

on the bench

with Bob Hoffman

HOT STOVE SESSION—BurMill's annual baseball banquet in Gastonia is always the scene of the greatest hot-stove diamond talks in this area. And Thursday night's was no exception.

Smoky Burgess, Ted Abernathy, Tom Wright, Bud Hardin, Bill Barkley, Spec Padgett, Jack Falls, Johnny Grice and several other professional ball players were on hand to keep the talks at a high pitch.

Bad weather kept Hoyt Wilhelm, Whitey Lockman and others from making it, but Sonny Dixon of Charlotte arrived safely.

A packed house of baseball fans enjoyed a delicious barbecue dinner prepared as only Red Bridges can, and then sat back for an enjoyable 45-minute watching the 1955 World Series films.

Crash Davis, Gastonia High School's baseball coach, was supposed to have made a big announcement at the meeting, but he never did. Crash has resigned his GHS post to take a job with Burlington Mills in the personnel department of the organization.

There was and will be a lot of speculation as to who will succeed Davis. Thus far, school officials are keeping quiet and looking hard for another coach with Davis' merits.

Bill Barkley, former Gardner-Webb and Lenoir-Rhyne pitcher, as well as a former Lincolnton star, will get another shot at AA ball this year. He is scheduled to report to Chattanooga.

Johnny Grice, Lowell veteran, says he is a free agent and has been chatting with Phil Houser at Charlotte hoping to latch on there. Grice was cut from the Charlotte roster last year, and ended the season with a flourish at Savannah, Ga., in the same league. Grice was very sharp in his criticism of Manager Jimmy Bloodworth at the banquet.

Spec Padgett is another Lowell lad, and I use the word loosely, trying to gain a spot with Charlotte. Spec was located from the West coast to the East coast last season, and finally finished the year with Portsmouth, Va.

Jack Falls reported Thursday night that he had not received any word as to where he will play this year. Jack is being converted to a catcher, and played his ball in the Western League last year.

Ted Abernathy will of course don the Washington Senator's uniform again this season. Ted is Gaston County's only major leaguer at this time. Abernathy said he couldn't understand a lot of moves by major league manager, such as, he pitched a shut-out on Sunday, pitched relief on Monday and Tuesday and didn't pick up a ball for the next 11 days. Someone asked Ted if he thought he would end up with the Yankees, and he would not comment. It would be a good break for the lean right-hander.

Tom Wright was asked what the Senators needed in 1956, and Tom promptly answered, "a new ball club." Everyone agreed with him.

Bud Hardin is slated to play with Birmingham in the Southern Association this year.

Smoky Burgess reported he had no contract troubles whatsoever this year. No wonder, he hit .301 last year and in '54 would have been the National circuit batting leader if he had played enough games. Smoky fooled a lot of experts by recovering from an arm injury suffered in an accident to hit the big time.

Shu Carlton, Fred Withers and John Gamble attended the event as guests of the Phenix Mill officials, as did yours truly.

All in all, the get-together was a big success, and just what the doctor ordered for a baseball fan.

Fred Ratchford adjourned the meeting with the reminder that it will be held again next year, same time, same place.

SICK CALL—Coach Don Parker must have felt like a med student last week when Cherryville invaded Central gym. George Harris had just recovered from German measles, when John McGinnis became ill and was rushed to the hospital for an appendectomy. To top all this, Mearl Valentine had been suffering from the flu and a slightly smashed finger; Jerry McCarter had contacted a slight case of food-poisoning, and Keith Layton had an ingrowing toe nail.

This meant that all five of Kings Mountain's starters were ailing in one way or another. Wonder if any witch-doctors are operating in the Southwestern Conference area????

Special Buses For Hockey Fans

Kings Mountain hockey fans an now get transportation to the Coliseum for games scheduled or February 13-14-16, according to an announcement Monday. Edith Carrigan, local Trailway agent, reports that busses will in from Kings Mountain to the harlotte bus depot, where another bus will shuttle fans to the

Coliseum. This means that hockey fans can get transportation to and from the games, without worrying about traffic and parking problems.

Mrs. Carrigan said the bus from Kings Mountain would leave the station at 6:40 p. m. on the three days mentioned above.

Valentine Paces Win Over R-S; Girls Lose 11th By Only 9 Points

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers took an easy Southwestern Conference basketball game from Rutherfordton-Spindale Tuesday night by a 62-28 score.

Mearl Valentine led the locals with 25 points, 24 of which came on shots from the floor, George Harris hit for 16 points and second place scoring honors.

The Mountaineers played their best game of the year from the free-throw line hitting on 16 of 28 chances. Harris hit on 10 of 13 tries to lead in that department.

Coach Don Parker's boys threw up a defense that R-S found impossible to penetrate. Playing on their home floor, the Central team could manage only a few shots from the floor, and ended up by hitting 10 field goals.

Kings Mountain held a 17-4 lead at the end of the first period, and were never in danger of being caught.

Parker put his second team in with about five minutes to go, and the subs managed to score six points against four for R-S during the last minutes.

White led the home team with 12 points, most of which came on outside set shots. McDonald had six for second place honors.

Kings Mountain's girls lost their 11th straight game, but gave R-S a scare before bowing 61-52. The local lassies began to hit in the last half and cut a 15 point deficit to the final nine points.

Butchie Houser led Kings Mountain's scoring with 19 points. Linda Morris was second with 15 points.

Wray led Rutherfordton-Spindale with 22 points, while Walker trailed slightly with 20 markers. Walker hit most of her points in the first period, but could not seem to find the range in the later stages of the contest.

Central raced ahead by a 22-9 margin at the end of the first period, and increased the lead to 39-24 at halftime. Kings Mountain cut the lead by two points in the third stanza, and whacked another four points off in the final period.

BOYS	FG	FT	TP	PF
KINGS MOUNTAIN (62)	12	12	25	2
Valentine	2	0	4	2
Layton	3	10-13	16	1
Harris	1	2	3	1
McCarter	2	2	6	0
Baity	1	2	4	3
Bridges	0	0	0	0
Ormand	2	0	4	1
Cole	2	0	4	1
George	2	0	4	1
TOTALS	23	16-28	62	12

BOYS	FG	FT	TP	PF
R-S (28)	1	0	2	2
Chatham	0	0	1	0
Frary	3	0	6	2
McDonald	1	2	4	1
Merchant	5	2	12	0
White	0	0	2	3
Enslay	0	2	2	3
Rucker	0	0	0	2
Daniels	0	2	2	3
Arrowood	0	0	0	0
Huffstetler	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	10	8-18	28	15

SCORE BY QUARTERS:	KM	R-S
	17	11
	18	16
	6	8
	8	6
	28	28

GIRLS	FG	FT	TP	PF
KINGS MOUNTAIN (52)	2	8	12	0
McCarter	0	0	0	0
Arthur	7	5	19	0
Houser	0	0	0	0
Spake	0	0	0	0
Arnette	0	0	0	0
Lawrence	0	0	0	0
Morris	6	3	15	0
Weir	0	0	0	0
Smith	3	0	6	0
TOTALS	18	16	52	0

GIRLS	FG	FT	TP	PF
R-S (61)	10	2	22	7
Wray	7	6	20	15
Walker	7	1	15	0
Hodge	0	0	0	0
Sparks	0	0	0	0
Snyder	0	0	0	0
McDaniel	0	0	0	0
Buchanan	0	0	0	0
Blakenship	1	0	2	0
James	0	0	0	0
Bland	1	0	2	0
Kendricks	0	0	0	0
Dycus	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	26	9	61	0

SCORE BL QUARTERS:	KM	R-S
	9	15
	11	17
	17	9
	13	61

Harris, Valentine Pace Cagers In 66-61 Win; Girls Lose Again

BOYS	FG	FT	TP	PF
KINGS MOUNTAIN (66)	10	12	21	5
Valentine	0	0	0	5
Layton	11	3	25	4
Harris	3	0	6	5
McCarter	3	4	10	2
Baity	1	0	2	2
Cole	1	0	2	0
Bridges	0	0	0	0
George	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	29	8-16	66	23

FOREST CITY (61)	FG	FT	TP	PF
Callison	9	5	23	1
Greenlee	1	6	8	4
Haynes	4	4	12	1
Hall	4	6	14	1
Nanney	1	0	2	3
Reep	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	20	21-38	61	10

SCORE BY QUARTERS:	KM	FC
	16	12
	22	16
	10	14
	18	19
	66	61

GIRLS	FG	FT	TP	PF
Smith	14	1	29	0
McCarter	6	0	12	0
Arthur	1	0	2	0
Arnette	0	0	0	0
Spake	0	0	0	0
Lawrence	0	0	0	0
Weir	1	0	2	0
Morris	6	1	13	0
TOTALS	28	2	58	0

FOREST CITY (79)	FG	FT	TP	PF
Alexander	17	0	34	0
Throckmorton	0	1	1	0
Melton	8	2	18	0
McAfee	0	0	0	0
Cook	0	0	0	0
McGinnis	0	0	0	0
Harrill	3	0	6	0
Hoyle	4	1	9	0
Rhymer	5	1	11	0
Earles	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	37	5	79	0

SCORE BY QUARTERS:	KM	FC
	11	16
	14	17
	22	19
	18	20
	79	79

Stamp collectors will get a lift from post office announcement that it will issue a stamp marking the 50th anniversary of the Pure Food and Drug Act.

Mountaineers Gunning For Shelby And Lincolnton In Pair Of Games

Kings Mountain's boys' cage squad is tied for third place in the Southwestern Conference as the season starts into its last lap.

Cliffside and the Mountaineers hold identical 8-3 records in the conference, and are battling for position behind Lincolnton and Cherryville.

Next week will be an important one, as far as the cage standings go. Shelby invades Central gym Friday night for their last meeting of the season with the local team. The Lions will be trying to avenge an earlier drubbing at the hands of the Mountaineers.

Tuesday night, Kings Mountain journeys to Lincolnton to meet the league leading and undefeated Wolves in a very important contest. In their previous meeting, Lincolnton took a hard-fought game from Kings Mountain behind the leadership of sharp-shooting Darrell Bost.

Kings Mountain must beat Shelby to stay in the conference race, and a win over Lincolnton would add a feather to the Mountaineer cap. However, the Lions are improved over their first meeting with the Mountaineers,

and may provide plenty of trouble Friday. The Wolves, playing on their home court, will probably be top-heavy favorites to defeat the local team.

The local lassies will get their best chance of the year to pick up a victory when Shelby comes to town. The last meeting of the two teams resulted in the Lionettes edging Kings Mountain 40-34 in the last few minutes of play. Coach Lib Collette's girls say it will be a different story this time. Either way, it will probably be a thriller.

Lincolnton's girls, who hold an undefeated record for the year, will certainly be heavy favorites to add another defeat to Kings Mountain's record. The distaff side of the Wolves handle the ball better than some of the boys teams in the conference, and are capable of hitting 100 points a game. The last game here they hit for 95, with the second team playing a good portion of the time.

The Army plans to go "all-out" in efforts to develop a "medium range" missile capable of traveling 1,500 miles, according to Army Chief of Staff Maxwell D. Taylor.

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