

on the bench

with Bob Hoffman

PUNCH HITS—Jerry McCarter has replaced George Harris as the leading Mountaineer hitter. McCarter is hitting .333 with 13 hits in 39 trips, while Harris has fallen below the .300 mark for the first time this season. George is hitting .298 with 11 hits in 37 trips.

John McGinnis has gone on a hitting rampage during the past two or three games to raise his mark to a .308 point. He has eight hits in 26 trips.

McCarter and McGinnis are the only two regulars hitting above .300, but Harris at .298 and Valentine at .290 are both in easy reaching distance of this coveted figure.

The team batting has dropped to a .251 average, with the boys collecting 86 hits in 342 trips to the plate. But opposing teams are hitting Mountaineer hurlers at a mere .225 pace, with 84 hits in 374 trips.

The opposing squads have scored 65 runs compared with Kings Mountain's 55. This is through the first 10 games of the season.

Keith Layton, who has carried most of the pitching assignments this year, has been pretty rough on his foes. The lanky left-hander has pitched 64 innings, given up 47 hits, and had 37 runs scored on him. On the other hand, he has struck out 70 batters, walked 31, and hit four batters.

Earned run totals would even point out a better record for Layton. A great many of the runs he has allowed have come directly from fielding errors.

POP-FLIES—Rutherfordton-Spindale must take its baseball seriously. Several Mountaineers players came back from the mountain city telling of how their base-runners came into the sack with spikes flashing. Doug Rathbone received a long slit in his pants leg from one of these Ty Cobb type runners.

Speaking of rough times, Buzz Biggerstaff had a bad day at Cliffside Thursday. In the first inning Biggerstaff missed a throw made by the shortstop on a hot grounder by George Harris. To add to his woe, Harris bawled him over as he rounded first and two Kings Mountain runs scampered home.

This was just the beginning. Later in the game, Biggerstaff was trapped between first and second, and on the run-down, George Harris caught the dodging first baseman under the chin with the ball.

To top off this bad chain of events, Jerry McCarter stepped on Biggerstaff's foot late in the game, when he failed to remove it from the bag in time.

Some days it just don't pay to get out of bed, Buzz. Coach Fred Withers pulled his hair Thursday as one of his runners stole second and went in standing up, only a bad throw from the catcher saved his being tagged out. Withers then informed the other squad members that failure to slide into a base would cost them five laps around City Stadium. Bet the boys will be sliding all over the place in future games.

George Harris and Mearl Valentine get a lot of riding from bench jockeys every where the Mountaineers play. Cliffside is no exception and the boys there got on Mearl early in the contest. However, his three base hits and three runs driven in slowed the chatter down as darkness fell to stop the game.

Keith Layton was at a disadvantage in Thursday's contest. He or the manager had left his left-handed glove in Kings Mountain. He is the only south-paw on the club, and was without a glove of the left-handed variety.

However, when Keith got the call to pitch, he just slipped a right handed glove on his hand and eased out to give the Cliffside batters fits. His only trouble was trying to field a pair of hoppers back to the mound.

MAJOR MUSINGS—Washington is up to its old tricks in the American League. Manager Chuck Dressen yelled all during spring drills about what a pitcher Ted Abernathy was developing into. But before the season is a couple days old, ships Ted to Louisville. Washington fans, the few that are left, are asking why?

The Yanks are off to a roaring start this season. Look like the Brooklyn boys of 1955.

After viewing the Boston-New York game last week, I wonder if the Yanks have the pitching it has boasted in past years. Four pitchers saw action for the Stenglemen in one inning. Didn't look too strong during that frame.

Chico Carrasquel slapped a grand-slam homer for the Indians Thursday night. Those wondering about the Larry Doby-Carrasquel trade are a little happier at the moment.

Early Wynn, who was said to be on the block, has won two of Cleveland's few victories this season. Says he isn't happy about the trade talk, but it doesn't show in his work.

Mountaineers, Cliffside Tied As Darkness Stops Game After 12

Kings Mountain and Cliffside hooked-up in a 12 inning, three and one-half hour ball game in Cliffside Thursday that saw the contest end in a 10-10 deadlock.

The game was finally called because of darkness, after each team had failed to score in the last four frames.

In runs, hits and errors, the game was as close as one can get. Each squad banded out 14 hits and 10 runs, while the Mountaineers made seven errors compared to eight for the home town boys.

Kings Mountain tallied three in the top of the opening inning to take a short lived lead. Cliffside came back for one each in the second and third, but let the Mountaineers harvest another pair of scores in the fifth.

The Cliffside wallers roared back for one in the fifth, and really started a rally in the sixth when they collected seven hits good for six runs.

Kings Mountain trailed at this point by a 9-6 score, however, they got two in the seventh, compared to a lone run by Cliffside, and the local boys added two more in the eighth to end the game's scoring.

From here on, it was a pitchers' battle, with neither hurler willing to take a loss.

Gene Bowers started the tilt on the mound for the Mountaineers, but had to be lifted in the sixth during the Cliffside uprising. Keith Layton came on then, and the lefthander gave up only six hits during the next 6 1/2 innings, while striking out 11.

Both team's fielding was shoddy at times, but neither team was hurt any worse than the other by boos.

Kings Mountain had a fine chance to ice the ball game in the ninth frame, but it failed. Bill Ware had singled to open the inning, and Don Gladden went in to run for the stocky second sacker. Gladden was picked off first and tagged out in a run down. McGinnis flied deep to center, and Jerry McCarter got a sharp single, which would have brought in the winning run had Gladden not been picked off.

Mearl Valentine led the 14-hit Mountaineer attack with three bingles, McGinnis, McCarter, and Bridges chipped in a pair of singles each.

Haynes paced Cliffside with three hits, while Bailey added a double, and Biggerstaff a triple.

This marked the second game this year that Kings Mountain failed to collect an extra base hit.

Local Ladies Take Golf Honors

The Foothills League Ladies' Golf Association were hosted by Cleveland County Country Club last Friday in a match, which saw some 75 ladies competing.

Attending from Kings Mountain were Mrs. George Mauney, Mrs. Paul Neisler, Mrs. Earl Byrd, Mrs. Hal Ward, Mrs. Don Blanton, Mrs. Pete McDaniel, and Mrs. Carl Mayes.

Several of the local ladies came through with honors in the various divisions of play in the one-day meet. Mrs. Margaret Ward took second low net in the class-B handicap class; Mrs. Earl Byrd captured second low gross in class-C handicap play; Mrs. George W. Mauney took low net honors in class-C play; and Mrs. Pete McDaniel was named best sport in the 18-hole group.

Member clubs of the Foothills League are Shelby, Kings Mountain, Cherryville, Lenoir, Morganton, Catawba (Hickory), Statesville, Mooresville, and Lincolnton.

Dusters Take Title Pair Of Loops Open

The last of Kings Mountain's bowling leagues closed its regular season this week.

The Dusters took the Challenger League title with a 55-32 record for the season. Tin Benders were second with a 49-38 mark.

In the closing games, Dusters won a pair from Tin Benders, with Bill Barber's 321 paving the way. Blanton's 323 was tops for the losers.

Kat Houser opened a pair of mixed-double leagues during the past week. In league No. 1, the Out Casts won a pair from the Cast Outs, while the Let Downs took three from the Pick-ups.

Buren and Ann Randle paced the Let Downs with scores of 314 each, and a 295 by Clarence Plink led the Pick-Ups. Tom Gamble's 349 paced the Out Casts and Albert Brackett's 303 headed the Cast Outs.

League No. 2 action saw the Ten Tins, and the Cherry Pickers win three each from the Duck Pins, and the Punch-Outs.

Plunk's 342 paced the Ten Tins, while Peterson's 312 was high for the Duck Pins. Ellison's 284 headed the Cherry Pickers' wins, while a 301 by Brackett paced the losing Punch-Outs.

Tigers Dropped 11-8 For Second Defeat

Kings Mountain's semi-pro Negro baseball team, the Tigers, lost their second game in a row as they dropped a 11-8, 11-inning game to Mt. Holly Saturday.

Miles Brown was the losing pitcher, giving up 16 hits. Charles Muts came on in relief in the ninth to pick up the win for Mt. Holly.

The local team will play Dallas here Saturday afternoon in their next game.

The visiting team is behind 7 runs after 4 1/2 innings or the home team after 5 innings it shall be declared a game and play shall be stopped.

All Little League rules as found in the Little League manual must be observed at all times and an infraction of the rules may constitute a forfeit.

Raiders Take 9-7 Thriller Here Mountaineers' Late Rally Fails

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers dropped another Southwestern Conference thriller here Tuesday to Belmont's Red Raiders by a 9-7 count.

The Mountaineers out-hit the Raiders, but mental lapses in two innings cost them the ball game.

Keith Layton hurled the seven-inning game for Kings Mountain, giving up seven hits while striking out 10.

The Raiders had to call Don Traywick from the bench to put out a Kings Mountain rally in the seventh, when the local boys threatened to grab the game out of the fire. Traywick struck out Jerry McCarter to end the uprising and the game.

Belmont tallied one run in the first on a triple by Mickey Byers and a single by Dick Suggs.

The Mountaineers came back to score a pair of runs on an interference play by the Belmont catcher, a hit batter, a single by George Harris, and a double by Mearl Valentine.

The Raiders came through with a trio of tallies on one hit. Iserhour walked, Williams singled, Byers was safe on a fielder's choice which failed to get the runner, Suggs was hit by Layton, Mauldin was safe on a fielder's choice, and the damage was done.

Adding one in the fifth, the Raiders went into the sixth with a 5-2 margin. In this frame, Belmont tallied a pair of runs on no hits as Bradshaw walked, Lineberger got on due to an error, stole second, and a passed ball saw one run score. Lineberger then tallied on a ground ball to second base.

The Mountaineers rallied in the sixth to get back three runs when Rathbone opened with a single, Baily also bingled, McGinnis

walked to load the bases, and McCarter hit a rousing double to drive in three runners.

In the seventh and final inning, all conference games will be of seven-inning duration unless agreed upon by both coaches in the future, the local team started with Valentine getting a single, who men went down, and Baily got a single, Layton singled, and pinch-hitter Charles Blanton followed with a timely single, McGinnis walked, and McCarter fanned to end the inning. It was Jerry's first time to go down swinging this season.

Byers, with a triple and single, led the Belmont hitting, while McCarter, Valentine and Baily had two hits each for Kings Mountain, Valentine and McCarter had doubles.

This loss gave Kings Mountain a 4-5, one tie, standing in the Southwestern loop play.

Central, Cherryville Games Will Finish Local Diamond Schedule

Kings Mountain has three chances to make 1956 a winning baseball season.

The Mountaineers presently have a 4-5 record, having tied one game with Cliffside.

Teams yet to be played are Rutherfordton-Spindale, Cherryville, and a rained-out contest with Lincolnton.

Of the three, Rutherfordton-Spindale is the lone home game. Smarting from a previous defeat by the Central team, Kings Mountain will be out to get revenge when Central journeys here Friday afternoon.

Keith Layton and Ray Searcy will probably face each other on the mound. Searcy won the previous meeting by 6-5 score. However, the Mountaineer batsmen collected 10 hits off Searcy, while Layton allowed only seven.

Tuesday, Kings Mountain will travel to Cherryville to attempt

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	4	2	1	21	10	18	18
Byers, c	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
Mauldin, ss	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
Bradshaw, 2b	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
Brown, if	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
Lineberger, 1b	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
Iserhour, p	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
Traywick, p	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	5	2	1	21	10	18	18

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
KINGS MOUNTAIN	3	3	1	22	10	18	18
Ware, 2b	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
Gladden, if	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
McGinnis, 1b	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
McCarter, c	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
Harris, ss	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
Rathbone, 3b	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
Bridges, cf	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
Valentine, 1b	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
Baily, rf	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
Layton, p	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
xxx Carpenter	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
xxx Blanton	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
xxx Davis	1	0	0	3	3	3	3
TOTALS	3	3	1	22	10	18	18

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2

TEAM	W	L	T	AB	R	H	PO
BELMONT	1	0	0	10	1	2	2
KINGS MOUNTAIN	0	1	0	2	0	2	2