

Last Week's Rulings Could Have Been Avoided

Prep Golfers Could Use Some Education On Rules

By now, most of you golf fans have probably heard about Kings Mountain High losing the Southwestern Conference tournament last week when one of its golfers was assessed a two-stroke penalty for an illegal drop on the first hole at Riverbend Golf Club near Shelby.

There's no doubt in my mind that the player should have been penalized, but the event has raised several questions in my mind, as well as in the minds of several persons I've talked to about the matter.

First off, I'd like to know why tournament director Dick McCleeny of Shelby did not carry out his responsibility in assigning judges (SWC coaches and other persons, if needed) to be stationed across the golf course in case such matters arose.

According to W. C. Clary, executive secretary of the Western N. C. High Schools Activities Association, it is the tournament director's responsibility not only to assign judges, but to go over the course and association rules with the judges and players prior to tee off time.



GARY STEWART

According to KMHS Coach Bobby Jones, McCleeny did go over some rules briefly with the coaches, but McCleeny did not go over any rules with the participating golfers.

Just to refresh your memory a little, KM's Darrell Austin was assessed a two-stroke penalty on hole number one for taking what he thought was a free drop when he hit his drive within a foot of a highway which runs along the left side of the fairway. When club pro Phil Wallace saw what Austin did, he penalized him two strokes and KMHS ended up in third place, one shot behind co-winners Shelby and East Gaston.

Austin and the other players in his foursome felt the KM player should receive a free drop because rules allow a player a two club length drop for relief from a cart path. Wallace, however, pointed out that the highway is out of bounds and players cannot receive relief from out of bounds.

Wallace said he did only what he thought was right in assessing the penalty, but I wonder how many other golfers did the same thing on holes away from the clubhouse... where it could not be seen by any participating coach or the club pro?

We're not putting the blame on anyone. The KM player did what he thought was right. And the club pro certainly did what he thought was right.

But, if rules are going to be strictly enforced on hole number one, they should be strictly enforced on the other 17 holes as well.

And, the tournament director and coaches should be reminded that their responsibility during the conference tournament lies in seeing that the tournament is carried out according to the rules, and that their time should not be spent around the clubhouse drinking coca colas and eating hot dogs.

And, while on the subject, we'll gripe just a bit, too, about a situation in the Northwestern Conference where five of that league's six schools were disqualified because of the WNCCHSAA's "double participation" rule.

The double participation rule states that athletes cannot participate on two teams at the same time.

The schools were disqualified because some of their golfers had participated in some spring tournaments at their home courses. Among those disqualified was the NWC's individual champion, Linden Hite of Alexander Central, and the AC Cougars, who were the NWC team champs.

I can't quite see why playing in a club tournament would be considered double participation.

Both of the above situations, however, could have been avoided had the coaches involved carried out their responsibility. In the case of the NWC players, their coaches hadn't bothered to tell them about the double participation rules.

It seems to me that some of the WNCCHSAA schools are falling in their most important job—education!

Just a few hours of classroom work prior to the beginning of spring golf practice and none of this would have happened.

selection committee begins its work toward selecting Gastonia's next Hall of Fame inductee, that Ken should be given top consideration.

Number 12: Two former KMHS baseball standouts, pitcher John McGill and second baseman Steve Southwell, found themselves in unfamiliar positions this year at Erskine College... on the bench. McGill worked 21 1-3 innings and had an 0-3 record, and Southwell went 1-for-7 at the plate for a .143 average. But both were playing behind experienced seniors and Coach Harry Stille says he's looking for big things out of them next spring.

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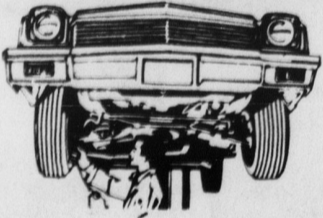
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Baseball Stats

BATTING

Player	AB	R	H	BI	AVG.
Goins	3	2	2	0	.667
Robinson	85	14	32	15	.376
White	61	15	21	9	.344
Ellis	71	9	28	5	.324
Lancaster	51	12	16	10	.314
Bolin	55	9	17	14	.309
Hall	75	15	22	18	.298
Wilson	31	5	9	5	.290
Putnam	7	0	2	2	.286
Whitaker	19	2	5	4	.263
Loftin	24	7	6	3	.250
Van Dyke	4	0	1	0	.250
Tinsley	34	6	8	1	.235
Spicer	18	1	3	1	.231
Valentine	58	8	13	14	.224
Chapman	24	2	2	2	.083
Jackson	7	0	0	0	.000
Boggan	4	2	0	0	.000
Pearson	3	0	0	0	.000
Burton	2	0	0	0	.000
Deaton	2	0	0	0	.000
Payseur	1	0	0	0	.000
Childers	0	1	0	0	.000
Totals	634	110	182	98	.287

PITCHING

Pitcher	W-L	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Robinson	4-8	57	1-3	52	39	28	17	57.2
Wilson	3-1	45	1-3	46	22	9	12	39.1
Lancaster	4-0	88	36	20	10	11	26	18.4
Loftin	0-2	10	2-3	13	11	7	9	17.4
Carroll	0-1	4	1-3	5	8	3	3	14.00
Totals	11-12	155	2-5	153	100	57	53	14.2

DOUBLES — White 7, Robinson 3, Hall 3, Bolin 3, Lancaster 2, Tinsley 2, Valentine 2, Loftin 2, Ellis 1.
TRIPLES — Valentine 1, Hall 1, White 1.
HOMERS — Valentine 3, Lancaster 2, Hall 1, Bolin 1, Robinson 1.

---More Short Stories

Short stories from the world of sports:

Number 10: CARL BELL of Kings Mountain doesn't usually hold on to a new set of golf clubs for too long at a time. One round, and it's usually trade-in time. Last week at Kings Mountain Country Club Bell used one of his "antique" clubs, a two-week old wedge, to ace the 120-yard 14th hole. He was playing with Darrell Austin, Bill Sellers, Danny Shockley and Larry Dum.

Number 11: KEN ALEXANDER is a former newspaper man, and now sports director of a Gastonia radio station. For years, Ken, who was my bossman for years at the Gastonia Gazette, has been instrumental in the great success of the Gaston County Chamber of Commerce Sports Banquet, and the annual Shrine Club charities, namely the District 3 college baseball tournament and the Shrine 100 stock car race. Ken's a hemophiliac and does all of his benefit work despite his handicap. I feel like next winter, when the C of C

Inks Grant

With Bulldogs

BOILING SPRINGS — Oscar Mooney, the leading scorer in the Southwest Conference this past season, has signed a basketball grant-in-aid with Gardner-Webb College.

Mooney, a 6-4, 178-pounder at R-S Central High School, averaged 22.9 points as a senior and was runner-up in the conference's player-of-the-year voting. He was a member of the West squad in the Annual Basketball All-Star Classic of the Western North Carolina High School Activities Association.

A two-time All-SWC selection, Mooney scored over 1,000 points in three seasons for the Hill-toppers.

He becomes the second R-S Central graduate on the Bulldogs' team, joining All-District wing Lew Young, a sophomore at Gardner-Webb.

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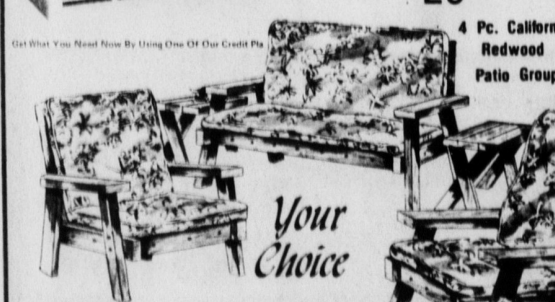


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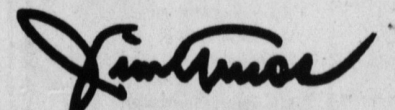
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