

HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

13-Year-Old Team Wins Tourney

Babe Ruth All-Stars In Loser's Bracket

Hord Proved To Be Legion Team's Most Consistent Hitter

Throughout his baseball career, Rick Hord has been looked upon as a pitcher but this year he developed into a pretty good stickman as well. Combining both the high school and legion campaigns, Hord proved to be the most consistent of any hitter on the two squads.

In high school, he hit .364 and that was good enough for only a third place rating on the team. The Mountaineers, as you'll recall, tore the cover off the old cowhide.

In legion play this summer, however, Hord took over the team batting lead early and held it throughout the year. He finished the season with a .310 average, the only regular, completing the season over the coveted .300 mark.

Though his won-lost record might not show it, Hord also came on strong in the pitching department during legion play. He posted a 4-5 record, but more importantly posted a 2.39 earned run average and won some key games in the playoffs.

The victory Hord and his teammates will remember most for a long time is the 9-2 victory he posted over Shelby in the second game of the two teams' opening round playoff series. That KM victory stopped a string of 17 consecutive wins by Shelby over KM prep and legion clubs.

Hord's best two games, though, were his last two, even though he didn't win either. He worked 12 innings against Forest City here last Thursday night, but went out with the score tied 1-all. KM later won in the 13th, 3-2.

Monday night, the hard-throwing righthander hurled a two-hitter at Forest City, but the hosts stopped KM 1-0, ending the Post 155 season.

A Word About The Players Several other legion performers had an exact turnaround performance than in high school this spring. Let's look at every player and compare his legion performance to his high school season:

ROBBIE MOORE...hit only .081 in high school but hit .273 for the Juniors, finishing second only to Hord. He was over the .300 mark until the last two games when he went 0-for-9.

KEITH PARKER...hit .445 in high school but dipped to .250 in legion play. Still, he shared the team home run load with three and led the club in runs scored with 17 and runs batted in with 17. He also led the club in the pitching department with a 4-2 record.

DANNY HARTSOE...batting average was about the same, .246 in high school and .241 in legion. However, he slipped to a 3-6 pitching mark in legion play after going undefeated (6-0) in high school. Still, he won two important games, forcing a fifth contest in both series with Shelby and Forest City.

DAVID BOLIN...slipped to a batting mark of .227, the lowest he's hit since beginning his prep and legion career. But he was one of the team leaders in runs scored with 13 and his ability to handle the pitchers and run the team played a big part in the team's success.

TIM ECHOLS...hit .240 after a .265 year in high school. An early-season eye injury kept him out of action for several weeks. He was leading the team in hitting at the time of the injury.

GRAFTON WITHERS...his batting mark slipped to .212 after a .397 mark in high school play. Was one of the team leaders in runs scored with 14.

STEVE HICKS...did not play high school ball. Hit .206 for the Juniors and was improving until an injury forced him to leave the team in mid-season.

DARELL VAN DYKE...saw only limited action in high school but broke into the starting unit for the Juniors when Echols was injured. Hit only .172 but developed into one of the team's best defensive players and always gave 100 percent.

WAYNE BRIDGES...hit .155 after a .167 year in high school. His ability to sacrifice helped the team in the playoffs as he was usually a sure-fielder at third base.

JIMMY FITTS...hit .231 in a reserve role in high school but slipped to .044 as a part-time starter in legion play. The experience he gained in legion should help him in the next two seasons.

JOHN MCGILL...did not play high school ball. Didn't enter into a decision in legion play but came on in relief several times to get the team out of major jams. A 15-year-old southpaw, he makes his opponents earn their way on base and is similar to Rocky Goforth when he was McGill's age.

One Kings Mountain Babe Ruth all-star team has clinched a berth in the state finals and another is still fighting for one.

The 13-year-old all-star team swept a pair of games from Charlotte Monday and Tuesday at Smith Junior High in the Queen City, 7-5 and 16-3, to earn a spot in the state tournament beginning July 28 in Asheville.

The 13-15 year old all-star team won its first game in the District Four tournament Monday night at City Stadium; 3-0 over Union County, but lost to Charlotte 4-2 Tuesday night.

Union County bounced back on Tuesday to defeat first-night loser Matthews 6-0 and move into the semi-finals against Kings Mountain. Those two teams were scheduled to play at City Stadium last night at 7 o'clock and the winner was to meet Charlotte at 9 for the title. If Charlotte lost the game, the two teams would play again tonight.

The winner of the 13-15 year old tournament will go to Lumberton on July 20 for the state tournament. The winner there moves on to the regionals, at Griffin, Ga., and the winner there advances to the World Series in Pine Bluff, Ark.

Players from Tryon and Bessemer City were the big guns for the 13-year-old team in its two victories at Charlotte.

Joel Burgess of Tryon went 3-for-3 and batted in six runs on Monday in the 7-5 victory and EC's Larry Goins went all the way to post the pitching win.

One of Burgess's three hits was a home run. On Tuesday night, Burgess went the distance on the mound and Goins batted out four hits. Pat Byers of Tryon also had four hits, Greg Sellers of Tryon had three, and Burgess and Preston Short of the Kings Mountain Mountaineers team added two hits apiece.

Rick Hamrick, who coached VFW during the regular season, and Fred Sisk handled the all-star team at Charlotte and they accepted the tournament championship trophy last night between games at City Stadium.

Jeff Carroll, a Central Junior High product, hurled a three-hitter in Kings Mountain's 13-15 year old group's 3-0 victory over Union County on Monday night. He registered seven strikeouts.

The KM all-stars were held hitless until the sixth inning, when they rallied for a pair of runs. Steve Southwell's single, Jacky Wray's triple and an error accounted for the tallies.

Kings Mountain added its final run in the top of the seventh as David Lancaster tripled and scored on an error.

Carroll gave up singles in the fourth, sixth and seventh innings. The KM all-stars fell victim of a no-hitter Tuesday night as Billy Spieler of Charlotte walked seven and fanned 10.

What proved to be KM's undoing was an error-plagued second inning, in which the locals committed three costly boos. Charlotte took advantage by scoring three runs to wipe out a 1-0 KM lead.

Kings Mountain had grabbed the lead in the top of the first when Southwell led off with a walk and later scored on a wild pitch.

Charlotte added another run in the third for a 4-1 lead and seventh. Jimmy Parker was hit by a pitched ball and later scored on a passed ball.

Jeff Reynolds went the distance on the mound for KM, giving up only four hits. All four runs off Reynolds were unearned.

Charlotte advanced to the winner's bracket game against Kings Mountain by defeating Matthews 4-3 in Monday's opening tournament contest. Tom Griffin led off the seventh inning with a home run to break a 3-3 tie.

Union County bounced back from its opening round loss to Kings Mountain on Tuesday night, besting Matthews 6-0. Union County built up a 4-0 lead after two innings.

Forest City Eliminates Post 155

Hord Pitches Two-Hitter But Loses 1-0

Kings Mountain's Juniors reached the end of the line Monday night in Forest City, dropping a 1-0 decision despite a strong two-hit performance by Rick Hord.

The loss eliminated the Post 155 team, three games to two, in the two teams' best-of-five Area Four quarter-finals series. Forest City advances into the League Two championship series against Morganton, which ousted regular season champion Hickory in three straight games.

The less-abled Kings Mountain season at 11-13. Post 155 was 5-5 in play-off action, eliminating county rival Shelby, three games to two, before bowing to Forest City.

Hord looked in a duel with EC's southpaw Randy Hawkins, who finished with a five-hitter. Hord walked only two batters and struck out six while Hawkins walked three and fanned four.

Forest City's lone run came in the third inning when Danny Philbeck singled and later scored on a sacrifice fly by Kenny Geer. Geer's fly was the only hit off Hord's seventh inning double by Barry Hines.

Kings Mountain, which left 11 men on base, threatened several times but never could get the key hit to score a run. Post 155 left five men in scoring position.

Hord, who reached on an error, made it to third base with two away in the fourth but Hawkins fanned Danny Hartsoe to get out of trouble.

David Bolin doubled with two away in the sixth but Keith Parker bounced out. In the seventh, Grafton Withers and Darrell Van Dyke collected back-to-back singles with two away but Robbie Moore fanned to end the inning.

Hord singled with one out and Parker walked with two away in the eighth but Hawkins got Hartsoe to ground out to end the inning and in the ninth, Withers reached on a fielder's choice and Moore reached on an error but Hawkins fanned Wayne Bridges to end the game and the season for Post 155.

Except in the third, when the hosts scored their lone run, they threatened only once. In the seventh, after Hines doubled, Hord hit Rick Lewis and Lynch to lead the bases with two away but Hawkins bounced to second.

Hord retired the FC bats in order in the first, second, fourth, fifth, sixth and eighth innings. Hawkins put Post 155 down in order in the first and third.

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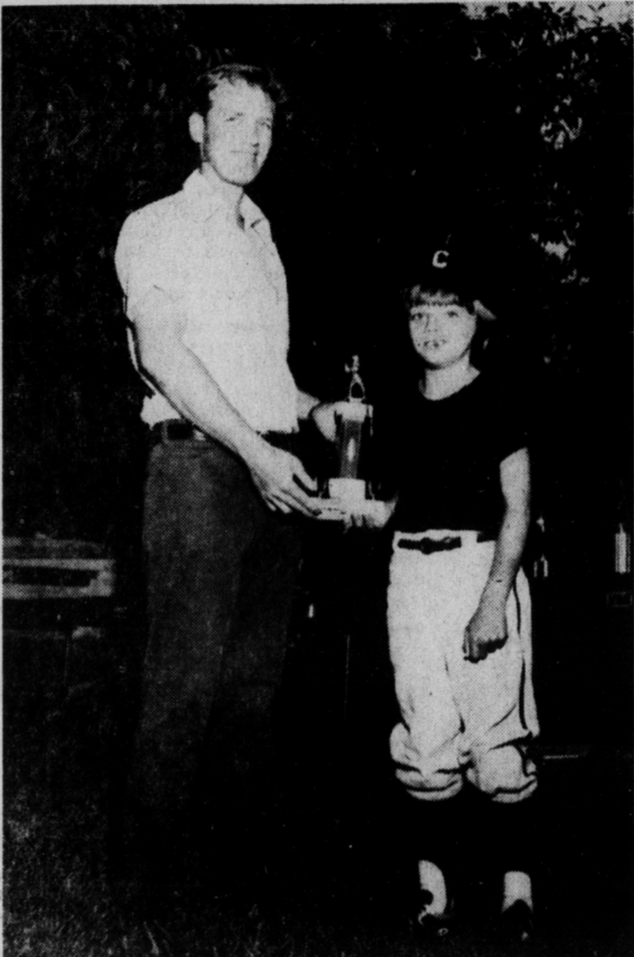
Starting with one away in the first, Hawkins reduced 13 straight Post 155 batters before walking Hord in the seventh. He later retired 11 more batters in a row before Moore singled with two away in the 11th.

Hord was touched for eight hits in his 12-inning stretch. He struck out 14 batters while Hawkins fanned 13.

Forest City picked up a single in the eighth off Hord to tie the game at 1-1. Kenny Geer reached on an error by Grafton Withers and scored two outs later on Willie Baxter's single.

The visitors grabbed a 2-1 lead in the top of the 15th. With one out, Baxter singled, stole second and scored on a double by Danny Philbeck.

In the bottom of the 15th, Withers singled with one away and Parker doubled. Tim Echols reached on an error, scoring



MOST VALUABLE PLAYER — Todd Blalock accepts most valuable player trophy from Conner's Recapping coach Darrell Forbes. Blalock led the Conner's team to the tee league championship this spring, hitting nine home runs and driving in 23 runs.

Moore's Sacrifice Fly Ends 15-Inning Contest

Robbie Moore's sacrifice fly in the bottom of the 15th inning drove in Keith Parker with the winning run here Thursday night as Kings Mountain's Juniors nipped Forest City 3-2 to square the two teams' best-of-five play-off series at one game apiece.

The contest saw pitchers Rick Hord of Kings Mountain and Randy Hawkins of FC lock up in a 12-inning duel. Neither pitcher got the win, however, as legion fans prohibit a pitcher going over 12 innings.

Parker came on for Post 155 in the 13th and pitched the final three innings, picking up his fourth victory against two defeats.

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Hartsoe Hurls Fourth Game Victory, 9-4

Kings Mountain's Juniors scored five runs in the seventh inning to break open a 3-2 game and went on to defeat Forest City 9-4 here Saturday night and knock the two teams' best-of-five Area Four quarter-finals play-off series at two games apiece.

Danny Hartsoe went all the way and picked up his third victory against six losses. He worked on a no-hitter for three innings and finished with an eight-hit performance.

Post 155 handed Forest City righthander Gary Kiser his first defeat of the season. Kiser went into the game with a 6-0 record and Post 155 knocked him out in the five-run seventh inning uprising.

Kings Mountain led all the way, picking up three runs in the fourth, five in the seventh and one in the eighth. Hartsoe allowed Forest City only two runs in the fifth and ninth frames.

Rick Hord batted out three hits in five trips and Hartsoe added a pair of hits in four trips to lead the Post 155 hitting attack. Terry Hines, a product of R.S. Central, knocked in three of the four FC runs with a single in the fifth and a two-run homer in the ninth. The homer was Hines' third against a KM high school or legion team this year.

Errors on the part of Forest City played a big part in the victory. Only three of KM's nine runs were earned. All four of the Forest City runs were earned.

Hartsoe's run-scoring triple and a run-scoring single by Tim Echols highlighted Post 155's three-run rally in the fourth inning. Wayne Bridges squeezed home a run. Hord had a run-scoring single and Hartsoe added a two-run single to spark the seventh inning uprising. Hord also singled home the run in the eighth.

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Jerry Adams New BC Coach

Jerry Adams, former All-State center for Kings Mountain High School, has been named head football coach at Bessemer City High School.

Adams, a 1961 graduate of KMHS, succeeds Tommy Stowe as head mentor of the Yellow Jackets. Stowe recently resigned after two years on the job.

Adams starred on several outstanding football teams at KMHS and Western Carolina University before joining the coaching ranks.

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Babe Ruth Boxscores

MONDAY'S GAME

Table with columns for Kings Mtn, Ab, R, H, Rbi and Union County, Ab, R, H, Rbi. Lists players and their statistics for the Monday game.

TUESDAY'S GAME

Table with columns for Kings Mtn, Ab, R, H, Rbi and Forest City, Ab, R, H, Rbi. Lists players and their statistics for the Tuesday game.

Score by innings:

Table showing scores by inning for Kings Mountain vs Union County and Kings Mountain vs Forest City.

Score by innings:

Table showing scores by inning for Kings Mountain vs Forest City.

Let's Have A Contest

Writers and other sports buffs are all the time choosing an all-time athletic team. The latest person to choose one was President Nixon, who last week named his all-time major league all-star baseball team.

Let's have an all-star team of our own.

Take a pencil and paper and name your all-time Kings Mountain football, basketball and baseball teams and send them to the Sports Department, Kings Mountain Herald, Box 752, Kings Mountain.

We'll tally up the votes and announce the all-time teams in the July 27 edition of the Herald.

Seven-Run Eighth By Forest City Breaks Open Close Game Friday

Forest City's Juniors scored seven runs in the eighth inning to break open a close game and defeat Post 155 9-1 Friday night in Forest City.

The victory gave Forest City a 2-1 lead in the two teams' best-of-five Area Four play-off series.

Ray Bailey went the distance on the mound for the winners, scattering five hits. Keith Parker took the loss, his second of the year.

Forest City broke a 1-1 tie with a single-run off Parker in the seventh. Then, with one out in the bottom of the eighth, an error by Robbie Moore at shortstop opened the gates and the hosts scored four runs before another out was made.

Forest City touched Parker and relief pitcher John McGill for 11 hits. Rick Lewis led the way with 3-for-5 and three runs batted in and Willie Baxter and Danny Philbeck added two hits apiece.

Post 155's only run came in the second inning when Danny Hartsoe led off with a long home run over the centerfield fence. Kings Mountain managed to get three other players in scoring position but couldn't come up with the key hit to drive them home.

Shelby — The largest and hottest field of late Model Sportsman drivers of the season are expected here Thursday night at the Shelby Speedway, located at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds, at 8 o'clock.

Ned Jarrett, two-time NASCAR Grand National champion, is serving as advisor and honorary announcer for the new group of sponsors from Shelby. Jarrett will be on hand for the remainder of the season.

Final Post 155 Marks

Table with columns for Player, AB, R, H, Rbi, AVG. Lists statistics for players like Jerry Valentine, Rick Hord, Robbie Moore, Keith Parker, Danny Hartsoe, Tim Echols, David Bolin, Grafton Withers, Steve Hicks, Darrell Van Dyke, Wayne Bridges, Jimmy Fitts, John McGill, Lenny Thornburg.

Table with columns for Pitcher, W-L, IP, H, R, ER, BB, SO, ERA. Lists statistics for pitchers like Parker, Hord, Hartsoe, McGill.

Table with columns for Home Runs, Hitter, R, Score. Lists home run statistics for Hartsoe, Parker, Hord.