

# Chargers Bomb KM 10-2 In SWC Playoff Opener

Kings Mountain High's basebalers got a look at Crest High's power hitting Tuesday on the Chargers' diamond, and what the Mountaineers saw, they didn't like.

Crest, which copped the Southwestern Conference Division Two title, opened SWC playoff action with a 10-2 victory over the Mountaineers.

The two clubs were scheduled to play the second game of their best of three series last night at KMHS. The third-game, if needed, will be played this afternoon at Crest. The winner of the series advances to the SWC finals

next Tuesday against the winner of the Burns-South Point best of three series.

Crest, one of the highest scoring high school teams in the state, scored 10 runs for the seventh time this year, and seven of them crossed home plate after two were out.

Every man in the Crest lineup secured at least one hit. The Chargers had five extra base hits, including three home runs and two doubles. The Mountaineers had seven hits, all singles, and left 10 men on base.

Righthander David Ray Robinson started on the mound for the Mountaineers and had the

Chargers handcuffed on a low fast ball until two away in the bottom of the second inning.

He worked a two-strike count to opposing pitcher Britt Mills before hanging a curve ball which Mills met soundly for a single to center.

Then, the Chargers' ninth place hitter, rightfielder Kevin Patterson, slammed an 0-2 pitch over the centerfield fence and the Chargers were off to the races.

The Chargers followed Patterson's home run with five straight hits, including two doubles, before relief pitcher Ronnie Wilson slammed Dennis Russ to get

out of the inning. Ironically, Robinson had struck out Russ to begin the 25-minute bottom of the second. By the end of the inning, it was 6-0.

Wilson went on to finish the game, and pitched well, except for serving up home run shots in the fourth and fifth frames. Catcher Bill Daves hit a solo homer in the fourth and Bill Champion slammed a three-run shot in the fifth.

The Chargers didn't leave a runner stranded during the three innings, in which they scored. They left only four in the game, two in the first and

two in the sixth.

The Mountaineers, on the other hand, were plagued all day by their inability to hit with men on base. They left men in scoring position in every inning except the seventh, when Crest relief pitcher John Dover retired the side in order.

The Mountaineers' only runs came in the sixth, when Wilson singled with one away to get a mild rally going. Danny Bolin singled him home and Bolin later scored on

Dover's bases-loaded walk to Robinson.

Robinson and Wilson had two hits each to lead the KM plate attack while Daves was a perfect 3-for-3 for the Chargers. Gary Downs added 2-for-4 and all other Crest players had a hit apiece.

Neither Crest pitcher was overpowering, as Mills and Dover combined for only two strikeouts. However, their teammates backed them with perfect defense to go with their 12-hit

assault on Robinson and only error was a throwing error in the first inning by catcher Scott Ellis. All 10 of the Crest runs were earned.



Photo By Gary Stewart

BEATS OUT HIT - Kings Mountain's Bryan White slides into first base to beat out an infield single during second inning of Tuesday's Southwestern Conference

playoff game with Crest at Crest. The Chargers, regular season Division Two champions, had their home run bat out and raced past the Mountaineers 10-2.

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## KMHS Spring Sports Teams Eye SWC Playoffs

Kings Mountain High's spring sports teams will be getting in final preparations for post-season play-offs this week.

The Mountaineer golfers, who have finished first in five of their eight matches, go to R-S Central today for a match with the Hilltoppers, Bessemer City and Burns, before entering the annual Southwestern Conference tournament next Monday at Riverbend in Shelby.

The KMHS track team goes to Crest today for the annual pre-conference meet. The meet is a tuneup for the SWC meet, which will also be held at Crest on Fri., May 13.

The boys tennis team will play Hickory High School in a non-conference match Monday, then go to Shelby next Thursday and Friday for the annual Northwestern-Southwestern Conference tournament.

The KMHS girls will also be playing in that event. They complete their regular season play today at home against Lenoir.

Of the KMHS teams that will be involved in post-season play, at least two of them are being regarded as contenders for the championship.

The golfers, although they're young, are definite contenders for the SWC title, and even if they don't win the team event, they should qualify several people for the Western N. C. High Schools Activities Association tourney, which is scheduled for May 16-17 at Riverbend.

The team that wins the SWC tourney will automatically qualify for the association tourney. However, if a team that doesn't win the team title has at least four individuals to qualify for the association, it will also compete as a team in that tourney.

Kings Mountain has gotten steady play this spring from several golfers, including John Gamble, Darrell Austin, Mark Sanders, Darrell Forbes, Herbie Beam and others. The Mountaineers' best team score was a 315 fired here last week against R-S, Shelby and Crest. Coach Bobby Jones figures his Mountaineers will still have to shave some strokes off that total to win the conference.

Shelby, the perennial SWC champion, plays its home matches at Riverbend and all the Lion

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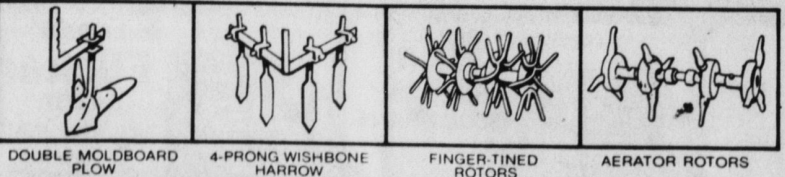
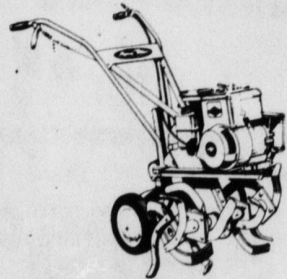
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