

From The Sports Desk

By KEN BEANE

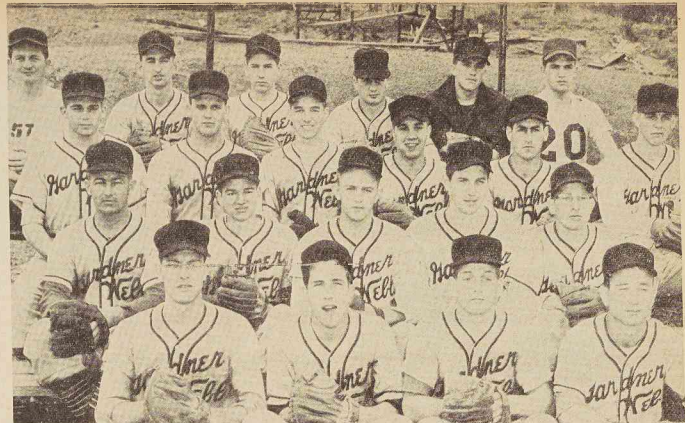
As I sit here at my sports editor's desk, I can tell that spring has sprung. I can tell not only by birds singing and males and females together, but by the sound of ball hitting bat, sore arms and legs, liniment rub-downs, and the old familiar sound, "Strike one." Instead of basketball, tests, and girls, along with "God Created Woman" being discussed; you now hear sounds of Mantle, Williams, and of course the Bulldogs.

With over half of the young season still left to the pitchers and hitters, the Gardner-Webb Bulldogs have compiled a 5-3 overall record and a 2-1 conference record. Their only conference loss came at the hands of Spartanburg Junior College. Their conference wins have been over North Greenville and Mars Hill.

The Bulldogs opened the season with a 11-2 victory over the Newton Baseball School. G. W. drew first blood in the second inning by scoring one run on a base on balls, a single by Dixon, and an error. The Bulldogs scored one more in the fourth inning, and broke the game wide open with four more runs in the fifth and sixth innings. In the fifth, Garrett opened with a walk. Humphries followed Garrett with a sharp single through the box, Garrett taking third. Bob Jones fled out to center field, with Garrett tagging up at third and scoring after the catch. Larry Dixon followed with his second hit to send Humphries scampering across the plate with the second run of the hitting.

Before Newton could retire the Bulldogs, they had committed an error, given up base on balls, another hit by Bob Jones accounted for two more Bulldog runs.

This was all Proeberger needed to gain victory number one. Steve Humphries had 2-4 for the afternoon, while Bob Jones and Gerald Freeman had 2-3 each. Garrett, Bob Jones, and Freeman each had two doubles. Carpenter has 2-3 for the Newton club. Proeberger was the winning pitcher, with Hinkle the losing pitcher.



Left to Right
1st Row: Tim Brackett, Bob Jones, Don Miller, Bill Garrett, 2nd Row: Wesley Hughes, Larry Dixon, Jack McNeely, Floyd Wright, Gerald Freeman, 3rd Row: Steve Humphries, Ronnie Cloninger, Paul Haynes, Mike Goodman, manager Ken Beane.

G.W. Defeats Newton For Second Time, 8-2

In the second meeting between the two clubs, the G. W. Bulldogs again defeated the Newton Baseball Club by 8-2. G. W. scored one run in the first on a single by Humphries, an error, and a single by Bob Jones sending Humphries in for the run. Again the Bulldogs used a big inning to break the game wide open. This surge came in the fourth inning when the Bulldogs put together three hits, along with an error and a base on balls, to account for five runs.

Freeman started the inning off by singling sharply in the hole between third and short. Floyd Wright followed with a screaming double to send Freeman across home plate. After Humphries missed a third strike, Dean Jones hit a long triple to score Wright from second. Then came a base on balls, an error, a wild pitch, and a fly-out to send the next three runs across the plate.

G.W. Defeats North Greenville 8-3

G. W. scored an 8-3 victory over North Greenville to open the conference slate with a 1-0 record. G. W. lost no time in scoring three runs in the top of the first. Garrett started the rally by hitting a single through the box. Humphries followed with a single to send Garrett to third. Then Dean Jones boomed a long homerun to send three runs across the plate. However, North Greenville came back with two runs in their half of the first.

These two runs were a result of a single, an error, and a long double by Snipes. The big inning for the Bulldogs was the sixth when four hits, one another tape measure homerun by Dean Jones, sent three more runs across the plate. Haynes got credit for the G. W. win.

Spartanburg Jr. College Hands G.W. 2-0 Defeat

The G. W. Bulldogs met their first conference defeat from the hands of Spartanburg Junior College by the score of 2-0. The contest was a pitcher's duel all the way, and was not decided until the ninth inning. With the ball game still scoreless, Hyatt opened up the Spartanburg half of the ninth by hitting a fluke single over short. Then McAllister, a left-hand hitter, crossed up the G. W. defense by putting a line drive down the third base line for a triple, sending Hyatt across for the first run of the inning.

A single by Greene scored McAllister very easily from third. Haynes replaced Proeberger and retired the side, but the damage had already been done. The Bulldogs threatened in the second inning when Bob Jones singled, Terry Whisman followed with a single. With two out and Jones on third and Whisman on first, Whisman was thrown out stealing before Jones could cross the plate.

The only extra base knock for G. W. was a fourth inning double by Reid Armstrong. However, he was left stranded on second. G. W. gathered only four hits off the offerings of Lancaster, who has yet to lose a ball game this year. G. W.'s Proeberger gave up only six hits; however, four of the six came in the fatal ninth. This loss gave the G. W. team a 1-1 conference record.

G.W. DEFEATS CHESNEE CLUB

After scoring three runs in the first inning, the G. W. Bulldogs went on to gain an easy 7-1 victory over the Chesnee Ball Club from South Carolina. Three base on balls, along with a single by Terry Whisman accounted for the three runs first inning. Whisman also tripled in the fourth when the Bulldogs scored their two more runs. Chesnee's run came in the third inning as a result of three singles. Haynes got credit for the win, as Early was the loser.

G.W. Falls To Chesnee 8-6

In a return game the Chesnee Ball Club defeated G. W. by 8-6. Three runs in the seventh inning ended the game for the South Carolina club. In the seventh they put together back-to-back singles, a fielder's choice, and another single for their three runs. Gardner-Webb scored one run in the first on a single by Wright, a single by Humphries, and an infield out.

Larry Dixon hit a home run in the second to send G. W. ahead 2-0. G. W. scored one more in the fourth for a 3-0 lead. However, this lead was short-lived as Chesnee scored three times in the fifth, along with the two scored in the last of the fourth, to take a 5-3 lead. G. W. forged ahead in the top of the seventh by scoring three runs on two walks, a double, and two singles.

Again this was short-lived as Chesnee came back in their half of the seventh with three runs. It was all over but the shouting. Haynes lost the first game of his young pitching career. Vaughn got credit for the Chesnee win.

G.W. Sends Mars Hill Back To Hills With 4-0 Defeat

The Bulldogs of G. W. ran their conference record to 2-1 by trimming Mars Hill 4-0 behind the two-hit pitching of Proeberger. G. W. broke the scoring ice in the third inning when Steve Humphries singled through the box with the bases loaded, sending Freeman and Proeberger across for two runs.

The Bulldogs added one more in the fourth on three base on balls and an infield out. In the fifth the Bulldogs got their final run on an error, two walks, and an infield out. Mars Hill's first of two hits came in the sixth when Wallen singled. Their other hit came in the eighth when Caddell connected with a Proeberger pitch for another single. Beach gave up four hits in absorbing the defeat. Proeberger took the win.

Final Sports Word

Well, sports fans, I guess that is all for now. The Bulldogs are doing real well this year and they need your support. If it doesn't rain the next four games out, the creeps don't rise, and all the bats do not get broke, I'll be back next edition with the report on the Bulldogs. However, see the Bulldogs in action; it is much more fun than just reading about them. Remember, "You don't have to play a sport to be one."

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