

KMHS Coach Named Best In SWC

Season Of Valleys And Peaks For Barry Gibson



BARRY GIBSON...SWC Coach Of The Year

By GARY STEWART
Sports Editor

The 1979 baseball season is one Kings Mountain High Coach Barry Gibson won't soon forget. He went through a lot of emotional depths and heights and, fortunately, the end result is a lot of heights.

Gibson, who coached the Mountaineers to a 14-6 season and second place in the highly competitive Southwestern 3-A Conference, saw his wife, Susan, through several months of struggle with cancer and the fears of that dreaded disease in itself is enough to make most people break under the pressure.

With the aid of his capable assistant coach, Bud Bumgardner, and the desire of a bunch of dedicated ballplayers, the Mountaineers enjoyed one of their best seasons under Gibson, but another low point came in the final game of the SWC championship series with East Gaston when the Warriors came from three runs down to take the cham-

plionship away from the KM nine.

Now, things are going fine, though, for the former lefthand pitcher. His wife's battle with cancer is hopefully over, and the disappointments of losing the baseball title have dimmed with Gibson's being voted the SWC Coach of the Year.

It's the third time Gibson has been voted the honor by his peers. He won it in 1975, when he coached his team to a 14-4 record and the SWC title, and again in '76, when his Mountaineers unexpectedly made the SWC playoffs before bowing to eventual champion East Rutherford in a three-game series. Gibson has won the coach of the year award more than any other coach in the SWC.

"I really don't know what to say," said Gibson, when informed he had been chosen for the honor. "It's an honor to be named by your fellow coaches. It would have been a whole lot sweeter if we'd won the conference."

Gibson's Mountaineers

were 3-0 early in the season when Susan had to enter Duke University Hospital for surgery for malignant tumors in her gall bladder. When Gibson returned almost two weeks later, the Mounties were 5-2 and in fourth place in the five-team Eastern Division race.

Gibson feels Bumgardner's holding the team together during that four-game stretch was a big key in the Mountaineers' climb back into the playoffs. The Mounties went on to tie East Gaston for first place in the final regular season standings.

"Bud did an outstanding job," noted Gibson. "It's no easy job to step in and take over like that. There was a lot of pressure on him at that time."

"Bud has always been a big help," he went on. "He's as much a part of coaching the team as I am. We do it as teamwork. He's an invaluable asset."

"Of course," he added, "it's like the old saying. You can't win the race if you don't have the horse. And we had some real good

ballplayers. That's why we had such a fine team. The players had a tremendous attitude. We just came up a little short at the end of the year."

"Won-lost records and winning championships is not the end result to me," he continued. "I feel like if I can help make young men out of boys, I'm really not that concerned about my record."

Gibson said he accepted his pressures this year as a "part of life. I accepted it and we came through it real good," he said. "The last report we got was that they got all of the cancer. Susan's healthy as a horse again."

Taking one more look at his coach of the year award, Gibson said, "I still can't believe it. I thought Jim Benfield at North

Gaston did a heck of a job turning that school's program around and, of course, Jerry Adams did a good job over at East Gaston."

Gibson said his only disappointment in the outcome of the coach and

player of the year voting was that KM's Tim Leach finished second to East Gaston's Freddie Petty in the player of the year.

"Petty is a real fine pitcher," said Gibson, "and I'm not taking anything away from him. But Tim Leach is still my player of the year." Leach had a 9-3 record and 104 strikeouts and made All-Conference for the second year in a row.

Other players and coaches of the year for the spring sports included:

BOYS TRACK—Glenn Sparrow, South Point, player; Butch Adams, South Point, coach.

GIRLS TRACK—Traci Dewberry, Chase, player; Joan Robbins, Chase, coach.

SOFTBALL—Gina Miller, North Gaston, player; Dean McElrath, East Rutherford, coach.

BOYS TENNIS—Andy Wilkinson, Shelby, player; Rod Rudisill, South Point, coach.

GOLF—Jeff Barnard, R-S Central, player; Frank Goode, R-S Central, coach.

Gamble Wins In Playoff



JOHNNY GAMBLE...

Wins KMCC Invitational

Johnny Gamble birdied the first hole of a sudden death playoff Sunday to win the Kings Mountain Country Club Invitational Golf Tournament.

Gamble, Stoney Jackson and Tommy Stines tied with scores of 113 following the 27 holes of regulation play. The tourney was decreased to 27 holes after half of Saturday's opening round was rained out.

Gamble hit his approach shot to within two feet of the par five number one hole in sudden death. That gave him an easy birdie putt to clinch the first place trophy.

Wayne Rogers finished fourth at 114.

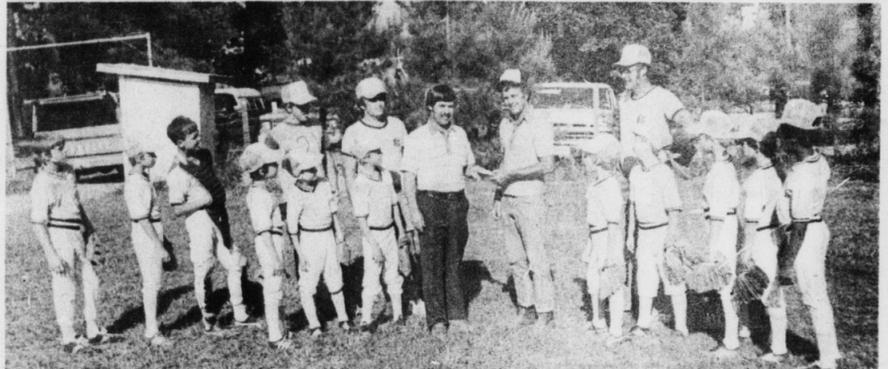
John Howze won the championship B flight with a 118, followed by Vince Carpenter 122, Guy Trout 124 and Jim Stewart 126.

Robert Edgerton fired a 119 to win the first flight. Gary Marshall was second at 121, followed by Burton Sweet 124 and Mark Cooper 126.

Darrell Austin Jr. won the second flight with a 124, followed by Larry Dunn 125, Cookie Stewart 126, and Charlie Wilson 129.

Scott Cloninger's 128 took third flight honors, followed by Jess Mitchell 129, Derric Crumbley 130 and Jeff Shockley 131.

Russell Pinkleton took the fourth flight in a playoff after he and Mike Dixon fired 136 each. Fred Sisk had a 138 and took third in a playoff over Ned Cooper.



\$500 GIFT—Quay Moss, center left, of the Grover Lions Club presents a check for \$500 to Fat Canipe, president of the Grover Dixie Youth League, prior to a

league doubleheader Tuesday night at Harry Park in Grover. Looking on are coaches and players from the Lions Club team.

Orioles Cop First Victory

The Kings Mountain Orioles won their first game of the Senior Babe Ruth League season Thursday night at Lancaster Field, defeating previously unbeaten BDF Construction 2-1 on a two-run homer by David Cobb.

Cobb's homer was one of only two hits off Jeff Cloninger. Cobb was also the winning pitcher, hurling a three-hitter and fanning 11.

The Redlegs won their other three games during the week to run their

record to 6-1, one-half game behind undefeated Burns.

David Ray Robinson hurled a five-hitter as the Reds whipped the Dodgers 9-1. He walked three and struck out 12. Mike Dover was the losing pitcher. Jimmy Chapman had three hits and Robinson, Cloninger and Bryon White two each for the Reds. David Bolton was 2-for-4 for the Dodgers.

Todd Blalock hurled a five-hitter as the Redlegs whipped East Lincoln 15-8. Jimmy Hall was 3-for-4 and Jim Chapman, Ricky Chapman and Mark Schuman had two hits each. One of Schuman's was a home run.

Robinson hurled four strong innings of relief as the Redlegs edged Tryon 6-5. He came on in the fifth in relief of Jody Deaton and gave up only one hit the rest of the way. Schuman led the hitting with 2-for-3.

The Babe Ruth district tournaments for the 13 year olds and 14-15 year olds will be played July 8-11. All-star teams for KM, Belmont and Gastonia will play for the right to go to the area tournament in Hickory beginning July 12.

BR STANDINGS

Teams	W	L
Burns	6	0
Redlegs	6	1
E. Lincoln	4	2
Dodgers	3	3
Orioles	1	5

Playground Program Set

The Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation Dept. will offer a structured playground program for children ages 6-12 this summer. There will be two locations for the program: Davidson Park and Deal Street Park. The time will be 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon in both parks.

There will be three divisions of competition: ages 6-8, 9-10, and 11-12. Boys will compete against boys and girls against girls. A few of the events are: softball, soccer, kickball, basketball, track and field events, eraser races, and obstacle course. Small events tournaments include: marbles, checkers, dominos. Other events are sack race, three leg race, arm wrestling, and many others.

There will be ribbons given for first, second and third place. The point system will be used. First place winner receives five points, second place - three points, and third place - one point. At the end of the program special awards will be given. Awards will be based on the total number of points the child received during the entire program.

Each child must register for the program. Registration will be held at Davidson Park on June 20-23, and at Deal Street on June 21-24. Hours of Registration are 1-5 p.m. This program begins on June 25 at Davidson and June 27 at Deal Street. It will run the entire summer.

Fee is \$5.00 per child, for the summer, payable at registration.

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