



Johnny Gamble puts for birdie on 15, but it doesn't drop...

East Gaston WNCHSAA Champ KMHS Golfers Finish Third

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers finished third in the final Western N. C. High Schools Activities Association golf tournament Monday and Tuesday at Riverbend Golf Club near Shelby.

The Mountaineers shot a two-day total of 346 to finish 21 strokes behind champion East Gaston,

which had a 625. Davie County was second.

Johnny Gamble, who was one of four leaders with a 74 after the first day of action, led the KMHS effort with a 74-78-162. He tied Shelby's Alan Shuford for fourth place in the individual standings.

East Gaston's Grant Hoffman, who closed out

with a three-under-par 69 after shooting 78 in the opening round, was the individual champion with a 78-69-145. North Gaston's Larry Penley finished second with a 149 and Davie County's Ronald Webb was third at 150.

Gamble turned both sides in 87's Monday to grab a share of the first round lead, but his putts wouldn't drop Tuesday and he fell to a six-over-par 78, firing 39's on both sides.

The KMHS senior hit the first eight greens in regulation and putted for an eagle on the par five sixth hole, but three putted. He missed his first green when his approach shot on number nine fell about two feet short of the green.

Mark Sanders had the second best score for the Mountaineers, shooting a 79-82-161. His best effort came Monday when he

shot a 89 on the front side.

Darrell Austin was a stroke behind Sanders at 78-84-162. His best effort also came on Monday when he shot a one-over 87 on the front side. He also ran into some troubles Tuesday, shooting a 41-43-84.

Herbie Beam, who was playing on his home course, scored a 85-86-171. His best effort was on the front side Tuesday, when he shot a 40.

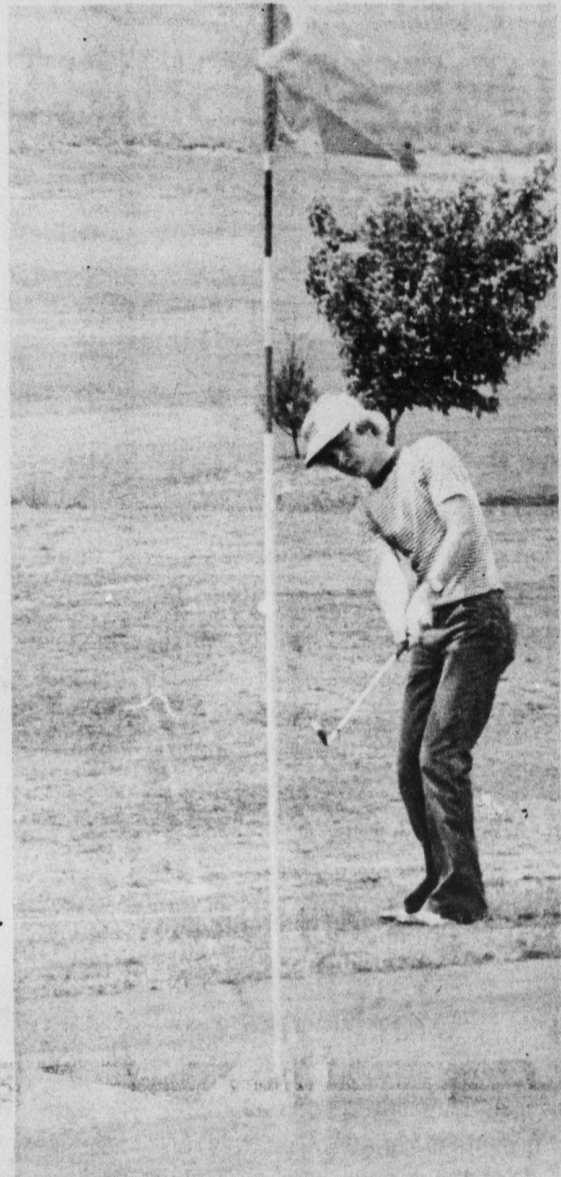
East Gaston grabbed an early lead Monday and was able to maintain it, even though the Warriors had a slight challenge from Davie County, Statesville and KM. The Warriors, Southwestern Conference co-champs with Shelby, shot a 818 Monday for a two-shot lead over Statesville, a five-stroke advantage over Davie

County and a six-shot lead over the Mountaineers.

All other schools were out of contention after the first round, and the other three fell off the pace early in Tuesday's round. Statesville wound up in fourth place with a 652.

Even though the Mountaineers didn't win the event, they still put forth the best showing for a KMHS team since 1965, when the Mounties also finished third in the association. This year marked the first time since '65 that the Mountaineers have qualified a team for the association event.

Gamble was trying to bring the school its third individual title but fell short. John Van Dyke won the association tourney in 1966 and Dana Sarvis won it in 1970.



Mark Sanders chips onto par 3 16th green....

Senior BR Teams Open Here Friday

Kings Mountain's two Senior Babe Ruth teams will open their 1977 seasons Friday night at Lancaster Field with games against a couple of strong Charlotte area teams.

The Lowes Foods Orioles, coached by Don Ellis and Chuck Boheler, will get things underway at 6:30 with a game against Ashley Park. The BDF Construction Redlegs will play the nightcap at 8:30 against Mint Hill. BDF is coached by Ray Robinson and Max Brooks.

The two KM teams will travel to Charlotte on Saturday night to play the same two teams at Harding High School. The Orioles will meet Mint Hill at 8:30 and the Redlegs will play Ashley Park at 8:30.

The two KM entries will begin Kings Mountain League action Tuesday night at Lancaster Field with a game against each other. Game time is 7:30 p. m.

The Redlegs and Orioles will both be using a lot of 16 year old players this year, but they'll also be counting on some returnees to help their drive toward the league title. East Lincoln is also competing in the KM league, replacing Tryon, and players from all three teams will make up the all-star team which will be competing in district and state playoffs.

The BDF team is the defending league champion. Its players include Tim Whitaker, Bruce Valentine, David Ray Robinson, Steve Boggan, Steve Lancaster, Mark Schuman, Tim Spicer, Tim Chapman, Jimmy Hall, Kevin Tinsley, Beannie Smith, Sherman Jenkins and Scott Yarbrough.

The Orioles roster includes Ronnie Wilson, Bryan White, David Cobb, Scott Ellis, Andy Loftin, Scott Thronburg, David McDaniel, Jerry Jackson, Scott Hovis, Darryl Bolin, Chip Childers, Chris Keeter and Craig Bell.

Albemarle

Visits A's

Here Sunday

Kings Mountain's A's will host the Albemarle Sluggers Sunday at Davidson Park in a big Triple County League game.

Righthander Richard Gillespie will open on the mound for the A's and several newcomers are expected to be in the lineup, including Larry Lane and Ronnie Ross. The A's are idle Saturday.



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