

New Rec Department Supervisor

# Nappi Wants Total Program

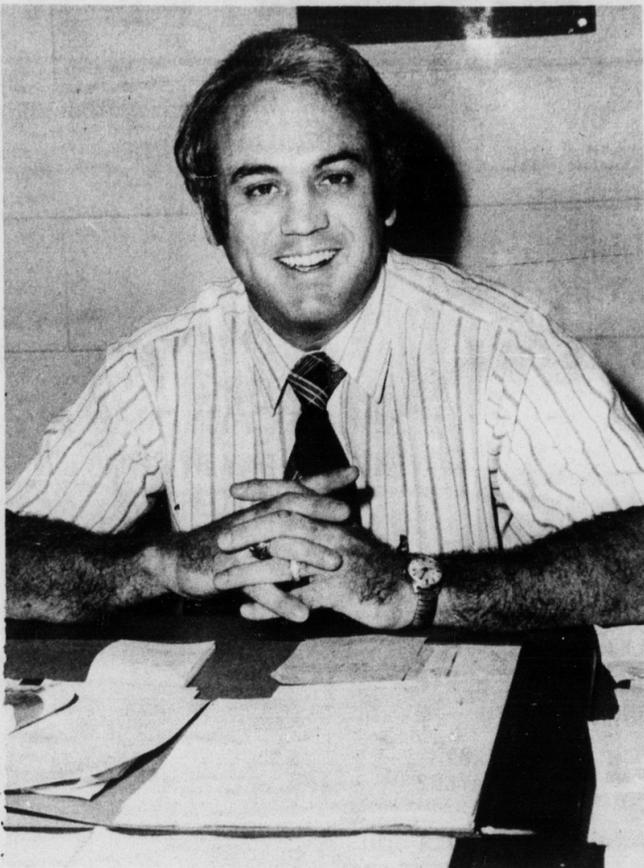
By GARY STEWART  
Sports Editor

A recreation program which will provide services for the total community is the goal of Kings Mountain's first supervisor of the Parks and Recreation Department, Mike Nappi. Nappi, 32, joined the Kings Mountain department April 1 and already is implementing new programs and improving existing ones. He came here with five years of experience as recreation director for Silver Springs Shores in Florida.

"The potential for an outstanding parks and recreation program is excellent with our existing facilities," says Nappi as he took time out from his busy schedule and relaxed for a few minutes in his new office in the expanded community center complex on Cleveland Avenue. "The Parks and Recreation department has to serve the entire community," he said. "The whole community will be provided for in our future plans."

The majority of Nappi's time since April 1 here has been spent learning the town, facilities and his staff of seven full-time employees and a number of summer employees. He's even taken turns along with athletic director George Adams mowing grass and lining off ballfields due to a shortage of help in the maintenance department.

"Most of the programs were already lined up for this summer before I came



Photos by Gary Stewart

MIKE NAPPI...Kings Mountain  
Parks And Recreation Supervisor...

on the job," he said. "I can see some improvements in existing programs and the addition of others in our future."

Nappi has already initiated a summer tennis instructional program, a first for this city. Kenny Boheler, a Duke University student and former Kings Mountain High tennis player, has been hired to head that program.

"We have some beautiful new tennis courts," he said. "Tennis can be a lifetime sport, it's inexpensive to get equipped to play, and you get a lot of enjoyment out of it. We have tournaments planned in June, July and August, and will be cooperating with Ed Guy (KMHS tennis coach) with his annual city tournament in August."

"Personally," added Nappi, "I'd like to see a 55-and-over division added to the city tournament if there is the need. I look for good things to come out of that program. The trend across the nation now is that you can't put up tennis courts fast enough."

"I think handball and racquetball need to be looked at also," he continued. "Like tennis, it's an inexpensive sport. Court expense is the main factor. I would also like to see competitive swimming. I doubt that will come about this summer, but it's good, healthy competition."

"There are many areas for improvement," he went on. "We need gymnastics more heavily in the summer and I would like to see an arts and crafts program initiated. Of course, all this takes money. As the department starts to bring in revenue, we will have more flexibility to advance program ideas."

Nappi feels when current renovations are completed the local community center and playing facilities will be second to none. A new little league complex is nearing completion and Nappi feels games will be played on those new fields before the end of the year.

"The engineering department and recreation committee did an excellent job planning that facility," said Nappi. "It was begun before I came here and I understand it's been a long process but I know everyone is going to be proud of it."

The new complex includes two little league fields with fences of 185 and 190 feet, complete with dugouts, emergency gates and the most modern light fixtures. Nappi hopes a "green monster" dividing wall will be included between the two outfield fences to prevent distractions from one field to the other.

Nappi expects the recreation department to become more involved in the administration end of the major sports, such as baseball, basketball and football.

"In the past the parks and recreation department hasn't had any responsibility to those programs other than providing the playing facilities," Nappi noted. "I'd like to see the department become more involved in the actual league activities and planning league rules and regulations along with the board of directors to coincide with the administration plans established by the city. I see a lot of improvement in these programs."

The key to a successful recreation program, Nappi feels, is 100 percent dedication on the part of the supervisor, staff, city administration and the community. Nappi had that same attitude when he was a standout infielder at Manatee Junior College in



MIKE NAPPI, left, and Al Moretz looking over city's new little league fields...

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100.00	416	3,731 to 1	932 to 1	466 to 1
20.00	693	2,207 to 1	551 to 1	276 to 1
10.00	1,351	1,132 to 1	285 to 1	141 to 1
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