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## HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

### Playing Marion At Lenoir Rhyne Is Bad Luck For KMHS Outfits

**TAKING THE** final jump shot of the basketball season and looking forward to some big hits in baseball:

In the future, Kings Mountain High School cage squads should try to schedule games with McDowell County (Marion) somewhere besides on the Lenoir Rhyne College hardwood.

Coach Blaine Froneberger's Mountaineer cagers were eliminated by the McDowell crew Monday, 42-39, in the semi-finals of the Western North Carolina High Schools Activities Association Tournament. It marked the second time in recent seasons that Marion has ousted a KMHS team on the LR floor.

McDowell was favored in Monday's contest but the first time it happened, in 1967, it was a big upset.

Kings Mountain's boys, coached by Don Parker, were 20-0 and being regarded as the team to beat in the association tournament. Marion took a 12-8 record into the first round game but the Rippers ran the Mountaineers off the court, 61-46.

Parker, who resigned after that miserable showing by his team, and KMHS supporters still can't imagine how the Rippers turned the trick. Marion, obviously, played its best game of the year and the Mountaineers, by far, played their worst.

The next time out, Marion was blown off the court by a R-S Central team which Kings Mountain whipped rather handily twice during the regular season.

Oh, well, that's life... and basketball.

### —WCL Season Set To Open

John Henry Moss's Western Carolinas League is all set to begin its 1972 season and the KM Mayor and WCL president looks for this year to be one of the league's biggest.

The WCL has added Charlotte to its list of six teams with working agreements with major league outfits and most minor league fans are anxious to see how the Queen City can support two minor league clubs... the other, of course, being the Hornets of the AA Southern League.

Both Charlotte teams are farm clubs of the Minnesota Twins.

Local fans are pleased that Gastonia, a Pirates farm club, is back in the league after a year's stay in Monroa. Anderson, Greenville, Greenwood and Spartanburg in South Carolina are back for another year.

Two of the South Carolina cities, Anderson and Greenville, have working agreements with new clubs. Anderson, a Senators franchise last year, is now owned by the San Francisco Giants and Greenville, a long-time affiliate of the Boston Red Sox, is now associated with the Texas Rangers, formerly the Washington Senators. Spartanburg will continue to work with the Phillies and Greenwood with the Atlanta Braves.

The WCL's 126-game season will open on April 14 and the first half will run through June 20. The second half will run from June 22 through August 29. The annual all-star game is on tap for July 7.

### —Jackets Lose In Finals

**SHORT CUTS** from the world of sports:

Bessemer City's Yellow Jackets, under the coaching of Jackson (Ace) Parker, advanced to the state 2-A championship game in basketball this season before losing to Wake Forest, 54-53. The loss ended BC's record at 22-1... Coach Dave Price's South Mecklenburg Sabres finished 23-0 and claimed their third straight state 4-A crown. South has three major college prospects in Mark Greiner, Walt Davis and Ron Richardson...

The ABA held the first phase of its college draft last week but only a few players names were released. North Carolina's Robert McAdoo, a junior, was chosen first by the Virginia Squires and the 6-11 Greensboro native will most likely sign. Whether or not Gardner-Webb's George Adams was selected is not known...

Florida State's Otis Cole, a former KMHS All-American, failed to scratch in last week's televised basketball game at Cincinnati. Cole, who played sparingly, made a couple of steals and grabbed one rebound. Maybe we'll see him do better in the Midwest regionals this weekend...

Three of the four teams that participated in the District 26 basketball tournament Tuesday and Wednesday competed in the Kings Mountain Invitational last December. They are Gardner-Webb, Elon and Barber-Scotia.

Belmont Abbey's first basketball recruit for next year will be a welcomed addition to the rebounding department. He's 6-8 Tony Hardin of North Gaston (Dallas) High School. Hardin helped lead the Dallas team to three straight trips to the district 2-A tournament...

# Mounties Lose To Huss, Host Bessemer City

## KM Girls Beat Mooresville, Lose To Marion In Tourney

### Froneberger's Girls Finish With 18-7 Mark

Kings Mountain High's girls basketball team reached the end of one of its most successful seasons ever Monday afternoon when it dropped a heart-breaking, 42-39 decision to McDowell County (Marion) in the semi-finals of the Western N. C. High Schools Activities Association tournament at Lenoir Rhyne college in Hickory.

The loss ended the Mountaineers' season at 18-7 overall. The victory moved the defending association champion Marion team into the tournament finals last night against South Point, which whipped Alexander Central (Taylorville) 49-30 in the semi-finals Monday.

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In Monday's loss to McDowell, the Mountaineers led a five-point lead late in the fourth period. The Mountaineers led by a point with less than a minute to play but missed two straight layups and the Lady Titans cashed in on both misses to pull out the victory. McDowell was the top-ranked team in the Northwestern conference, having shared the regular season title with Taylorsville and having won the NWC tournament crown.

Deborah Crockett, as usual, led the KMHS attack with 16 points and Carolyn Mitchem added 11. The Mountaineers trailed 23-21 at halftime but led most of the second half until the fatal final minute.

Kings Mountain was in command all the way in Friday's contest with Mooresville. The Mountaineers built up a five-point halftime advantage (19-14) and held it throughout the second half.

Crockett again was the high scorer for the Mountaineers with 12 points and Mitchem added 11. Debbie Lee also was hot with seven.

A big second quarter was the key to the Mountaineer victory. Mooresville held a 10-7 lead after the first quarter, but behind Crockett and Mitchem, the Mountaineers outscored the NFC champions 12-4 in the second period to build up the five-point intermission lead.

**FRIDAY'S GAME**  
 Kings Mountain (39) — Crockett 12, Mitchem 11, Lee 7, Cornwell 5, Cash 1, Henderson 3.

Mooresville (33) — Weisner 6, Mills 1, Sherrill 6, Nanney 7, Dish 3.

**MONDAY'S GAME**  
 Kings Mountain (39) — Crockett 16, Mitchem 11, Cornwell 4, Cash 3, Lovelace 1, Lee 4.  
 McDowell County (42) — Stroud 12, Davis 8, Young 6, Borders 6, McCall 6, Wall 4.



**TOP SCORER** — Deborah Crockett, above, led the KMHS girls 13.4 average. Her efforts helped in scoring this season with a lead the Mountaineers to an 18-7 season.

### Crockett And Thoms Leading KMHS Scorers

Juniors Deborah Crockett and Mike Thoms paced the Kings Mountain High basketball teams in scoring this season.

Crockett scored 334 points, an average of 13.4 per game, in leading the Mountaineers of Coach Blaine Froneberger to an 18-7 record and a spot in the Western N. C. Activities Association Tournament.

Thoms scored 332 points, an average of 14.4 per contest, in leading the Mountaineers to a 6-17 overall record.

Crockett and Thoms were the only KM cagers to average double figures.

Crockett, one of three Mountaineers to make the All-South-high game of 20 points in a victory over Cherryville. Thoms, who failed to make the All-SWC squad despite ranking among the top five scorers in the 10-team league, had a high game of 23 against Burns in the Burns Christmas Tournament.

Carolyn Mitchem, a senior and two-time All-Conference player, finished second in the girls scoring race with 229 points and a 9.2 average. Ben Brown was second in the boys race with 181 points and a 7.9 average.

The boys had a team average of 57.7 points per contest and the Mountaineers averaged 38.7 points per game, rather high for a girls squad.

**BOYS SCORING**

Player	Points	Avg.
Mike Thoms	332	14.4
Ben Brown	181	7.9
Vernon Crocker	156	6.8
Randy Wingo	139	6.0
Al White	129	5.6
Butch Elalock	119	5.2
Wendell Dawkins	108	4.7
Jim Jolly	105	4.6
Jeff Hedden	27	1.2
Others	27	1.2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1328</b>	<b>57.7</b>

**GIRLS SCORING**

Player	Points	Avg.
Deborah Crockett	334	13.4
Carolyn Mitchem	229	9.2
Diane Cornwell	155	6.2
Debbie Lee	99	3.9
Susan Cash	76	3.1
Jane Lovelace	51	2.0
Others	37	1.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>38.7</b>

### SP Girls Whip Mountaineers Third Time

Kings Mountain High's and South Point's girls basketball teams met for the third time this season last Wednesday night in the finals of the Southwestern Conference basketball tournament at Burns High School.

And, just like the first two times, South Point's SWC champions came out the winner by a whopping margin. This time, 50-31.

The Raiders, who whipped the Mountaineers by 22 and 26 points in regular season games, jumped to an early lead and continued to gear on the coal. South Point led by 10 points, 22-12, at halftime and for all practical purposes, the game was over at that point.

Shirle Hart and Beth Beatty, a pair of All-Conference standouts, paced Coach Earl Lingafeldt's Raiders with 11 and 10 points respectively. All-Conference Deborah Crockett of Kings Mountain claimed game scoring honors with 12 points.

The victory gave South Point its second straight SWC tournament title. The Raiders came on strong in the second half last year to take the SWC tourney title from Burns.

The win pushed South Point's overall record to 19-1 heading into the association tournament, which was concluded last night at Lenoir Rhyne College in Hickory.

The Crest boys, who finished in a tie with South Point for third place in the regular season race, SWC tourney title. The win advanced Crest into the association tourney, where it lost to West Rowan in the first round.

**BOYS SCORE**  
 South Point (50) — Hart 11, Brannon 8, Williamson 7, Surratt 2, Hoover 8.  
 Kings Mountain (36) — Mitchem 9, Crockett 12, Cornwell 7, Lee 3, Henderson 3.

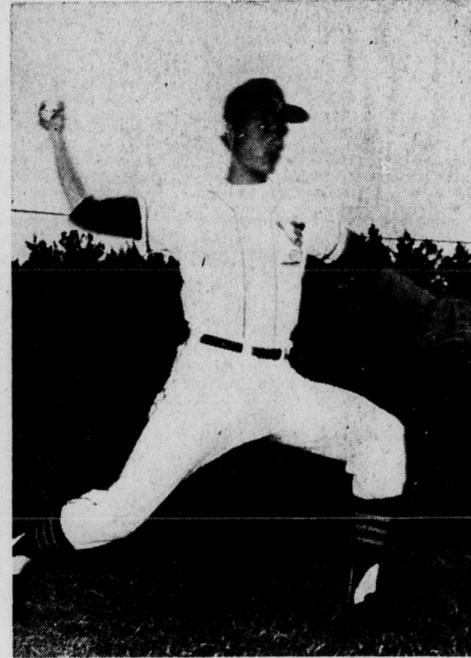
### Steeplechase Set April 8

**TRYON** — The Twenty Sixth Annual Block House Steeplechase Races are scheduled for Saturday, April 8. This will mark the beginning of the second quarter century of the event started by Carter Brown in 1942... the races were cancelled during World War II.

Keen interest on the part of thoroughbred owners and trainers in the Tryon meeting of the Dixie Circuit has resulted in a doubling of purses for the Black House Races.

Record attendance is expected to watch thoroughbreds jump hurdles and run on the flat in six regulation races.

Wesley Rubin, former President of the Tryon Riding and Hunt Horse property since last year, club and owner of the Black House property since last year says he intends to keep the races at the Black House as long as he is the owner.



**SHARP IN RELIEF** — Senior righthander Denny Hartsoe pitched two strong innings in relief Tuesday in Kings Mountain High's opening season baseball game. Coach Barry Gibson is counting heavily on the three-year veteran as he prepares his second year KMHS team for the Southwestern Conference race.

### Wolfpack Faces Duke Tonight, Sloan Says State Will Play Well

**RALEIGH** — Noting the North Carolina State Wolfpack:

"I think we will play well in the tournament," says Norman Sloan about his Wolfpack's chances in the upcoming Atlantic Coast Conference championship tourney at Greensboro.

"We have done a lot of good things in recent games and this is a good feeling about our capabilities," adds the Wolfpack coach, who like his teacher, Everett Case, has gained the reputation of having his teams mentally and physically prepared for tournament competition.

The Wolfpack has won six of its last seven games, with only a one-point overtime loss at Duke, the Pack's opening round opponent on Thursday at 8 p.m., the only defeat in four weeks.

"Paul Ceder is playing with confidence now, Tommy (Burlison) continues to improve and can be a dominant factor in any game, and our guard play is better. Joe Cafferky has responded well in his new role as a solid scoring threat now that he doesn't have full responsibility of running the club," adds Sloan. "We have come within an eyelash of a great season, losing three ACC games by a point and a two-point loss to Illinois."

"We are naturally disappointed in our overall record (16-9), but are very pleased with the effort, improvement, and come-back ability of our squad. I just feel we will be ready to play well in the tournament," said Sloan.

The Wolfpack is expected to go with the lineup that has started the most recent games, with Ceder and Burlison up front, Hold and Cafferky at the wings and Stee and Smoral at guard. Ceder is the only senior.

"We don't plan any drastic changes in either offense or defense, and will go with what works best from the standpoint of our personnel," notes Sloan.

### KM-Huss Boxscore

Player	AB	R	H	RBI
Burrell, ss	4	0	1	1
Doven, c	3	0	0	0
Walters, 2b	4	0	0	0
Hopper, 1b	3	1	0	0
Clorton, rf	2	1	1	0
Cleveland, lf	1	0	0	0
Christensen, if	2	1	0	0
Laughrage, cf	3	0	1	0
Fincher, 2b	2	1	1	0
Janus, 2b	1	0	0	0
Smith, p	0	0	0	0
Mahahey, p	1	0	0	0
H. Hopper, p	1	0	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>

### Error, Walks Give Huskies Unearned Runs

Hunter Huss made fewer mistakes, thus, the Gastonia school stopped Kings Mountain's Mountaineers 4-3 in the opening game for both clubs in baseball here Tuesday afternoon.

A three-base error by Mountaineer outfielder Frankie Stokes enabled the Huskies to score three runs and break a 1-1 tie in the top of the sixth inning. The Mountaineers rallied for two runs in the bottom of the sixth on David Bolin's single and Keith Parker's double, but Barry Gibson's charges couldn't push across the tying run.

Kings Mountain grabbed a 1-0 lead in the first inning as Robbie Moore walked and later scored on Parker's single. Huss tied it in the third on Charlie Currell's run-scoring single.

Mike Mahahey, a former Kings Mountain Babe Ruth League standout was the winning pitcher for Huss in relief of Butch Smith, another former KM Babe Ruth League pitcher, the last of three KMHS pitchers, was the loser.

The Huskies, who finished 12-7 in the Southwestern 4-A conference last spring, outdid the Mountaineers 5-1. Parker had two hits and Bolin and Grafton Withers had one for the Mountaineers.

Paul Ceder pitched for the Mountaineers in the first three innings and gave up two hits. Hartsoe worked two frames, giving up one hit, and Parker worked two innings and was touched for two hits. Parker's

Continued on Page Four

## BOWLING

...right down your alley...

### Men's League

Albert Brackett claimed individual scoring honors in local bowling league action last week. The veteran duckpin stand-out scored a 155 line and 391 set to lead his team to victory over Mull Ramsey's outfit in men's league action Monday night at Mountain Lanes Bowling Center. Brackett's team dropped the opening match, but came back for three straight as Brackett collected single games of 155 and 131. Richard Bridges led the losers with a 117 line and 346 set.

Quality Sandwich took three games from Cub's Paint Co. as Bob Herndon scored a 137 line and 360 set. Bob Wells had a 125 line and Ronnie Culbertson added a 338 set for the losers.

Gene Stone's 134 line and 341 set led Dilling Heating to three wins over Calder's Roofing. Ranny Blanton, team captain for the losing team, was high scorer for the match with a 132 line and 356 set.

### Ladies League

In the women's league, Cathy Sheff team dropped three games to West End American.

### Mixed League

Bob Ramsey showed the way in mixed league action Thursday night, scoring a 148 line and 382 set to lead his team to a split of its four-game series with B-H Herndon's team. Herndon paced his team's attack with a 128 line and 344 set.

Ronnie Culbertson's 130 line and Mull Ramsey's 335 set led Culbertson's team to three wins over Dilling Heating. Harvey Hulender's 130 line and Dilling's 316 set topped the losers.

Ranny Blanton scored a 135 line and 357 set to lead his team to three wins over Plunk Oil. Betty Hulender led the losers with a 134 line and 341 set.

### Optimist Leads Youth League

The Optimist Club continues to lead the local youth basketball league with a perfect 8-0 record. In games played last week, Rotary stopped First Union Bank 26-22 and second place Plunk Brothers whipped First Union 40-18.

Jerry Jackson scored 23 points to lead Plunk Brothers to victory while Ricky Hinnant tallied 12 in Rotary's win.

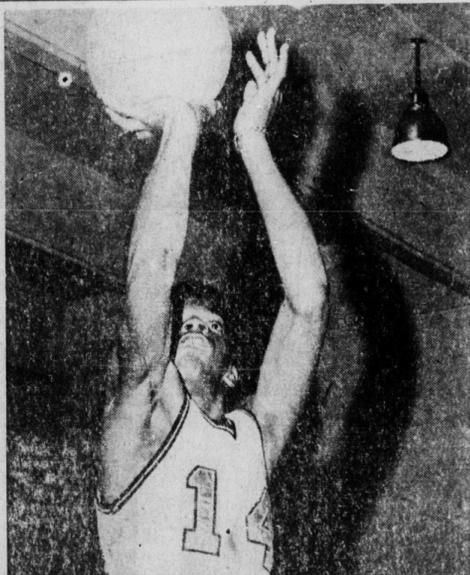
**FLUNK 40, FIRST UNION 18**  
 Plunk—Dixon 10, Armstrong, Pinam 7, Jackson 22, Morehead, Goins, Rhea, Kidd, Tate 1.

**ROTARY 26, FIRST UNION 22**  
 Rotary—Hinnant 12, Brown 9, Chapman 2, McDaniel 2, Jenkins 1.

First Union—Cloninger 5, Holmes 5, Wilson 4, Scruggs 3, Withers 2, Hinson 2, Riddle 1.

### STANDINGS

Team	W	L
Optimist	8	0
Plunk Bros.	7	1
Rotary	5	3
First Union	2	6
Wentworth	1	7
City Heating	1	7



**LEADS MOUNTAINEER ATTACK** — Mike Thoms, above was the top scorer for the KMHS boys basketball team this season. He tallied 332 points in 23 games for a 14.4 average. The Mounties finished 6-17 overall.

## It's Never Too Hot For Quail

By JIM DEAN  
 Wildlife Afield

On the last day of the quail season, I headed north in the afternoon through the rolling hills of Wake County toward a farm near Oxford. The air conditioner in the car poured a welcome icy blast into my face.

It was hot. Radio man said it was 73 degrees. What a way to end the quail season. Everybody I've talked to says there is no point in going hunting on such a hot day.

"You can't find quail on a hot day," one hunting friend told me. "Dogs can't smell 'em anyway. It's a waste of time. You might as well go fishing."

I have taken his advice seriously. I have my shotgun and boots, but at the last moment, I also throw in two fishing reels and a tackle box. While driving to the farm, I try to remember the last time I carried a fishing tackle on a quail hunt. I had here my companion—we plan to meet at the farm—will forgo the quail hunt and fish one of the ponds. I've even brought an extra rod for him. But I'm unable to persuade him.

"You can go fishing tomorrow, but you can't hunt quail tomorrow," he argues. "I know it's hot, but we'll take it slow."

I can sympathize with him. After all, he's right. It's the last day of the season, and we've got to store a few more memories to tide us over the summer until next fall.

We let back out of the pen and move through the fields slowly, wiping sweat with every step. I'm wearing only a short-sleeve shirt, and the bugs in the thickets are doing my arms no favors.

"I couldn't be birds," I say as we walk up behind him. "He must be smelling his upper lip. Whoa! They're weaving and darting through the straw and 10-foot pine. We shoot, we miss. I have my shotgun and boots, but at the last moment, I also throw in two fishing reels and a tackle box. While driving to the farm, I try to remember the last time I carried a fishing tackle on a quail hunt. I had here my companion—we plan to meet at the farm—will forgo the quail hunt and fish one of the ponds. I've even brought an extra rod for him. But I'm unable to persuade him.

Less than an hour later, Park is pointing again, but the birds got up and nobody shoots. We hunt the bushes and get a couple of birds. Back doesn't seem to be having any trouble smelling the birds. In fact, despite the heat, he's hunting better than he's hunted all season.

"There is only one conclusion to make. It is obvious that it can't get too hot to hunt quail, and it's obvious that does can't smell when it's hot. Another myth bites the dust."

On the way back to the house, we pass the pond. Fish are feeding all over it. It's the first time I've thought about fishing all afternoon.

The third cooey is in the open field. It is getting a little ridiculous. Here it is, he's as blue as a cornucopia, and we're finding quail everywhere. Some are in the fields, some in the woods. It's weird. We're not supposed to be finding birds. I've heard all my life that when it's hot, you don't find quail. I've used the same excuse myself on days when the temperature was in the high 40s. But today was the last day in February—the temperature is in the high 70s, and we're finding quail everywhere. It's a little bit weird.

Just before dusk, Back finds the fifth cooey on a day when it was an obvious bet that he wouldn't be able to smell a bird if it lit on his nose.