

Most Coaches Predict Wide-Open Race

Allen, Curtis Tab Lincolnton As Team To Beat

By GARY STEWART
Herold Sports Editor
Improvement is the word at most Southwestern Conference schools as another football season rounds the corner.

Allen has Chris Horne, Bryan Stain and Mike Baitly sharing the signal-calling duties and he's expecting a pair of jayvee grads, tackle Jeff Peeler and end Mike Mode, to help.

to our defense is linebackers and we have a lot of experience there.
Biggerstaff tags Lincolnton and Shelby as the teams to beat.

Lincolnton Coach Von Ray Harris says, with a few breaks, his Wolves can do better than in '71, when they finished second to South Point with an overall 7-4 record.

quarterback Brad Huggins, a returnee, tailbacks David Smith and William Baxter, fullbacks Chuck and Tony Summey, slotback Alan Carlton, ends Kelly Burgin and Marlon Matheny, tackles Ricky Jones and Randy Harrill, guards Randy center and Mark Dodge and center Mitch Bumgardner will be seeing double duty.

Kenny Hamilton, tackles Greg Roberts and Mike Yelton, ends Charles Huskey and Thomas Burnett and quarterback Bill Johnson.

CREST
Veteran Crest coach Max Beam says he's rebuilding but adds that the Chargers could improve on last year's 5-4-1 record if they're not hit too hard by injuries.

Keeter is counting on fullback Bruce Watkins and halfbacks Tommy Henson, Randy Wall and Charlie Blanton to carry much of the load. Up front, he'll have Tony Harrill and Brooks Turner at ends, Steve Padgett and Kevin Hill at tackles, Martin Harris and Billy Mayse at guards and Rudy Owens at center.

SHELBY
Although most coaches expect the Lions to be much improved over last year, head coach Gerald Allen says his club is "about the same." The Lions finished 63-1 a year ago.

SOUTH POINT
Coach Jim Biggerstaff, whose club finished 12-0-1 and shared the WNCSSAA title last fall, says "we're definitely rebuilding. There's no question about that."

The Wolves' key loss was All-State quarterback John Lawing, now the property of Cal Stoll and the University of Minnesota. Harris has last year's backup quarterback still around, 5-10 David Eaker, and he'll probably draw tight starting assignment against R-S Central when the Wolves open on Sept. 1.

Ironmen are young, with only six seniors on the squad. Carpenter has 10 soph and 16 juniors but the juniors didn't see a lot of action last season.

Depth and inexperience could be a problem for Coach Coady Jones at East, but the first-year head mentor hopes his Cavaliers can better last year's 4-6 record.

R-S CENTRAL
Coach Worth Johnson has 14 lettermen back and expects his Hilltoppers to better last year's 4-6 record.

CHASE
New head coach John Keeter, former mentor at Newton-Conover and St. Stephens, will have a depth problem but he still expects the Trojans to improve on last year's 4-6 record.

Curtis said several players are progressing, including tackle Tim Hendricks, center Andy Elmore, quarterbacks Boyd Packer and Bill Poole and halfbacks Fred Harper and Harvey Horne.



COACHES READY FOR OPENER — KMHS Football Coaches, pictured, ready for the Mountaineers' opener against Bessemer City here September 1. From left to right, Steve Baker, Tommy Pruitt, Bob Gotroth, Bill Cashion and Head Football Coach Bob Jones. (Herald Photo by Isaac Alexander)

Mountaineers Scrimmage Tonight

4-A Olympic Here For 8 p.m. Grid Showing

The 1972 edition of the Kings Mountain High Mountaineers will be unveiled tonight when Coach Bobby Jones sends his charges through a controlled scrimmage with Olympic High School of Charlotte.



THREE YEAR STARTER — Alfred Ash, senior member of the Kings Mountain High football team, will be starting for the third straight year when the Mountaineers open '72 play. Ash played at guard his sophomore and junior years but has been switched to tackle this season.

Champion's Winner In State Tournament

Champion's Landscaping of Kings Mountain is the new state open slowpitch softball champion. Coach Artie Shoemaker's team bounced out of the losers bracket Sunday in Reidsville to win three straight contests and dethrone defending champ Higgins' Cycles of Greensboro.

Champion's topped Higgins' 9-8 in the championship game after earlier knocking the former champs into the loser's bracket, 10-4.

Pressley Wins 100-Lap Event At Hickory Oval

HICKORY. — Bob Pressley came off the winner of the 100-lap Sportsman feature at Hickory Speedway Saturday night in a contest that was two hours in the running and had all the earmarks of a demolition derby.

Last Time To Vote For All-Time Squads

This is your last chance to vote for the all-time Kings Mountain football, basketball and baseball teams. The deadline is Monday. So hurry. Fill out the ballot listed below and mail it to the Herald, P. O. Box 752, Kings Mountain, 28086. The all-time teams will be announced in next week's paper.

Ballot form for all-time Kings Mountain football, basketball, and baseball teams. Includes sections for ALL-TIME FOOTBALL TEAM, ALL-TIME BASKETBALL TEAM, and ALL-TIME BASEBALL TEAM with various positions listed.

Coach Jones said today that the players' performers tonight will go a long way in determining the starting lineup for the season opener.

Jones said the defensive team would look similar. There, he'll have Davis and Floyd at ends, John Bridges, Jake Bridges or Ash at tackle, Falls and Smith at halfbacks and Johnson at safety.

Lenoir Rhyne Begins Grid Practice Monday

HICKORY. — The crash of shoulder pads, the resounding thump of a good kick, and the groans of getting back into shape will be heard by Lenoir Rhyne college grid fans as practice begins Monday.

The Bears will be returning just one week before school begins and three weeks before the opener with Wofford.

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Recreation Department News

Carolina Throwing, third place finishers in the regular season standings, went undefeated to win the city men's slowpitch softball tournament at Deal Street Park.

Dowell, Charlie Jones and Bill Watson added two each for Duplex.

Scotty Jackson and Timmy Oliver sparked the winners with three hits apiece and Gary Oliver, Tommy Barrett and Jerry Thomas added two each.

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