

HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

Letter To Santa

Dear Santa, Well, it's that time again and I suppose you've already started loading your sleigh for Sunday night's ride.

A starting position on the San Diego Conquistadors team for former KMHS and Gardner-Webb great George Adams.

Good years for Kings Mountain's two contributions to college basketball, Charles Barnes at Appalachian and Otis Cole at Florida State.

A city-wide midget football league for Kings Mountain. For years, the Optimist Club has been the lone sponsor for kid league football here and its time others got interested too.

Southwestern Conference titles for both Kings Mountain High cage teams and coach of the year honors for their fine mentors, Blaine Froneberger and Allen Dixon.

East-West Honors For George

A spot in the East-West game and a college scholarship for KM High's outstanding center-linebacker Mark George.

Baseball's a long way off, Santa, but how about a SWC title for the Mountaineers, much-deserved All-Conference honors for Keith Parker and Robbie Moore, and a team batting title for Darrell Van Dyke.

Good years for KM's minor sports programs, such as wrestling, tennis, golf and track.

Some major golf tournament victories for Larry Hinson. A hole-in-one for Jackie Hughes.

Continued success for Kings Mountain's contributions to the coaching profession, Jimmy Kimmell at Chester, S. C., Jerry Adams at Bessemer City, Hubert McGinnis at Crest, Richard White at Taylorsville, Mike Ware at Newberry, S. C., and any others that I might have overlooked.

Another George Harris or Ken Baity for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers. After losing 13 fine seniors, Bobby Jones is going to be needing all the help he can get next year.

A Comeback For Cloninger

A successful Legion Hall of Fame banquet for Kings Mountain's inductee into the 'hall', former major leaguer George Wilson.

A long overdue American League pennant for the Yankees and a National League pennant for the Braves.

A successful semi-pro football venture for Kings Mountain's Bears. Continued success for local duckpin bowlers, who have brought many national championships to Kings Mountain.

Many more productive football years for East Gaston Coach Dick Thompson, one of the finest gentlemen in the coaching ranks.

A Cotton Bowl victory for Alabama's Crimson Tide and a victory for Ohio State over Southern Cal in the Rose Bowl.

And, last but not least, Santa, good health, peace and a Merry Christmas for all.

Tar Heels Return To Practice, Prepare For Dec. 30 Sun Bowl

CHAPEL HILL. — North Carolina's Atlantic Coast Conference football champions returned to the practice field Monday, in preparation for their battle with Texas Tech in El Paso's Sun Bowl.

The Tar Heels, who posed a 10-1 regular season record in sweeping their second straight ACC title, will face the Red Raiders of the Southwestern conference Dec. 30. Kickoff is set for 1 p. m. Eastern Standard Time and the game will be telecast nationally by CBS.

Coach Bill Dooley's team will work daily until Friday, Dec. 22. The squad will then break camp for the Christmas holidays, returning on the evening of Dec. 26.

Carolina will then fly to El Paso the following morning and set up headquarters at the Holiday Inn. The Tar Heels will practice in El Paso until the day of the game.

The Tar Heels ended their regular season Saturday, Dec. 9, with a 28-24 come-from-behind victory over Florida. That tenth victory equaled Carolina's all-time high set by the 1914 team which also was 10-1. In fact, no other major college team in the state of North Carolina has ever won 10 games in a single season.

That victory also allowed Dooley to improve his record at Carolina for the fifth straight year, an unprecedented feat in college football, and makes him a strong candidate for National Coach of the Year.

Caught with slim talent in his first two years at UNC, Dooley's 1967 and 1968 teams were 2-8 and 3-7. Since then re records have been 5-5, 8-3, 9-2 and 10-1.

This will be Carolina's third consecutive trip to a post-season

KMHS Cagers Take Twinbill For East Clubs

Church League Cage Action Begins Saturday

The Church Youth League basketball season will begin Saturday morning with three games scheduled at Kings Mountain Community Center.

Seven teams are entered in the league this season and will play a seven-game schedule, running through Feb. 21. Each team will also participate in a double-elimination tournament after completion of the regular season.

Games on Saturday morning will be played at 9 a. m., 10 a. m. and 11 a. m.

Teams entered in the loop include Oak Grove, Mt. Sinai, First Baptist, Church Hill Drive, Second Baptist, Oak View and Mull Memorial.

The regular season schedule follows:

- DECEMBER 23—Oak Grove vs. Church Hill; Mt. Sinai vs. Second Baptist; First Baptist vs. Oak View. JANUARY 6—Oak Grove vs. Mt. Sinai; Second Baptist vs. Oak View. 10—Mt. Sinai vs. Church Hill; First Baptist vs. Church Hill; Mull Memorial vs. Oak View. 27—Oak Grove vs. First Baptist; Mt. Sinai vs. Mull Memorial; Church Hill vs. Oak View. FEBRUARY 10—First Baptist vs. Church Hill; Mull Memorial vs. Second Baptist; Oak Grove vs. Oak View. 17—Oak Grove vs. Mull Memorial; Mt. Sinai vs. First Baptist; Church Hill vs. Second Baptist. 24—Mull Memorial vs. Church Hill; Oak Grove vs. Second Baptist; Mt. Sinai vs. Oak View.

Rusnak Wins Jacobs Award For Blocking

CHAPEL HILL. — Ron Rusnak, the University of North Carolina's star offensive guard, has won the 1972 Jacobs blocking trophy as the outstanding blocker in the Atlantic Coast conference.

The announcement was made by Hugh and William P. Jacobs Jr. of Clinton, S. C. The trophy is given annually in memory of their father, the late William P. Jacobs Sr., who originated the award in 1928.

Balloting was done by the head coaches of the seven ACC schools.

Winning the Jacobs trophy caps a sensational year for Rusnak. The 62, 225-pound senior from Prince George, Va. rates as one of the finest linemen in Carolina history and was a consensus All-America this season.

Rusnak was the driving force on a brilliant Tar Heel offensive line which helped carry Carolina to a 10-1 regular season record and a second straight ACC title.

The Tar Heels will face Texas Tech in the Sun Bowl, Dec. 30 in El Paso, Texas.

"This is a great honor for Ron and one which he richly deserves," said Carolina Coach Bill Dooley about the announcement. "I don't think there is a finer offensive lineman in the country than Ron."

Rusnak was the leading vote-getter among the interior linemen on this year's All-ACC team. He was named to the all-star squad for the second consecutive season.

Rusnak was a first team selection on all the major All-America teams this fall. Among the teams he made are the Associated Press, the United Press, International Football Coaches of America and the Football Writers of America.

This is the second straight year a Carolina player has won the award. Fullback Geoff Hamlin was the winner last season with Rusnak finishing second in the voting.

Other Tar Heel players who won the trophy in the ACC were Jim LeCompte in 1961 and Eddie Kester in 1964.

North Carolina State guard Bill Yoest finished second in this year's balloting and Duke guard Bruce Snyder was third.

Leading Carolina against the Red Raiders will be seven players who were named to the All-ACC team. They are offensive guard Ron Rusnak, consensus All-American offensive tackle Jerry Sain; defensive back Lou Angelo; defensive end Gene Brown; defensive tackle Eric Hyman; and linebackers Mike Mansfield and Jimmy DeRatt.



FOOTBALL TROPHY WINNERS — Fine linemen walked off with awards at the annual Lions club football banquet Dec. 12th. Art Weiner, former All-American end at UNC and KMHS coach in 1951, presented the awards and made the address.

Crusaders And Bulldogs Hosting Holiday Tourneys

This area's two college basketball teams will both be hosting Christmas tournaments next weekend, Dec. 29-30.

Belmont Abbey's Crusaders, coached by former Kings Mountain high mentor Bobby Hussey, will be hosting the first annual Abbey Classic while Gardner-Webb's Bulldogs will be hosting their annual Bulldog Holiday tournament.

The Crusaders will entertain Pfeiffer, UNC-Wilmington and Elon Friday and Saturday while the Bulldogs put out the welcome mat to Ft. Hays, Kan., Carson-Newman and Western Carolina.

At Belmont's Wheeler Center, Elon and Pfeiffer, two Carolinas Conference contenders, will open tournament play Friday night at 7 and the Crusaders will host UNC-Wilmington at 9. The opening round losers play for third place on Saturday night at 7 and the winners clash for the title at 9.

The championship game Saturday night could pit the Abbey against its only conqueror this year. The Crusaders dropped a slim 73-71 loss to Pfeiffer in their second game of the year and Coach Hussey's charges would like another shot at the Falcons.

However, it will take some doing for both the Crusaders and the Falcons to reach the final.

UNC-Wilmington is capable of pulling an upset over the Crusaders and Elon is always one of the strongest small college teams in the state and the Fighting Christians own an All-American candidate in 6-7 Larry Trautwein.

Sophomore Carl Bell and freshman Curtis Carter have provided the Abbey with a solid 12 scoring punch but Hussey has also gotten fine efforts from his other three starters, seniors Jim McDeede and Larry Cone and sophomore point man Mike Randall.

The Crusaders will take a 5-1 record into the tournament. The Abbey is 4-1 in District 26 play but tournament games do not count in the district standings.

Four area high school teams will play afternoon games preceding the tournament tests. Those clubs include Hunter Huss, Charlotte Country Day, South Point and East Rutherford.

Ft. Hays and Western Carolina will open the GAW tournament Friday night at 7 and Gardner-Webb will meet Carson-Newman in the nightcap. The losers play at 7 on Saturday and the winners play at 9 for the title.

Carson-Newman and Belmont Abbey have handed the Bulldogs their only two losses to date. The

Eagles whipped the Bulldogs in the finals of the UNC Asheville Tipoff tournament and the Crusaders stopped the Bulldogs 108-100 in a regular season game.

Gardner-Webb copped victories over Shaw university and St. Augustines last weekend at Bowling Springs to up its record to 6-2.

Alabama freshman John Drew and junior college transfer Jim Blanks have been the ringleaders of the GW offense thus far, and Coach Eddie Holbrook has also gotten good performances from Billy Ellis, Ken Napier, Al Jones and others.

The GAW field appears to be well-balanced and coaches of the four teams agree that any one of the four could take the title.

Wrestling Card Set Jan. 5

Wrestling returns to Kings Mountain Community Center on Friday, Jan. 5.

The Masked Surfers from Honolulu will provide the action for the main event and singles matches will pit Billy Becker against Ron Murray and Hoss Strickland against Buck Forest. Action gets under way at 8:30 p. m.

Mounties Hand Cavs First Loss, Wingo And Thombs Have Big Night

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers pulled their second big upset of the Southwestern conference basketball season here Friday night as they defeated previously unbeaten East Rutherford 69-62.

The victory left Shelby's Golden Lions, an earlier KMHS victim, as the only unbeaten team in conference play. Heading into Tuesday's final pre-Christmas action, the Lions were 3-0 while KMHS, East, Crest and South Point were tied for second with 2-1 records.

A pair of senior forwards, Randy Wingo and Mike Thombs, paced the Mountaineer attack but Coach Allen Dixon continued to get fine play from all of his men.

Wingo finished as KM's top scorer with 21 points and Thombs added 18. They joined senior, Wendell Dawkins, in controlling the backboards.

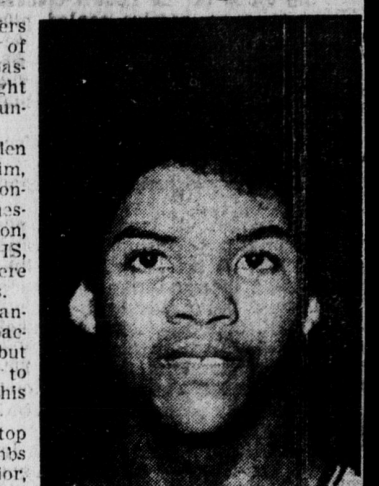
Butch Blalock, Kings Mountain's high scorer, was held to nine points, marking the first time this year he has not been in double figures. Dawkins had eight points as the Mountaineers again had a well-balanced scoring attack.

The Mountaineers led most of the way, even though the going was plenty tough. Kings Mountain held a seven-point edge at intermission, 31-24, and had to hold off the charging Cavaliers in the final two chapters.

Charles Simmons, the SWC's player of the year last season, was the game's top scorer with 25 markers and Chris Watkins and Chris Cobb added 16 and 13 respectively. But Coach Connie Hamrick got little scoring from his other players and that was the difference in the game.

Kings Mountain's girls made it a clean sweep in the opener, winning 41-39 for their second SWC win in three outings.

Kathy Ledford and Deborah Crockett again supplied the 1-2 scoring punch for the Mountaineers. Ledford tallied 14 points to



REBOUNDER — Senior Wendell Dawkins has shouldered much of the rebounding load for Kings Mountain's Mountaineers this season and that's one of the reasons they carried a 6-1 overall record into last night's game at Lincolnton.

take team scoring honors and Crockett was close behind with 11. Sandra Byers and Joann Proctor barely missed hitting double figures with eight and six points respectively.

The two KMHS squads were scheduled to close out the 1972 portion of their schedule last night in Lincolnton.

BOYS GAME

K. Mtn. (66)—Dawkins 8, Wingo 21, Thombs 18, Blalock 9, Davis 5, Adams 1, McGill 2, Leach 2. East (62)—Simmons 25, Watkins 16, Cobb 13, Hampton 8, Carter 2.

GIRLS GAME

K. Mtn. (45)—Crockett 11, Ledford 5, Blalock 9, Davis 5, Adams 1, McGill 2, Leach 2. East (39)—Murray 3, Haulk 4, Macopson 3, Poole 12, Landrum 16.

Wrestlers Come Close But Lose To East Lincoln By 42-33 Count

East Lincoln scored pins in the last two matches to defeat Kings Mountain 42-33 in high school wrestling here last Wednesday night.

Kings Mountain held a 33-30 lead after undefeated Alfred Ash won his 185-pound match on forfeit. However, Reggie Whitmore and Keith Bidix of the Mountain

eers were pinned in the last two matches and East Lincoln came out ahead.

The Mountaineers captured six matches, including two on forfeits. Steve Christon, 155-pounder, joined Ash with victories by forfeit.

Hal Glass, 98-pound freshman Glenn Roberts, 19-pound freshman, and Robbie Eng, 167-pound junior, won on pins. All in the first round. Kings Mountain's other victory came when 130-pound sophomore Ronnie Morrison won his match on a 10-4 decision.

98-Pd: Hal Glass (KM) pinned Joe West (EL); 105-Tomm Garrison (EL) pinned Ronnie Terry (KM); 112-Jeff Grask (EL) won on forfeit; 119-Glen Roberts (KM) pinned Jim McCallister (EL) pinned Gary Howze (KM); 132-Keith Houghton (EL) pinned Scott Moss (KM); 138-Ronnie Morrison (KM) de Mike Hammone (EL); 145-James Smith (EL) pinned Tom Beam (KM); 155-Steve Christie (KM) won on forfeit; 167-Robbie Eng (KM) pinned Byron Hedgepeth (EL); 185-Alfred Ash (KM) won on forfeit; 195-Dwane Elliott (EL) pinned Reggie Whitmore (KM); Hwt-Ronnie Codwell (EL) pinned Keith Bidix (KM).

Gamecock Frosh Take Vacation From Cage Wars

COLUMBIA, S. C. — South Carolina's freshman basketball team, its rank thinned by promotions to the varsity and injury, take a welcome vacation of almost six weeks after going 1-1 in its first two outings of the season.

With all but two scholarship performers of USC's spectacular group playing exclusively with the Gamecock varsity, the Biddies have had trouble mounting a balanced attack while defeating Phiblant Navy, 76-58, and losing to Palmer college of Charleston, 96-75.

With fellow first-year-men Alex English, Mike Dunleavy and Bob Mathias all contribute measurably to the varsity cause, and not available for frosh play, forwards Jim Clements and Mark Greiner have shouldered the load and combine to average 53 points per game so far, but no other Biddie has been able to contribute more than seven per contest.

The 6-5 Clements, who scored 37 in the losing cause against Palmer, has a 30.5 average, while Greiner is scoring at a 22.5 clip. The latter also leads all rebounders with 15.0 per game but injured his knee against Palmer and is out for an undetermined period. Both players scored 24 points against Phiblant, while Greiner grabbed 18 rebounds in that contest.

The next highest frosh scorers have been 6-2 guard Al Barwick with 7 ppg and 6-4 Tim Lewis, a 6 point scorer pulling in 11.5 rebounds. Rebounding was another problem in the loss to Palmer, as the Biddies, lacking the big man, were unable to control 6-11 Henry Boyd of the Pioneers, who dominated both boards with 15 second half rebounds.

The Biddies were scheduled to play strong Anderson Junior college as preliminary to the varsity contest with Lafayette on Jan. 3, but the game has been canceled since school will not be in session at that time and the university felt it would not be advisable to bring back the whole squad from their Christmas break to play one game.

The cancellation reduces the Biddle schedule to 13 games. They are scheduled to return to action on Jan. 22 against Palmer college of Columbia in Carolina coliseum prior to the varsity's game against DePaul.



MAINTAINER STARS — The three Kings Mountain high basketball cagers, pictured above, represent key reasons why Kings Mountain's teams have lost only one game this season. From left to right: Larry Hamrick, Joam Proctor and Felicia Falls.

Towe: Little Dog With Big Bite

RALEIGH. — An old cliché says that it isn't the size of the dog in the fight that matters, it's the size of the fight in the dog. A perfect example is N. C. State's Monte Towe, whose talent and hustle make his lowly height seem above irrelevant.

Towe, the smallest wolf in the Pack at 5-foot-7, is a perky, darting guard who is in a minority among major college players. A national survey shows that only 14 per cent of all major college players stand less than 5-foot 9.

Heading into Saturday's game at Georgia, State's final outing before Christmas holidays, Towe has asserted himself as a team leader.

Many observers would call him the quarterback or the field general. He is and was both. While at Oak Hill high school in Converse, Ind., Monte took the foot-

ball team through two unbeaten seasons. He also made the all-state basketball squad there.

Before he saw Towe play, Wolfpack coach Norm Sloan was skeptical that someone so small could play in the Atlantic Coast conference. Now Sloan is a believer. Towe has shown that he can play with the best, even if they are a foot or more taller.

"I consider Monte to be valuable not only for his floor play which is amazing, but also for his leadership," Sloan said. "He takes charge on the floor. He sets the team in motion and keep the tempo going."

During one early-season game, as Sloan was discussing a fine point with officials, Towe organized a team meeting and pointed out mistakes until Sloan was satisfied and returned to the huddle.

Despite being chosen to the all-tournament team by sports writers and broadcasters at the recent Big Four tournament, Monte held some disappointment with his own performance.

"I let the team stand around too much," Towe said. "We didn't get enough movement in either game. We did win, and I'm happy about that, but I think that we can play better basketball. I know we will as the season goes along."

He has to look up to the student managers. He can tell 7-foot-4 Olympian Tommy Burleson, without bending his head, if his belt buckle is shiny. He plays defense like a shadow and races on offense like an overly energetic cheetah.

The name is so simple, many people mispronounce it. But just call Monte, or Towe, as in tower.

Advertisement for Ellison's Gro. featuring a cartoon of Santa Claus and the text 'CHEERS Have a Merry Christmas'.