.

KMHS Baseball Team Opens Here Tuesday

Kings Mountain High opens its 1972 baseball season here Tuesday at 4 p. m. against 4-A Hunter Huss of Gastonia.

The Mountaineers were originally scheduled to open with Bessemer City but the Yellow Jackets are involved in the state 2-A

basketball tournament and had to cancel the opening game. The Mountaineers will host Bessemer City on Friday, March 10.

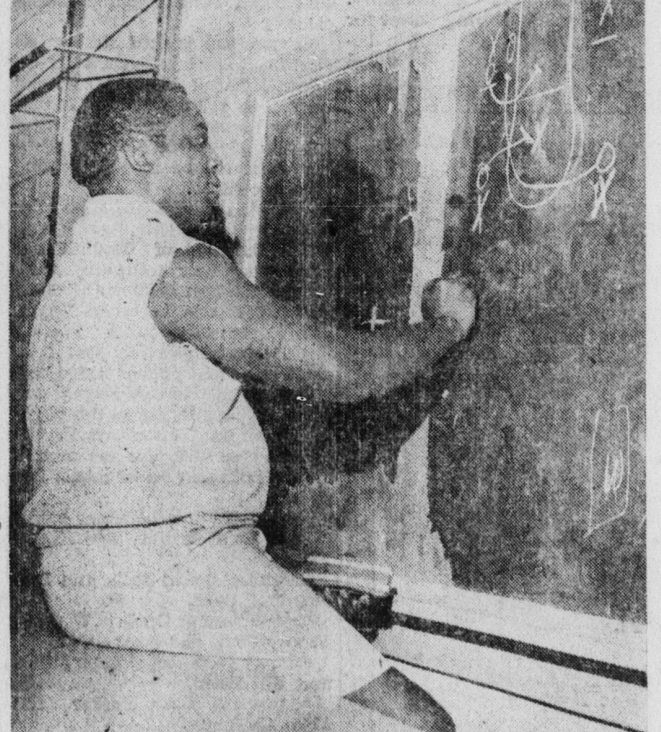
Tuesday's game should be a stern test for Coach Barry Gibsomer City but the Yellow Jackets are involved in the state 2-A

(Continued On Page Four)

Another Successful Year For John Blalock

Kings Mountain High's junior varsity basketball team recently completed its first winning season in six years and the person mainly responsible for the 14-6 record was the team's new coach, John Blalock.

Blalock, the first black coach in KMHS history, took over the jayvee programs last fall and immediately turned them into winners. His football team finished 6-1, losing only to unbeaten Grier of Gastonia, marking the first



ANOTHER WINNER — John Blalock, shown here diagramming play, recently completed another in a long line of winning seasons in basketball. The former Compact and Central Junior High mentor coached the KMHS jayvees to a 14-6 record, their first winning season in six years.

(Continued On Page Six)

winner in that sport in three years.

Winning is not new to Blalock. A former basketball and football star at Livingstone College in Salisbury, he turned out two state basketball championship teams at Compact High School and won a Tri-County Conference title at Central Junior High last year before moving to KMHS.

In six years of coaching basketball at Compact, Blalock compiled a 59-21 won-lost record. When Compact consolidated with KMHS, Blalock moved to Central Junior High for two years and posted a 21-5 mark.

Several boys who played for Blalock at Central were also members of his crackerjack jayvee football and basketball teams this year. And Blalock says, "If they stay together for two more years, they'll be contenders for the varsity teams at Kings Mountain High School."

Blalock turned out several fine athletes at Compact. Probably the most widely-recognized is George Adams, current All-American at Gardner-Webb College.

"George played center on our 1964 team which won the state championship," recalled Blalock. "He was a sophomore then and got around 20 points per game. He was our best rebounder." The next year, of course, George moved on to KMHS and sparked the Mountaineers to a 45-2 two-year record.

Before coaching at Compact, Blalock served for two years as basketball coach at C. A. Johnson High in Columbia, S. C., and one year at John Chavis High in Cherryville.

Blalock's team at KMHS this season wasn't supposed to be as strong as it turned out to be. The squad was made up almost entirely of freshmen.

"I was real pleased with our record," he commented. "I thought the boys did a real good job." He says defense and the rebounding of 6-4 sophomore Thurman Jordan was the key to his team's success.

"Jordan will help the varsity a lot next season," says Blalock. "He goes to the boards real well." Blalock's leading scorer was a freshman, Carl Roseboro, but Jordan got his share of the buckets, too.

A third standout was freshman, Tony Falls, a youngster who many fans believe will be one of the best all-round athletes to come out of KMHS.

"He's one of the best athletes in our school right now," says Blalock, "and he's just a freshman. He quar-

(Continued On Page Six)